



Newsletter of the
Ithaca Monthly Meeting
of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

July 2018

IMM CONTACTS

ithacamonthlymeeting.org

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Listserv:

To join our email list for meeting-related announcements, send an email message addressed to:

IMMRSF-L-request@cornell.edu
with message body as simply: join

Marilyn's List:

To email Friends and others non-specifically Quaker messages that may be of interest to Friends, consider sending your message through Marilyn Ray. To join or contribute, email:
mlr17@cornell.edu

Newsletter

Submit contributions to clarkberg@cornell.edu. See the IMM Calendar, back page, for the next deadline.

The Presence of Friends in Palestine-Israel

—*Julia Ganson*

I have just returned last week from 10 months spent living and working in Palestine. As the result of receiving a 2017-18 U.S. Fulbright Scholar Award for Teaching and Research, I left last August to spend the academic year at the Muwatin Institute for Democracy & Human Rights at Birzeit University, which is located near Ramallah in the West Bank (so-called because it is on the west side of the Jordan River), and is part of the Occupied Palestinian Territories. It was a challenging experience in several ways, not least of which is living with the ongoing despair of living under Israeli military occupation. The daily limitations, violence and humiliations that Palestinians must live with were not aimed directly at me, but it was a difficult personal challenge to observe and bear witness to that reality. As I became more aware of my own privileged status (as a result of U.S. citizenship and “looking European”) I had to grapple with how to best use that unearned and unavoidable conferring of privilege, to contribute something—even a very small something—to the causes of human rights, peace and social justice in Israel-Palestine.

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Listserv Practice

—*John Lewis, Clerk*

Several Friends have raised concerns with me about how our listserv is currently being used. At the February Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business we approved a minute that reads as follows:

Ministry and Worship would like to recommend that we expand what is shared on our Meeting listserv to include:

- messages pertaining to members and attenders even when they are not directly Meeting related (such as concerts and other events that Friends are participating in)
- fundraising appeals for activities associated with Ithaca Monthly Meeting or the Friends Center for Racial Justice, but not other fundraising (such as for school events)
- periodic reminders of how to receive Regional and Yearly Meeting messages

Ministry and Worship recommends trying this for a few months, and then revisiting the issue at a future Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. Friends shared perspectives on the role of email in building but also sometimes undermining community.

Friends approve this trial period. @

Apparently there is some confusion about this. Some Friends believe that the intent of the minutes was to open up the listserv to community announcements about events in which Meeting members and attenders were directly participating such as being in a concert,

Listserv, continued on page 2

Palestine, continued from page 1

Quakers have been making significant contributions to these causes in Palestine and Israel for the past 70 years, in multiple forums. Ramallah Friends School was established in 1866 as girls' school; it is now co-ed and considered to be the best secondary school in occupied Palestine. (There is also a primary school in a separate nearby campus.) Ramallah Friends Meeting continues to function as a weekly meeting for Friends and also as an international peace center, more than one hundred years after the lovely stone meeting house was built on the main street of Ramallah in 1910. And, American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) has a long and admirable record of humanitarian relief, development, and conflict resolution efforts in both the occupied territories and in present-day Israel.

After coming to the aid of Jewish refugees during and after World War II in Europe, AFSC was asked by the newly established United Nations in 1948 to establish the first refugee camps in Gaza for thousands of Palestinians who had been forced out of or fled from their villages in the new State of Israel. After a year-and-a-half of providing shelter, food and education in the Gaza camps, AFSC passed on the responsibility to UNWRA and continued with development, conflict management, and social justice efforts, which they continue to this day. There was an AFSC office in Ramallah until 2012; currently the Israel and Palestine programs share a common space in occupied East Jerusalem. In December of last year, the Israeli government identified AFSC as one of 20 black-listed organizations because of its support of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) Movement. Nevertheless, AFSC programs continue to run. The Israeli programs are focused on opposing the culture of militarism in Israel and countering the fragmentation of Palestinians. The Palestinian programs are primarily in the area of youth development and civic engagement.

Reading about the history of American Friends Service Committee in Israel-Palestine, and several interviews with AFSC staff, inspired me to read more extensively and to write an essay on nonviolence, Palestinian popular resistance, and the roles of internationals in helping to liberate both Palestinians and Israelis and to end the longstanding and seemingly intractable Conflict. I plan to continue to write on the related topics of militarism in Israeli as well as U.S. culture, conscientious objectors, refusers (those who used to be called "Refuseniks" in Israel), what I call "What's left of the Left" and Israeli organizations such as Breaking the Silence (former IDF soldiers who speak out against the Occupation). For those interested, I recommend the historical accounts *Quakers in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: The Dilemmas of NGO Humanitarian Action* (2007) by Nancy Gallagher and *After the Rain Returns: Toward Justice and Reconciliation in Palestine and Israel* (2004) by an International Working Party of the American Friends Service Committee. Also very worthwhile are the Pendle Hill pamphlet by Steven Chase called *Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions? A Quaker Zionist Rethinks Palestinian Rights* (2017), and a slim volume *Occupied by Nonviolence: A Palestinian Woman Speaks* (2008) by Jean Zaru, a Quaker Palestinian and long-time member of Ramallah Friends Meeting.

Jean is an internationally known Quaker speaker as well as author. Nearly 80 years old now, she continues to be the spiritual leader

of Ramallah Friends and to travel on speaking tours (when the Israelis grant her a permit to leave Ramallah). Her long experience as a Quaker seeking peace and justice in Palestine gives her a strong, credible voice. The small Ramallah community of Friends that gathers on Sunday mornings is often joined by international visitors, some Quaker and some not, from the U.S., U.K., and other primarily Western European countries. Some individuals come for one meeting while they are touring the Holy Land or taking political tours of Palestine. Some attend for several weeks or months, as Quaker sojourners, volunteers at Ramallah Friends School, or because they are working in Ramallah or Jerusalem at faith-based organizations and international NGOs. At times it is one individual visitor or a couple that we welcome at our meeting. It can also be a sizable group of 10-20 travelers. Whether weekly meeting is just a handful of locals or a big group of international visitors, Jean Zaru facilitates spiritual reflection on peace, equality and the dignity of all human beings.

In attending weekly meeting for worship during my months in Ramallah, I felt a strong grounding and sense of support for my attempts to bear witness to the lives and living conditions of Palestinians under occupation. When I stayed with friends in Israel, I tried also to focus on bearing witness. To bear witness means not only to observe and to listen with empathy and compassion, but also to tell the truth of your witness to others. Shared Quaker practices of reflection and stillness helped to sustain me in a new and very different cultural context and through the most distressing experiences of life under military occupation. More than 70 years into this intractable conflict between peoples, I witnessed the impact of historical traumas, structural violence, oppression, extremist ideologies, and militaristic culture, on those living the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Listserv, continued from page 1

play or an art exhibit. Others feel it should be used for announcements of events that Friends support or used for a call to action.

The February minute also states that we should revisit our decision about the listserv in a few months. I plan to do that at our August 8 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. In the meantime, I would like to invite Friends to share their joys, concerns or suggestions about the use of the listserv with me. If there is enough interest or different opinions expressed, I will schedule a threshing session about this issue. You should also consider sending messages calling for political action to Marilyn Ray, mlr17@cornell.edu, for her community listserv until this confusion about the Meeting listserv is resolved.

Fifth Annual Northside Community Celebration

The neighborhood festival that started in our parking lot is looking forward to its fifth occurrence. And it's moving! We will be at the 210 Hancock Street Parking Lot this year, giving us a bit more room. There will be food, music and entertainment. Plan to join us Saturday, August 11th between 3 and 6pm., bringing a dish to pass.

We also hope that friends will help as in the past. We need help with set-up, clean-up, food and children's activities. Please contact me at karen.friedeborn@gmail.com to volunteer.

This event is sponsored by Ithaca Friends Meetings, Ithaca Neighborhood Housing Services, and Northside United.

— *Karen Friederborn*

Sunset Cruise July 12, QIF seminars July 9-13

Attend one or more sessions of the Quaker Institute for the Future's summer research seminar

Area friends are invited to join the Quaker Institute for the Future's summer research seminar July 9-13, hosted by Ithaca MM. Seminar presentations will be held each morning. We will start with worship at 9am, followed by two presentations. For more information on QIF seminars, see <http://www.quakerinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/SRS_2018_v3.pdf>

There is no formal registration for area residents to attend the morning seminars, but please contact us to confirm locations. We will usually meet at the Third Street Meetinghouse at 120 Third Street, but one morning we will meet at EcoVillage Ithaca. Coffee and tea will be served at 8:45.

Sunset Cruise on Cayuga Lake with Quakers & others

Whether or not you attend the QIF seminars, you are invited to join us for a sunset cruise on Cayuga Lake, Thursday evening, July 12. The sunset eco-cruise will be on the MV Teal, Discover Cayuga Lake's new floating classroom. <www.DiscoverCayugaLake.org>

The cruise is co-sponsored by the Ithaca Quakers, the Quaker Institute for the Future (QIF), and the Interfaith Climate-justice Action Network (ICAN).

Boarding will start at 6:40 at the Steamboat Landing dock at the Ithaca Farmers Market on Third St. Please arrive by 6:30 if you still need to pay for your tickets. The cruise will last from 7-9 pm.

Tickets on a sliding scale from \$15-\$50. No one will be turned away for the inability to pay. (The cruise usually costs \$40 for adults, \$35 for students & seniors.)

Please make reservations in advance (we have filled the boat on previous interfaith eco-cruises). If you reserve in advance, you will be given mailing instructions for checks once your reservation is confirmed. CHECKS should be made out to Ithaca Monthly Meeting, with a memo "eco-cruise." You can pay in cash or by check at the dock starting at 6:15.

For cruise reservations or QIF seminar info, contact me at <mamc-casland@gmail.com> 607-216-1091.

— *Margaret McCasland*

Support Hospicare Through Women Swimmin'

Women Swimmin' for Hospicare is a community swim (not a race!) and fundraiser to benefit Hospicare & Palliative Care Services. On Saturday, August 11, more than 300 women will swim across Cayuga Lake, escorted by about 170 volunteer boaters.

The funds raised through Women Swimmin' help Hospicare provide compassionate, skilled end-of-life care to our friends and neighbors throughout Tompkins and Cortland counties.

Melissa Travis Dunham returns this year as the Women Swimmin' organizer. I am happy to have committed to participate as a swimmer again. If you would like to support my swim, please visit womenswimmin.org to donate. Women Swimmin' is also looking for volunteers, and more information can be found on their website, or by talking with Melissa!

— *Marin Clarkberg*

GrassRoots: Cookies and a Day Pass

One of Perry City Friends Meeting annual fundraisers is selling Quaker oatmeal cookies at the Grassroots Festival. To make that happen we need help baking cookies at our Meetinghouse and then selling them by walking around the Festival July 19-22. If you can help baking, please contact Carla Wolfe at muschinskecarla@gmail.com; if you are interested in selling cookies in exchange for a one day ticket to Grassroots, please contact Tracy Kirkman at tracyaok@ftg.net. Note that previous cookie sellers will get first preference for the one day tickets.

— *Tom Joyce, Perry City*

Ganondagan Native American Festival July 28-29

Come to the Ganondagan Native American Dance and Music Festival July 28-29. Ganondagan is located at 7000 County Road 41 (Boughton Hill Road) in Victor, NY. The festival begins at 10 AM Saturday and Sunday.

Enjoy the exhibit "Hodinöhsö:ni' Women from the Time of Creation." Visit the Seneca bark longhouse, which is fully furnished to show the life of a Seneca family in the 1600s. Visit crafts vendors, sample tasty food from Native food trucks, listen to stories and music, enjoy the dancing. As part of the Festival, Ganondagan is pleased to announce its second juried Hodinöhsö:ni' Art Show. Invited Hodinöhsö:ni' artists will exhibit in four divisions: Beadwork, Basketry, Traditional Arts and Fine Art. All pieces will be available to purchase.

Friends may be interested in carpooling.

— *Susan Wolf*

Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, June 10, 2018

Clerk: John Lewis
Assistant Clerk: Bronwyn Mohlke
Recording Clerks: Marin Clarkberg, Blair Jennings

(The @ signifies that the minute has been read and approved during Meeting. Copies of all written reports are on file with and available from the Clerk or Recording Clerk.)

2018.6.1 Opening Worship

Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends met in Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on June 10, 2018. At 12:29pm, eighteen Friends gathered and settled into worship.

“May words of the Spirit be spoken, and words of the Spirit be heard.”

Clerk recognized Antonia Saxon who volunteered to hold the Meeting in the Light and read the following:

Discovering vocation does not mean scrambling toward some prize just beyond my reach but accepting the treasure of true self I already possess.

— Parker Palmer, *Let Your Life Speak*

2018.6.2 Third Street Meetinghouse Committee – Making Front Doors More Accessible

Gina Varrichio (with support from Carl Peterson and Melissa Travis-Dunham) presented the report, progress and findings of the TSMC, which had been tasked by Meeting for Business with outlining two options for improving access to our building. She reviewed the history of the concern about inaccessible, heavy doors, as well as the costs, advantages and disadvantages of both the following options:

Option 1: Installing Delayed Open Closers (mechanical) and Widening Landing

Option 2: Automatic Doors (electric)

This project originated with a desire to make the doors easier to open though it has awakened a desire to address disability access. Automatic doors should make accessibility no better or worse for those of us who are temporarily able and will make it exponentially better for those of us who are not. TSMC believes that since Option 1 does not fully address the accessibility issue and the costs for modification of the landing and railing erode the cost differential between the two options that it is better to go ahead with Option 2 and install automatic doors.

Questions and comments (related to availability of funds, function, maintenance, general value and inconsistency of courteous “helpers”) were asked and answered.

In accordance with IMM process for projects of this magnitude/cost, the proposal will go to Trustees for final approval.

Friends approved the proposal.@

2018.6.3 Earth Care Committee – Hosting Quaker Institute of the Future Annual Summer Research Seminar in July 2018

Betsy Keokosky reported for the committee. The dates of the Seminar are Mon-Fri, July 9 - July 13, with the QIF board arriving Saturday and Sunday preceding this.

As most sessions and evening meals will be held at the meeting house, the Earth Care Committee and the Friends Center for Racial Justice have been working through the logistics for the event. They currently expect 20 people, 16 of whom will require housing. Costs, correlative events and potential circumstances that surround this endeavor have been discussed. The committee’s main concern is keeping costs reasonable for participants by providing inexpensive housing and shared meals.

Last year, Earth Care and IMM donated \$100 each to a fund set aside for this purpose. Currently, Earth Care requests spending \$400 for this year’s project.

Friends approved the report and budgeted amount.@

2018.6.4 Peace Witness and Social Justice Committee – Poor People’s Campaign

Kathleen Gale shared highlights of the committee’s process in discerning IMM’s support, participation and ongoing engagement with the Poor People’s Campaign. The process determined that IMM Quakers demonstrate alignment with fundamental principles of the Campaign and desire to participate. This resulted in creation of the following minute:

“Ithaca Monthly Meeting supports the Poor People’s Campaign, A National Call for Moral Revival, in its local, statewide and national efforts to challenge the evils of systemic racism, poverty, the war economy, ecological devastation and our nation’s distorted morality. We are committed to lifting up and deepening the leadership of those most affected by building unity across lines of division. Concern for these issues is consistent with Quaker values.”

From the funds allotted to the Peace and Social Justice Committee \$100 has been contributed to the Poor People’s Campaign, A National Call for Moral Revival. Meeting agrees to donate an additional \$300 to a local affiliate for this effort.”@

Friends approved the minute.@

2018.6.5 Treasurer’s Report

Mike Simkin, Treasurer reported he’d had some technical difficulties getting an accurate balance for the previous month. He is attempting to remedy this, and so presented a brief report, highlighting various line items of interest, donations and expenses, including specific projects related to the Burt House. Donations to IMM of \$1385. were received in May. This brings our YTD total to just under \$12,000. or 17% of our request. Friends received the report.@

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Minutes, continued from page 4

2018.6.6 Other Concerns

A question about IMM's budget & budget reporting mechanism(s), management, oversight, etc. was raised. This concern will be delivered to Ministry and Worship for consideration. @

A clarifying comment was shared about the increased involvement of IMM's Finance Committee. They will continue to tandem with whomever fills the treasurer position. @

2018.6.7 Closing Worship

Sixteen Friends settled into silent worship at 1:41pm before adjourning. Our next regular Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business will be held at the rise of Meeting on July 8, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

Blair Jennings

Help? August IMM Newsletter Uncertainty

I, the newsletter editor, will be out of the country July 27 through August 10. The newsletter would normally come out either July 29th or August 5th, but I do not anticipate being able to meet either of those dates.

I am entertaining the idea of having the newsletter go on *vacation* in August or releasing the newsletter very early: July 22nd. (I am not sure the newsletter is allowed to go on vacation!)

Another possibility would to invite a guest editor to take the lead in August.

Have you wondered what its like to put out a newsletter? This could be your chance to give it a shot! This special edition would not have to look like the format I use; you could have free reign.

If you are interested in able to step into the breach, let me know at clarkberg@cornell.edu.

— *Marin Clarkberg, newsletter editor*

Floating Meeting July 3rd at Stewart Park

I plan to go to Stewart Park around 2pm on Tuesday, July 3rd and stay for the Ithaca fireworks. I will set up by the lake to the right as you drive in the park. (If you go early, you can drive in and park

right there. Later the park will be closed to vehicles.) Come enjoy the park, chat, share food, and enjoy the day. If you come later, we can view the fireworks together. Rain date is July 5th.

— Susan Wolf

July 2018 Calendar of Ithaca Monthly Meeting

Earthcare Committee

Sunday, July 1, noon to 1:30p

All are welcome to join this monthly Earthcare discussion.

Meeting for Worship at Hector Continues

Sundays, 10am

We have resumed Meetings for Worship at Hector Meetinghouse, 5066 Perry City Rd, every week through September. This traditional Quaker meetinghouse is beautiful and rustic (no electricity or plumbing). If you are new to IMM or haven't visited Hector Meeting House in some time, you might want to check it out. Tom Brown or Dreia Spies can provide directions and answer questions. Please note that worship at Hector begins 30 minutes earlier than it does in town, leaving time to get to Business Meeting.

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

Sunday, July 8, Rise of Meeting

Join the Quaker decision-making process. Proposed agenda items should be sent to our clerk, John Lewis, by the preceding Monday.

Quaker Institute of the Future Research Seminar

Monday, July 9 - Friday, July 13

This Annual Summer Research Seminar is being held mostly at the Third Street Meetinghouse. More information about QIF is on page 3 and in the minutes on page 4. See also the QIF website, http://www.quakerinstitute.org/?page_id=1101.

Sunset Cruise with Quakers and Others

Thursday, July 12, 7-9p

More information on page 3. Board at 6:40 at the Steamboat Landing dock (Ithaca Farmers Market on Third St.) Ticket info & advance reservations via Margaret McCasland <mamccasland@gmail.com> 607-216-1091.

Dish-to-Pass Brunch

Sunday, July 29, Rise of Meeting

Bring something tasty to share if you can. All are welcome.

August Newsletter Deadline?

Due to the newsletter editor's travel, the deadline is unknown. Please check the listserv for breaking information on this front.

Coming in August:

Hiroshima and Nagasaki Remembrance

Monday, August 6, 6:00-7:00pm

There will be a one-hour silent vigil (rain or shine) seated around the Peace Pole in front of the Friends Center for Racial Justice (227 North Willard Way, Ithaca). This vigil will mark the 73rd anniversary of the United States' dropping the first nuclear bomb on Hiroshima on August 6, 1945, and dropping the second nuclear bomb on Nagasaki, Japan on August 9, 1945. This is a vigil of mindfulness and remembrance of the thousands of persons who were killed 72 years ago at the instant of the blasts, and of those who suffered from, and those who died from their injuries. All are welcome.

If there are questions, please contact Elizabeth Schneider, Peace and Social Justice Committee, 273-3566, or at neschneid@aol.com.

Meetinghouse Door Code Change – July 20

As is IMM procedure, the access code to the Meetinghouse will be changed on Friday, July 20. If you are a committee clerk or someone else who regularly accesses the Meetinghouse during non-MfW times, please let someone on TSMC (see below) know so we can share the new code with you.

— Melissa Travis Dunham, Gina Varrichio,
Tony Serviente, Carl Peterson

On Sundays

10:00a **Meeting for Worship** for all ages at Hector Meetinghouse, 5066 Perry City Road.

10:30a **Meeting for Worship** for all ages at the Third Street Meetinghouse

Other Weekly IMM Events

Mid-week Meeting at the Burrtt House
Wednesdays at 7:30p

The Burrtt House is at 227 North Willard Way, Ithaca.