



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

October 2018

IMM CONTACTS

ithacamonthlymeeting.org

Meetinghouse:

120 Third Street • Ithaca NY 14850
607-229-9500

Clerk:

John Lewis • 607-227-6273
clerk@ithacamonthlymeeting.org

Assistant Clerk:

Bronwyn Mohlke • 607-220-3219
bjqmohlke@gmail.com

Treasurer:

Mike Simkin
607-387-5174 • mes13@cornell.edu
3137 Jacksonville Rd • T-burg, NY 14886

Ministry & Worship:

Shirley Way
607-319-1494 • shirleyway61@gmail.com

Childcare Requests:

Ellie Rosenberg • 277-1403
ellierosenberg7@gmail.com

**Friends Center for Racial Justice
at the Burrth House, 227 N Willard Way**

Angela Hopkins
angela@fcrj.org
607-319-2644

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.

Message from Finance Committee: Use a Purchase Approval Form

Ithaca Monthly Meeting has decided to hire a bookkeeper to work with our treasurer. We will be sending you more news about how things will be working. We are currently focused on developing ways to make sure the bookkeeper will have everything she needs to make sure bills can be paid on time.

Some time ago we circulated a form called the Purchase Approval Form, and asked that someone on each committee sign the form to indicate approval for any purchase(s) or service(s) to be purchased for the Committee's work and paid for by IMM. When the approved purchase(s) are made, either by charging it to Meeting or paid for out-of-pocket for reimbursement, the purchaser is responsible for getting a receipt. As soon after the purchase as possible, the receipt should be clipped to the Committee's completed Purchase Approval Form and together delivered to the treasurer. We are working to make Purchase Approval Forms available on the meeting website and also plan to put a stack of them in an empty slot in the mailboxes in the library at the Third Street Meetinghouse.

We do not want this process to be onerous for anyone, but we do need this process to ensure accountability for purchases to the Meeting. Thank you for your understanding.

If you have questions, please feel free to ask any of the members of the Finance Committee: Chuck Mohler, Clerk, Tom Brown, Marcie Finlay, Mike Simpkin, and Marilyn Ray, Recording Clerk.

The Plan for First Day School

Recently we had a wonderful sharing between parents and First Day School (FDS) volunteers. Here is a suggested schedule for FDS.

- 10:15 Babysitter for younger children arrives
- 10:30 Upstairs circle for welcoming and sharing. If children arrive earlier, they start in the circle and sing or play games or talk.
- 10:40 Short curriculum planned by that day's volunteer followed by possible activity provided by volunteer; free art, building or game time; or outside time (provided there are at least two adults going outside)
- 11:10 Gather together with activity to prepare for joining Worship
- 11:15 Join community in Worship
- 11:30 Children may return upstairs after the close of Worship at a time which is chosen by their families. Some children may stay until after Joys and Concerns, some will go up sooner. The babysitter will go upstairs at the close of MfW.
- 12:00 Babysitter returns children to their families downstairs after children support cleaning up. After the babysitter returns children to their families, children may return back upstairs in their family's care.

— *Ellie Rosenberg, Children and the Life of the Meeting*

Singing Before Meeting

I'm going to try to lead singing before meeting on the second Sunday of the month. We will start at 9:30, but it will be just fine if Friends trickle in later. We'll wrap up by 10:15 to settle for MfW. October 14th will be the first day for this, see the calendar.

— Emily Williams

Learn about the work of Stephen Jenkinson

Stephen Jenkinson was in Ithaca three years ago and spoke to an overflow crowd at the Baptist Church about his book "Die Wise: A Manifesto for Sanity and Soul." After visiting his website and then hearing him speak, I joined a small group that has met regularly to read and discuss this book. This book is so rich with observations and teachings about life, death and the meaning of integrity that I have continued to participate in discussion of it for more than one reading of the book.

Oct 13: "Griefwalker" screened at the Meetinghouse

If you would like to know more about Stephen Jenkinson, we will be showing the documentary film about his work, "Griefwalker" at the Third St. Meetinghouse on Saturday, October 13 at 7pm (see Calendar, page 4). The film is a lyrical and poetic portrait of Jenkinson's work with dying people. Filmed over a twelve year period, "Griefwalker" shows Jenkinson in teaching sessions with doctors and nurses, in counselling sessions with dying people and their families, and in meditative and often frank exchanges with the film's director about the origins and consequences of his ideas for how we live and die: "Grief is not a feeling. Grief is a skill. And the twin of grief as a skill of life is the skill of being able to praise or love life which means that wherever you find one authentically done, the other is very close at hand - grief, and the praise of life, side by side."

You can see a trailer for the film here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xLQWM2j3AVg&feature=youtu.be>

Nov 1: In-person appearance at the Hangar Theatre

"Night of Grief and Mystery" will be a spoken word/story-telling event with musical accompaniment touching on life, death, sorrow and mystery featuring Stephen Jenkinson and musician Gregory Hoskin and band.

"They are nights in which love letters to life are written and read. There's some boldness in them. Part poetry, part lamentation, part book reading, part ribaldry, part concert, part lifting the mortal veil and learning the mysteries there...that's what's in store."

My life has been enriched by the teachings of Stephen Jenkinson, and I invite everyone to come to the showing of "Griefwalker" on Saturday, October 13 at the Friends Meetinghouse, and to the Hangar Theater event on Nov 1 for "Nights of Grief and Mystery". Tickets for the Hangar Theater event are available at: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/night-of-grief-mystery-concert-ithaca-tickets-47771572058>.

— Carol Clarke

Vital Meetings: Reflections on IMM

Join us for a time of reflection and discernment about the state of our Meeting and how we want to build a stronger and more inviting community for all ages. Melinda Wenner Bradley, the New York Yearly Meeting coordinator for the Vital Meetings project, will report on what she heard us say about ourselves from the survey and focus groups. She will offer queries and "recommendations for discernment" about creating the Meeting we all desire.

Come to any one or all of the events. We welcome the gift of your presence. This will be a time of learning, reflection and fun.

Saturday, October 6

3- 6 pm - The program will be mixture of intergenerational activities and time for reflections about the state of our meeting. Games, friendly adult presence and childcare (for the youngest kids) will happen upstairs throughout the event.

6 pm - Potluck dinner, a time of fellowship and further conversation. Come even if you don't bring food.

Sunday, October 7

9:15-10:15 am - Review and recap Saturday events for those unable to attend on Saturday.

10:30 - 11:30 am - Meeting for Worship; Special program for children led by Melinda Wenner Bradley.

Around 11:45 am - Simple lunch provided.

Around 12:15 ending by 2:00 pm - Time of reflection and discernment. We will reflect on what Melinda shared with us about our Meeting, consider which recommendations we want to pursue, and begin to make plans for next steps. Games, friendly adult presence and childcare will be available upstairs.

— John Lewis, Clerk

Nov 3: Talking about death won't kill you..

...it can help you make informed decisions about end-of-life plans for yourself and others.

Many people die in ways inconsistent with their values and wishes. Planning ahead provides an opportunity to think about and communicate what you do and don't want at the end of life.

Join us—Saturday, November 3, 2-4 pm, The Space@Greenstar, 700 W. Buffalo Street—to develop the practical know-how needed to plan well for the end of life. The format is open, so drop by for a few minutes or stay for two hours.

Staff from local organizations can help you explore:

- advance directives: health care proxies & living wills
- accessing palliative care
- hospice care
- wills & trusts
- organ donation
- funeral planning
- green burial

— Melissa Travis Dunham

Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, September 9, 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.)

2018.9.1 Opening Worship

"May words of the Spirit be spoken, and words of the Spirit be heard."

Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends met in Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on September 9, 2018. At 12:20 pm, twenty-one Friends gathered and settled into worship.

Clerk recognized Karen Friedeborn who was holding the Meeting in the Light and read from Caroline Stephen (1834-1909):

"No clear impressions, either from above or from without, can be received by a mind turbid with excitement and agitated by a crowd of distractions. The stillness needed for the clear shining of light within is incompatible with hurry."

2018.9.2 M&W Report: New Membership

Bronwyn Mohlke reported that a Clearness for Membership committee for Asha Sanaker recommends her for membership. Friends gladly approved her membership.

2018.9.3 Peace & Social Justice

Margaret McCasland pointed out a sample sign present in the meeting room that reads "No matter where you are from, we're glad you're our neighbor" in English, Spanish and Arabic. The sign is part of a project organized through a Mennonite Church in Harrisonburg, Virginia. The Peace & Social Justice Committee proposes purchasing two signs and placing them outside the Third Street Meetinghouse, one each on Third Street and on Madison Street. Friends commented on the selection of languages. Margaret noted that other language options are available. Friends approved the purchase of one sign with English, Spanish and Arabic as well as one sign from FCNL that reads "Love Thy Neighbor, No Exceptions."@

2018.9.4 Report from the Clerk: Listserv Concerns

John Lewis, Clerk, spoke about the usage of the listserv and confusion that has arisen about the experiment the Meeting has undertaken which expands the use of the listserv beyond a narrow range of emails directly pertaining to Ithaca Monthly Meeting per se. Friends asked questions about the use of the listserv and shared thoughtful messages relating to the expanded use, how to build and support community, and how we open our circle to welcome newcomers and others. Friends raised the possibility that there might be other technological solutions available to us. Questions were raised about what exactly was meant by "Meeting-related only" posts under the previous guidelines. Friends were not in unity as to how to proceed. The trial period will continue. Clerk asked

us to carefully consider other Friends' experiences and perspectives when we post to the listserv. As a member of the Clerk's support committee, Bronwyn Mohlke has volunteered to organize threshing sessions or other discussion fora to continue our consideration of the listserv and community-building through an additional communications channel. @

2018.9.5 Treasurer's Report

Mike Simkin gave a brief update on the financial status of the meeting. The babysitting fund, used to support childcare at times other than Sunday Meeting for Worship, has a low balance at \$135. Friends are welcome to give specifically to that fund.

Overall, donations at the end of August bring us to 37% of the annual budget request. Mike reminds Friends to provide receipts to when they purchase items for the Meeting. Mike further shared that we have a hired bookkeeper who is now working with our data and who is slowly transitioning into her role tracking our finances.

2018.9.6 Other Concerns

A Friend noted that the Friends Center for Racial Justice (FCRJ) will have its annual meeting October 13 and 14 and will discuss the relationship between FCRJ and IMM—and perhaps wider Quaker bodies—in that venue. A Memorandum of Understanding will return to IMM Business Meeting—as well as the Finance Committee and Trustees—as a result of that process. @

2018.9.7 Closing Worship

Sixteen Friends settled into silent worship at 2pm before adjourning. Our next regular Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business will be held at the rise of Meeting on October 14, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

Marin Clarkberg, Recording Clerk

Reverend Dr. William J. Barber spoke at FGC this summer and tied his speech specifically to Quakers and two of his role models in particular: Lucretia Mott and Levi Coffin. A recurring theme was also the words to the song we frequently sing "This Little Light of Mine." This is a strong call for all people coming together in this time of struggle against power, because only together, resisting divisiveness, can we turn the tides of the nation towards respect, equity, and peace.

A video of his talk at FGC is available at <https://youtu.be/Xqaln5eYfSo?t=18m50s>

— Leo Quirk

Women's Chair Yoga, Mondays and Thursdays **11a-noon**

Women of all ages are welcome to gather for gentle, yet powerful restoration of heart, mind, soul, strength. No experience or equipment needed. If you have questions, please contact Nancy Gabriel: 339-7123; ntg2@cornell.edu. We offer a donation to the teacher.

Ithaca Death Cafe, November 10

Death Cafes are gatherings to share thought-provoking, engaging and respectful conversations on death. They are not intended as a bereavement support group, counseling or therapy. The next Ithaca Death Cafe will be on Saturday, November 10, from 2-4pm (doors open at 1:45). Please join us in a relaxed setting to discuss death, drink tea, and eat cake. This event is open to all but space is limited, so RSVPs are required. The event is free, but donations are welcome. To RSVP or for more information, please contact Angela Mennitto at deathcafeithaca@gmail.com.

Do You Need Childcare?

The Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends wants all Friends to be able to attend all IMM events. This includes, but is not limited to, Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. If there is an IMM event which you would like to attend and you need a babysitter, you have two options.

- You may hire your own sitter and IMM will reimburse you.
- You may call or text Ellie at 607-227-1403 and ask for a babysitter at the event. One will be provided if we can find someone.

If you would like to be on a list of possible babysitters, or know of someone who would, please also let Ellie know.

October 2018 Calendar of Ithaca Monthly Meeting

Earthcare Committee

Sunday, October 7, noon to 1:30p

All are welcome to join this monthly Earthcare discussion.

Friends First Friday Films

Friday, October 5, 7p

Join us at the Friends' Center for Racial Justice, 227 N Willard Way, for a screening "The Secret Life of Bees." Enjoy a film of self-discovery in the 1960's South, popcorn & lemonade and good sharing! Suggestions for future films? Contact Ruth Yarrow or Angela Hopkins.

Vital Meetings Reflections

Saturday and Sunday, October 6 and 7

See page 2 for more information and the schedule.

FCRJ Annual Gathering

Friday thru Sunday, October 12-14

The focus of this gathering will be on the relationship between Ithaca Monthly Meeting and the Friends Center for Racial Justice (FCRJ)—"Right Relationship: Responsibility, Reflection and Looking Ahead"—and the creation of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Check the listserv for an agenda, and/or contact Angela Hopkins, 607-319-2644, angelaforestglenn@yahoo.com, with your questions.

Singing Before Meeting

Sunday, October 14, 9:30

Emily Williams lead singing before worship. If you can't make it at 9:30, come a little later. We'll wrap up by 10:15 to settle for MfW.

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

Sunday, October 14, Rise of Meeting

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

Newsletter submission due

Thursday, October 25, 5p

Please provide your newsletter contributions to Marin Clarkberg: 150 Giles St., 14850, 607-279-4722, clarkberg@cornell.edu.

Women's Fellowship

Friday, October 26, 6:45p

A Friendly, informal gathering to meet, knit, eat and/or hang out once a month, we will meet in Wegman's cafe upstairs. Stop by for a cup of tea, dinner, or just to say hi, everyone is welcome!

Dish-to-Pass Brunch

Sunday, October 28, Rise of Meeting

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

On Sundays

10:30a **First Day School** upstairs at the Third Street Meetinghouse

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

11:15a **First Day School attendees** join Meeting for Worship

Other Weekly IMM Events

Mid-week Meeting at the Burt House

Wednesdays at 7:30p

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