



Newsletter of the

# Ithaca Monthly Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

January 2019

## IMM CONTACTS

[ithacamonthlymeeting.org](http://ithacamonthlymeeting.org)

### Meetinghouse:

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

### Clerk:

John Lewis • 607-227-6273  
[clerk@ithacamonthlymeeting.org](mailto:clerk@ithacamonthlymeeting.org)

### Assistant Clerk:

Bronwyn Mohlke • 607-220-3219  
[bjqmohlke@gmail.com](mailto:bjqmohlke@gmail.com)

### Treasurer:

Mike Simkin  
607-387-5174 • [mes13@cornell.edu](mailto:mes13@cornell.edu)  
3137 Jacksonville Rd • T-burg, NY 14886

### Ministry & Worship:

Shirley Way  
607-319-1494 • [shirleyway61@gmail.com](mailto:shirleyway61@gmail.com)

### Childcare Requests:

Ellie Rosenberg • 277-1403  
[ellierosenberg7@gmail.com](mailto:ellierosenberg7@gmail.com)

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

Angela Hopkins  
[angela@fcrj.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:mlr17@cornell.edu)

### Newsletter

Submit contributions to [clarkberg@cornell.edu](mailto:clarkberg@cornell.edu). See the IMM Calendar, back page, for the next deadline.

## Dispatch from Earth: Carbon in the Earth Economy

We—humans—are in a strange transitional place in our evolution right now on Earth. We are gaining awareness that our economy must be more like the Earth's economy, which never wastes; it recycles and reassembles, constantly transforming matter. One of these transforming elements is carbon. It is found in living and non-living things, such as trees, rocks, and oceans. It is always on the move. Attached to hydrogen in wood or fossil fuels it can release energy through combustion. Attached to oxygen it becomes a gas in the atmosphere.

Fossil fuels are like a savings account of solar energy from the past stored in these hydrogen-carbon chemical bonds. We are spending this savings account very rapidly. We have produced a very luxurious life style for ourselves based on our extravagant and inefficient use of this one time bonanza—a lifestyle which we have quickly come to take for granted. Only now are we faced with the consequences (the population growth it encouraged and the pollution it created—multiplied times each other) and the realization that in order to survive we must learn to use the Earth's more thrifty and sustainable economy and live off our current paycheck of sun, wind, and geothermal heat.

In the last several months we have had reports and warnings from both the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and our own federal government's Fourth National Climate Assessment (NCA4, Vol. II) from 13 national agencies, including the National Atmospheric and Oceanic Administration (NOAA) and the Department of Energy (DOE), on the increasingly narrowing window of opportunity to change the way we are releasing this sequestered carbon from the past, or suffer the consequences. The deadline for averting irreversible damage from the cascading events caused by the heating of man-made climate change keeps creeping forewords. Climate models first predicted this point at 2050, then, as they incorporated more real data it was 2040. Now it is 2030.

Yet we are stuck. Our shortsighted, profit-driven, human economy is heavily invested in carbon-dense fossil fuels for the energy to drive it. But we have not included the related costs of carbon pollution in our economic models. We have kept our human economy separate from the Earth's economy, not realizing that we are embedded within it. However, there are currently two bills—one in the House and one in the Senate—which might give us the opportunity to begin a reversal of this exclusion. These bills would put a gradually increasing tax on carbon extracted at the source. In a profit-based economy, this is a critical first step, forcing the market to start recognizing the true costs of doing business.

Our Quaker testimonies guide us toward "right relationship" with a "whole earth economy". Numerous people believe a paradigm shift is required (and is happening) for institutional change to occur on a large enough scale. But there will always be many approaches. Some are spiritually led, others take a more scientific approach, still others are convinced by their pocket book. For new renewable energies to compete with very well subsidized old source energy, a carbon tax levels the energy production playing field. Fossil fuels no longer fit the economy we want or need to be. Like serf and slavery labor before

*Dispatch, continued on page 2*

## Dispatch, continued from page 1

it, the use of fossil fuels belongs to an outmoded world view. It is one that exploits, not one that acknowledges our dependency on a system much larger than ourselves. A system encapsulated by the complex and self-sustaining principles of a whole earth economy which we, like the rest of nature, ignore at our peril.

Earthcare will have a display and letter writing table on brunch Sunday, January 27 to explain more on this and encourage people to write their legislators about this important topic.

— *Betsy Keokosky, Earthcare Committee*

### Return of the Last Friday Night Soup Suppers!

All Friends are invited to gather for our Last Friday Night Soup Suppers, January through March. Soup and bread will be provided. If you'd like to bring a side dish, salad, or dessert, that would be great, but you are welcome to come without bringing any food. There is no agenda, just a time to be with Friends, though rumor has it one of the nights will be a game night! If you are interested in providing the soup or bread one month, please let someone on the Hospitality Committee know (Marin Clarkberg, Christopher Church, Pat Sewell, Miguel Piery, Carl Peterson, and Bronwyn Mohlke)

### ARCH Discussion Series on Brunch Sundays January through April

We will have our annual ARCH Discussion Series on Brunch Sundays January through April. ARCH stands for Aging Resources Consultation and Help, and is a program of New York Yearly Meeting. Topics will include Quaker Values and End of Life Decision Making, senior living options in our area, and more. Details will be shared via announcements and on our listserv. ARCH volunteers include Elizabeth Schneider, Barbara Chase, Bronwyn Mohlke, and Betsy Root (from Perry City Meeting).

— *Bronwyn Mohlke*

### From the Archives

#### Quaker Sewing During WWII

Does anyone have information (or pictures) of Quakers from IMM sewing during World War II? The minutes frequently mention making and shipping clothes, but there isn't much detail. Also, it seems at least sometimes connected with the sewing done by the Women's International League. If anyone has information or memories, please let me know at [simonstl@simonstl.com](mailto:simonstl@simonstl.com) or 607 227 0858.

(I'm hoping that it's not too late to gather a few of these memories. We'll see!)

— *Simon St. Laurent*

Friends, this poem was shared by a friend who is a minister and a member of Occupy Wall Street. I think it embodies Quaker values:

— *Amala Lane*

### Enfleshed

In threshold places, where endings meet beginnings,  
we are invited to listen backward as we move forward.

What can we learn from the year past -  
from how evil played its cards,  
or from relationships gained and lost?

What brought you deep delight,  
when everything was swirling?

To whom were you able to turn to  
and what challenged you to grow?

Individually and collectively,  
none of us are the same.

For some of these changes we weep  
and for others we rejoice

but from each we carry something forward  
- a feeling, a lesson, a memory, a challenge,

a call to solidarity...

Collectively, we acknowledge a kind of closing  
and a fresh start that offers only

as much meaning as we need from it.

Inviting us not to wage war on ourselves,  
but just to pause

and pay attention to our longings.

A new year does not need to mean "a new you."

You do not need to make demands of yourself  
grounded in messages that are only meant  
to make you feel inadequate or unlovable.

Your worth is ineffable,

that is a constant that carries from year to year.

Move gently with yourself into 2019,  
speaking instead words of possibility,

committing to that which calls you,  
letting yourself be lured by the Sacred

towards your own becoming.

Make only resolutions that will lead  
to more flourishing of life, yours and others.

Reject individualistic notions of  
what will lead to "success"

and channel your growing  
in the directions

of what we can become

of what we can create

of what we can divest from

of what we must claim

of what we must fight

of how we might love

together.

— *Reverend Anna Blaedel*

## **Powell House adult programs in 2019: Now available by subscription**

Powell House is trying something new: Monthly Meetings that pay \$1440 per year can designate a different individual to attend for no additional charge each PoHo adult program. Ithaca Meeting has decided to participate in that program for 2019. There is also an option for individuals who pay \$720 per person, per year, can come to as many PoHo programs as they'd like at no additional charge.

Take a look at the Powell House website, [powellhouse.org](http://powellhouse.org), to see if there are workshops coming up that you would like to attend! Please contact our clerk, John Lewis (on the Scholarship committee) if you are interested in attending as the Ithaca Friend.

There is a box to check on the on-line registration form to use either subscription method. Call or email [sharon@powellhouse.org](mailto:sharon@powellhouse.org) to set up the subscription and to arrange payment.

These are yearlong subscriptions. They do not include youth program retreats, as those fees are based on a different scale. Your questions and patience will be appreciated as we work out the details of these changes.

Here are some upcoming workshops that may be of interest to you:

February 1-3: Friends Decision-making and Clerking:  
Participating in Meetings for Business with Joy and  
Confidence with Arthur M. Larrabee and Steve Mohlke

February 22-24: The Power of Enough. Are you seeking to simplify your life and take personal steps to create right order in our world? Together, we will consider the implications of our personal choices and their ripple effects.

## **Regional Meeting's Winter Gathering, Jan 12**

Winter Gathering at Rochester Friends Meeting is fast approaching, on Saturday January 12! Our typical time frames are 9:00 am arrival; 9:30 worship, leading into discussion of plans for Spring Gathering 2019 (possible theme/program, workshops/interest groups, flow, etc) and lunch from 12 noon to 1 pm. Regional Meeting for Business will be from 1:00 pm till about 3:30.

The rotation of responsibilities for Spring Gathering 2019 are:

Overall coordination: Poplar Ridge Friends  
Youth lead: Farmington Friends  
Youth pre-lead (lead in 2020): Ithaca and Elmira Friends  
Food concerns: Buffalo Friends  
Host Fall Gathering and coordination of Spring Gathering in 2020: Rochester and Genesee Valley

Details about Winter Gathering will be coming. So for now, save the date; Saturday January 12!

Blessings,

*Kathy Slattery, Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting Clerk*

## **Pay as Led is now a reality for the 2019 New York Yearly Meeting Summer Sessions!**

We are making our 2019 Summer Sessions more affordable; because many have had to stretch mightily in order to be able to attend, because new Friends and Attenders have stayed away because of the cost, and most important, because we are at our best, a faith community, whole and all-embracing and wide-ranging. We hope Pay as Led will open up the NYYM Summer Sessions experience to more f/Friends in order to be a more complete and Blessed Community.

2019 is our first year experimenting with a Pay as Led process for lodging and meals at Silver Bay YMCA. Pay as Led invites people with limited financial means to pay less than the standard rate and for those with greater financial resources to pay more than the standard. We are specifying a minimum charge of 25% of the standard Silver Bay rates for the simplest accommodations. If this is still out of reach, we encourage folks to contact the YM office to see what other assistance may be available.

For Pay as Led to be successful for each person and for NYYM as a whole, we all need to carefully discern what we can afford — and consider how we can help others attend if we are able. This is our opportunity to listen to Spirit and to reflect on the meaning of community, integrity, right sharing, and just simply wanting to be in the company of our faith community, for worship, work, play, new connections, and lots of hugs!

All the 2019 Summer Sessions information will be online at <http://nyym.org/> and will be in Spark starting in January 2019. Look for the details & join us!

— *Melanie-Claire Mallison,*  
*NYYM Sessions Committee, clerk,*  
*MsMellie@gmail.com*

### **Annual Reports are Due**

Friends,

This is a gentle reminder that annual reports for IMM committees are due this month. I have extended the deadline from Jan. 5 to Jan. 10. Please let me know if your committee can not send me an annual report by that time.

— *John Lewis, Clerk*

## Join an AVP Workshop in Ithaca: Jan 25-27

You are invited to participate in an upcoming Alternatives to Violence Project workshop Friday, January 25 through Sunday, January 27 in downtown Ithaca, NY (exact location still TBD). This workshop is a Basic-level workshop, the first in the AVP workshop series.

The Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) has been around since the 1970s. As a response to the Attica prison riots, a group of men incarcerated in New York State's Greenhaven Correctional Facility called the "Think Tank" joined forces with a Quaker worship group in the facility to author the first AVP workshops, focused on creative conflict resolution built on the principles of affirmation, respect for all, community, cooperation, and trust.

The schedule for the weekend is lengthy, but promises to be both challenging and FUN! The workshop will run:

Friday, January 25, 5:30pm-8:30pm

Saturday, January 26, 9am-8:30pm

Sunday, January 27, 1pm-6pm

Dinner is included Friday evening, and lunch and dinner are included Saturday. The cost for the weekend is \$25, but no one will be turned away for inability to pay.

We have invited participation from several community organizations, including Cayuga Aid and Recovery (CARs) and Opportunities, Alternatives, and Resources (OAR) of Tompkins County. Additionally, we would like to invite participation from members of the community-at-large. Please help us do that, by passing along this invitation.

Register online at <https://goo.gl/forms/CvOi7orXJxJt53tM2>. For more information on AVP, visit the AVP USA website <https://avpusa.org/>.

— Gina Varrichio

## Elfin Gratitude

This year, Ithaca Monthly Meeting provided gifts and clothing for twelve local students through the Cornell Elves program. Below is a message from our reps.

— Gina Varrichio

Dear Elf Friends,

Jo and I would like to express our sincere gratitude for your overwhelming generosity to the Elf Program once again this year!

With your support, we were able to sponsor 108 children from the Beverly J. Martin Elementary School and an additional 13 children from other schools for a total of 121 kids! Thank you to all of you who sponsored a child (or a family!), donated money, or forwarded information on to friends. Program wide, the Elves sponsored more than 1000 children from 34 local schools. Many of you sponsored children with friends, family members, and colleagues whose names we do not know. We hope you will forward this message on to them and extend our sincere thanks to all of them.

We would like to send a special thank you to all of our new sponsors who joined us this year. Whether you were new to the Elves Program or to BJM, we are very grateful to have your support this season. We would like to also extend our thanks to our "Elf Assistants," Pam Staub, Melissa Burrell, and the ILR Custodians.

Best wishes for a happy, peaceful New Year!

Brigid & Jo

## Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

### Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, December 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.)

#### 2018.12.01 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

December 9, 2018. At 12:30 pm, twenty-one Friends gathered and settled into worship.

Clerk recognized Barbara Chase who was holding the Meeting in the Light. Clerk read from Friends Consultation of Worship (Richmond, Indiana, 1989):

*The purpose of our meeting for business is to build up the community of faith through seeking God's will for us as a community. We are here to worship and not get through an agenda. The meeting for business is over when the worship is over.*

Minutes continued on page 5

## Minutes continued from page 4

### 2018.12.02 Finance Committee – Proposed budget

Marcie Finlay from the Finance committee reviewed highlights from the printed budget proposal for 2019. Marcie began by reviewing our current financial status and the balances of our funds. Marcie then shifted to the 2019 budget proposal and noted that the total donation request for the year is \$72,102, an increase of about 2% over the \$70,756 request for 2018. The 2019 donation request is slightly smaller than might be expected because of a \$2,000 transfer from our General Fund Reserve to our General Purpose income and a slightly lowered contribution to the Burt House and Third Street Meetinghouse repair funds. Friends asked questions about this year's budget versus last year's budget. Friends approved the 2019 budget. @

### 2018.12.03 Ministry & Worship – Transfer of Membership

Clerk reported that he received a letter from Syracuse Friends Meeting requesting the transfer of membership for Martin Willis. Ministry & Worship joyfully invites us to welcome Martin as a member. Friends received the report. @

### 2018.12.04 TSMC – Use of the Meetinghouse

Carol Clarke read a written report from the Third Street Meetinghouse Committee concerning a request from Shirley Way to have a private, lockable office for AVP New York in the Third Street Meetinghouse. The report outlined several issues that the TSMC considered. The TSMC recommended one of two options: the allocation of exclusive usage of an upstairs room for a limited period (such as six months or less), or to encourage AVP to pursue nonexclusive use of a meetinghouse room in the same way that other groups are permitted use of the meetinghouse. Shirley indicated that her preference would be for the first option.

Friends explored the issues reflected in the report's conclusion that the "TSMC is clear that the meetinghouse is not an appropriate location for community office space at this time." Friends feel unity in supporting the work of AVP but the body was not entirely clear as to whether or how or for how long the meetinghouse might be used to support that work. Friends spoke to a desire for details to be specified, as in a lease agreement or a memorandum of understanding.

Friends approved the creation of a committee including Shirley Way, a representative from TSMC, and a representative from Trustees to work out a MOU to that would allow a six-month period at the Meetinghouse. The committee is asked to bring this back to the Meeting for approval in January, though Shirley's office move may occur before then. Friends approved an installation of a lock on the door of a room; the particular room remains to be decided through consultation with CALM, TSMC and the Library Committee.

Friends advised that we will use this six-month period to explore what it means to have a tenant of the meetinghouse. Friends recommend that Shirley meet monthly with one or more members of TSMC and others during the six-month period. @

### 2018.12.05 Nominating Committee Report – 2019 Committees

Antonia Saxon from the Nominating Committee presented the full slate of Nominations for the 2019 year. Friends offered some corrections, and observed that some positions remain unfilled. Friends approved the nominations.

### 2018.12.06 Nominating – a Communications Committee

Antonia Saxon read a draft of a charge for a Communications Committee. The proposal is to lay down the Newsletter Committee and replace it with this broader Communications Committee. Friends approved the proposal, and joyfully suggested directions that this committee might pursue. @

### 2018.12.07 Peace & Social Justice – Proposed donations

Noting the lateness of the hour, the Clerk highlighted a printed report from the Peace and Social Justice and tested with Friends whether there was a desire to read it in its entirety; there was not. Carol Clarke from Peace and Social Justice spoke very briefly to highlight the Tompkins Country Immigrant Rights Coalition and the Latino Civic Association. Questions were raised about the Ruth Yarrow Scholarship at the Cayuga Nature Center. Friends approved the donations and received the report. @

### 2018.12.08 Other Concerns

A Friend noted that there is no Pastoral Care Committee. While the Meeting seems to be able to meet the need to provide meals and rides when the need arises, there seems to be a larger need, currently unmet, for a body to provide care to individual emotional and spiritual needs, and for relationships among Meeting members.

A Friend observed that she had heard about work on an MOU relating to the Friends Center for Racial Justice, but had not heard about an opportunity for the whole community to discuss the MOU.

A Friend expressed concern that Meeting's support for Kitchen Cupboard with regular volunteer labor may not be sufficient, and that we need a new coordinator.

Eighteen Friends settled into silent worship at 2:35pm before adjourning. Our next regular Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business will be held at the rise of Meeting on January 13, 2019.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Marin Clarkberg, Recording Clerk*

## **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.

## **AVP Workshop January 25-27**

See page 4 for more information. Contact Gina Varrichio with your questions.

# **January 2019 Calendar of Ithaca Monthly Meeting**

## **Quaker Guys Lunch Thursday, January 3, noon**

Lunch for Friendly Men and those who don't mind talking with them. We meet at the Ten Forward Café in Autumn Leaves on the first Thursday of each month.

## **Friends First Friday Films Friday, January 4, 7p**

Join us at the Friends' Center for Racial Justice, 227 N Willard Way, We will see a compelling drama about race and class, "The Help." Come start the new year with fellowship! Questions? Call Ruth Yarrow, 206-512-0688.

## **Discussion on Providing Care Sunday, January 6, Rise of Meeting**

Holly White will lead a discussion about practices of providing care. In addition to the caregiving she has given to her aging parents, Holly has finished a semester of hospital chaplaincy at Brigham and Women's hospital in Boston and is returning for another unit in January.

## **Earthcare Committee Sunday, January 6, Rise of Meeting**

All are welcome to join us on first Sundays.

## **Women's Fellowship Friday, January 11, 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!

## **Annual Meeting of the Corporation Sunday, January 13, Rise of Meeting**

Friends, please plan to attend. Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, Inc. is the legal entity of our Meeting and is required by New York State law to conduct an annual meet-

ing. We will hear a brief report for the President (Clerk of Trustees), Secretary (Recording Clerk of Trustees) and a more detailed annual report from our Treasurer. Please try to attend. A sign-up sheet will be circulated so that we can document that a significant percentage of our members participated in the annual meeting.

## **Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Sunday, January 13, following Annual Meeting**

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

## **Peace and Social Justice Committee Sunday, January 20, Rise of Meeting**

All are welcome to join us on third Sundays.

## **Last Friday Soup Supper Friday, January 25, 6p**

See page 2 for more info. We look forward to evenings of fellowship together!

## **Fourth Sunday Dish-to-Pass Brunch Sunday, January 27, Rise of Meeting**

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

## **Earthcare Letter Writing Sunday, January 27, Rise of Meeting**

Earthcare will have a table display and letter writing materials and information relating to an environmental issue.

## **Newsletter submission due Thursday, January 31, 5p**

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

Note: First Friday Films in February will be Feb 2

### **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.