



Newsletter of the

Ithaca Monthly Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

September 2019

IMM CONTACTS

ithacamonthlymeeting.org

Meetinghouse:

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

To reserve space, email:
ithacamonthlymeeting@gmail.com

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

Ministry & Worship:

Elizabeth Schneider
607-351-0057 • nschneid@aol.com

Childcare Requests:

Ellie Rosenberg • 277-1403
ellierosenberg7@gmail.com

Friends Center for Racial Justice at the Burt 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.

Ithaca Monthly Meeting One-Day Retreat, September 28

Finding and Remembering Our Spiritual Center is a one-day retreat for Ithaca Monthly Meeting. Join us Saturday, September 28 at 8:00am for breakfast and at 9am for a program that proceeds until 4pm, with breaks, lunch and opportunities for fellowship.

How do we, as Friends, listen for the “still, small voice” in ourselves and in our community? The day-long retreat is an invitation to explore how Quakers historically and presently know, name, and share what they find in their waiting worship. What or who is being listened for? And how do these experiences inform and shape what we are led to do individually and together to “let our lives speak”? Activities through the day will bring us closer to each other and introduce us to new ways of listening. All are welcome, whether new or familiar to practices of Friends.

Holly White will be with us for the retreat. She is a member of Ithaca Monthly Meeting currently living in Boston and working as a chaplain at Brigham and Women’s Hospital. Holly has over 25 years experience in teaching and leading workshops about religion, spirituality, and community building. She loves to sing, walk with F/friends, and is a potluck enthusiast.

Please register in advance so that we know you are coming! <https://tinyurl.com/yyp472ff>

— Bronwyn Mohlke

Quaker Eights: Groups Forming

Quaker Eights (also sometimes known as Friendly Eights) are informal gatherings, typically for a simple meal (usually potluck) and fellowship, with other members and attenders. Groups consist of approximately eight people who meet approximately eight times. This is a fun way to get to know others in the Meeting better in a more intimate setting.

Anyone can sign up. Yes, you heard right. Lifetime meeting members, Quaker teens, college students, people who haven’t been to Meeting for Worship more than twice, people who have never been to Meeting for Worship, families with young children, older couples, longtime attenders, short-time attenders, single adults, the very short and the very tall—whatever your situation, you are *all* invited to participate.

Were you in a Quaker Eights group in 2018-2019? New groups will take into account with whom you’ve already spent time and shuffle you in to a group with new faces.

For more information about how this all works and for a small FAQ on Quaker Eights gatherings, visit the Quaker Eights registration page here: <https://forms.gle/pGUqREd-2nVhiEjuT7>.

Totally daunted by online forms? Call Gina at 272-2512 and she will fill it out for you!

The registration deadline is September 8, to enable groups to get their first 2-3 meetings scheduled before the end of the year. These groups will run through June 2020. We’ll reassign the groups again next fall! Sign up now!

— Gina Varrichio

FCRJ's History, Structure and Functioning

I met recently with Angela Hopkins, Director of the Friends Center for Racial Justice (FCRJ). She told me of FCRJ's history, the way it is structured, and how it functions. I write here a portion of what I learned.

— *Elizabeth Schneider*

Pre-History

In 2013 Jeff Hitchcock the Clerk of NY Yearly Meeting encouraged Friends to visit one another. In response to this urging, the New York Yearly Meeting's Task Group on Racism reached out to the 66 Monthly Meetings and Churches. Those who responded were visited, and they shared what was rising with respect to race in their Meetings. The visits were not cookie-cutter visits. While the focus was internalized racism and its connection to institutional racism, the time together began where each Meeting was.

During that time Angela and Karen Friedeborn met one another at Pendle Hill attending the class, Answering the Call to Radical Faithfulness. Karen invited Angela, Clerk of the Task Group on Racism, to come visit Ithaca Monthly Meeting and to stay at the Burt House. Angela was invited to return three additional times. Many Ithaca Friends may remember those visits.

During that time Angela and Jeff were NYYM representatives on the White Privilege Conference Steering Committee. Angela shared with Karen the upcoming White Privilege Conference in Philadelphia. A number of Ithaca Friends and other Ithaca residents attended the Conference.

Founding of FCRJ

For some time the Ithaca Meeting had been discussing the future use of the Burt House. At that time the Burt House Managers gave notice they would be leaving. While the Meeting discerned

the future use of the Burt House, Angela was invited to come and stay there upon the ending of her tenure at Pendle Hill. Karen and Angela brought forth a proposal to use the Burt House for a Racial Justice Center. Ithaca Friends considered this and discerned that it was a proper use. FCRJ was subsequently formed.

FCRJ Structure

Representation on FCRJ's Coordinating Committee originally was comprised of members of NYYM's Task Group on Racism. There were initially, and continue to be, two members -- one a person of color and one white person -- who form a team, working on each of the following areas. The current teams are:

1. Prisons: Judy Meikle and Robert Martin
2. European Americans: Mary Pugh Clark and Barbara Blecker
3. Black Concerns: Jeffrey Hitchcock and Charley Flint
4. Task Group on Racism / Racism within the Religious Society of Friends: Angela Hopkins and Nancy Cooper
5. Native American Concerns: Angela Hopkins and (additional member to be confirmed at October Meeting)

FCRJ sponsors workshops in Ithaca from January to June in each of these five areas. Each team of the Coordinating Committee is responsible for either coordinating or leading one of the workshops in their focus area. The workshops draw people not only from Ithaca but from other parts of NY Yearly Meeting and other Yearly Meetings. Overnight accommodations are available at FCRJ. There is a suggested fee for the workshops and accommodations, but persons are also invited to pay as led.

Look for a future article on FCRJ's institutional anti-racism work with other Meetings, Yearly Meetings, and other faith communities.

White Fragility Workshop

Michelle Brimage will facilitate this one-day workshop designed to shepherd participants through a conversation around White Fragility. We will be using Robin DiAngelo's book *White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism*. We will explore the counterproductive reactions white people have when their assumptions about race are challenged, and how these reactions maintain racial inequality. This is the third in a series of one-day workshops.

Michelle is an African American woman who has been working and worshipping with the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) for the last twenty-five years. She moved to Ithaca a year ago to continue that work with Friends at Ithaca Monthly Meeting. Since moving here, she has facilitated workshops and conversations with Friends and other activist groups in the community, with the hopes that what she brings to the work will serve to enrich and inspire continued conversations about race, class, and privilege in the place she now calls home.

What do we want for our First Day School?

Please come and share with members of the Children and the Life of the Meeting (CALM) committee as we plan for this coming year. There will be a Parent's Meeting September 8th before Meeting for Worship. We ask all parents to share with us at this time—or by contacting us in some other way—what they would like to see happening during FDS time. Nonparents are welcome to come or contact us as well.

The parents meeting will be followed by teacher's planning meeting on September 15th at the Rise of Meeting. Please feel free to reach out as we look forward to another year with children.

— *Ellie Rosenberg 607-227-1403 ellierosenberg7@gmail.com*

From the Archives: A Look at IMM and Sanctuary

From the Meeting Historian

In 1984, Ithaca Monthly Meeting leapt forward to offer sanctuary to Central American refugees. As I looked through the minutes—even while knowing that minutes reflect only a tiny part of the conversation—I was amazed to jump from this in March 1984:

For the Peace and Social Action Committee, Katy Van Duzen spoke of the Sanctuary Program, including details of the visit by “Manuel” to Ithaca March 24-5, which is co-sponsored by this Meeting. Doug Brown, from the Campaign for Peace with Justice in Central America, then conveyed to us further information on the Sanctuary program. It is an effort to offer refuge to people fleeing El Salvador and Guatemala. This is in accord with a United Nations protocol, but not with U.S. Immigration policy, which has ordered deportment of thousands of these people as “illegal aliens”.

To this in April 1984:

Chuck Mohler reported for the Peace and Social Action Committee. They have replied to a letter from Jane Simkin, for the NYYM Committee on Latin American Concerns, about what our meeting is doing in connection with issues in that part of the world.

P+SA needs to receive Friends’ response to the questionnaire on Sanctuary. There are two questions:

“What should Meeting’s response be to the Sanctuary program?”; and,

“What can you as an individual contribute if Meeting participates in Sanctuary?”

Those present considered the matter of Sanctuary, both in discussion and in silence. The Meeting approved this Minute:

Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends declares its willingness to offer sanctuary to Central American refugees, and seeks to join with other groups in this act of conscience.

P+SA will continue to take responsibility for this matter. Individuals should let Chuck know how they can contribute to and participate in the eventual receiving of refugees in Ithaca.

In May, the conversation became more substantial:

Chuck repeated the plea that Friends tell him in writing what concrete role we each can take in the Sanctuary movement to which the meeting has committed itself. Two decisions are to be made by the Meeting:

- 1) How many refugees can we take care of ? and
- 2) What sort of persons do we seek to sponsor?

Concerns expressed were that the support of other groups be assured; that the person(s) welcomed by us have demonstrated commitment to nonviolent means of action; that it seems unwise to house children in Ned [Burt]’s home. Friends are asked to inform themselves, and to consider these questions so that we can make a decision at June meeting for business.

P+SA proposed, and we approved, the formation of an ad

hoc committee on Sanctuary, for which the following have volunteered: Chuck, Katy, Jim Johnson, Jeanie Wheelwright, Jane Houser, and Khafiya and Sattva Hathaway.

In June, Chuck reported that the Sanctuary Committee had been meeting, and reported that “other churches in Ithaca are laboring over their conscientious response to the needs of refugees.” Jim Johnson, convenor of the committee, wrote to the Chicago Religious Task Force that:

During its April Monthly Meeting for Business the Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends decided to offer public sanctuary to refugees from Central America. We are now at the stage of collating offers of help and working to establish a wider base of support in Ithaca. Also, we are attempting as a congregation to determine what our resources are to back up this decision and to decide how large a family or how many people we can shelter. We anticipate that we can send some more specific information as to our abilities to publically care for refugees by the early part of July.

As Paul says in 2 Corinthians 9:2 ...”Your zeal has been a spur to many more.” We in turn hope to follow your lead and also serve as a public example of Christ’s concern for those in need.

At the July 1984 Meeting for Business, IMM received a report:

The Sanctuary Committee met on 6-27 to consider the returned questionnaires and the questions in the reply from the Chicago Religious Task Force on Central America. After careful consideration of the available replies the committee recommends that in its response to CRTFonCA the Meeting state that it is ready to provide sanctuary for a single refugee or a couple without children. The committee further recommends that the refugee(s) have an expressed personal commitment to nonviolence.

The Meeting responded with:

The Meeting approved their recommendation that we declare our readiness to welcome a single refugee or a childless couple, having a stated commitment to non-violence. THE committee sought and received the Meeting’s approval of a letter to be sent by us to the other Friends’ Meetings in New York which are participating in Sanctuary, to strengthen the bond among Sanctuary communities. (There are approximately fifty Meetings in the US, and six in New York, involved.)

Jim Johnson reported further that expressions of support to our Meeting have been received from seven or eight groups in Ithaca, We will be joining the First Baptist Church of Ithaca in a potluck supper, viewing of a film on the Sanctuary effort, and a discussion of our Meeting’s decision, on Sunday, Sept. 16th.

At their recent meeting, the Central New York Conference of the United Methodist Church published an Action endorsing Sanctuary (copy enclosed).

Sanctuary, continued on page 4

Any relevant information or news articles should be sent to Jim Johnson.

There was discussion of the advisability and desirability, the purposes and disadvantages, of our eventually publicizing our involvement in Sanctuary.

Jean Klune asked to be recorded as opposing the Meeting's participation in Sanctuary, but standing aside.

Ithaca Monthly Meeting had started a project that would last a few years.

I'll be writing more about the refugees who came and the Meeting's support for them. While the minutes have a fair amount of information, I would also love to speak with people who participated in IMM's Sanctuary work and include their stories in this telling. Please contact me at simonstl@simonstl.com, or 607 227 0858, if you have anything to add to these stories.

— *Simon St. Laurent, Meeting Historian*

Pendle Hill

Pendle Hill is a Quaker study, retreat, and conference center welcoming all for Spirit-led learning and community. Located on 24 tranquil acres in the heart of a Quaker community in Wallingford, Pennsylvania, Pendle Hill offers a relaxing "world apart" yet is within easy reach by car, plane, bus, or train. Pendle Hill offers daily worship, lectures and presentations, weekend workshops and retreats, short courses, and remarkable conversations.

Check Pendle Hill's online calendar to stay informed or subscribe to our e-newsletter. A sampling of upcoming offerings include:

September 9 – Open-water swimmer and human rights activist Christopher Swain will speak on *What the River Told Me: Reflections on love, oneness, and the living world*, in the Barn, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.

September 13-15 – First seasonal retreat for *Journey Toward Wholeness* with Valerie Brown and John Baird based on the work of Parker Palmer and the Center for Courage and Renewal®.

September 15-27 – Permaculture Design Certification intensive with Koreen Brennan results in internationally recognized certificate in Permaculture Design.

September 22 – Open Art Studio, 1:30 to 5:30 p.m. Work on your own creative project with guidance, if needed, by Arts and Spirituality Coordinator Jesse White.

September 27-29 – Join Lloyd Guindon and Bob Denison in a working retreat, sprucing up the Pendle Hill grounds and buildings while enjoying fellowship and worship sharing in our annual Lives of Service weekend.

October 6-10 – Melchor Hall will facilitate a Women of Color Writing Retreat welcoming all women of color writers.

October 7 – A panel of climate justice activists will discuss the Green New Deal, the Sunrise Movement, and public banking in *Hope at the Intersection of Climate, Race, Justice and Democracy*, in the Barn, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.

Wow, so much singing! —

Come Sing with Us!

VOICES Multicultural Chorus invites *you* to join us for our fall semester! We are a non-audition chorus of people who simply love to sing. We start 7:00 pm, September 9 in the First Unitarian Annex, 308 Buffalo Street, Ithaca. You are welcome to attend the first three rehearsals with no obligation. We welcome everyone, you don't have to read music or audition.

Our fall theme Just for the Fun of It! is a repertoire of eleven pieces and includes chorus favorites "Gabi Gabi," "Omnia Sol," "Ljubav (Cup Song)," and "Behold Zion" and upbeat newcomers including "Three Little Birds," "We Can Be Kind," and "We Are." We meet at 7:00 pm Monday nights and wrap up the semester with a concert the afternoon of December 7. The semester fee is \$60. Limited scholarship assistance is available. If you would like more info contact Bronwyn or Melody.

To preregister: <https://acithaca.org/groups/voices/>

Porchfest Sunday, Sept 22

Porchfest is so fun! So much to see, so much to hear, but be sure to come hear Trillium at noon on the porch at 307 Auburn St. We are a recorder trio: Pat Pingel, Melody Johnson and Barbara Usher playing Shakespearan Songs and Tunes.

Nightingales weekend in Ithaca, October 11-13

The Nightingales is a gathering for Friends who love to sing! They happen once or twice a year, and move around the Yearly Meeting. We will be hosting in Ithaca October 11-13. We hope many of you will join us! If you would welcome some traveling Friends into your home for overnight accommodations that weekend, please contact Bronwyn Mohlke at BJQMohlke@gmail.com or (607) 220-3219. More details to come in the October newsletter.

Every week reminders:

Vigil to remember the children on Mondays

Every Monday from 5:30 to 6:30 pm in front of the Tompkins County Library, there is a vigil that focuses on the separation of immigrant children from their parents or other adult relatives who have come to the border of our country seeking asylum. The weekly vigil is organized by the Peace and Social Justice Committee.

Worship at Hector Meetinghouse on Sundays

The Hector Meetinghouse (5066 Perry City Road) is open for Sunday worship through September. Dreia Spies and Tom Brown are sharing responsibilities for worship there. The starting time for worship is 10:00am, allowing time for anyone worshipping at Hector to get to the Third Street Meetinghouse on Sundays for activities after worship there.

Fall Sessions for NYYM, November 1-3

Very soon all the 2019 NYYM Fall Sessions information will be online, but <https://nyym.org/session/fall-sessions-2019> has almost everything now.

Northeastern Regional Meeting invites you to NYYM Fall Sessions 2019, which will be held Friday-Sunday, November 1-3 at Powell House in Old Chatham, NY. When Friends from all worship groups and meetings participate in our sessions, we bring the wisdom of a variety of Friends to our work together and ensure that the decisions we make will be reported back to each meeting represented. Please join us!

— *Melanie Claire Mallison*

Fall Gathering of the Region, September 21st

The Farmington-Scipio Region's Fall Gathering will be held at Farmington Friends Meeting, 187 County Road 8 in Farmington, about 70 miles from Ithaca. If you are interested in a carpool, please speak with Bronwyn Mohlke.

The typical time frame for Fall Gathering is approximately 9 am to 4 pm. The morning program is designed by the organizing meeting; usually they also arrange soups and beverages, with persons attending supplying their own sandwiches.

After lunch (1 pm or so) we will have our regional Meeting for Business, scheduled to be concluded by 4 pm.

Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, August 11, 2019

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.)

2019.8.1 Opening Worship

Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends met in Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on August 11, 2019. At 12:10 pm, fourteen Friends gathered and settled into worship.

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

Clerk recognized Barbara Chase who was holding the Meeting in the Light and read from George Fox, 1651 as printed in *Daily Readings from Quaker Writings Ancient & Modern*:

Beware of discouraging any in the work of God. The laborers are few that are faithful for God. Take heed of hurting the gift which God hath given to profit [all] . . . And all take heed to your spirits, that which is hasty discerns not the Good Seed. Take heed of being corrupted by flatteries; they that know their God shall be strong. And therefore all mind your gift, mind your measure, mind your calling and your work. Some speak to the conscience; some plough and break the clods; some weed out and some sow; some wait that fowls devour not the seed. But wait all for the gathering of the simple-hearted ones; for they that turn many to righteousness shall shine forever.

2019.8.2 Nominating Committee

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Marin Clarkberg brought forth two nominations for the Meeting's approval: Gina Varrichio for Clerk and Dreia Spies for Ministry and Worship.

Marin prefaced the nominations by reading a minute that was approved by the gathered body in July and which had been approved "in spirit" in June:

Based on our individual and institutional history and experience, Ithaca Monthly Meeting sets aside the limitations articulated in NYYM Faith and Practice with regard to formal membership and service in certain roles and on specific committees. Using care and discernment in their work, the Naming and Nominating Committees as well as IMM's Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business may recommend or appoint individuals to any position without regard to membership status.

Friends approved the nomination of Gina Varrichio as rising clerk now and as clerk beginning a three-year in January 2020 with appreciation for Gina's willingness to serve. @

Friends approved Dreia's nomination to Ministry and Worship beginning immediately and extending through 2021 and expressed appreciation for her willingness to serve. @

2019.8.3 Communications Committee Report

Nancy Riffer read a report from the Communications Committee pertaining to the website and the use of a dry erase board during the announcement period after meeting for worship. Friends expressed some appreciation for the use of the board as a visual aide. Friends received the report. @

2019.8.4 Other Concerns

A Friend expressed the concern that the scholarship fund has been depleted. It was suggested that Meeting might consider putting out the basket to gather money for the scholarship fund. The concern is referred to Ministry & Worship.

Fifteen Friends settled into silent worship at 12:30 before adjourning. Our next regular Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business will be held at the rise of Meeting on September 8, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

Marin Clarkberg

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.

Yoga with Kris and/or Dreia, Sundays at 4:30p

A new yoga option! Join us upstairs every Sunday from 4:30-5:30 for community yoga, open to everyone. This class is adaptable to all levels of fitness. Bring a mat if you have one and wear loose clothes. Pay as you are lead. Questions? Contact Kris Altucher or Dreia Spies.

September 2019 Calendar of Ithaca Monthly Meeting

Earthcare Committee Sunday, September 1, Rise of Meeting

All are welcome to join us on first Sundays.

First Day School: Parents Meeting Sunday, September 8, 9:30a

Parents, come share your thoughts on what you would like to see happening during First Day School time.

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Sunday, September 8, Rise of Meeting

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

QuakerSpeak! discussion Sunday, September 15, 9:30a

First and third Sundays, Friends will gather in the library to watch a QuakerSpeak video and discuss. QuakerSpeak is a video series on YouTube featuring various aspects of Quaker worship, practice, community, culture and history. Come once or every time. This is a lovely, low key way to spend time together, learn and share

Peace and Social Justice Committee Sunday, September 15, Rise of Meeting

All are welcome to join us on third Sundays.

First Day School: Teachers Meeting Sunday, September 15, Rise of Meeting

Join us to plan for First Day School.

Friendly Women Third Thursday Thursday, September 19, 6:45p

Women's fellowship is back! Upstairs at Wegmans cafe, now on the third Thursday of each month, this is an informal social gathering open to all. Come hang out, have a bite to eat, and maybe do some shopping. Questions? Contact Kris at kris.altucher@gmail.com.

White Fragility Workshop Saturday, September 21, 10a- 4p

See page 2 for a description of this workshop at the meetinghouse. Program includes dish-to-pass midday meal: a main dish will be provided; bring something to share, or your own lunch. The cost of the workshop is \$50 per person or pay as led. For more information, contact Michelle Brimage at brimagemichelle@gmail.com or (857) 333-1013.

Quaker Committee Fair: Share Gifts of the Spirit Sunday, September 22, Rise of Meeting

Committees are a vital part of how our Meeting sustains itself, and an important way individuals can deepen their sense of connection to our community. Join us for some snacks, and visit with our committees. Learn about what committees do and see where you may be led.

QuakerSpeak! discussion Sunday, September 29, 9:30a

Gather in the library to watch a QuakerSpeak video and discuss.

Newsletter submission due Thursday, September 26, 5p

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

IMM Meeting Retreat Saturday, September 28, 8a-4p

Finding and Remembering Our Spiritual Center is a one-day retreat for Ithaca Monthly Meeting. See page 1 for more information.

Last Sunday Dish-to-Pass Brunch Sunday, September 29, Rise of Meeting

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

On Sundays

- 10:00a **Meeting for Worship** at Hector Meetinghouse
- 10:30a **Children gather** upstairs at the Third Street Meetinghouse
- 10:30a **Meeting for Worship** at the Third Street Meetinghouse

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.