

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

February 2020

IMM CONTACTS

ithacamonthlymeeting.org

Meetinghouse:

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

To reserve space, email:
ithacamonthlymeeting@gmail.com

Clerk:

Gina Varrichio • 607-272-2512
clerk@ithacamonthlymeeting.org

Treasurer:

Pat Sewell • 607-272-2512
p.w.sewell@gmail.com

Ministry & Worship:

Nancy Riffer • 607-379-6372
nancyriffer00@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.

Electronic Communications: Can you help us to test groups.io?

Ithaca Friends Meeting currently has two, separate electronic mailing lists (see left margin): an electronic listserv through Cornell's listserv service, and "Marilyn's list." For most of the listserv's history, Friends were asked to limit postings to immrsf-l@cornell.edu to *meeting-related announcements only*. The second channel, Marilyn's list, was used by Friend Marilyn Ray to pass along a broader set of communications, especially those related to peace witness and social justice. Together, those two lists have not sated the desire for another kind of communication within our meeting: messages that are community-related, such as invitations to performances, requests for cat sitters, offerings of free items, and so forth.

The Communications Committee is in search of a solution. We are evaluating a new tool for managing electronic communication: groups.io, a "sensible, free platform that's incredibly easy to use" (so says Lifehacker.com) that does not include advertising. (groups.io does have a paid version with extras, but we don't think we will need that.)

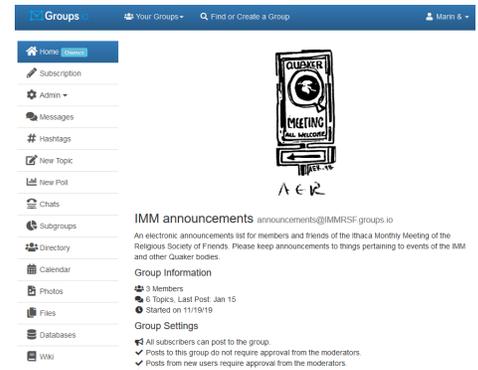
The group we have set up is IMMRSF; that's short for Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, if you were wondering. There are three "subgroups":

- announcements@IMMRSF.groups.io: pertaining to events of the IMM and other Quaker bodies
- community@IMMRSF.groups.io: General sharing of information to enhance the IMM community
- witness@IMMRSF.groups.io: information about social justice or peace witness events or activities

To help us in our testing, look for instructions on the current listserv on how to sign up. Later, we will want your feedback.

And please: this is a test, only a test!

— *Marin Clarkberg, Communications Committee*



This is how we currently look at groups.io

February Meeting for Business Date Change: February 16

Due to a scheduling issue between the Young Adult Friends mentorship gathering, Meeting for Discernment, and IMM's regular Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, February's business will be moved to the following weekend: Sunday, February 16 after the rise of our usual Meeting for Worship. I apologize for any inconvenience this causes for anyone. Hope to see many of you there!

— *Gina Varrichio, Clerk*

Meeting for Discernment: February 8

Ithaca Monthly Meeting will host New York Yearly Meeting's Meeting for Discernment on Saturday, February 8, 2020.

Meeting for Discernment began as an opportunity for extended worship in which Friends could share concerns with one another and the wider fellowship, as well as "the sparks of light" that were enlivening their local Meetings.

Even before there was a formal Religious Society of Friends, Friends gathered in second day Meetings for fellowship and to support one another in discerning leadings of the Spirit.

Meeting for Discernment was and continues to be a time for deep, centered worship without the business of decision-making.

The charge of Meeting for Discernment is:

1. To help strengthen connections between our Meetings and Churches
2. To help discern emerging direction
3. To support individual leadings.

Meetings for Discernment in New York Yearly Meeting consist of two periods of silent waiting worship—morning and afternoon—with a break for lunch.

Ann Rhodin Memorial - April 25

Friend Ann Rhodin's Memorial will be held at 3:00 on Saturday, April 25. Please mark your calendar and look for additional information as the date nears.

Spring Gathering - May 15-17

The Spring Gathering of the Friends in our Region will be May 15 through 17. Ithaca and Elmira Meetings are providing youth programming this year. Please mark your calendar.

ARCH / Aging Resources Consultation & Help

NYYM's ARCH Visitor Training will be offering two terrific training opportunities. The content of the two options is essentially the same, but covered differently with the different time frames, and utilizing the strengths of each mode. Contact Barbara Chase or Bronwyn Mohlke to learn more.

Remote Training. We'll meet weekly for seven weeks via Zoom video conference beginning the week of March 15 and concluding the week of April 26. If this is the best option for you, please confirm your general availability and the best days/times for you (knowing that circumstances may keep you from one or two sessions, which can be made up)

Retreat Training near Geneva, NY. We'll also be organizing a weekend retreat training March 20-22 at the home of Jill McLellan near Geneva, NY. The weekend begins with supper on Friday evening (about 6pm) and concludes after lunch on Sunday (about 1pm). Home hospitality and meals will be provided, and costs of transportation can be subsidized for NYYM Friends. Rides can be organized for those who need them.

Friends Center for Racial Justice (FCRJ) Events

Friends, please note these upcoming events on your calendar! Fliers with more information are available from Angela Hopkins. All events are held at the FCRJ at 227 N. Willard Way in Ithaca.

February 1, 8, 15. "Why Color Matters," a three-part online webinar, followed by discussion: 5-7p. Offered in conjunction with the Center for the Study of White American Culture.

February 1 through March 18 on Wednesdays. "Connect Faith and Money," a six-part online webinar. Noon to 1:30 or 7-8:30pm, to be determined by the group. "Money, Faith and You" is for anyone who has wondered how to integrate their faith into personal choices about money, time, working, and lifestyle.

February 28 through March 1. FCRJ Opening gathering for 2020. "Corporate Apologies, Corporate Forgiveness: Steps Towards Building and Equitable Religious Society of Friends." During our time together, we will examine how racism and privilege affect our understanding and experience of conflict. We will embrace discomfort to foster self-awareness, honesty, and community in a supportive environment.

March 13 through 15. "Intersection of Race and Gender." This weekend is an opportunity to come together to share stories and consider local and global movements involving women.

March 27 through 29. "Anti-Racism Analysis Training." (This training is already full.)

April 17 through 19. "Racial Justice and Eco-Justice: Solutions for an Earth Restored."

May 1 through 3. "Radical Faithfulness, Spiritual Grounding to Interrupt Racism." Join us for a time of discernment about our inherited narratives.

May 29 through 31. "A Case for Reparations." John Woolman articulated a case for reparations for slavery.

June 5 through 7. Racism and the Differently-Abled: Intertwined Hurdles for People of Color.

Please contact Angela Hopkins for more information! Contact information is on page 1, left column.

New York Yearly Meeting: Youth Secretary

NYYM is considering how we might fund a proposed staff position: the Children, Youth and Young Adult Secretary.

At NYYM Coordinating Committee weekend, Witness Coordinating Committee approved the following minute and sent it to the other coordinating committees of NYYM:

Our Creator calls for us all to treat each other with justice and equality. Following our testimonies and leadings of Spirit, we therefore affirm that NYYM must consider all budgets and policy decisions through a lens that looks at structural racism and our leading to become an anti-racist and multi-cultural faith community.

— Shirley Way

What is IMM Inc.?

At the Annual Meeting of IMM Inc. in January, I provided some background on what the Meeting's Corporation is and why we have it. I was asked to write up those comments for the newsletter.

In 2002, Meeting was contemplating building a new meetinghouse on land it had purchased for that purpose. There was some concern about liability risks associated with constructing a new building and a sense of the Meeting arose that we should explore incorporation. Generally, once an entity is incorporated, should an accident involving that entity occur that results in a lawsuit, the assets of that entity are at risk, but the personal assets of members of that entity are not. Moreover, the Meeting carries liability insurance.

IMM decided to incorporate and Liam Murphy was our attorney who wrote the articles and bylaws and processed the incorporation in 2003 under the Religious Corporation laws of New York State. One goal of these articles and bylaws was to comply with State law to successfully accomplish incorporation while minimizing any changes needed in how we as Quakers conduct our business.

The changes required for incorporation have been closely integrated with how we did business previously. Incorporation requires a Board of Trustees for which we have used the same number of Trustees we used previously, each selected for three-year staggered terms. Incorporation also requires holding an annual meeting of the Corporation, with reports given by corporation officers. The three officers involved are all Trustees: the president of the Corporation who is the clerk of Trustees, the Secretary and record-

ing clerk of Trustees, and the Treasurer (who for several decades has also been a Trustee). To me, the proof of how well the corporation has worked lies in its lack of visibility. Once a year at the required Annual Meeting, there is a brief change in format as the two Trustee officers give their report and the Treasurer gives his report as part of the Corporation's report to the membership, which includes all active participants in Meeting. At other times, Meeting business occurs in the same manner as was conducted previously.

The meetinghouse contemplated in 2002 did not come to fruition but Meeting nevertheless has had the benefits of incorporation available to it in several ways. Major renovation was done to the building purchased for the Third Street Meetinghouse and lesser renovations or repairs have occurred on our other properties. Teachers and members of CALM have taken the children on outings and field trips. Each of our properties has had normal use, including substantial use of the Third Street Meetinghouse by outside groups. Thankfully, this has all occurred without any harmful incident that might have had liability implications. However, had such an incident occurred from 2003 to the present, or should one occur in the future, individual Friends, whether Meeting officers, committee members, or others affected by the incident, are protected by the benefits afforded by incorporation.

— Tom Brown, Secretary and recording clerk of IMMRSF, Inc.

From the Archives: Alfred and Sarah Wray

Alfred Wray (1881 – 1944) was Ithaca Meeting's first and longest serving clerk, holding office from 1926-30 and from 1938-42. On March 7, 1926, The Ithaca Association of Friends organized in order to better communicate with the several yearly Meetings of which Ithaca Friends were members. Alfred was named Clerk and Amy Grace Mekeel, Treasurer. Our Meeting became Ithaca Monthly Meeting in 1938 under the Friends Fellowship Council, which was associated with the Fellowship Council of the AFSC. Thus, Alfred was also the first clerk of Ithaca Monthly Meeting.

Alfred was very active in the Ithaca community. He gave talks on Quaker beliefs at several local community events and was active in bringing the AFSC-sponsored Institute of International Relations to Cornell in 1942. He was active in the Tompkins County Council of churches, the Boy Scouts of America, served on the board of trustees for Cascadilla School the Reconstruction Home, and Oakwood School, Poughkeepsie, NY, and he was an Ithaca High School PTA officer. He was also a founder of the Ithaca Co-Operative Society.

Born in New York City, Alfred attended Oakwood Seminary in Union Springs, NY, and later enrolled in Cornell's College of Mechanical Engineering, from which he graduated in 1905. During his college summers, he worked for Everett and Frank Morse, who operated the Morse Chain Company in Trumansburg. After graduation, he joined the company and worked there until his death, first as a design engineer, and in later years as assistant

sales manager. He died suddenly of a heart attack in May, 1944 while playing a round of golf with a close friend.

Sarah Dean Wray (1880 – 1971) was born in Ferrisburgh, VT. She attended college at the University of Vermont and Barnard College. She and Alfred were married in 1909. She was first mentioned in the IMM minutes in 1931 as being on the Program Committee, and served for several years in that capacity. In the 1930s she also served on the Overseers and she led a sewing committee in making and repairing clothing to be shipped to Europe during WW II. In the fall of 1940, she held a reception at her home for returning students and other IMM attendees. She also served on the Ithaca Council of Church Women.

Other interests and activities of Sarah during her Ithaca years included co-directing a new sanitarium for after-care of polio patients, historian for the New York Society, member of Daughters of the American Colonists, the Ithaca Women's Club, the International Study Group of the American Association of University Women, and she was active in a book reading group sponsored by the First Congregational Church.



Friend Alfred Wray

— Tom Brown, Meeting Historian

Dispatch from Earth: Friends, Carbon Pricing, and Green New Deals

Earthcare is giving a presentation after brunch on Sunday, February 23, with pictures, poetry, and audience participation on what we envision for a changed Earth, the importance of policies like carbon pricing and Green New Deal programs in getting us there, and how our Quaker values inspire and lead us to accomplish this.

For the past few years, the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) has been following proposals for a federal tax or fee on carbon. They have done in-depth analyses both of the need for a carbon price and of the potential impacts of various plans on a wide range of people.

Their “legislative ask” on carbon pricing states that, The science is clear: climate change is real, is worsened by human activity, and will continue to harm our communities without significant action. Carbon pricing is one of many important policy tools Congress should use to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Congress has a moral obligation to protect vulnerable communities and seriously address climate change in a bipartisan fashion.

We are called to make sure any carbon price does not place the greatest burden of increased short-term costs on people with the least resources to absorb increased living costs. This is where the Green New Deal comes in. “Green New Deal” is a range of proposals on local, state and federal levels. In some uses of the term, such as the City of Ithaca, it refers to a specific plan. In other cases, it refers to a general set of principles. The more comprehensive Green New Deal programs address social, economic and racial justice aspects of the transition to ecological energy sources and would be important complements to a price on carbon.

In one of their analyses of carbon pricing, FCNL states, “At FCNL we will always look for ways to support laws consistent with our values and our grounding as people of faith.”

They have developed an essential framework for any carbon price. The full analysis is available at <www.fcnl.org/updates/fcnl-s-carbon-pricing-principles-2265>

A few key principles are highlighted below:

Enact a Price on Carbon High Enough to Drive Reduction in Greenhouse Gas Emissions. The outcome of a price on carbon should be the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. The price should be high enough to help the U.S. shift to net zero emissions by 2050. The price must increase over time to be high enough to cause markets to shift toward cleaner energy. This price should be paid “upstream” at the point of extraction (at the well or the mine).

Prevent “Leakage.” Leakage occurs when greenhouse gas producers move their operations to another country. An effective carbon price must ensure that heavily polluting industries do not simply move operations overseas. This could be done through a border adjustment tax or a similar mechanism so that it reduces and does not simply displace greenhouse gas pollution.

Protect Vulnerable Communities. We encourage a collaborative bipartisan process that brings diverse voices to the table. The carbon price should follow a “polluter pays” philosophy and ensure that the costs are not borne by the most vulnerable. Vulnerable communities should be helped, not harmed, by the policy.

Invest in an Affordable Clean Energy Future. Revenue from a price on carbon should also be invested in clean energy research, development, and efficiency. This will drive emissions reductions, while creating green jobs and stimulating the economy.

Dialogue and Process. Enacting a price on carbon would be a step forward in environmental stewardship. Crafting this legislation requires good-faith negotiations and compromise. We encourage a collaborative bipartisan process that brings diverse voices to the table, including frontline and vulnerable communities.

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2020 01.7 Other Concerns

A Friend shared a concern related to the need to increase communication among and between IMM committees, as well as committees’ communication with the meeting at large. While members of the Communication Committee were unclear if this concern falls within their committee’s charge, they did agree to consider potential mechanisms/options and to report their progress. Another Friend suggested that all committees consider this concern. @

A Friend asked for clarification of who was/is ultimately responsible for determining what and how internal signage and/or information about Quakerism is displayed within the Third Street Meetinghouse. This concern will be further clarified and considered as an agenda item for an upcoming business meeting. @

A Friend expressed a concern that there is no Nominating Committee Report with a detailed list of committee members for 2020. This concern was addressed directly by a member of Nominating Committee, who noted that their report is sched-

uled for February’s MfWw/AtB. If information is needed prior to that time, Friends are invited to request committee member names from Pat Sewell, Clerk of Nominating Committee. @

A Friend expressed a concern and request related to the need for more members on the Third Street Meetinghouse Committee. @

A Friend expressed a desire that IMM spend time discerning how we encourage and support both nomination to and participation on all committees, as well as within the life of the meeting. This concern was referred jointly to Ministry & Worship and Nominating Committees to consider next steps. @

2020 01.8 Closing Worship

At 2:47pm, twenty Friends settled into silent worship before adjourning. Our next regular Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business will be held at the rise of Meeting on February 9, 2020.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Blair Jennings, Recording Clerk*

Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, January 12, 2020

Clerk: John Lewis, outgoing; Gina Varrichio, incoming
Assistant Clerk: Bronwyn Mohlke
Recording Clerks: Marin Clarkberg, Blair Jennings

(The @ signifies that the minute has been read and approved during Meeting. Please note that copies of all annual reports provided during this Meeting are on file with and available from the Clerk or Recording Clerk.)

2020 01.1 Opening Worship

Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society Friends met in Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, and for the Annual Meeting of IMMRSF Inc., on January 12, 2020. At 12:18 P.M. 41 (out of 205) Friends gathered in worship. Copies of all annual reports were distributed. A sign-in sheet was circulated.

[The list of attendees is available from a recording clerk.]

2020 01.2 Annual Meeting

Tom Brown, Recording Clerk of Trustees and Secretary of the Corporation convened the Annual Meeting of IMMRSF, Inc., providing a bit of history along with requirements of the meeting and reports. He introduced President of the Corporation, Tony Serviente.

- 1) Tony Serviente, President of the Corporation presented the President's Annual Report for 2019, noting the workload was light this year with only two projects – 1, installation of automatic electronically-opening doors and 2, paving of the parking lot, both for Third Street Meeting House. He then formally introduced the officers for 2019 as follows: Tony Serviente, Clerk of Trustees and President; Tom Brown, Recording Clerk and Secretary; Mike Simkin, Treasurer of the Corporation. Other members this year included John Lewis, Clerk of the Meeting, Antonia Saxon, Liam Murphy and Carolyn Kenyon.
- 2) Tom Brown, Recording Clerk of Trustees and Secretary of the Corporation, read the 2019 annual report of the Secretary of the Corporation and fielded question(s) as asked. He welcomed Incoming Clerk, Gina Varrichio and invited her to join Trustees and/or designate another person to do so.
- 3) Mike Simkin, Treasurer of the Meeting and the Corporation, gave the end of the fiscal year budget report. Mike then noted highlights of the 2019 Treasurer's/Budget Report and reviewed several budget highlights, including the following:
 - a) Process of hiring/supporting bookkeepers (there have been two), and learning/utilizing QuickBooks software.
 - b) Total documented contributions for 2019 were \$73,355 which, with several last minute end of year donations which have yet to be accounted for will bring us nearly to or over our 2019 request of \$74, 677.
 - c) Total income for 2019 was \$79, 277.
 - d) Liquid assets total \$124, 303.
 - e) Balance for the general fund reserve is \$4734.01.

Last, he reviewed major financial transactions and events for 2019, including historical data and notable circumstances for specific funds of interest and answered questions. In conclusion, he reported that the financial health of IMMRSF, Inc. is good.

Meeting received the reports. This ended the Annual Meeting of the Corporation. @

2020 01.3 Outgoing Clerk offered gratitude and a few remarks. Incoming Clerk thanked Outgoing Clerk for his service and then began Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. Clerk acknowledged the number of Annual Reports and described both the business and spiritual process for the meeting.

Clerk recognized Nancy Gabriel who was holding the meeting in the light.

2020 01.4 Formation of a Spring Gathering Youth Program Ad Hoc Committee

On behalf of Ministry & Worship, Bronwyn Mohlke presented information about 2020 Spring Gathering, as well as the tasks/responsibilities shared by IMM and Elmira Monthly Meeting for providing this year's Youth Programming. She requested that any and all persons interested in serving on this ad hoc committee contact Gina Varrichio. Shirley Way shared that Rochester Meeting together with Genesee Valley Meeting is responsible for the 2020 General Program and offered information about process/participation, as well as the current working theme – At One with Earth and Each other: Living into the Future of Quakerism. She also indicated that Cynthia Nado from Rochester Meeting is willing to help by providing drumming sessions.

Clerk asked for any who felt so moved to identify themselves and their service preference(s); several Friends offered their commitment to participate. Committee: Gina Varrichio, John Lewis, Margaret McCasland, Ellie Rosenberg. Program Execution: Bronwyn Mohlke, Leo Quirk, Ellie Rosenberg, Gina Varrichio.

Friends received the report and approved the formation of the ad hoc committee. @

2020 01.6 Annual Reports from Meeting Committees

Friends presented annual reports and answered questions for committees as follow: Marilyn Ray for Finance, Margaret McCasland for Library, Melissa Travis-Dunham for Communications, Karen Friedeborn for Neighborhood Outreach, Tom Brown for Burt House, Jim Finlay for Hector Meeting House, and Melissa Travis-Dunham for Third Street Meeting House.

Thoughtful listening and shared appreciation accompanied the reports; silent worship followed each report.

Friends received the annual reports. @

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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. Schedule may vary, please contact Nancy Gabriel: 339-7123; ntg2@cornell.edu. We offer a donation to the teacher.

Yoga with Kris and/or Dreia, Sundays at 6p

The Community Yoga class taught by Kris Altucher and Dreia at the meetinghouse on Sundays will be moving to 6pm downstairs at the meetinghouse.

This class is intended for *all levels* and *all are welcome* regardless of current flexibility or fitness levels, or previous experience. Bring a mat if you have one; we have a few extras. Donations accepted.

Yoga contributes to strength, flexibility, balance, and peace of mind. Hope to see you there!

February 2020 Calendar of Ithaca Monthly Meeting

QuakerSpeak! discussion Sunday, February 2, 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, <https://www.youtube.com/user/Quakerspeak>. Come once or every time. This is a lovely, low key way to spend time together, learn and share

Earthcare Committee Sunday, February 2, Rise of Meeting

All are welcome to join us on first Sundays.

Quaker Guys Lunch Thursday, February 6, 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.

Meeting for Discernment Saturday, February 8, 9a

See page 2 for information on this day-long gathering of Friends from New York Yearly Meeting. If bad weather cautions against travel, the gathering will be held February 15.

QuakerSpeak! discussion Sunday, February 16, 9:30a

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

Note date change!

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Sunday, February 16, Rise of Meeting

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

On Sundays

10:30a **Children gather** upstairs at the Third Street Meetinghouse

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

Friendly Women Fellowship Friday, February 21, 6:30p

Gathering above the hubbub at Wegman's cafe's second floor. Grab some food or not and enjoy conversation. For more information, contact Kris at kris.altucher@gmail.com.

Last Sunday Dish-to-Pass Brunch Sunday, February 23, Rise of Meeting

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

Earthcare Discussion on Green New Deal Sunday, February 23, 1p

Gathering following brunch. See article on page 4 for more information.

Newsletter submission due Thursday, February 27, 5p

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

Soup and a Movie Friday, February 28, 5:30p

Ruth Yarrow and Michelle Brimage will offer soup and bread from 5:30 - 6:30, followed by a showing of the film "American Son" and a discussion.

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.