

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

January 2020

IMM CONTACTS

ithacamonthlymeeting.org

Meetinghouse:

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607-229-9500

To reserve space, email:
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Clerk:

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Childcare Requests:

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

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Listserv:

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

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

Marilyn's List:

To email Friends and others non-specifically Quaker messages that may be of interest to Friends, consider sending your message through Marilyn Ray. To join or contribute, email:
m1r17@cornell.edu

Newsletter

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

Meeting for Discernment

Ithaca Monthly Meeting will host NYYM 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.

Power to Heal on January 29th at Cinemapolis

“Why is the US the only high-income country in the world that does not guarantee health care for all citizens? The answer has everything to do with race.” writes Jeneen Interlandi, staff writer for *The New York Times*.

Join Friends at Cinemapolis on January 29th at 7pm for *Power to Heal*, a one hour documentary tells a chapter in the historic struggle to secure equal access to healthcare for all Americans. It chronicles the extent of systemic racism in health care in the 40's and 50's, how black providers actively sought universal healthcare, and how passage of Medicare in the 60s led to desegregation of hospitals throughout the US.

Disparities in access and practice of healthcare persist today as invisible institutional discrimination fueled by corporate greed. The impact of systemic racism today is just as deadly as the overt racism of the past

The screening of *Power to Heal* is free and open to everyone. A panel discussion will follow the film. This screening is sponsored by Finger Lakes for New York Health with co-sponsors Calvary Baptist Church, Dorothy Cotton Institute, Friends Center for Racial Justice, United Congregational Church, and Standing Up for Racial Justice (SURG).

— *Carolyn Kenyon*

Dispatch from the Earth

During 2019, New York Yearly Meeting took several significant steps in turning away from fossil fuels and towards climate justice.

The Trustees of NYYM decided to move NYYM's investments in Friends Fiduciary Corporation (FFC) Growth and Income Fund, which included stocks in 5 of the world's largest fossil fuel corporations, to FFC's fossil-free Green Fund, where they had already had a smaller investment. The first transfer was made at the end of 2019, and the Trustees plan to move a portion every year until all their investments are fossil-free by the end of 2024.

In response to a minute approved at New York Yearly Meeting's Fall Sessions this past November (below), NYYM Clerk Jeffrey Aaron and General Secretary Steve Mohlke wrote a letter to Jeff Perkins, Executive Director of Friends Fiduciary Corporation, encouraging Friends Fiduciary Corporation (FFC) to fully divest ALL their funds from fossil fuels. In their letter, Jeffrey and Steve summarized the deepening concern for climate justice in our Yearly Meeting, quoted below:

Interest in doing something about climate change has been growing in our yearly meeting since the 2012 Kabarak call for peace and ecojustice from the FWCC Sixth World Conference of Friends in Kenya. Our Earthcare Working Group started calling for divestment in 2013. Concerns about the potential for reduced income for witness work prevented unity around divestment at that time. In subsequent years, our witness committees recognized that climate change impacts many aspects of witness work.

In 2016 a sustainability minute emerged from the FWCC gathering in Pisac Peru. In 2017, NYYM's FWCC committee brought the Pisac sustainability minute to Summer Sessions and in 2018 [the FWCC Committee] proposed divestment from fossil fuels as part of a broader initiative in response to that minute. During 2019, NYYM formed an Ad Hoc Climate Justice Working Group, which includes people from New York Yearly Meeting's FWCC Committee, the Earthcare Working Group, the Financial Services Committee, Trustees, plus several individuals with relevant experience and interests. [...]

Our Trustees shifted from thinking of fiscal responsibility as paramount to recognizing that we need to also account for our moral responsibility. This all speaks to a longing within the yearly meeting body to do something about climate change. Divesting from fossil fuels became an action we could take together.

The following minute was approved by NYYM Friends gathered in session on November 3, 2019:

New York Yearly Meeting thanks Friends Fiduciary Corporation for its leadership in investing Quaker monies in ways consistent with Quaker beliefs and testimonies. We are grateful for Friends Fiduciary Corporation's track record of socially responsible investing and feel that the Quaker Green Fund is a wonderful addition to the options that Friends Fiduciary Corporation offers.

New York Yearly Meeting intends to begin moving New York Yearly Meeting's holdings into the Quaker Green Fund. We appreciate the environmentally conscious investing that Friends Fiduciary Corporation has already undertaken. However, because global climate disruption is happening even faster than predicted, and because its impacts are being felt most deeply by people

in marginalized and vulnerable communities, we are called to do more and to act swiftly. The moral imperative to protect our planet is central to our witness as Quakers. We can no longer stay invested in technologies that are on course to end life as we know it on Earth.

New York Yearly Meeting requests that Friends Fiduciary Corporation divest with good speed from all companies on the Carbon Underground 200 list, compiled and maintained by Fossil Free Indexes, and that they also divest all holdings from companies involved in fossil fuel development and production.

We also ask Friends Fiduciary Corporation to redirect its investments into green technologies and solutions in alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. This requires investing with asset managers who have expertise in climate-responsive investing in all seven sectors of solutions promoted by Project Drawdown.

We hope that Friends Fiduciary Corporation will join us in expanding our efforts regarding a concern of vital importance to Quakers and indeed all people and living beings on Earth.

This minute is one step in New York Yearly Meeting's response to the climate crisis. The Climate Justice Working Group will continue to work on all four actions recommended in the Call for Action on Climate Change, plus related climate justice concerns. These actions include

- 1) divesting from fossil fuels;
- 2) supporting ecological investments,
- 3) providing resources on ways to reduce carbon emissions, and
- 4) encouraging climate-related projects around our yearly meeting.

NYYM's Ad Hoc Climate Justice Working Group is an open group which has been meeting via zoom. One of our current projects is creating a Climate Justice section on the NYYM website. All are welcome to join us. Please call or email Margaret McCasland to learn more and/or if you are interested in joining us for our next zoom call. Email: mamacasland@gmail.com Text: 607-262-2822 Phone: 607-216-1091

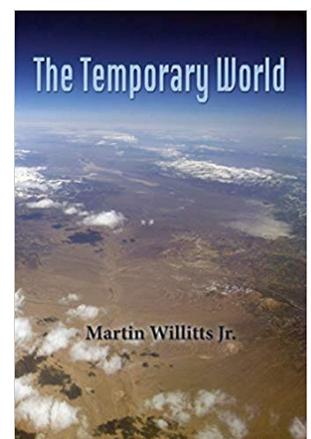
— Margaret McCasland

Martin Willitts' Poetry

Friends may know me from my occasional visits to IMM; we commute in from Syracuse.

It may be of interest to know that I have a book of poetry out. It is inspired by Quaker leadings and messages within the silence. It is my 16th collection of full-length published poetry, and the third book inspired by Quakerism. It is available on Amazon.

— Martin Willitts Jr.



In IMM History: Sanctuary

Part III Arrival

In March 1985, the IMM Sanctuary Committee reported:

The Committee brought its recommendation to Meeting that we receive into Sanctuary a 23 year old Salvadoran woman who is calling herself Esperanza. Members of the Committee outlined what tentative arrangements have been made, and what support has been offered, taking into account the imminent birth of her child.

The Meeting worshipped in silence, and Friends spoke to this recommendation. Then Meeting approved this minute:

The Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends is moved to receive into Sanctuary the woman called Esperanza.

Esperanza would stay with Meeting, at Ned Burt's house, until November 1986. While I have tried to write this as an article several times, I keep finding that my writing cannot begin to compete with a documentary, *Until It Is Safe to Return*, by Luin Goldring, Wendy Kohli, and Leanne Hogie. You can find it on YouTube at:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=uf1bk408bRE

The 46-minute video opens with a welcoming ceremony for Esperanza at the First Baptist Church, and is mostly interviews, with some scenes of Esperanza and her baby Mayra's daily life in sanctuary. The clothing, backgrounds, and production values are very 1980s, but the stories, Esperanza's most of all, are powerful. She tells of the violence, the bodies along the roads, the disappearance of her brother, and of her father selling their oxen to get

money to send her north to get away from it. She talks about life in Ned Burt's home, and the support she received from Meeting and from companions who helped her regularly.

In addition to Esperanza telling her own story, you also get to see and hear from Quakers including Ned Burt, Harrup Freeman, Jim Johnson, Jane Simkin, Bonnie Tyler, and Katy Van Dusen. The movement wasn't just Quakers, of course, and the documentary features many other participants in the Ithaca Sanctuary Committee. Ithaca Mayor John Gutenberg and Alderman Dan Hoffman talk about the city's Sanctuary declaration.

The story ends with Esperanza singing, still in the Burt House, but her immigration story ends (so far as I know) happily. In November 1991, the Meeting closed out the Sanctuary account:

... \$1100 was wired to Esperanza. This was used immediately for her trip to El Salvador, so that she could fulfill the requirements to return to the US with legal landed immigrant status.

The December 1991 minutes note that "Esperanza returned safely to New York as a legal resident of the U.S."

I'll be writing more about refugees who came and the Meeting's support for them. While the minutes and this video 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*

Friends from Until It Is Safe to Return: Jane Simkin (left), Bonnie Tyler (middle) and Ned Burt (right)



Friends Center for Racial Justice

If you are one of the folks going to Winter Gathering (see page 4 for information), look for Judy Meikle member of FCRJ's Coordinating Committee. Have a chat with her and pick up FCRJ's "2020 Save the Date" flyer. It includes dates for upcoming events and workshops.

Note also the showing of "Power to Heal" on January 29, 7:00pm at Cinemapolis; see right FCRJ is pleased to be one of the sponsoring organizations. This film chronicles how the passage of Medicare in the 1960's led to the desegregation of hospitals.

— *Elizabeth Schneider*

Annual Meeting, Jan 12

The 2020 annual meeting of the Corporation is scheduled to be held for the first part of our Business Meeting on Sunday January 12. This meeting of the Corporation is brief and follows New York State guidelines for incorporated religious organizations. It includes a brief President's report, Secretary's report, and perhaps a more detailed Treasurer's report, which is also the Treasurer's annual report for the Meeting. Please try to attend. As usual for this meeting, a sign-in sheet will be circulated to document attendance.

Farmington Scipio Regional Meeting and IMM

Spring Gathering Prep

Farmington Scipio Regional Meeting (FSRM)—of which IMM is a part—hosts Spring Gathering. Though the region meets in Fall and Winter as well, Spring Gathering is a larger, weekend-long event that incorporates workshops and speakers and youth activities and dancing and s'mores and *much* more into the usual Meeting for Worship and Meeting for Business. The 2020 Spring Gathering will be May 15-17 at Watson Homestead, Painted Post.

In 2020, Ithaca and Elmira MMs share the responsibility for youth planning. We are currently seeking volunteers to serve on an *ad hoc* Spring Gathering Youth Program Committee to facilitate this. Members of this committee would:

- liaise with Elmira MM regarding youth programming and Rochester and Genesee Valley MMs regarding the overall program.
- plan a program for youth of all age groups during the May 15-17 weekend.
- make whatever arrangements are necessary to implement the plan for youth for the weekend, including recruiting adults to work with youth, purchasing supplies, providing adequate instruction for volunteers, and whatever other details are required to put together the program.

You do not need to currently work with kids, be available to attend the actual gathering, have attended Spring Gathering in the past, have kids of your own, or have already thought up ideas for a program to be a part of this committee. A wide range of experiences and ages are encouraged. If you are interested in serving in this capacity, please contact Gina off-list at zealth_1@yahoo.com.

Also, if there is someone available to attend Winter Gathering, see below, much of this planning will be discussed during that time. Please let me know if you might be available.

— *Gina Varrichio, on behalf of Ministry & Worship*

Winter Gathering, Saturday, January 11

Farmington Scipio Region's annual Winter Gathering at Rochester Friends Meeting, 84 Scio St., Rochester. The days schedule:

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|-------|---|
| 8:30a | Coffee, bagels & muffins |
| 9:00 | Worship |
| 10:00 | Spring Gathering planning, led by Genesee Valley and Rochester Friends |
| 12:00 | Lunch: soups and beverages provided; bring anything else you may need |
| 1:00p | FSRM Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business (till about 3 pm?) |

Please send any agenda items for the afternoon's meeting for business to Kathy Slattery at kathyslattery62@gmail.com as soon as possible. If bringing a report from a committee or working group, please send Kathy an electronic copy of that report, and bring some paper copies to share on January 11.

You Can Visit NYYM's Powell House

Powell House is New York Yearly Meeting's retreat center in the Hudson Valley. Powell House offers a subscription for adult retreat programs: individuals who pay \$720 per person, per year can come to as many PoHo programs as they'd like at no additional charge, and monthly meetings that pay \$1440 per year can designate a different individual to attend for free at each PoHo adult program.

Ithaca Meeting is participating in that subscription! If you are interested in attending a Powell House adult program and would like to be the Ithaca Friend to attend at no additional cost, contact a member of Ministry & Worship: Gina Varrichio, Asha Sanaker, Dreia Spies, Nancy Riffer, and Kris Altucher

For more details on upcoming events at Powell House, please go to www.powellhouse.org Here's a brief selection.

Dwelling Deep, a Contemplative Retreat: Jan 17-20

Friends will be invited to enter more fully into the silence and to experience the deeper rhythms in which we might live. There will be opportunity for solitude, individual and corporate worship, silent meals, and "active" silence. There will also be opportunities for individual and group spiritual reflection. Come and simply *be* with God; listen and attend to the Divine stirrings of the soul.

Friends Decision-making and Clerking: Jan 31-Feb 2

Participating in Meetings for Business with Joy and Confidence, with Arthur M. Larrabee and our own Steve Mohlke. This is a workshop for everyone who wants to deepen their understanding of Quaker decision-making; it's for clerks, but not just for clerks. For clerks, it will be an opportunity to learn and sharpen skills. For others, it will be an opportunity to get better grounded in what Quaker decision-making is all about.

Brent Bill: Beauty, Truth, Life, and Love: Feb 7-9

Join us for a Pilgrimage on Positive Spirituality. There is a way to live a balanced, deeply satisfying, and rich life. That way is incorporating beauty, truth, life, and love. In this retreat you'll be reawakened to the fact that every day can be infused with God-drenched meaning.

Anger as Ally: It All Depends: Feb 7-9

What if we give our anger our attention? Are you aware of carrying anger in a way that feels corrosive or crippling? Do you stuff down your anger with such things as food, busy-ness, drama? Anger is a very human experience, yet many of us have internalized messages that anger is bad. What might be possible if we give our anger our attention?

Junior Yearly Meeting at Silver Bay needs you!

The days you give to our young Friends via JYM have a great impact on their lives. For many of our youngsters, that week at Silver Bay is the highlight of their year. If you're interested in volunteering for JYM, we would like to hear from you by **February 15!** Being a JYM volunteer includes financial support to attend Summer Sessions, so it's best to be approved and on the JYM Volunteer roster before registering for Summer Sessions. Please contact Ellie Rosenberg, 607-277-1403 or ellierosenberg7@gmail.com.

Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, December 8, 2019

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

2019.12.1 Opening Worship

Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends met in Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on December 8, 2019. At 12:20 pm, sixteen Friends gathered and settled into worship.

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

Clerk recognized Dreia Spies who was holding the Meeting in the Light. Clerk announced that he was reducing the agenda for this month to a review of the 2020 budget and a brief discussion of the meetinghouse use policy.

2019.12.2 Annual Budget

As Friends reviewed the paper copy of the budget, Mike Simkin, Treasurer, noted one small adjustment in the annual budget request reflecting a \$600 reduction in the allocation to the repair fund for the Hector Meetinghouse.

In reviewing the budget, Mike noted that the balance sheet showing this year's activity may include some categorization errors that have transpired during the transition to a new bookkeeper.

Mike highlighted that most budget items show a 0% change from last year to this year. Most of the remaining changes in individual budget items were minor in magnitude, such as the increase in the Ministry & Worship budget from \$100 to \$200. The largest absolute dollar changes had to do with revenue and expenses related to the Third Street Meetinghouse. Members of the Third

Street Meetinghouse Committee noted that the Meetinghouse usage policy of "pay as you can" make revenues difficult to predict.

Mike noted that the overall budget request of approximately \$75,000 represents a 3% increase over last year's request.

Friends approved the budget. @

2019.12.2 Meetinghouse Use

Clerk described that the meetinghouse usage policy, presented in September 2019 by the TSMC, may not have been well-understood. Additional discussion has revealed that some Friends are currently comfortable with the TSMC usage policy while other Friends have a sense that there should be an explicit policy regarding which groups can use the building and for what purposes. Clerk discerned that the Meeting is still unclear about the relationship between the usage policy and Quaker values. Members of the TSMC spoke to the depth of their discernment over several years, and their experience of Spirit while working on this issue. Clerk shared a proposed charge for an ad hoc committee on Meetinghouse use. While Friends were not clear to proceed with an ad hoc committee as proposed, Friends expressed a sincere openness to hearing from any Friend or Friends who might discern spirit on this issue, even outside of a formal committee. Friends recognize that there is more work to be done. @

2019.12.4 Other Concerns

Seventeen Friends settled into silent worship at 1:30 before adjourning. Our next regular Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business will be held at the rise of Meeting on January 12, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

Marin Clarkberg, Recording Clerk

Young Adults: Spring Lobby Weekend 2020

Mark your calendars for Saturday, March 28 to Tuesday, March 31 and join Friends with the Friends' Committee on National Legislation in Washington, D.C.

At Spring Lobby Weekend 2020, hundreds of students, recent grads, Quakers, and young adults will come to Washington, D.C. to lobby Congress on one critical issue—climate change. We will tell Congress that a price on carbon is a crucial first step to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and prevent injustices related to climate change—both in the U.S. and abroad.

Register online before March 19. After that, only in-person registration will be available. Registration covers breakfast and lunch on Saturday, Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday, as well as all program materials. To make Spring Lobby Weekend accessible to as many young adults as possible, FCNL heavily subsidizes the full cost of the event—which comes out to over \$500 per person.

Registration is \$50, or \$25 for those with low incomes. We ask that attendees pay what they are able. Registration does not cover travel, housing, dinners, or local transportation.

Is the event only for young adults?

The event is primarily designed for and focused on young adults. However, you do not have to be a young adult to attend.

Can those under 18 attend Spring Lobby Weekend?

Young adults under the age of 18 are welcome to attend Spring Lobby Weekend. However, but all minors must have a signed permission form that appoints an adult (someone over 18) as being responsible for the under-age individual. The individual who is named as being responsible must attend the entirety of the event.

FCNL has reserved housing at a local hostel and various other locations to accommodate as many attendees as possible. These accommodations, however, are limited. There are a few separate locations, but generally, this housing will cost \$50/night per person. If you are interested in learning more about housing, please reach out to Annie Chiorazzi at annie@fcnl.org.

To register: act.fcnl.org/survey/spring-lobby-weekend-2020/

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!

January 2020 Calendar of Ithaca Monthly Meeting

QuakerSpeak! discussion Sunday, January 5, 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, January 5, Rise of Meeting

All are welcome to join us on first Sundays.

Quaker Guys Lunch Thursday, January 9, 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.

FSRM Wintering Gathering Saturday, January 11

See page 4 for information on our region's meeting.

Annual Meeting and Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Sunday, January 12, 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, January 19, 9:30a

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

Peace and Social Justice Committee Sunday, January 19, Rise of Meeting

All are welcome to join us on third Sundays.

Friendly Women Fellowship Friday, January 24, 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, January 26, Rise of Meeting

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

Screening of Power to Heal Wednesday, January 29, 7p

Documentary at Cinemapolis, co-sponsored by Friends Center for Racial Justice. See page 1 for more.

Newsletter submission due Thursday, January 30, 5p

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

On Sundays

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.