



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

February 2006

CONTENTS

- Membership: Some Questions Answered: 1, 8
Calendar of Events: 2
Announcements: 3-7
Minutes of the January 8, 2006 Annual Meeting for Business: 7-8
Minutes of the January 15, 2006 Called Meeting: 8

IMM DIRECTORY

Clerk:

Beth Jolles
404 East Miller Road
Ithaca, NY 14850
Tel: 273-9008

Ministry and Oversight:

Melody Johnson
112 Mount Pleasant Road
Ithaca NY 14850 // Tel: 272-8755

Treasurer: Steve Mohlke

52 Gray Road, Ithaca, NY 14850
Tel: 277-4183
smohlke@lightlink.com

Newsletter:

Bronwyn Mohlke, editor
52 Gray Road, Ithaca, NY 14850
Tel: 277-4183 // bjm9@cornell.edu

Elspeth Rhodin, editor
222 Miller Street, Ithaca, NY 14850
Tel: 273-7062

Larry Clarkberg, graphic design
Tel: 277-9364 // larry@elucid8design.com

Burft House:

Mike Pitzrick, Friend in Residence
227 North Willard Way,
Ithaca, NY 14850
Tel: 273-5421

Child care on request:

Ginny Gartlein: 272-3471

Website:

www.ithacamonthlymeeting.org

Membership: Some Questions Answered

by Tonia Saxon

As many of you know, I applied for membership in the Ithaca Meeting not too long ago, and celebrated joining just recently. I was surprised at the number of questions I got from people about this, and thought—on the theory that not all the people who wondered about membership had asked me about it—that I should write something down for wider consumption. These observations reflect my personal experience. They're not official statements in any sense.

One of the things I've loved most all the time I've attended Quaker meeting is that no one has ever nagged me about anything. No one has ever asked me to contribute money, or asked why I haven't attended a certain series of meetings. I think this reluctance to interfere has its source in Fox's teaching regarding the Inner Light, which envisions inward search and fulfillment—a search nurtured by corporate worship, but founded ultimately on the ability to hear God's voice within.

(Once, in a lather of anxiety, I confessed to an elderly Friend at a workshop that I was having a kind of crisis of faith, and that I wasn't sure I was really a Quaker. She greeted this piece of news serenely. "Just keep coming to Meeting," was all she said. She did not feel that resolving the crisis quickly would give evidence of deeper faith.)

Almost all attenders who make the decision to join the meeting come to the decision by themselves, and are not solicited to do so by another member of the Meeting. As it happens, I was asked to consider membership by someone on the Ministry and Oversight Committee. This isn't usually done, but the person who asked had heard me say that I'd been meaning to start the process. She knew I was merely needing a nudge. During the conversation, she quoted a remark someone else had made re-

cently along the lines of, "Attending for years and years without joining the Meeting is sort of like living with someone for a long time and not getting married." As someone who had in her youth inwardly judged a couple of live-in partners who appeared to fear commitment, I felt called upon to act.

Also, I knew there were committees on which only members of the meeting could sit, and I could see that the pool of potential committee members for these groups had stayed the same for a couple of years. I figured I could give a small gift to our Meeting by offering to increase that pool by one.

When you decide you want to become a member, you write a letter to Ministry and Oversight saying that you'd like to be considered for membership. (Although it's not always called Ministry and Oversight, most meetings have a committee which handles some of the duties of pastoral care). Ministry and Oversight then proposes a clearness committee to meet with you—just once, usually—to talk about membership.

A clearness committee! That has a vaguely Orwellian sound to it, people said. What is a clearness committee? It's just three or four people who either light up at the mention of your name and ask if they can be on your committee, or who are asked to be on the committee because Ministry and Oversight regards them as having a gift for talking about their own lives as Quakers. I knew all the people on my clearness committee already, and I liked them all.

Many attenders joked with me about the meeting with the clearness committee. They asked if people were often rejected, or if they had asked me to do anything painful. They asked lightly, but it was clear there was some concern. What really goes on at these meetings? How do they know you are ready to become a member? Is it like joining a sorority? Did you have to sign something? Did they quiz you on Quaker knowledge?

They did not. They asked if I was com-

continued on page 8

Calendar of Events

Weekly Events:

Every Sunday 11am to 12noon: Meeting for Worship in the Edwards Room, Anabel Taylor Hall on the Cornell University campus

Every Tuesday 9-9:20pm: Worship in your own home

Every Thursday 4:30 to 5:30pm: Peace vigil at the bottom of East State Street

Other Events:

Feb 1 Wed 1:15 – 3pm Kitchen Cupboard. Call Ginny Gartlein for information (272-3471). Please remember—Kitchen Cupboard desperately needs brown paper bags.

Feb 4 Sat 5:30pm Peace potluck at the Perry City Meetinghouse, followed by a discussion on conscientious objection to military taxation ***

Feb 5 Sun 10:30am Singing in the Edwards Room

11:00am Meeting for Worship for all ages, Edwards Room

11:15am Children meet First Day School teachers outside the Edwards room, and go to First Day School classes: Infants - 3 year olds in Café, Pre-K 3-4 year olds in Room 123, Kindergarten and first grade in Café, 2nd & 3rd grade in Room 314. 4th - 7th grade in Mormon Room (3rd floor). Power Quakers study group (ages 11 - 18) meet in the Hillel Library the first and third first days of each month. For more information about the Power Quakers, call Janis Kelly 277-1024.

Rise of Mtg Social Justice Committee meeting in the café. All interested are encouraged to attend.

Feb 9 Thurs Planning meeting for the Take Back the Night Rally ***

Feb 11 Sat 3:00-5:00pm Gamefest at the Burt House ***

Feb 12 Sun 9:30am How to teach Bible stories to Quaker kids, led by Janis Kelly. Anabel Taylor Hall, Room 314. Childcare provided. ***

10:30am Singing in the Edwards Room

11:00am Meeting for Worship for all ages, Edwards Room

11:15am Children meet First Day School teachers outside the Edwards room – see note on February 5

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE KITCHEN CUPBOARD

12:30pm Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business and Special Called Meeting for Bylaws Revision. Bring a sandwich and a half, if you're so inclined, to share with those who may have forgotten. Child care provided on request (see above.)

7:00pm Second Sunday Celebration Circle/ Embracing the Beloved: Relationship and Spirit ***

Feb 16 Thurs 6:00pm dish-to-pass supper followed by a discussion and presentation by Friends from the Poplar Ridge Meeting to hear about their work selling Fair Trade coffee, tea and chocolate as part of their sponsorship of a Sister City in El Salvador ***

Feb 17 Fri March newsletter due date. Please contact Bronwyn Mohlke if you have anything to be included in the March newsletter (see contact information listed below).

Feb 19 Sun 9:30am Children and the Life of the Meeting (CALM) committee meeting, Goldfarb Library

10:30am Singing in the Edwards Room

11:00am Meeting for Worship for all ages, Edwards Room

11:15am Children meet First Day School teachers outside the Edwards room (including Power Quakers) – see note on February 5

Feb 23 Thurs 8:30pm As part of the Ministry and Oversight committee meeting, Friends will be held in the Light at 8:30. Those not on the committee are welcome to hold Friends in the light at that time as well.

Feb 24 Fri 6:00pm Dish-to-pass supper at the Burt House, to be followed by

7:00pm presentation on the Bolivian Quaker Education Fund ***

Feb 26 Sun 10:30am Singing in the Edwards Room

11:00am Meeting for Worship for all ages, Edwards Room

11:15am Children meet First Day School teachers outside the Edwards room (including Power Quakers) – see note on February 5

Rise of Mtg Light brunch, during which we will welcome Violet Goncarovs as a member of Meeting. Please bring finger foods to share.

Feb 28 Tues 7:15pm Meeting for Healing - 112 Mt. Pleasant Road ***

7:30pm Peace Witness Committee meeting at the Burt House. All interested are encouraged to attend.

March 4 Sat 7:00pm Annual Talent and Art Show ***

*** = more details will be found in the announcement section of the newsletter

Do you have something for the March newsletter? Please get all information you'd like to have included in the March newsletter to Bronwyn Mohlke, by the method of your choice, no later than Friday, February 17. (277-4183 / bjm9@cornell.edu / 52 Gray Road, Ithaca, NY 14850)

Announcements

Peace Potluck

Saturday, February 4, 5:30pm at the Perry City Meetinghouse

The Perry City Friends (Quakers) invite you to a “peace potluck” on the first Saturday of each month. Everyone is welcome to share thoughts, feelings, and actions in a safe haven as we explore paths to peace together. The next meeting will be Saturday, February 4th at the Perry City Meeting House on Route 227 in Perry City. Dish to pass at 5:30; discussion at 7:00. For more information, call Mary Graham - 387-9046.

This month we will discuss conscientious objection to military taxation. Come and learn from local war tax resisters about the many forms that resistance can take. Find a way to bring your actions into alignment with your conscience.

Friends—if conscientious objection to military taxation is of particular interest to you, you should take a look at the January 2006 issue of Spark, which is devoted to that topic. If you do not have a copy, ask a member of Meeting how to get one.

GameFest!

Saturday, February 11, 3-5pm at the Burt House

A popular annual event for all ages. Please bring your favorite games, kids, adults, and snacks! Puzzles and games of cooperation are especially delightful, as well as the old favorites. Drinks will be provided.

Teaching Bible stories to Quaker Kids

Sunday, February 12 at 9:30am in Anabel Taylor, Room 314

Janis Kelly will lead a workshop on teaching Bible stories to Quaker kids. It is specially designed to be relevant for First Day School teachers and parents. The workshop will take place on Sunday, February 12, at 9:30 a.m. in Anabel Taylor, Room 314. Childcare will be provided.

Bylaw revision / Called Meeting

Sunday, February 12

“Trustees announce that there will be a Special Called Meeting of the Corporation on February 12, 2006, along with our regular Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. During the process of applying for a tax-exempt number for IMMRSF, Inc., we learned that one provision was missing from our original bylaws. It must be stated what would happen to the assets of the Meeting if it were dissolved. Liam has consulted with the relevant State officials to ensure that the proposed language meets the requirements. If approved at the February 12 meeting, the following would be added to the IMMRSF, Inc. bylaws:

In the event of dissolution, all of the remaining assets and property of the Meeting shall, after necessary expenses thereof, be distributed to the New York Yearly Meeting Of The Religious Society Of Friends or another religious corporation related to the Religious Society of Friends so long as the entity receiving the assets and property is not a benevolent organization, as that term is defined in the Tax Law, such distribution to be subject to the approval of a Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New York as provided in the Religious Corporation Law.

Friends should address any questions or comments to Liam or to any of the Trustees before February.”

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

Sunday, February 12

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business will be held after the Called Meeting on February 12. All are encouraged to attend. Please come with an open mind and a listening heart, mindful of our Meeting as a loving community and business conducted under a spirit of worship.

Second Sunday Celebration Circle

Sunday, February 12

On Sunday, February 12th, Jody Kessler will be leading the Second Sunday Celebration Circle, at 7pm at the Santosha Yoga Center, in the Aeroplane Factory Building (get in touch with Jody if you need directions / 272-0968). This month’s theme will be “Embracing the Beloved: Relationship and Spirit.” Share in a deep, devotional, participatory experience that weaves together various elements of worship from many traditions: uplifting songs and sacred chants, prayers, poetry and inspirational readings, guided meditation and silent reflection, a short talk exploring a spiritual topic, simple, participatory ritual designed to integrate the teaching, an opportunity to share from the heart, in supportive spiritual fellowship.

Social Justice Committee Event

Thursday, February 16

The Social Justice Committee and the Program Committee invite everyone to join us on Thursday, February 16 at the Burt House for an evening with Larry Buffam and Friends from the Poplar Ridge Meeting to hear about their work selling Fair Trade coffee, tea and chocolate as part of their sponsorship of a Sister City in El Salvador. This evening event will include a simple supper which SJC will provide and which will be made with locally grown ingredients. Supper will begin at 6 p.m. At 7 p.m. we will gather to learn about this project and to see a power point presentation. SJC plans to focus attention on sustainability issues throughout 2006 and would like Meeting to consider whether it would be interested in participating in a similar project.

Bolivian Quaker Education Fund Presentation

Friday, February 24

The Peace Witness Committee invites everyone to come to the first in a series of four gatherings to learn more about peace organizations which our Meeting helps to support. On this date, we will be hosting Newton Garver, President of the Bolivian Quaker Education Fund (BQEF), a project to strengthen ties between Bolivian Quakers and those in the North, through improving educational opportunities in Quaker schools in Bolivia. At the Burt House. Potluck (optional) at 6:00 p.m. Program 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Meeting for Healing

Tuesday, February 28

Indeed, I suspect prayer may be the single most powerful way that we can, individually and collectively, help bring God’s healing to others and the world—both directly and through the action prayer prompts us to in the world. Let us pray.

—Marcelle Martin, Newtown Friends Meeting, Friends Journal, ‘02

A Meeting for Healing is held at 7:15 on the fourth Tuesday of every month at Melody Johnson and Dick Crepeau’s house (112 Mount Pleasant Road, Ithaca). This month it will be on February 28. All are

welcome to attend. If you have a concern but cannot attend, let Melody know, and you will be held in the Light. For directions, or more information, please call Melody at 272-8755.

Talent Night

Saturday, March 4

It's not too early to start planning for our annual Quaker Talent Night, Saturday March 4th. Dish-to-pass dinner at 6:00, with the program starting at 7:00. Can you contribute a talent in the form of a brief musical offering, reading, skit, set of jokes, visual art display, or other short presentation? This is a Friendly, non-competitive event, and a good way for others in Meeting to get to know you. Come on, don't be shy!! A sign-up list will be available during February at the rise of Meeting.

Ministry and Oversight

The Committee on Ministry and Oversight has particular responsibility for nurturing the spiritual well-being of the Meeting and the individuals who are part of it. Its purposes include:

- fostering the spiritual growth of Meeting membership, strengthening fellowship within the Meeting, and supporting religious life and corporate worship
- considering individual needs for guidance and making provision for personal counsel and assistance in matters of interpersonal relationships among members and in individual and family problems pertaining to illness, financial matters, marital relations, and decisions of conscience.

Though Friends serving on Ministry and Oversight have those direct responsibilities, all members of the Meeting should accept these concerns. Friends currently serving on Ministry and Oversight are Marjorie Baines, Tom Brown, Rini Clarkberg, Marion DaGrossa, Melody Johnson, Beth Jolles, Carol Kimball, Sue Ruff, and Ed Cranch.

In search of a caretaker

Angelo Perii and his father have begun to worship with us recently, and are from a Meeting in the New York City area. Angelo is continuing to look for a caretaker for his father: We're looking around Ithaca area for a local caregiver, willing to spend day hours with my 92 year old father. I'm a graduate student at Cornell for Horticulture. My father is wheel chair bound, but requires minimal care. Please if interested call 607-347-4500 or e-mail: angelolperii@hotmail.com. Thanks and keep me and my dad in the light.

(Please note – this e-mail address is slightly different from the one that appeared in the January newsletter, so if you were unable to reach Angelo, please try again!) If you know of someone outside of Meeting that might be of help to Angelo and his father, please let them know.

To Responsible Citizens

For those with political concerns please let it be known. A postcard seems to be the simplest and the most efficient way to contact any or all of the following:

1. Representative Maurice Hinchey, 123 South Cayuga Street, Ithaca, NY 14850
2. Senator Charles Schumer, 15 Henry Street, #B-6, Binghamton, NY 13901
3. Senator Hilary Clinton, P.O. Box 7378, Syracuse, NY 13261-7378
4. Congressman Sherwood Boehlert, 10 Broad Street, Utica, NY 13501

Welcoming a baby to our Meeting

Eh Christ and Mu Mu, the Burmese refugees sponsored by the meeting, had their baby at 10am on Tuesday, January 3. He weighed 7 lbs, 10 oz. and was 19 inches long, a healthy boy named Delvin Mu Christ which means "Godly friend alive to Christ". Everyone is doing well. They have a bassinet and a crib, but are in need of a crib mattress, if anyone has a spare one.

Program Committee Survey

The Program Committee needs your thoughts in order to best serve the Meeting. We've created an online survey to collect your ideas and feedback for programs or activities for the Meeting. Paper copies will be available at Meeting for Worship for F/friends who don't have internet access (please only fill out 1 survey, either online or on paper). The survey will be available until February 28, 2006 and can be accessed from a link on the internal page of the Meeting website or at the following URL:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=292001690872>

You can also contact any member of the Program Committee to provide feedback: Esther Darlington, Tony Gaenslen, Suzanne Kates, John Lewis, Toni Murdough, or Melissa Travis Dunham.

Eyes Wide Open Receives Award from the Tompkins County Human Rights Commission

Dear Friends of Eyes Wide Open,

We have been honored by the Tompkins County Human Rights Commission for a special award. This honor recognizes all of us who worked so hard for so many months to bring the exhibit to Ithaca. Our greatest reward was actually the success of the event itself and the joy we experienced in working together with peace activists from all over the area.

The Tompkins County Human Rights Commission's annual award dinner was held Saturday, January 28. It was one more opportunity to come together to spread our message of peace, to promote how much there is still to do, and to enjoy an evening of fellowship with other local people of good will.

Peace,

— *Wilma Brown*

Excerpted from the Ithaca Journal, January 14, 2006: Human Rights Group to Honor Activists

Human rights commissioner Joyce Muchan said the purpose of the awards dinner is to honor the people who have achieved the recognition, but also to remind the community there still is work to be done in advancing the cause of human rights.

This year's awards dinner theme is "Watch What You Say: Free Speech, the Media and the First amendment," with local attorney Raymond M. Schlather delivering the keynote address.

Muchan said the theme was chosen because, in light of recent events, the commission felt there was an assault on free speech and the First amendment.

She said it is apparent when speaking out against human rights issues there are consequences. Muchan noted the saga of Ithaca's "St. Patrick's Four" peace demonstrators and the Eyes Wide Open anti-war exhibition, which stopped in Ithaca this year, as examples. The [anti] war activist group and the exhibition will be given special awards by the commission.

Reminder from the Financial Planning Committee

Our Treasurer has a set up special earmarked account for the New Meeting House. Although Meeting is still laboring to determine the essential aspects of a new Meeting House, that cost, and how those funds will be raised, it is clear that we need considerably more funds than we currently have in hand. Friends are encouraged to contribute to the new Meeting House fund now and in the coming months as they are able. Simply make the check payable to Ithaca Monthly Meeting, as usual, indicate on the check or in an accompanying note the purpose of the contribution, and send to Steve Mohlke, our Treasurer.

Farmington/Scipio Regional Meeting Requests IMM Minutes on the Following Three Minutes that Are Currently Before It

When Bronwyn, Melanie-Claire, Marilyn, and Violet attended Farmington-Scipio Winter Gathering they heard about three minutes that have been brought before Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting and which F/SRM requests Monthly Meetings consider so that it can take action on these minutes when it next meets for Business Meeting at Spring Gathering (May 19-21).

1. Spiritual Gifts and Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity

Friends General Conference Minute: Our experience has been that spiritual gifts are not distributed with regard to sexual orientation or gender identity. Our experience has been that our Gatherings and Central Committee work have been immeasurably enriched over the years by the full participation and Spirit-guided leadership of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and queer Friends. We will never go back to silencing those voices or suppressing those gifts. Our experience confirms that we are all equal before God, as God made us, and we feel blessed to be engaged in the work of FGC together.

Comment: This minute from Friends General Conference arose partly out of reaction to the homophobic nature of the recent presidential election and partly from the committee's concern over holding the 2005 FGC Gathering in Virginia, a state that recently passed legislation denying legal rights to individuals in same-sex relationships. The minute was approved by FGC Central Committee and forwarded to F/SRM for consideration. IMM labored with these issues for many years, and sometime in the early to mid-90's unity was reached and IMM passed a minute affirming our support for all gender identities and sexual orientations. At a later date, we further affirmed our minute by passing another minute to withhold monetary gifts from FUM until it stopped its discriminatory practices.

2. Right Sharing of the World's Resources

Minute approved by NYYM Witness Coordinating Committee at its meeting 10/15/05: New York Yearly Meeting commits itself, corporately and as individuals, to explore how we may facilitate meeting the minimum needs of all. We all have an impact. The products we choose to purchase, how we invest our money, and our lifestyles all play a role. We commit ourselves to doing research, educating ourselves, and sharing the results with each other so that we may all, as we feel led, be part of the solution.

Comment: NYYM has forwarded this minute to F/SRM for consideration. F/SRM requests each Monthly Meeting to take this minute under consideration and report to F/S at Business Meeting at Spring Gathering on the results of that consideration. The Social Justice Committee has taken up a concern for Sustainability and will be offering a variety of programs which may assist MM in reaching a decision on a minute related to these issues.

3. F/S Regional Meeting Provide an Escrow Account for War Tax Funds Withheld from Federal Taxes

Minute from Perry City MM for IMM Consideration: Perry City Friends Meeting proposes that Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting provide as a service to members and attendees an escrow account to hold funds that individuals withhold from the federal government in war tax resistance on the model of the escrow account Purchase Quarterly Meeting. The Meeting feels that this would provide a broader base of support for Friends called to war tax resistance and provide a pathway for others with this leading.

Comment: Marilyn Ray has been working with some Committees to arrange a program for Perry City Friends to present the issues related to this Minute to IMM. We hope this program will take place in February and will be followed by discussion so that IMM can take action on this concern prior to Spring Gathering.

Nadine Hoover's Work in Indonesia

At the Winter Gathering meeting, we heard about Nadine Hoover's work in Indonesia, and her travels in this country to share her experiences. She is currently traveling with the following letter:

Dearly Beloved Friends,

We send our greetings and hold you in our hearts. We look forward to hearing your news. We commend our Friend Nadine Hoover to your care. We value her gifts of ministering to the needs of communities in the U.S. as well as Indonesia. She has a warm heart, a gentle smile and a laugh you cannot forget.

She carries with her our faith in the Living Spirit to give life, joy, peace, and prosperity through love, integrity, compassionate justice, simplicity, equality and non-violent living among people.

We are grateful for all the letters, donations and invitations to visit sent to Alfred Friends Meeting for this Quaker service and witness. Although we are a small group, we hope our service and witness bring you some comfort.

In faith and love,

—Suzanne Blackburn, Clerk of Alfred Friends Meeting

—Susan Tannehill, Clerk of Farmington Scipio Regional Meeting

—Linda Chidsey, Clerk of New York Yearly Meeting

Friends—if you feel led to contribute to Nadine's work, you may send checks to our treasurer, Steve Mohlke, with a note in the memo field.

Healing Ourselves: Workshop for Friends of Color

February 17-19th, 2006

This experiential weekend is for people of Color who want to begin healing our wounds from racism. Personal healing work will occur through worship sharing, large group discussion and listening to each other in small groups. We will also spend time identifying ways we can support each other as people of Color in the Religious Society of Friends. This workshop is facilitated by Vanessa Juley. Saturday includes a tour of the exhibit "Slavery in New York" at The New-York Historical Society. This exhibit explores the vital role that slave trading, the labor of enslaved people, and important commerce with slave societies in the 19th century played in making New York the wealthy

est city in the world. Further details of this important exhibition can be found at: www.slaveryinnewyork.org. There is an optional play on Saturday evening, the South African musical, "Drumstruck." The show begins at 8:00pm and tickets are \$66.00 per person. If you are interested in buying tickets to see this play let Helen Garay Toppins know you want to buy tickets when you register by February 1, 2006.

The workshop is free but Friends will have to pay for the cost of their meals, accommodations, and museum admission. To register please contact Helen Garay Toppins at hgfreespace@earthlink.net

Evening of dance, jazz, poetry and hip hop to raise awareness for local programs that provide aid and education to incarcerated individuals

Saturday, February 18

The Social Justice Council of the Ithaca Unitarian Church (Aurora and Buffalo St.) and Prisoner Express will co-sponsor an evening of dance, jazz, poetry and hip hop on Saturday, Feb 18th at 7:30pm. The goal is to raise awareness for local programs that provide aid and education to incarcerated individuals.

The Wide-Eyed Dance Theatre will present a new solo work exploring the quirky and not so quirky aspects of confinement, choreographed and performed by Sarah Foster. Cyren, a jazz collaboration project featuring pianist Tsitsi Jaji, NYC-based saxophonist, Lester Goodson, and other local musicians, will perform original compositions as well as jazz standards. Ithaca's own Thousands of One, and Little Egypt, a group from Brooklyn, NY., make the hip hop connection with a unique blend of urban music and poetry.

Volunteers from the Prisoner Express and Cornell at Auburn will read work by prison writers and answer questions about their programs. Prisoner Express, a project of CRESO and the Durland Alternatives Library, promotes rehabilitation by providing information, education and opportunities for incarcerated individuals throughout the United States. Cornell at Auburn is a group of Cornell and community volunteers who, for many years, have been teaching English composition, creative writing and other courses at Auburn Correctional Facility.

Tickets are \$8.00 in advance and \$10.00 at the door the evening of the concert. The concert will begin promptly at 7:30pm. Advance tickets may be purchased at Ithaca Books, 111A The Commons, Greenstar Cooperative Market and the Ithaca Guitar Works. For further information email dave3701@hotmail.com>dave3701@hotmail.com.

Voluntary Simplicity, A Seven Session Course

Sundays, starting March 5

The Green Sanctuary Action Team of the First Unitarian Church of Ithaca will sponsor "Voluntary Simplicity", a course developed by the Northwest Earth Institute (www.nwei.org (<http://www.nwei.org>)). Membership in the church (or any church) is not required.

We will hold the VS classes the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays of March, April and May (9am). It means we would have consecutive meetings once (last Sunday in April followed by first one in May). Actual dates are:

- March 5 and 19
- April 2, 16 (Easter Sunday, the group may decide to move to another date), and 30
- May 7 and 21
- June 4 (if we need it, for the "closing party" or to make up for Easter Sunday).

The sessions include:

1. Living More with Less: Accumulating material possessions is

part of the American Dream. For some, the dream has become a nightmare. When do material possessions add meaning to our lives and when do they detract?

2. Your Money or Your Life: A growing number of people wish to resolve the conflict between the desire to make and spend money and the desire for a simple life. Why is that so difficult in our culture?

3. Do You Have the Time?: In modern society, our minds are focused on the "busyness" of the day, our current problems, and our future challenges. Are there alternatives to the fast pace of our mainstream culture?

4. How Much Is Enough: As a society, we engage in patterns of material consumption that are damaging the environment. How much do we really need?

5. Swimming Against the Tide: Our country's current guiding economic principles push growth, consumption, and technological advance as inextricable and desirable goals. In our efforts to live simply, we may feel like we are swimming against the tide.

6. The Practice of Simplicity: There are countless practical benefits in moving toward simplicity. What steps can be taken to move toward a life simple in means, rich in ends?

The cost of the course is \$18 (to pay for the book). Free childcare will be offered if requested at the time of registration. Please register **BEFORE THE END OF JANUARY**

—Christian Nielsen-Palacios / cnielsen56@aol.com

Take Back the Night Rally Planning meeting

Thursday, February 9

Anyone interested in planning the April 2006 Take Back the Night rally with the Advocacy center can call Patty at 277.3203 ext 322 or email takebackthenight2006@hotmail.com The first meeting of the collective will be on February 9, location to be announced. Take Back the Night is an annual march, rally and speak-out that calls for an end to sexual and domestic violence. Help is needed for everything from planning marches to finding audio equipment to designing the event t-shirts. All experience levels are welcome.

Workshop on Non Violent Communication

Sunday, February 26 from 12 noon to 6pm

CRESO is sponsoring a Workshop on Non Violent Communication, February 26th, from 12 noon to 6pm. Nonviolent CommunicationSM (NVC) is a unique approach to communicating—thinking, speaking and listening—which guides us in transforming painful patterns of relating into new, compassionate ways of acting, expressing ourselves and hearing others. Developed by Dr. Marshall Rosenberg, this practical and proven process has been used around the world in war-torn countries; in schools, prisons, corporations, social change, health care and government institutions; and in intimate personal relationships. For more information see the Center for Nonviolent Communication website: www.cnvc.org

Sunday February 26, 2006 12noon - 6pm Ithaca Montessori School, 12 Ascot Place, Ithaca, NY

Requested Donation: \$30

Please contact Anke Wessels, Executive Director, Center for Religion, Ethics, and Social Policy for more information or to register: 255-5027, akw7@cornell.edu

To ensure your place please register by February 13, 2006

Duke Duchscherer is a Certified Trainer with the Center for Nonviolent Communication who has spent six and half years intensively learning, living and teaching the life-connected process that is NVC. Duke's passion to embody the NVC consciousness has led him to receive 725 hours of training. His experience teaching NVC ranges from traveling with Marshall Rosenberg in Hungary & Croatia, teaching NVC in war-torn Sri Lanka and Nigeria, to deep personal work to develop a more gentle and kind relationship with himself. Duke provides communication and conflict transformation coaching to individuals, partnerships, and groups

Friends World Committee for Consultation "Pilgrimage" for Youth Ages 16 to 18

July 14-August 10, 2006

This summer, the Friends World Committee for Consultation is sponsoring a "Pilgrimage" for youth ages 16 to 18. The application deadline is February 20. I've attached the announcement and checked out their website. There is an application online that you could download. Could be a wonderful experience. Remember that Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting has funding for youth so don't be daunted by the FWCC fee. Please pass this announcement along to anyone you think may be interested and / or post at your Meeting.

—Teresa Maciocha, youth activities coordinator

From the Flyer:

Learn

- about Friends, slavery and the Underground Railroad
- about Friends witness today
- about the variety of Friends
- from each other

Serve

- meals
- by helping a yearly meeting session happen

Build

- a house with Habitat for Humanity
- community by traveling together for a month
- a cross-cultural community of 27 other Young Friends from many countries
- lasting international friendships

Are you 16-18 years old? Join the Quaker Youth Pilgrimage, July 14-August 10, 2006. Price held down to \$1,000. Contact the Friends World Committee for Consultation,

1506 Race Street Philadelphia PA 19102 (215) 241 7250

qyp@fwccamericas.org

<http://www.fwccamericas.org/whatwedo/youth.html>

http://www.fwccamericas.org/whatwedo/images/06_qyp_pilgrim_packet.pdf

Minutes of the January 8, 2006 Annual Meeting for Business

and Corporate Annual Meeting of the Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, Incorporated.

Beth Jolles, Clerk

Tom Brown, Assistant Clerk

Melanie-Claire Mallison, Recording Clerk

Steve Mohlke, Treasurer

(The @ signifies that the minute has been read and approved during Meeting.)

200601.1 The Ithaca Monthly Meeting (IMM) of the Religious Society of Friends met in Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on January 8, 2006, at the Cul de Snack, Anabel Taylor Hall, Cornell University. At 12:40 p.m., 26 F/friends settled into worship. Our Assistant Clerk read from the Faith & Practice of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, a check-list for the proper care of Monthly Meeting affairs. @

200601.2 The Corporate Annual Meeting of the Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, Incorporated, was called to order. @

Present:

Margorie Baines, Tommy Brown, Marin Clarkberg, Marion Craig DaGrossa, Richard Crepeau, Nancy Gabriel, Christopher Gartlein, Virginia Gartlein, Lynn A. Grove, Martin Jolles, Suzanne Kates, Charles Larsen, Melanie-Claire Mallison, Steven Q. Mohlke, Marilyn L. Ray, Elspeth Rhodin, Arc Riley, Eleanor Rosenberg, Susan Ruff, Thomas Ruscitti, Antonia Saxon, Nancy Elizabeth Schneider, Lenora Schneller, Michael E. Simkin, Garry Thomas, Francis Vanek.

200601.3 Corporate Annual Meeting, Convenor's Annual Report:

Virginia (Ginny) Gartlein, Convenor of the Trustees, read the Convenor's Annual Report for the Board of Trustees. The Corporation received the report. @

200601.4 Corporate Annual Meeting, Secretary's Annual Report:

Nancy Gabriel, Recording Clerk of the Trustees, read the Secretary's Annual Report. The Corporation received the report. @

200601.5 Corporate Annual Meeting, Treasurer's Report:

Steven Mohlke, IMM Treasurer, summarized the Treasurer's Report for the year 2005. We met our budget request for the year, and transferred \$2,045 into the General Fund Reserve. The Corporation received the report.

200601.6 The minutes of the Corporate Annual Meeting were read and approved, and the meeting was concluded.

200601.7 The Ithaca Monthly Meeting then continued with the Annual Meeting for Business. The minutes of the December 2005 Meeting for Business were read. @

200601.8 Nominating Committee:

Bronwyn Mohlke presented the proposed 2006 IMMRSF Committee Assignments. Friends APPROVED the assignments. @

200601.9 Trustees Report:

Nancy Gabriel presented a summary report regarding the piece of land which would connect Penny Lane to our Route 79 property. Liam Murphy submitted a report to the Trustees regarding the possibility of and obstacles to acquiring the strip of land. The summary report is being made available to Friends before the Called Meeting on January 15th where the Meeting will discuss the possible locations of a building on the property. @

200601.10 Annual Reports were received from and summarized by the following committees:

Budget, Burt House, Children and the Life of the Meeting, Future of the Burt House, Hector Meeting House, Library, Ministry and Oversight, Newsletter, Peace Witness, Program, Social Justice, Young Friends. In addition, Tom Brown presented a Historian's Report. These reports will be made available on the IMM web site and sent out on the IMM email list. @

200601.11 Mac Larsen shared a letter from the African Great Lakes Initiative, Friends Peace Teams, sent to us in response to our donation to their work. He quoted from their brochure, "In this workshop, I have discovered that there are many kinds of trauma. Before, I was thinking that only having lost family members is traumatizing. But now I have seen that the wrongdoer can be traumatized by the horrible things she or he did." Genocide survivor. @

20061.12 Called Meetings:

There are two Called Meetings coming up. The first is Sunday, January 15th, 2006, to discuss the possible locations of a meeting house on the Route 79 property, should we decide to build there. The second will be on Sunday, February 12th, to consider a revision to the Corporate Bylaws. (See the newsletter for more information on both of these Called Meetings.) @

At 2:30 p.m., friends gathered into worship-filled silence before adjourning.

We will meet again for Worship with Attention to Business on February 12, 2006, at the Cul de Snack, Anabel Taylor Hall, at the rise of Meeting for Worship.

Respectfully submitted,
—Melanie-Claire Mallison, Recording Clerk

(Please note that if you would like a copy of any report mentioned above, you can receive one from the reporting committee or the Recording Clerk. The Annual Reports from the committees will be made available on our web site also.)

Minutes of the January 15, 2006 Called Meeting

Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

(Friends: Please note that minute 20060115.4, below, has not been read and approved by the Meeting. Liam and I rewrote the minute per the Meeting's instruction, and the minute will be read for approval at February's Meeting for Business. —mcm)

Beth Jolles, Clerk
Tom Brown, Assistant Clerk
Melanie-Claire Mallison, Recording Clerk
Steve Mohlke, Treasurer

(The @ signifies that the minute has been read and approved during Meeting.)

20060115.1 The Ithaca Monthly Meeting (IMM) of the Religious Society of Friends met for a Called Meeting on January 15, 2006, at the Cul de Snack, Anabel Taylor Hall, Cornell University. At 12:45 p.m., 29 F/friends settled into worship. We met regarding the following minute:

200512.9 Design Committee:

John Lewis was asked by the committee to lead a discussion on the location of a meetinghouse, should we decide to build on the Route 79 property. After discussion regarding the sites outlined in minute 200511.7, our clerk requests that we have a Called Meeting on this topic on the third First Day, January 15th. APPROVED. Again, the Design Committee encourages Friends to visit the land and walk its hills and fields. @

20060115.2 The clerk began by asking if we had any questions remaining from other discussions of the site plans.

A] Concern for seeking alternatives on the site. If we were to look at the 3 proposed sites, there is one better over the other two, but there is one that is not there at all, and would like that one to be considered also. Will we have a chance to do that?

B] Would like to hear construction estimates on each alternative.

C] Penny Lane does not seem viable. Would like more information on that point. @

20060115.3 Mac Larsen outlined an alternative fourth site he would like considered. Starting from Plan 3 (the building completely outside of the conservation district, with Rte 79 access), Mac proposes building much closer into the Northwest corner of the seat part of the 'chair' of land. We would be further from the houses on Rte 79, would have more options for parking, and would have a larger piece of open land for other uses, such as parks or playgrounds. @

20060115.4 Liam Murphy updated us on the Penny Lane access question. First, Weisburd/Homecraft proposes to deed to us all of his remaining land, including the strip of land in question between our land and the turnaround on Penny Lane I("the Access Parcel"). The first problem is that the person who owns the land on either side of the Access Parcel does not want us to own it. The next problem is that the Access Parcel is subject to deed restrictions which Commonland could argue require us to pay for a portion of their real estate taxes (each individual on Commonland pays their assessment of the taxes for the entire piece of land, and Commonland could therefore assess and tax any land we own — including the Access Parcel and the remainder of Penny Lane). Next, the remaining portion of Penny Lane from the turnaround to its dead end is presently treated as a town road, but the Town of Ithaca has never actually accepted ownership. Weisburd currently proposes to give it to us as the Town did not accept it. If Meeting owned it, Meeting would be legally liable for that length of road. Even though it is presently cared for by the Town of Ithaca, if there was an accident, the Town would be justified in stating - that isn't our land, we aren't the ones who are liable, IMM is. Finally, there are improvements to the strip of land which the Town of Ithaca has been trying to force the

present owner to take care of. If we take on the land, the Town may transfer those requests to us. Liam said he did not know the extent of the improvements but understood they may include drainage issues.

20060115.5 Turning to the question of cost differences for each location, friends talked about the architects encouraging us to look at the land and build in the spot that we love. If we are planning to be on this land for the next hundred years or so, then it is much more important to be in the place we will be happy and spiritually-grounded, then the place that's cheapest. Any cost difference from one spot to another, spread out over 100 years, will be negligible. @

20060115.6 The clerk then asked us to consider the locations and discuss any we would want to eliminate. After discussion, the Meeting approves removing Plan A from consideration. There is a suggestion that we consider building a pavilion in that spot instead. With further discussion, the Meeting approves removing Plans 1 and 2 from consideration.

The Meeting minutes that Plan 3 is the area we want to pursue for building on the Route 79 property. However, we ask that the architects consider the entire 'seat' area, focusing on 1] keeping parking close to the building, 2] consideration of the neighbors privacy and view, 3] energy and green building issues, and 4] avoiding, but not eliminating, the Penny Lane access. @

2006115.7 Friends asked where do we go from here? Can we consider building down, rather than up? Concern for the practical question of where a driveway can actually be built. Have the architects sketch out three alternatives on the 'seat' for us to consider, as we considered the first three. Have a meeting with the architects so we can talk about the options on the 'seat' without the expense of drawings. Then get specific drawings to sum up that meeting. @

2006115.8 The Meeting asks the Design Committee to set up a time for the architects to discuss with the entire Meeting the pros and cons of the most viable options on the seat of the land, as determined by the architects. We ask for the meeting to occur as soon as possible, but leave it to the Design Committee and the architects to pick the day and date. @

Respectfully submitted,
—Melanie-Claire Mallison, Recording Clerk

Membership continued from page 1

fortable with the main tenets of Quaker belief, and I said I was, and said why. They asked if I had any questions, and I did. (I asked about martyrdom. I was serious. Typically, answers ranged from "I've never thought that before..." to "Well, if it came to that, you'd find the strength to bear it.") They asked if I had any expectations. They asked if I had any worries. They were at all times warm and welcoming—too welcoming, I found myself thinking. Didn't they know what a bad person I was? Their opinion of me as a prospective member was a little too high, I thought. We ended with good cheer, with everyone agreeing that I had already made a substantial contribution to the meeting, and wondering why I hadn't asked to become a member sooner. The quietest person on the committee said, "I love it when we get new members."

Discovering that a celebratory brunch for new members was part of the process was a spiritual obstacle in my path. I try to avoid any social situation which requires me to stand and talk and eat all at the same time. But then I decided that the thing to do was to view it as a party I was throwing for the meeting, and to bring a lot of the food myself. That made it easier, and I enjoyed myself fully. People I had always felt shy about talking to came over and greeted me without reserve.

Now, with everything behind me, people have asked me if I feel different. And I have to say, I do feel different. The assumption is usually that you don't join a group or make a promise or a commitment until you feel fully ready to do so, fully competent to carry out your promise. It's an argument against hypocrisy, and it's a good one. But it works the other way around, too. In this case, for me, making the promise is what, in some sense, makes it possible for me to carry it out. Saying it is so, making the declaration, makes it so. If I were really a good Quaker, part of me thinks, I would not need to eat a lot of gingersnaps to complete writing this short essay. I am not a good Quaker yet. I have finished the essay, but not without eating a lot of gingersnaps.