



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

March 2006

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Paper Clips and the Holocaust

by Mac Larsen

On January 28, at a gathering of Kol Haverim in Ithaca in remembrance of the Holocaust, I had one of the most moving experiences of my life. I saw a documentary of a small, poor town in Tennessee (Whitwell), where the middle school principal wondered how to broaden the understanding of students about cultures and peoples other than the good white, Southern Christian people of her town. With some other people, it was decided to learn about Jews and the Holocaust. Someone (one of the students, as I recall) came up with the idea of using paper clips, one for each of the six million Jews who perished in the Holocaust. The students wrote to many people, in America and in other countries, to Jews and to others, telling them about their paper clip project. At first, the number of paper clips received was small, and they thought that the most they could get would be only a little more than one million, if that. But then, it took off. Tom Brokaw learned of the project and mentioned it on his evening news program, and many others began to recognize the simple sincerity of the students and their families in this small Tennessee village. By the time the project ended they had amassed more than 27 million clips, from all over the world.

But vastly more important than the numbers of paper clips were the contacts they made—wonderfully moving contacts with Jews who responded to the earnest efforts of the students and the townsfolk. When the people decided that they would build some sort of memorial of the Holocaust, and chose to make that small

memorial something significant, such as a railroad boxcar like the ones that carried so many people to Auschwitz and the other Nazi death camps, there were Jews whom they had met who told them that they would get them such a car. And indeed they did, traveling to Poland to find one of the old cattle cars into which more than a hundred Jews had been crowded, some suffocating from the awful conditions, on the final journey. The people of the town took this car, and built a deeply moving memorial, attended by many people. Among other things, it contains 11,000,000 paper clips, in remembrance of the six million Jews and the five million other people—Gypsies, gay people, and any other people murdered in the death camp because they were judged unfit by the Nazis.

I have seen such a thing, along with many other items of remembrance, in the Permanent Exhibit at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC. It, too, was deeply moving to me. But I could not have imagined that a small and poor town in southeastern Tennessee could, in total unity, produce so strong a light to the world about the need for human beings to understand each other, and to build friendships and caring among us all. They have proved that caring people of good will can accomplish magnificent things.

The documentary film about this moving story is beautifully done, wholly with the real people who lived it, not with actors. Its title is, simply, “Paper Clips.” It has already won many awards.

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:

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

Mar 4 Sat 5:30 pm Peace potluck at the Perry City Meetinghouse, after which we will rise up singing! Bring your voice or any other musical instrument and make a joyful noise as we sing songs of peace, social justice, and the environment

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

7:00 pm Annual Talent and Art Show ***

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

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

11:15 am 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.

Mar 12 10:30 am Singing in the Edwards Room

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

11:15 am Children meet First Day School teachers outside the Edwards room – see note on March 5
CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE KITCHEN CUPBOARD

12:30 pm Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. Child care provided on request (see above.)

7:00 pm Second Sunday Celebration Circle / Beyond Our Wildest Dreams ***

March 15 at 7PM at the Burt House: Architect Ernie Bayles will be discussing the merits of different locations for a potential meetinghouse on our Rt. 79 property.

Mar 16 Wed 7:15 pm Meeting for Healing - 112 Mt. Pleasant Road ***

Mar 19 Sun *April newsletter due date.* Please contact Bronwyn Mohlke if you have anything to be included in the April newsletter (see contact information listed below).

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

10:30 am Singing in the Edwards Room

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

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

Mar 23 Thurs 8:30 pm 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.

March 25 at 10am to 2pm Open House at 855 Five Mile Drive and 415 Elm Street, two properties for consideration as a Meetinghouse

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

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

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

Rise of Mtg Light brunch. Please bring finger foods to share.

After Brunch “Lighten Up” a movie brought to us by the Social Justice Committee the faith community’s response to global warming and efforts with sustainability ***

Mar 28 Tues 7:30 pm Peace Witness Committee meeting at the Burt House. All interested are encouraged to attend.

Mar 29 Wed 1:15 – 3pm Kitchen Cupboard. Call Ginny Gartlein for information (272-3471). Please remember - Kitchen Cupboard desperately needs brown paper bags.

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

Do you have something for the April newsletter? Please get all information you'd like to have included in the April newsletter to Bronwyn Mohlke, by the method of your choice, no later than Sunday, March 19. (277-4183 / bjm9@cornell.edu / 52 Gray Road, Ithaca, NY 14850)

Announcements

Talent Night

Saturday March 4th at the Burt House

This year's Quaker Talent Night will be held on 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!! Contact Melissa Travis Dunham if you haven't signed up yet, or if you have any questions.

Peace Potluck at Perry City Meetinghouse

Saturday, March 4

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, March 4th at the Perry City Meeting House on Route 227 in Perry City. Dish to pass at 5:30; discussion at 7:00. This month we will rise up singing! Bring your voice or any other musical instrument and make a joyful noise as we sing songs of peace, social justice, and the environment. For more information, call Mary Graham - 387-9046.

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

Sunday, March 12

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business will be held after the rise of Meeting on March 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, March 12

On Sunday, March 12th, Jody Kessler will be leading the Second Sunday Celebration Circle, from 7:00 to 8:30 PM 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 "Beyond Our Wildest Dreams." 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.

"Lighten Up", A film on the faith community's response to global warming

March 26 in the Cul de Sac after Brunch

The Social Justice committee is planning to show a video about the faith community's response to global warming and efforts with sustainability. It is a 20 minute film produced by the Unitarian Church titled "Lighten Up". It will be shown following Meeting for Worship on March 26 in the Cul de Sac after the Brunch. We will have a brief discussion about sustainability and what it means for our Meeting. We hope Friends will be able to attend.

Meeting for Healing

Thursday, March 16

Please note that this month's Meeting for Healing will be held at 7:15 on Wednesday, March 15 at Melody Johnson and Dick Crepeau's house (112 Mount Pleasant Road, Ithaca). 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.

WHEN THE VIOLIN

*When
The violin
Can forgive the past
It starts singing.*

*When the violin can stop worrying
About the future.
You will become
Such a drunk laughing nuisance*

*That God
Will then lean down
And start combing you into
Her hair.*

*When the violin can forgive
Every wound caused by others.*

The heart starts singing.

--Hafiz

Burt House Update

The Burt House Committee is still taking applications for a caretaker for the house. Preference will be given to someone associated with Meeting who has previous experience in managing or helping to manage a house and household. Interested persons should contact Tom Brown or another member of the Burt House Committee Chris Dunham, Suzanne Kates, Bonnie Tyler.

We expect at least one room at the Burt House to be available for rent on March 1. No lease is involved, but an interview would be held with anyone who might be interested in living in the house. Residents are asked to sign a rental agreement that they will share in the upkeep of the kitchen and upstairs areas of the house shared by residents, and that they will participate in periodic meetings of the residents, some of which will have shared meals.

There are no changes in policies concerning other uses of the House by Meeting, in reserving a room for a Meeting-related event, or in asking about sojourner space. Simply call the Burt House, 273-5421 and leave your request as a phone message. Someone will get back to you shortly.

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

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.

Directory Changes

Please send any corrections or additions to the 2005 directory to Steve and Bronwyn Mohlke, 52 Gray Road, Ithaca, NY 14850 / 277-4183 / <bjm9@cornell.edu>

Corrections:

- Sam Simkin / 307 East Marshall Street, Ithaca, NY 14850 / simkins@ecostudies.org (new phone number yet to come)
- Tom Ruscitti / 738 Elm Street Extension, Ithaca, NY 14850
- Kathleen Gale has a new address: parrot7@verizon.net

Additions:

- Stephen M. (Steve) Parrish / 423 Savage Farm Drive / Kendall at Ithaca / Ithaca, NY 14850 / 257-7389
- Caroline Cope / 300 Fire Tower Road / Berkshire, NY 13736 / 539-6391 / carolinecope@hotmail.com

Powell House Conferences this April

Please contact Powell House at 518-794-8811 or go on the web at <http://www.powellhouse.org> to register for any conference.

April 7-9, 2006 / Sr. High / Gifts We Bring to Swing

April 7-9, 2006 / Angels Among Us / An experiential weekend led by Frank Massey

April 14-16, 2006 / Work/Messiah Sing & Celebration
(Cost: a modest donation (\$50 suggested) / Childcare:
Available with 3 weeks notice

April 21-23, 2006

Intergenerational Women's Weekend - Adult & Jr/Sr High
Earth, Air, Fire, Water: Pathways to the Spirit

Facilitated by Patricia Stere Sears and Chris DeRoller

April 28-30 / 4th to 6th Grade / Promises

New York Yearly Meeting (NYYM) Spring Sessions

Dear friends: Information on NYYM's Spring Sessions will soon be available at nyym.org and in SPARK, NYYM's newsletter. I will be attending and am happy to carpool. Please contact me at 607-272-1108 or mallison@cnf.cornell.edu. Here are the dates and place so you can start planning to attend too! NYYM Spring Sessions, April 1-2, 2006 (used to be known as April Representative Meeting), Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N.J.

—Melanie-Claire Mallison

2006 Friends General Conference Gathering of Friends

Greetings from the Gathering Committee for the 2006 Friends General Conference Gathering of Friends! We feel privileged to be able to share with you this first of two e-mail messages about this historic 2006 Gathering. We have felt Spirit ever-present with us as we have prayed and planned to bring the Gathering week of worship, workshops, programs and community for the first time to the western part of the U.S. We will gather, God willing, July 1-7 at Pacific Lutheran University in Washington State near the Puget Sound.

Our planning meetings in the breathtakingly beautiful Pacific Northwest have given us an understanding of the unique opportunities this location offers for Friends from both the eastern and western parts of the U.S. and Canada. For eastern U.S. and Canadian Friends, travel to this year's Gathering makes such nearby destinations as Mount Rainier National Park also readily accessible. For western U.S. and Canadian Friends, Gathering participation won't require the cross-country travel that has often been necessary. Friends who come to the Gathering at PLU can expect an unusual blend of eastern and western Quakers!

On March 1, Friends can see '06 Gathering details in the Advance Program at www.fgcquaker.org, and can begin registering for the Gathering on that date. We are encouraging Friends to use on-line registration. Real-time confirmation of your workshop choice will begin on March 1. Also, the Gathering may reach capacity before published deadlines are reached and registration will be closed when programs are full. Printed copies of the Advance Program are being sent to meetings in North America, scheduled to arrive in Friends' homes not later than March 15.

We look forward to welcoming long-time and first-time FGC Gathering attenders from east, south, middle, north and west as together we create the familiar and well-loved Gathering community in this historic new setting. We especially look forward to greeting you!

Thor Rhodin Remembered

Dear Friends:

Thor Rhodin passed away peacefully in his sleep on Friday morning, February 17, at a local hospice where he had been for a few days since he was discharged from Cayuga Medical Center. He was 85 years of age.

Thor was a very active member of our Meeting from the time of his arrival in Ithaca in 1958 until the last year or so when his health began to deteriorate. He was Clerk of our Meeting in 1976 and Co-clerk with Elspeth in 1977 and 1978. He was ac-

tive in the Meeting's First Day School both in the 1960s and later in the 1980s. He also served at various times as Recording Clerk, on the Program Committee, Ministry and Oversight, Trustees, Peace and Social Action, and the Burt House Committee. Over the years Thor served on a number of Clearness Committees for Membership and for Marriage. He also served as our representative to Regional Meeting and to New York Yearly Meeting.

During the Vietnam War, Thor was an active draft counsellor. He worked evenings and weekends in a storefront rented downtown by our Meeting for this purpose, and in subsequent years when the office was moved to Anabel Taylor Hall.

Plans for a Memorial Service have not yet been made. Ministry and Oversight will work with the family on this.

—Tom Brown

Your Money Or Your Life: Connect Your Money with Your Values

3/29 to 5/24 at the First Unitarian Church

Have you ever felt you were making a dying rather than making a living? Learn how to connect your money with your values, and keep your spending in alignment with these values, as you seek the "purpose" in your life through an 8-week study group based on the best-seller *Your Money Or Your Life*. Dates are 3/29, 4/5, 4/12, 4/19, 4/26, 5/10 & 5/24. Cost is \$5.00 for study guide; book is also required. For more information or to register please contact Jacki Thompson at 273-7521 (ext. 23) or at <lepican@unitarian.ithaca.ny.us>. Class to be held at the First Unitarian Church of Ithaca, 306 North Aurora Street in downtown Ithaca.

Discussion Group Forming

Paula McConnell is interested in a starting discussion group to investigate personal leadings within corporate worship. Nothing formal, just a group of folks to chat once in a while. If you're interested, please contact Paula McConnell <pmv25@cornell.edu>.

Meetinghouse Design

March 15 at 7PM at the Burt House

Architect Ernie Bayles will be discussing the merits of different locations for a potential meetinghouse on our Rt. 79 property. Since the Meeting recently decided to stop pursuing locations inside the conservation district portion of the property, this discussion will focus on locations outside the conservation district. All are encouraged to attend this discussion on March 15 at 7PM at the Burt House.

Open Houses at Two Properties for Consideration as a Meetinghouse

March 25 at 10am to 2pm

In March we are arranging two open houses at two properties in Ithaca, either of which may be suitable as a meetinghouse for Ithaca Monthly Meeting. One property is the former Waldorf School at 855 Five Mile Drive (at the intersection of 13 and 13A near Buttermilk Falls). The other building is at 415 Elm Street. We have tentatively scheduled both open houses to be from 10am to 2pm on Saturday March 25, but we still need to confirm this date. We will send an update to the meeting mailing list and make an announcement as soon as we can confirm the date. We plan to hold meeting for worship at both buildings according to the following schedule:

- 10-11am: tour the building
- 11-11:30: meeting for worship
- 11:30-1: lunch, tour the building
- 1-1:30: meeting for worship
- 1:30-2: tour the building

—Larry Clarkberg



On February 5th the Quaker Shaker Players (comprised of our first day school students) performed the play *Lucretia and Friends* for the Perry City Meeting.

Minutes of the February 2006 Called Meeting of the Corporation & Meeting for Business

Called Meeting of the Corporation & Meeting for Business 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.)

200602.1 The Ithaca Monthly Meeting (IMM) of the Religious Society of Friends met on February 12, 2006, at the Cul de Snack, Anabel Taylor Hall, Cornell University, for a Called Meeting of the Corporation, and for Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. At 12:40 p.m., F/friends settled into worship.

200602.2 The Called Meeting of the Corporation of Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends was called to order.

Present: Tommy Brown, Laurence Clarkberg, Marin Clarkberg, Richard Crepeau, Marion Craig DaGrossa, Esther Darlington, Nancy Gabriel, Virginia Gartlein, Melody Johnson, Beth Jolles, Martin Jolles, Janis Kelly, Charles Larsen, Melanie-Claire Mallison, Bronwyn Mohlke, Steven Mohlke, Liam Murphy, Arc Riley, Thomas Rodman, Eleanor Rosenberg, Heather Ruff, Susan Ruff, Michael E. Simkin, Simon St. Laurent, Wendy Wolfe

200602.3 Change of the By-Laws:

I, Melanie-Claire Mallison, affirm and state I am of legal age and sound mind and that I am mindful of my obligation to tell the truth. I further state as follows:

1. I am the Recording Clerk of the Ithaca Monthly Meeting Of The Religious Society Of Friends (the "Meeting"). I have the duty of recording the transaction of business sessions of meetings of the Meeting. I make this statement in accordance with the requirements set forth in Section 201-a of the Religious Corporation Law Of The State Of New York ("RCL").

2. As directed by a minute of the Meeting, I caused a notice in the form attached as Exhibit A (which notice is incorporated to this Statement by this reference) to be published in the Meeting's regular Newsletter for the month of January, 2006.

3. With this Statement, I certify the Meeting held a Called Meeting For Worship With Attention To Business on February 12, 2006 (the "Meeting For Business"). At that Meeting for Business, 25 members and attenders considered the topic of a proposed change to the Meeting's By-laws: 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.

4. In the course of that Meeting for Business, it was the sense of the meeting (such terms used in accordance with Section 9 of the By-laws), that the change referenced in Section 3 of this Statement be made to the By-laws as a new section 20 and that the same change also be made to the Meeting's Certificate of Incorporation.

200602.4 The minutes were read to this point and approved. This concluded the business of the corporation. @

200602.5 Twenty-four Friends settled into worship in preparation for Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. Our clerk asked Esther Darlington to share with us today. Esther read excerpts from the following, Memoirs of Charles J. Darlington (her dad), Volume 2, and Advices of the [Religious] Society of Friends from 1656, and noted her own thoughts on worship. The minutes of the January Annual Meeting and the January Called Meeting were read. @

200602.6 Treasurer's Report: Steve Mohlke summarized the report for January. Friends received the report. @

200602.7 Design Committee: Dick Crepeau reported that our architect is aware of the request from January's Called Meeting. Ernie will answer to that request as soon as he can. @

200602.8 Peace Witness Committee: Mac Larsen reported on the upcoming dinner with Newton Garver, president of the Bolivian Quaker Education Fund. The committee encourages everyone to attend and learn of this important work which Ithaca Monthly Meeting supports thru its Gifts. @

200602.9 Request from Bonnie Tyler: Eh Christ and Mu Mu and their new baby will be moving soon into their own apartment. Bonnie requests -- if they have to pay a security deposit, will Ithaca Monthly Meeting assist them with that expense? Friends approve paying the deposit if we could first work with Bonnie to inspect the apartment and then request a report from the landlord if and when the family moves out. @

200602.10 Burt House Committee: Tom Brown reported for the committee on the various recent changes. The caretaker's position is presently vacant, and the committee is considering applications. Till the position is filled, friends are asked to contact committee members to use the facility. Even though there are now babies in the house, there are no new policies regarding Burt House use, though the committee may have to consider some requests in this light. @

At 1:45 p.m., F/friends gathered into worship-filled silence before adjourning. We will meet again for Worship with Attention to Business on March 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.)