



Newsletter of the Ithaca Monthly Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

April 2006

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A Case for Eldering and Discipline

Excerpts from a longer essay by Herb Lape

Modern Friends are often uncomfortable with the term “eldering.” It conjures up negative images of scolding old men wagging their fingers in narrow, legalistic judgment of behavior. [...] But true eldering is not about discipline alone. Good elders identify and support gifts in the ministry, care for the sick and those in need, prayers for healing and a host of other warm, supportive activities that nurture the spiritual vitality of the meeting. But elders have always understood that spiritual vitality and growth also require discipline as well as nurture. [...]

I have been involved with Quakers now for many years at the local, yearly meeting and national level. It has been my experience that we could do a better job of dealing with conflict if we recovered our tradition of discipline by appropriate bodies within monthly, quarterly and yearly meetings.

[In my own meeting, as] with any meeting, we have had situations where individual behavior has caused considerable conflict in the meeting. Families have transferred memberships to escape the discomfort or simply left Friends behind altogether seeking, ironically, a more “peaceful” faith community. The offenses are typical: chronic lateness to meeting and entering in a loud and noisy fashion, using Meeting for Worship to debate controversial matters or elder the meeting for failing to do one thing or another, refusal to recognize the authority of clerk to run an orderly business meeting, and the usual instances of tale bearing, detraction and lack of care for the reputations of others, especially

those with whom Friends are in conflict.

It has also been my experience that Quaker communities that fail to exert discipline in an open way through properly recognized channels will slip into “unofficial” discipline through tale bearing and shunning of offending individuals. It’s a passive/aggressive approach to discipline that is all too common among us.

I experienced some of this first hand when I was asked to be on a three person team to help “mediate” a New York Yearly Meeting conflict over the proposed sale of the Friends World College home campus and the distribution of the assets. In good mediation fashion, we were not asked to make judgments about the nature of the conflict or recommend eldering of individuals who had violated “right practice.” [...]

When we met with those opposed to the sale of the property and the transformation of Friends World College into a program for a local college, we heard dark accusations of greed and power aimed at killing a noble educational experiment. It was a familiar and tempting Quaker story of “speaking truth to power.” When we met with the Quaker College Board and supporters of the sale and merger, we heard a familiar story of psychological impairment. The leader of the opposition was a key founder who couldn’t let his “baby” grow up and move in a new direction dictated by financial and management difficulties.

Because we were not given the authority to make judgments and recommend discipline, we made a noble but failed effort

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April 2006 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

Apr 1 Sat 5:30 pm Peace potluck at the Perry City Meetinghouse, followed by the video "Arlington West" and a discussion ***

Apr 2 Sun *DON'T FORGET TO CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS FOR DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME!*

9:30 am Bible Study: The Passion and the Resurrection. Bring your Bibles. Room 314, Anabel Taylor Hall. Childcare available if you call in advance. Janis Kelly 277-1024.

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 Evangelical Room (G3). 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.

Apr 5 Wed 1:15 – 3pm Kitchen Cupboard. Call Ginny Gartlein for information (272-3471). Please remember - Kitchen Cupboard desperately needs brown paper bags.

Apr 9 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 – see note on April 2
CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE KITCHEN CUPBOARD

12:30 pm Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. 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.)

1:00 pm Floating Meeting and annual egg hunt followed by dish-to-pass lunch at the home of Liam, Susan, Tom, and Emily ***

7:00 pm Celebration Circle, an interfaith worship service
Jody Kessler ***

Apr 11 Tues 6:45 pm Movie Night - "Affluenza", a fascinating look at one of the greatest social maladies of our time: over-consumption and materialism ***

Apr 16 Sun 6:00 am Easter Sunrise Meeting for Worship at the Hector Meetinghouse

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 April 2

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

Apr 22 Sat 6:00 pm Dish-to-pass supper at the Burt House followed by

7:00 pm Film "Inside Afghanistan" and a discussion ***

Apr 23 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 April 2

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

Apr 25 Tues 7:15 pm Meeting for Healing - 112 Mt. Pleasant Road ***

Apr 27 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.

Apr 29 Sat 3-6:00 pm Tea party at the home of Chris and Melissa Dunham ***

Apr 30 Sun 9:30 am Quaker Testimony of Simplicity - Toni Murdough will facilitate a discussion with queries. Room 314 of Anabel Taylor Hall

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 April 2

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

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

Announcements

Do you have something for the May newsletter?

Please get all information you'd like to have included in the May newsletter to Bronwyn Mohlke, by the method of your choice, no later than Sunday, April 23. (277-4183; bjm9@cornell.edu 52 Gray Road, Ithaca, NY 14850)

Peace Witness Committee

Tuesday, April 4 at 7:30 at the Burt House

The Peace Witness committee has changed their meeting date to the first Tuesday of the month.

Conscious Alternatives to Militarism: Workshop on Militarism in the Schools

Saturday, April 1

Conscious Alternatives to Militarism presents the following:

A Workshop on Militarism in the Schools: Recruitment Awareness, Selective Service Registration, and the "No Child Left Behind Act" Saturday, April 1, 2006 from 12:30 (after lunch) to 3:30 p.m. at the Rural-Urban Center, 208 Broadway Street, Montour Falls, NY

Anyone who is interested is invited to join us. Please register so that we will know how many copies of things to prepare. To register call: 607-546-7354

To provide some background: Four people, including Marilyn Ray, had started a group called Conscience & War Counselors (CAWC) in fall 2001. CAWC had provided several training events; organized for an Iraqi Veteran Against the War in Iraq to speak at local high schools, Cornell University, and a community center in downtown Ithaca; and established a call-back hotline. The hot line continues to be an active resource today at 607-387-8495. Marilyn is also available to answer questions and/or supply materials at 607-539-7778.

In the late fall 2004, CAWC expanded and became Conscious Alternatives to Militarism (CAM). Now, in spring 2006, CAM has trained affiliates working in Ithaca, Watkins Glen, Trumansburg, and Odessa/Montour. It also has a fledgling group in South Seneca and individuals working in several additional communities. The CAM steering committee includes members of the Perry City Monthly Meeting and Ithaca Monthly Meeting, as well as members of other community groups including the Ithaca Catholic Worker. Members of other Monthly Meetings, including Syracuse, Binghamton, and Elmira have attended training events, and Syracuse has consulted on materials suitable for high school students.

Peace Potluck at Perry City Meetinghouse

Saturday, April 1

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.

This month we will watch the video "Arlington West" - a riveting visit to temporary cemeteries created every Sunday across the US by Veterans for Peace. Crosses are placed in the sand on beaches to honor soldiers who have died in Iraq.

The next meeting will be Saturday, April 1 at the Perry City Meeting House on Route 227 in Perry City. Dish to pass at 5:30; video and discussion at 7:00. For more information, call Mary Graham - 387-9046.

Brought to You by the Program Committee: Bible Study: The Passion and the Resurrection

Sunday, April 2

Janis Kelly will lead Bible Study: The Passion and the Resurrection. Bring your Bibles. Room 314, Anabel Taylor Hall, at 9:30 a.m. Childcare available if you call in advance. Janis Kelly 277-1024

Movie Night: "Affluenza"

Tuesday, April 11 at 6:45

Movie Night - Tuesday, April 11 at 6:45. "Affluenza", which is a fascinating look at one of the greatest social maladies of our time: overconsumption and materialism. Hosted by National Public Radio's Scott Simon, Affluenza explores both the comical and sobering aspects of our consumerism and its enormous impact on our families, communities and the environment. In response to this materialistic lifestyle, many people are opting out of the consumer culture. Some are turning to one of the fastest growing trends in our country, voluntary simplicity, which is just one of the many "cures" that are explored in Affluenza. Burt House. Tea, snack and discussion to follow the film which lasts about 1 hour.

Quaker Testimony of Simplicity

Sunday, April 30

Quaker Testimony of Simplicity - Toni Murdough will facilitate a discussion with queries on Sunday, April 30 at 9:30 in room 314 of Anabel Taylor Hall.

Take Back the Night March and Rally

Friday, April 7

The Take Back the Night (TBTN) March and Rally is a chance for people in our community to stand in solidarity against violence and show support to survivors of violence. This year's Ithaca TBTN is being held on April 7th. There are marches from Cornell, Ithaca College, and a Community march coming from GIAC. Marches will start at 7:00PM, converging on the Commons at 7:30 for a Rally. There will be speakers, open mic time, and drumming. Watch for posters around town one week before the event for details about TBTN and other events happening on that day. For more information please contact the Advocacy Center via email at takebackthenight2006@hotmail.com.

Second Sunday Celebration Circle

Sunday, April 9

This month's Second Sunday Celebration Circle will be held on Sunday, April 9, and will be led by Sandy Wold at 7 PM at the Santosha Yoga Center, in the Aeroplane Factory Building. This month's theme will be "Spring, Resurrection, and Transformation".

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

Sunday, April 9

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business will be held after the rise of Meeting for Worship on April 9. 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.

Floating Meeting Egg Hunt at the Murphy-Hess home

Sunday, April 9

Floating Meeting is an intergenerational meeting for worship and time to get to know each other better. This month it will be held at Liam Murphy and Susan Hess's home after the rise of meeting on April 9 for their annual egg hunt! Please bring a dozen eggs per participating child (or grown-up) to Meeting at 11:00, or drop them off at the Murphy/Hess household any time/day beforehand, so that the eggs will be hidden before the kids arrive. Bring along baskets for collecting the eggs. Please bring a brunch dish-to-pass to be eaten as soon as you can arrive from Meeting. The egg hunt will be held snow, rain or shine as soon as the majority of kids arrive -- and no later than 5pm! Dress kids in boots and weather gear there can lots of mud, and it can be chilly on the hillside. It'll only be held indoors if it's much too rainy, windy, and cold. There will be an egg-hunting spot for the smallest fry, so toddlers welcome! The Murphy/Hess household is at 78 Genung Circle off Genung Road near Snyder Hill Road. Call if you need directions (272-4526).

Film: Inside Afghanistan

Saturday, April 22 at the Burt House; Dish to Pass Dinner at 6:00; Film at 7:00 with discussion with discussion to follow

Our special guest, hosted by the Peace Witness Committee, is film maker Pacho Lane of Rochester Monthly Meeting. He brings the film that he made in 1987. Shot in Kabul, Herat, Kandahar, Spinbuldak, and the Afghan countryside, the film looks at the "other" side of the war in Afghanistan – the Communist government and its supporters.

Inside Afghanistan opens with an examination of the war as seen by the Afghan army. After a ride with an armored column transporting supplies from the Soviet border, we have tea with an Afghan captain, his Russian wife, and their two sons, as he explains the bond he feels with the other Afghan officers who trained in the Soviet Union. An Afghan colonel explains how these Soviet-trained army officers led the "revolution" that brought the Communists to power. At a tank training ground, an officer extols the "revolution".

The documentary then looks at the educated, urban modernizers and reformers who saw the "revolution" as a way to bring Afghanistan into the modern world, even if on the Soviet model: women teachers and medical students, doctors at a children's hospital, boys at a Soviet orphanage, government officials, party members, and a rare interview with then- President Najibullah himself.

The second half of the film moves to the countryside, where we visit several groups of villagers who had left the Mujahedin and were fighting on the government side under the same khans (clan landlords) who earlier had led them in their fight against

the government. In a peaceful village square, a group of villagers discuss their needs, unaware of the camera, while in another village a government propaganda team entertains and passes out gifts. Under attack by Mujahedin at a remote outpost, we go to the nearby artillery base, which responds with a devastating barrage of rockets and howitzers. In the Kandahar prison, we meet two Taliban POWs, who in spite of torture tell us courageously that they still believe they were right to fight. Finally, at a meal in his home, the governor of Kandahar province breaks down in tears as he tells us of the deaths of his sons in this long and bloody war.

Inside Afghanistan underscores the chasm between the urbanized, Westernizing supporters of the Communist government and the traditional Muslim world of the villages, still based on clan and feudal ties. Without preaching, the film breaks the stereotypes of Communist "puppets" and heroic "Freedom Fighters" to give the viewer a new understanding of the tragic and complex struggle for change in Afghanistan - a struggle that is far from over.

Read more at: <http://www.docfilm.com>

Meeting for Healing

Tuesday, April 25

For the river of God to flow freely in our lives, we must get out of the way.

Three spiritual practices to help with this are:

The practice of dissolving our attachments

The practice of dying into our fear

The practice of embracing paradox

—Arthur Larrabee, Experiencing God, a Pendle Hill Pamphlet

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 April 25. 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.

Threshold Choir

Thursday, April 27

Threshold Choirs started in the Bay Area in California. Their purpose is to ease transitions, to help people cross into new states of being, usually at times of death, birth, or weddings. They are non-sectarian but this ministry seems particularly appropriate for Friends. All singers are welcome, so come and bring a f/Friend.

The next meeting of the Ithaca Threshold Choir will be on Thursday, April 27 from 7 - 9 pm at the home of Connie and Garry Thomas, 114 Delaware Avenue (call 273-7567 for directions), and will sing at Lakeside the following morning. For general information on the Threshold Choir, call Melody at 272-8755.

Tea Party at the Home of Chris and Melissa Dunham

Saturday, April 29

Chris & Melissa Dunham invite you to their second annual tea party on Saturday April 29, 2006 from 3 to 6 p.m. at their house (105 Dunmore Place, Ithaca). Their house is on the corner of Brandon Place (off Mitchell) and Dunmore Place (off State). Stop by for a

snack, cup of tea, or just conversation. Feel free to bring friends, spouses, partners, children or grandchildren. Contact Chris or Melissa with questions or for detailed directions at 277-9599, c_j_dunham@yahoo.com or mtravis823@yahoo.com.

Memorial Meeting for Thor Rhodin

Sunday, June 4

The Memorial Meeting for Thor Rhodin, who died February 17, will be held at the Hector Meetinghouse on Sunday evening, June 4, at 7:00 p.m. It will be simple, quiet, and peaceful in keeping with Friends' ways.

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; c_bjm9@cornell.edu

Corrections:

Melissa Hamilton's email address is m-abu@juno.com

Tom Ruscitti

738A Elm Street Ext., Ithaca 14850

272-6368

ruscitti@twcny.rr.com

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.

Regional Escrow Account for War Tax Witness (Perry City Friends Meeting)

Dear Friends,

We would like to invite you to a meeting at which we hope to further our minute on establishing a regional escrow account for war tax witness. It will be on Saturday, April 22, 2006 from 1-4pm at our Meeting House in Perry City.

We presented our minute, which reads as follows, at Fall Gathering in 2005:

Perry City Friends Meeting proposes that the Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting provide as a service to members and attenders an escrow account to hold the funds that individuals withhold from the federal government in war tax resistance on the model of the escrow account of 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.

The business meeting of Fall Gathering asked if we could gather more input from meetings in our vicinity. This winter we met with Friends from Poplar Ridge, Elmira, Central Finger Lakes, and Ithaca Meetings in three separate meetings. This has been a very useful process and has helped us refine our thoughts and our spiritual direction.

We feel that we are now able to meet and revise or solidify the minute to a place that can represent the best of Friends' response to the perils and wars of our day. This would be in preparation for this coming Spring Gathering. To that end, please join us on April 22. We will provide a lunch at 12 noon and meet at 1pm.

Please contact Brian Williams (607-546-7354/bw_hector@yahoo.com) or Tom Joyce at (607) 277-7426 to confirm your participation or if you need directions to our Meeting House.

Sincerely,

Perry City Peace and Social Action Committee

Support the Kitchen Cupboard and Ten Thousand Villages on April 8

There are many ways to help support the Kitchen Cupboard this month! Ten percent of the sales on April 8 at Ten Thousand Villages will be donated Kitchen Cupboard, and they will also have a box for non-perishable food donations, if anyone would like to donate food. This is a great chance to support fair trade world wide and the local fight against hunger all at once! Ten Thousand Villages is located on the Commons.

The Kitchen Cupboard is also pleased to participate in the annual Feinsein Million Dollar Challenge during the months of March and April. Any food or monetary donations received at the Cupboard during these two months will count toward increasing the Cupboard's proportion of the Feinsein grant. If you are considering making a donation to the Kitchen Cupboard, this is a great time to do it!

The Kitchen Cupboard needs: canned or packaged dinners; canned fruits and vegetables; packaged desserts and snacks; baking supplies; egg noodles; packaged rice; canned meat or fish; soups (canned or dried); crackers; peanut butter; jelly; cereal; beverages (fruit juices, tea bags, coffee packets); powdered milk; baby food (small jars); diapers (also store coupons); bath soap; toilet paper; toothbrushes and toothpaste; shampoo; And, as always, the Kitchen Cupboard is glad to receive paper bags.

Minutes from Farmington/Scipio Regional Meeting Under Consideration by IMM

All Meetings in Farmington/Scipio Regional Meeting (F/SRM) have been asked to consider three minutes:

- (1) Spiritual Gifts and Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity
- (2) Right Sharing of the World's Resources
- (3) F/S Regional Meeting Provide an Escrow Account for War Tax Funds Withheld from Federal Taxes.

If possible, F/SRM requests Meetings approve their own minutes related to each of these three minutes for consideration at Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business at Spring Gathering the weekend of May 19-21, 2006. SEE MINUTES BELOW. MM considered all three of these minutes and requested Ministry & Oversight to discuss and consider the minute on Spiritual Gifts; the Social Justice Committee to discuss and consider the minute on Right Sharing; and the Peace Witness Committee to discuss and consider the minute on an Escrow account. Each of these Committees was asked to announce when they planned to discuss their minute so that F/friends from the wider Meeting could join them. Each Committee was asked to report back to MM at either the April or May MM so that our Representatives to F/SRM (Bronwyn Mohlke and Lynn Grove) could report IMM's responses at Spring Gathering.

Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)

FCNL requested a list of members and attenders, and at MM in March, MM decided to publish contact information for FCNL widely so that F/friends could subscribe to their Newsletter and/or their email list if they so choose. FCNL is the Quaker "lobby" group in Washington that works with Congress on issues of concern to Quakers. Among their priority issues are peace and social justice, with a special concern for Native American issues. Will White and Mac Larsen are IMM's representatives to FCNL and if you have questions or concerns about FCNL you can contact them at: "William White" <wdw8@cornell.edu>, or (w) 254-6476, or Mac Larsen CML7@cornell.edu or 539-6181. Marilyn Ray publishes many of the FCNL email messages she receives on the IMM email list and will continue to do so until F/friends tell her they do not need them on the email list any longer. Marilyn can be reached at <MLR17@cornell.edu>. Addresses and contact information for FCNL include:

Friends Committee on National Legislation

245 Second St. NE, Washington, DC 20002-5795

phone: (202)547-6000 * toll-free: (800)630-1330

fcnl@fcnl.org * <http://www.fcnl.org>

To subscribe to their email list:

<http://capwiz.com/fconl/mlm/>

To subscribe to other FCNL legislative, policy, and action alert lists:

<http://www.fcnl.org/forms/forms.php?type=ls>

Upcoming Quaker Events

- Spring Gathering of the Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting (see details below: May 19-21)
- Friends General Conference: July 1-7 (this may already be full)
- New York Yearly Meeting at Silver Bay: July 23-29
- Fall Gathering of the Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting, held in Ithaca this year: September 23

Speaking Truth to Power with Love: Spring Gathering

May 19-21

This year's Spring Gathering of the Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting will be held from May 19-21 at Long Point Camp on the west side of Seneca Lake. Spring Gathering is a terrific time to get to know Friends in our Regional Meeting. If you'd like to know more about Spring Gathering, talk with any of the following from our Meeting who have attended in the past: Elspeth Rhodin, Marilyn Ray, Melanie-Claire Mallison, Mac Larsen, Lynn Grove, Wendy Wolfe, Bronwyn and Steve Mohlke, Rini and Larry Clarkberg, Melody Johnson, Tom Ruscitti, Graham O, Ellie Rosenberg.

Highlights of this year's Spring Gathering:

John Calvi will be the Keynote Speaker on Saturday morning. He will be speaking on Torture. John Calvi has been working with people surviving traumatic experience since 1982. He has worked with women survivors of sexual abuse, in the AIDS epidemic, with inmates, tortured refugees, ritual abuse survivors, addicts, and hospice. (Saturday 9:00-10:30)

Bible Study - Shelly Cochrane and Carol Kitchen - "The Beatitudes are familiar to most of us, but have we really thought about them and what they might mean for our lives today? What would our lives look like if we lived the Beatitudes every day?"

Come join us as we reflect together on being blessed, on being poor in spirit, even on inheriting the *kingdom*." (Saturday 11:15-12:15)

Praying for Peace, Paying for War: Several years ago, Farmington-Scipio Region Spring Gathering included a workshop on war tax witness. The Alfred minute expands this issue to the larger question of paying for war and expresses a corporate witness, not just an individual leading. Come and explore in a gentle way the possibilities for us as individuals and as a community. This will be facilitated by Karen Reixach, Rochester Monthly Meeting. Karen assisted in the preparation of the amicus brief of New York Yearly Meeting in the case of tax witness by Rosa Packard. (Saturday 3:15-4:15)

Tsunami Relief - Fluent in the Indonesian language, Nadine was encouraged by Alfred Meeting to be part of the relief efforts following the tsunami just over a year ago. Nadine has been to Indonesia several times to be of service. (Saturday 2:00-3:00)

Are We a Society of Violence of Intimidation? Don Simkin - Intimidation comes in three parts: Economic, Social and, last to be used, Physical. (Saturday 2:00-3:00)

Meditation - Dale Jacobs will present a CD by Rex Ambler entitled "Early Friends and The Light". The discipline of light as practiced by early Friends, is a practical discipline which opens up the truth about ourselves and the world and transforms our relationship to them, leaving us from a concern with ourselves to a concern with the world and back again, in a rhythm which is part of the growth which the light makes possible. Last year Lou Harper and Newton Garver led a discussion about a book Rex Ambler wrote entitled "Light to Live By". (Saturday 3:15-4:15)

Worship for Healing - Circle of Prayer with Ann Davidson and John Calvi (Saturday 4:45-5:45)

Storytelling - Callid Keefe & Sue Tannehill - Come and join us as we tell stories of peace, wisdom, love and just plain fun. We will run the gamut from ah-hah, to ha-ha! These stories are not just for children and Sue and Callid encourage all to come, listen and add a little wonder to your day. (Saturday 3:15-4:15)

For Children - All day programs with crafts, workshops, discussions, and plenty of fun available for children and teens.

Fall Gathering

September 23, 2006

Ithaca Monthly Meeting is responsible for all aspects of Fall Gathering this year. Monthly Meeting accepted volunteers to begin discussing what we need to do to plan for Fall Gathering. Bronwyn Mohlke (convener), Rini Clarkberg, Ginny Gartlein, and Marilyn Ray were approved to begin this work. Anyone else who is interested at this point, please contact one of these members to volunteer. The planning committee will be considering such tasks as: program, hospitality including housing and meals, youth and children's programming, logistics, etc. As committees are formed to address different tasks, lots of volunteers will be needed.

Report from Nadine Hoover's Traveling Ministry Committee in Alfred Friends Monthly Meeting

Here is an update on Nadine Hoover's work in Indonesia. Alfred Friends Monthly Meeting, Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting and New York Yearly Meeting wrote a Traveling Minute for the work that Nadine is doing.

These relief and recovery activities are intended to involve

Friends here on the Monthly, Regional and Yearly Meeting level, and is not intended to be a one-person effort. However, the source of expertise at this time lies in Nadine and her experience. If she brings others with her, she will be extending the breadth of her expertise, while those of us who can't travel will try to do our part here.

Nadine has strong ties to Indonesia, ties that pre-date the tsunami and extend back to her early adulthood. When the tsunami hit Indonesia a little more than a year ago, she had a leading to return and help with the relief effort. At the time, she was working through the American Friends Service Committee. Before she left, Alfred MM had given her a Traveling Minute to carry with her on her journey.

Since then the formal supervision of her work in relief and recovery has changed, and the new Traveling Minute reflects some of those changes.

Nadine will continue to raise funds for relief and recovery here in the United States and then return to Indonesia to fund some project, as well as doing some workshops on the Alternatives to Violence Program. (Aceh, Indonesia has been the locale for an on-going civil war for decades, so there is a crying need for a program for alternative ways of handling conflict.)

Nadine intends to return to Aceh twice a year for about four to six weeks in February and August. In addition to bringing funds, she hopes to have at least two others go with her, one of which (it is hoped) would be a Young Friend.

The money that is being raised is going toward programs of relief that include such activities as the construction of indigenous housing and pre-school/parenting programs. Other efforts include more in helping establish viable economic activities, such as materials for basket weaving, sewing machines for seamstresses and boats for the fishermen.

Upcoming Events at Powell House

Powell House is the conference and retreat center of New York Yearly Meeting, in Old Chatham, New York. Their mission is to foster the spiritual growth of Friends and others and to strengthen the application of Friends' testimonies in the world.

It is a quiet, peaceful place conducive to reflection and spiritual growth. Programs and facilities are structured to foster community development and strengthen group identity.

The following conferences are coming up at Powell House. Please contact them at 518-794-8811 or on the web at <http://www.powellhouse.org> to register.

Drawing Out Gifts III: How Can I Keep from Speaking? Discernment in Spirit-Led Vocal Ministry

May 12-14, 2006

Deborah Fisch, facilitator

How do we prepare for worship? What is "expectant waiting?" What does it mean to be "pushed off the bench?" How do we test a message that may be rising up in us during worship? How do we know that a message is from God and not of our own? Through worship and sharing of our own experiences, we will explore how we discern when we are being given a message in meeting for worship, and if we are being led to share it out of the Silence.

Deborah Fisch is a member of Paullina Monthly Meeting in rural northwest Iowa and currently lives in Des Moines, IA. She is the clerk of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) and works for Friends General Conference as the coordinator of their Traveling Ministries Program. Deborah carries a minute of travel from her

yearly meeting.

Calling all Friends of Bill W. and Dr. Bob: Quakerism & Recovery Weekend

May 12-14, 2006

How can Quaker beliefs support your Recovery? How can Recovery support your Quaker beliefs? We will examine steps 2, 3, 10 and 11. Whether you are working on Step 2 or 11, please join us for this weekend, remember that recovery is a group effort. We need your experience, strength and hope.

This weekend will be considered a closed meeting (with the exception of Powell House staff). Please bring your Big Book and your 12 and 12.

EarthSong XXXI: Jr and Sr High (Youth Conference)

May 26-28

Spring will be bursting out and so will our seniors. Join us for this two-houses-full farewell to our graduating seniors. Celebrate friendships and Spirit in workshops, Ultimate Frisbee games, a dress-up (or down) dinner and the ever exciting Saturday Night Cabaret. Fee: \$100

Experience Spiritual Healing For yourself and loved ones; Facilitated by a host of healers

June 2-4, 2006

Limited to 20 participants) On this weekend, Powell House will be host for a number of experienced Spiritual healers. You are invited to be a participant. Experience Spiritual Healing for yourself, share the experience with others.

Starting on Friday evening at 7 pm with a dinner together, the art of Spiritual Healing will be discussed. Topics will include the distinctions between healing and curing, the responsibility of the client as participant, self-care, and more.

During the weekend, there will be several healing sessions, some brief, some longer. Interspersed with the healing sessions will be opportunities for rest, relaxing activities, art, music and movement, or yoga.

Space for this weekend experience is limited. Registrations require a non-refundable deposit of \$50 and will be accepted on a first-come-first-served basis.

This is a unique opportunity for a relaxing and healing weekend, open to anyone who wishes to experience and understand more fully, what Spiritual Healing is, and is not.

Healers include: Sue McLaren, Audrey Burt, & Cheryl McVickar from PYM, Frank Massey & Rosalind Zuses from BYM, John Calvi & Buffy Curtis from NEYM and Ann Davidson & Jacki Gray from NYYM.

Living from the Divine Center: A Contemplative Retreat Led by Linda Chidsey

June 16-19, 2006

In *A Testament of Devotion*, Thomas Kelly writes:

Deep within us all there is an amazing inner sanctuary of the soul, a Holy place, a Divine Center, a speaking Voice, to which we may continuously return. Eternity is at our hearts, pressing upon our time-torn lives, warming us with intimations of an astounding destiny, calling us home unto Itself. Yielding to these persuasions, gladly committing ourselves in body and soul, utterly and completely, to the Light Within, is the beginning of true life (p. 29).

There are those who have found and those who are finding

that a deep life of prayer and attentiveness to God can be genuinely compatible with an active and effective spiritual/Christian presence in the world. What canst thou say?

Come live into both the questions and the promise as we seek to establish a more contemplative rhythm and practice during this extended weekend. There will be times of group discussion and reflection; opportunities for solitude and the practice of both individual and corporate disciplines—prayer, *lexio divina* (divine reading), journaling, walking the labyrinth. We will share overnight silence and a silent meal. Perhaps in these times, more than ever before, we long to touch the Divine Center and lay hold of the Source of our lives. This conference begins with 7 pm dinner on Friday & concludes with lunch on Monday. Linda Chidsey, a member of Croton Valley Meeting, is a recorded minister in New York Yearly Meeting. She carries a concern for spiritual nurture and pastoral care. Linda currently serves as clerk of NYYM.

Cost: \$210 adults, \$105 ages 13-22, commuters \$105

Powell House Reunion 2006: Celebrating the Last 4 Decades of "Quaking" in the ACC

Thursday, July 13th - Sunday, July 16th, 2006

Mark your Calendars and Plan to Attend the Biggest Reunion Ever!!! If you are an alumna of either the Powell House Youth Program or NYYM's Junior Yearly Meeting, this 3 day event is your opportunity to reconnect with F/friends and mentors that impacted your life in a way only other "Powell House Special Children" can understand.

Bring yourself and introduce your family while celebrating the people, the program, and the place. (Sorry, still no pets allowed.) We are going to fill both buildings and the campgrounds. Special events include a private concert by Bill Staines (River, All Gods Critters) and a sculpture dedication ceremony.

Please note that the special events on Saturday (huge BBQ & Bill Staines concert) are open to absolutely everyone that feels a connection to Powell House regardless if they are alums.

All proceeds from this event will go to benefit the Powell House Youth Program!

Send an email to Megan Myers-Hayes and Elfriede Brennan at pohoreunion@yahoo.com or call 315.729.0145 or visit www.PowellHouseReunion.org for more information.

Please pass these dates and e-mail along to every alumna that you are still in contact with! Registration encouraged for both full and partial attendance. Childcare available.

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

Committee on 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 Tom Brown, Rini Clarkberg, Ed Cranch, Marion DaGrossa, Melody Johnson, Beth Jolles, Elspeth Rhodin, Ellie Rosenberg, and Sue Ruff.

As My Father Sleeps

Ann Rhodin

March 19, 2006

Wild winter winds
Stir snow in the sky
Logs diminishing in the stove
Gradually in escape
As my father sleeps

The wood snaps
And then there is silence
His eyes closed
His dreams empty
As my father sleeps
Winds whirl
Friends visit
From day to day
Always the same
As my father sleeps

Orange points
Slowly burn wood to ash
In deep meditation
An interim of flame
As my father sleeps

He whom we loved and lost
Is no longer
Where he was before
He did it in his own way
As my father sleeps

Now at peace
His failing mind
Settled as the logs shift
Freed from demons of distress
As my father sleeps

In winter's setting sun
As the winter geese honk
Winter's snow cascading
In a white blanket
As my father sleeps

Minutes of the March 2006 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.)

200603.1 The Ithaca Monthly Meeting (IMM) of the Religious Society of Friends met on March 12, 2006, at the Cul de Snack, Anabel Taylor Hall, Cornell University, for Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. At 12:40 p.m., 17 F/friends settled into worship. Our Clerk read from her dictionary the definition of 'process' -- A series of changes by which something develops; a method of making or doing something, in which there are a number of steps; the act of doing something, or the time in which something is done. She also read the following Queries #3, #4.

3. Are we careful that our ministry is under the leading of the Holy Spirit? Are we concerned to take time for the study of Scripture and other writings of spiritual value? Are we concerned for the spiritual growth of one another?

4. Are love and unity fostered among us? If differences arise, do we endeavor to reconcile them in a spirit of love and truth? Are we careful not to manipulate and exploit one another? Do we avoid talebearing, and are we careful of the reputation of others?

Beth reviewed the day's agenda and the February minutes of the Called Meeting of the Corporation and Meeting for Business were read. @

200603.2 Treasurer's Report:

Steve Mohlke summarized the report for February. He opened a new CD, and we did pay the security deposit for Eh Christ and Mu Mu (minute 200602.9). Friends received the report. @

200603.3 State of the Meeting Report:

Rini Clarkberg read the State of the Meeting Report, and two correction/additions already received. Friends approve the Report, entrusting Ministry and Oversight with requested changes. The Meeting wishes to note a particular appreciation for this well-written statement of our condition. @

200603.4 Friends Committee on National Legislation:

Marilyn Ray reported for Will White, our representative to FCNL, regarding FCNL's request for IMM member contact information. The Meeting requests that instead of sending member information to FCNL, that the request from FCNL be made available to members via the email list and newsletter, and individuals may then contact FCNL directly. @

200603.5 Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting:

Marilyn Ray reported on Winter Gathering in January. There are three minutes being considered by the Region, which they ask Monthly Meetings to consider also. But first, Ithaca Monthly Meeting is responsible for this coming Fall Gathering, September 23rd (?). The Meeting needs to create a committee to coordinate the event. The Meeting approves such a committee, with Bronwyn Mohlke, Rini Clarkberg, Marilyn Ray and Ginny Gartlein as members.

F-S Regional Meeting is asking that three minutes be considered by Monthly Meetings before Spring Gathering in May: 1. Spiritual Gifts and Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity; 2. Right Sharing of World's Resources; and 3. Creation of an Escrow Account for War Tax Funds withheld from Federal Taxes.

M&O is presently working with the first minute and a subsequent letter on Gender Issues from the NYYM clerk of Nurture; Social Justice is working on the second minute regarding Right Sharing, and Peace Witness is working on the third minute. The Meeting directs these committees to communicate with Friends on their work regarding these issues, arranging for discussion sessions if needed. Further, the Meeting requests that the committees come to April or May Meeting for Business with recommendations. If we are so led, we may have minutes in time for Spring Gathering.

Speaking for Peace Witness, Wilma Brown read for us the minute under consideration from Perry City regarding the creation of an escrow account for war tax funds withheld from federal taxes.

Perry City Friends Meeting proposes that Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting provide as a service to members and attenders 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.

Perry City invites all meetings of the region to join them on April 22nd for a discussion of their minute and our response. Wilma and Marilyn also have copies of the Purchase Quarter's Escrow Account for those who wish to read it. @

200603.6 FGC & Free Books!

We have received a flyer from FGC stating that if we review one of the books from Quaker Press in our newsletter, we can get a free book! Marilyn Ray, Melanie-Claire Mallison, and Ginny Gartlein will pursue this offer. @

200603.7 Opportunities to Share Concerns:

The Meeting would appreciate some regular place and time for Friends to gather and have open discussion of their concerns and questions, perhaps with a focus but also without a specific so that we feel free to simply see where the discussion leads. We could open with some discussion of Quaker practice and process and then move into open sharing. M&O hears this request and will bring it to Program Committee also. @

At 2:35 p.m., F/friends gathered back into gathered worship before adjourning.

We will meet again for Worship with Attention to Business on April 9, 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.)

to get the parties to reconcile, but their powerfully seductive stories encouraged people to remain fixed. The truth claims of these rival stories were never challenged and passive-aggressive tale bearing and character assassination done by both sides tempted people to take sides. This festering wound continues to reverberate.

The most positive thing that we were able to accomplish was to write a report focused on what we could learn from our conflicts. I include parts of this report here:

1. Conflicts as a Necessary and Healthy Part of Truthseeking. As a people dedicated to peaceful resolution of conflict with a long history of active work in the world to help others reconcile their differences, it is tempting to believe that we ourselves should not have conflicts. The history of our Society shows the illusion of this belief. [...] What the Apostle Paul noted with the meeting in Corinth, applies to us, “when you assemble as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you; and I partly believe it, for there must be factions among you in order that those who are genuine among you may be recognized.” (I Cor. 11:18-19). Conflict is a necessary part of truth seeking. When we avoid dealing with conflict in our meetings, it festers and become more disruptive. We are called to communion, not unity of opinion. We live up to our heritage as peacemakers in how we deal with conflict, not by avoiding it.

2. Seeing the Evil in Ourselves as Well as Others. It is always tempting to see ourselves as good and holy and our opponents shortsighted or even evil. While our peace testimony guards us from physical violence, we are not immune to ascribing dark conspiracies or psychological wounds as the true motivating force behind those with whom we are in conflict. [...] Our Quaker tradition reminds us that there is a spiritual force of darkness that contends with the Light of God in this world and within us. This is our true enemy not our flesh and blood opponents. When we demonize our opponents, we avoid a discernment process that often needs conflict to nudge us further towards the truth. We deny the light and give power to the darkness.

3. Gospel Order- Because of these temptations, Friends have always believed that individuals needed help in learning to discern the Light from the Darkness, that of God from that which is not God. To this end, they worked hard to set up what was called Gospel Order. This includes the system of monthly, regional, and yearly meeting structures as well as advices and queries that were all designed to help in this discernment process. [Some of these include:]

“If your brother sins against you, go and point out what was wrong. But do it in private, just between the two of you. If that person listens, you have won back a follower. But if that one refuses to listen, take along one or two others. The Scriptures teach that every complaint must be proven true by two or more witnesses. If the follower refuses to listen to them, report the matter to the church. Anyone who refuses to listen to the church must be treated like an unbeliever or a tax collector.”
— Matthew 18:15-17

“All are especially cautioned against any harshness of tone or manner when administering counsel or reproof; either privately or in meetings. Friends should speak truth with love, remembering that if they would do God’s work,

they must abide in God’s love. Even a seeming harshness may check the beginnings of true repentance, and lack of sympathy may cause harm where only good was intended.
— Advice 15, NYYM Faith and Practice

“Are love and unity fostered among us? If differences arise, do we endeavor to reconcile them in a spirit of love and truth? Are we careful not to manipulate and exploit one another? Do we avoid tale-bearing, and are we careful of the reputation of others?”
— Query 5, NYYM Faith and Practice

4. Eldering- We believe that the function of eldering implied in the Matthew 18 quote, needs to be recovered. Friends have been reluctant to openly elder, but it has been our observation that this has not prevented us from exerting an unhealthy form of discipline and censor. Rather than following Matthew 18, we have tended to observe the following pattern: a Friend has a conflict with another Friend. Rather than going to that person, he or she begins a process of talebearing and detraction by speaking of the conflict to a sympathetic ear who often in turn spreads the tale. What begins as a private conflict, becomes magnified into a community conflict. We need to remember that some form of eldering will occur. The question is whether it is done in the manner of Friends through recognized channels or happens informally from talebearing and detraction.

Let me emphasize again, that eldering is also about spiritual nurture- recognizing and supporting gifts in the ministry; visiting the sick; setting up clearness committees, prayer sessions for healing and many other activities, but in the depths of our being we all know that there is no spiritual growth without some form of discipline. Yes, we do have to be very careful that we don’t go too far and slip into the legalistic finger wagging excesses of our past, but I believe that recovering a tradition of moderate eldering will help us become more vibrant and spiritually alive communities of faith. I don’t think that most people are looking for warm, fuzzy faith communities. I think they want to be part of real communities that wrestle with conflicting testimonies and are unafraid of exercising legitimate authority to settle conflicts in time honored practices.



Bell ringers brighten this year’s annual talent show.