



Newsletter of the

Ithaca Monthly Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

November 2009

IMM Contacts

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Send email to lyris@cornell.edu. Leave the subject line blank and include:
join IMMRSF-L "Your Name"
(include the quotes) in the first line of the body of the message.

Website: ithacamonthlymeeting.org

Newsletter Submissions Due December 3rd

Materials for December 6th's newsletter may be submitted by the method of your choice to:

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Welcome to First Day School 2009

At the opening of First Day School, we are celebrating Friends, young and not so young, learning and growing together in the Light. Thich Nhat Hanh says: "Our children are bells of mindfulness, reminding us of how wonderful life is."

As adults, we know that you, our young people, are our future, but more immediately our joyous and challenging present. For you, we stretch beyond ourselves, confront our own equivocations, and welcome gifts of grace. From experience, we know, it is how well we nurture and cherish our youth, that is the best measure of the health of our Friends Meeting, or for that matter, of any community. Besides we have great fun together.

It is you, our beloved children, we rejoice in. Your values so clearly reflect your experiences as Friends. We watch as you grow and mature, becoming all the while more fully yourselves. May each of you continue to explore your own spiritual path, knowing that all of us, your Meeting F/friends, are here to sustain, support, and when invited, walk beside you.

— *Melody Johnson*

Acquiring a Meetinghouse: A Phased Approach

Steve Moblke has proposed a phased approach to acquiring a meetinghouse. The proposal below will be on the agenda for our November 8th business meeting.

In attempting to make decisions about acquiring a Meetinghouse we have been challenged by complex intertwined issues. In particular we are not in unity about the role of the Burt House once we have a Meetinghouse. Perhaps trying to resolve everything at once is too much. Could we consider simply replacing the functions currently served by Anabel Taylor and retain the Burt House in its present role for the foreseeable future?

The minimum, essential requirements that we would need to meet in order to successfully move out of Anabel Taylor include:

- Worship space
- First Day School space
- Bathrooms
- Parking
- Flexibility for future expansion

The most notable omission from this list is a kitchen. A kitchen is a considerably more expensive room than Worship or First Day School Rooms. We don't have kitchen facilities available at Anabel Taylor and yet we manage the occasional large group dinner. Even a large sink in one of the First Day School rooms would be an improvement over our present situation.

After living with such a building and the Burt House for several years, we would gain an improved sense of our long term finances and our usage patterns of the buildings. We could then decide if we want to expand the Meetinghouse and, if so, by either raising the necessary funds or selling the Burt House.

Phased Approach, continued on p. 2

Perhaps we would find a building that meets these requirements or we could significantly scale back the building proposed on the Rt. 79 land several years ago. That building was 7,000 square feet and included both a kitchen and extra space so that it could be shared as a school or daycare. Our recent experiences looking at the church on West Dryden Road suggest that 4000 square feet

could minimally meet our needs. If cutting out almost half the originally proposed building, including the most expensive room, would bring the cost of that plan down to something we could afford, would Friends be interested?

— Steve Mohlke

Announcements

Holding our Business Meetings in the Light

In July, Ithaca Monthly Meeting approved a six-month trial of the practice of having two people present at each business meeting who have only one purpose, “being a centered presence, holding the body in prayer in order to better ground the group in the Spirit.” The intent was to increase the spiritual depth of our Meetings for Business. As part of this experiment we agreed to hold a discussion after a few months for those who served in this capacity to share experiences and answer questions for those interested in this practice. That discussion will take place at the Burt House on Thursday, November 12 starting at 7:15; please see the November Calendar on page 8.

Ministry and Oversight suggested this step to prepare our Monthly Meeting for what we have been calling “High Stakes Decisions” and are now calling “Weighty Decisions.” The questions and answers below were part of the proposal to try this.

Why should we try this?

When we have considered weighty decisions in the past, most notably discussions about a Meetinghouse, our disagreements sometimes became ugly and disrespectful and lacked a sense of Spirit. Giving specific attention to the spiritual nature of our Meetings for Business by devoting specific people to focus on that may help others in the room retain that sense and give the Spirit room to help us work through those disagreements.

Why start before we are talking about anything really weighty or controversial?

Friends who are tentative about trying this may appreciate a chance to practice while the issues under consideration are lighter. That would also give those of us in the body of the Meeting the opportunity to experience it before we really need it.

What does somebody engaging in this practice actually do?

Christopher Sammond, in a letter asking Friends to serve in this capacity at New York Yearly Meeting Sessions, describes it this way: “...this involves being a centered presence, holding the body in prayer in order to better ground the group in the Spirit. Past experience has made it clear that this kind of prayer support can have a powerful impact on the spiritual depth and groundedness of these meetings.” A brochure from Adirondack Friends Meeting describes it this way: “Specifically, folks who [engage in this practice] are holding and grounding our worship in the light and love of God, praying for the pastor or whoever is leading worship, and responding to nudges to pray for the faces they see as they look

Spiritual Discernment from Ministry & Oversight

Worship is inseparable from discernment. Those who desire to effectively participate in group discernment will be able to do so only if they have nurtured their individual discernment skills, are aligning with God’s heart, and with purposeful prayer have entered as a group into each discernment challenge. A quick devotional or opening prayer most likely will not fully align our hearts with God’s. Take the time needed for meaningful worship. The key component of worship as preparation for group discernment is to learn to listen to God.

— *Practicing Discernment Together, Finding God’s Way Forward in Decision Making by Lon Fendall*

out on those gathered in meeting. There is no particular set of qualifying requirements—not age or gender or position in the meeting. Mainly, you just need to be willing to be used by God to immerse our meeting time in the Spirit.”

Could people serving in this way speak about the subject being discussed?

If they speak at all, it would more likely be about process and the sense of Spirit in the room than about the content of the discussion. It would be important to choose people without a deep tie to business on the agenda.

Wouldn’t this reduce the number of people actively participating in Meeting for Business?

At least at first, we would look for people who do not normally attend Meeting for Business but who would embrace supporting our Meeting in this way.

What happens if we get into a really heavy, weighty decision in which we really need participation by everyone in Meeting?

We could ask Friends from Regional and Yearly Meeting to support us in this way.

How would it be decided who would serve and when?

For the first few months, the Assistant Clerk would schedule people who are comfortable with this practice without much formal preparation. Then we would hold a meeting to talk about the experience among the people who served during the first few months and people who are interested in the practice. Friends at that meeting would work out who would serve the upcoming months. After six months, M&O will raise the question with Monthly Meeting as to whether we want to continue the practice.

Scheduling Events for Ithaca Monthly Meeting

Program Committee annual offerings include the following:

- Quaker Basics/Leading a Quaker Life (4 to 6 per year) usually at the Burt House on an evening.
- Faith and Practice – Reading and discussion (Nov-May) First Sunday at 9:30 am in Room 314.
- Talent Show (March)
- Picnic (September)

Anyone from meeting is welcome to present or coordinate a presentation based on a leading they may have. Program Committee does not need to approve/sanction presentations, but we appreciate coordination of dates.

The following steps are suggested when setting up a program:

- Check the on-line calendar at <www.ithacamonthlymeeting.org/calendar> for possible conflicts.
- Announce at meeting/send an email announcement to determine level of interest in your topic.
- If you are holding the meeting at the Burt House, call the Burt House at 273-5421 to check the calendar.
- If the presentation is at Anabel Taylor, please note the room schedules, below.
- Schedule your presentation.
- Promote and advertize often and in several ways, including the newsletter on the listserv.
- If needed, make arrangements for childcare by contacting Ginny Gartlein, 272-3471.
- List the event on the on-line Meeting calendar using Google calendars — ask Rini, mec30@cornell.edu, for the login and password.
- If you have any questions, contact anyone on the Program Committee: Dick Crepeau, Christianne White, Tony Gaenslen, Toni Murdough, and Claudia Stocheck.

These are the times and rooms reserved at Anabel Taylor Hall for IMM during the year:

The Cafe is reserved from 9-11a childcare and by use of committees; from 11-12:30 for First Day School, and from 12:30 to 3:30 for fellowship and meetings.

The Edwards Room is reserved for our use from 9a to 1p.

Room 314 is reserved from 9:15-11a for committees and adult religious education, and from 11-12:30 for First Day School.

The “ladies lounge” is generally used from 11-12:30p children’s religious education.

The IMM Online Calendar

Ithaca Monthly Meeting has an online calendar at <www.ithacamonthlymeeting.org/calendar>, hosted by Google calendars. Starting this month, we will experiment with using the automatic reminder feature; subscribers to the IMM listserv can expect to receive an *occasional* email from <calendar-notification@google.com> reminding of an upcoming event on the calendar (such as monthly brunch). Please contact Rini Clarkberg (mec30@cornell.edu) with comments or concerns.

Words to Consider from Meeting for Healing

Australian Aboriginal Conflict Resolution

In the mutant (European) world there is the concept of competition. There can only be room for one at the top and everyone else must fill in below, like a triangle, with most people on the bottom, supporting one person on the top. It is difficult for me to understand how a parent can tell a child that only one can win and everyone else must lose. They actually seem to believe there isn't enough prestige, enough places for leadership, so only one can be successful and everyone else must be in a lesser role. I think competition, by causing the belief in lack and limitation and feeding the emotions of envy and violence, has done more to pull people apart than any other factor.

Mutants (Europeans) would say that competition is the thing that has made the world so progressive and comfortable. People inventing things goes along with fame and fortune. But are we better off? Is the earth healthier? Are plants, animals, and people healthier? Does the future look brighter and more promising because of competition? I am not judging, since I know it is all part of the Divine Order. But as an observer, it does not have a good smell to it. I have to bless those who think in terms of not enough or superiority and let them go. The Aboriginal race has always operated more on the scale of a flat puzzle instead of a triangle. We feel that everyone fits into the puzzle, and that everyone is a vital part of it. Without any one person we would be incomplete. We would have a gaping hole. When we sit by the fire, each brings a uniqueness. There is someone who brings to our group the expertise of hunting, someone else is a teacher, a cook, a healer, a listener, a dancer, and so forth. We have someone who is the leader, but we also know everyone has the ability to lead and should be allowed to do so when we want that adventure. We also have the ability to follow. One is not better than the other. There is a time and place for both.

— “Message from Forever” by Marlo Morgan

Let Us Treasure the Treasurer

Mike Simkin was approved as our new Treasurer early this year, and the transition is now complete. Please send contributions, reimbursement requests etc. directly to him at: Ithaca Monthly Meeting; Mike Simkin; 3137 Jacksonville Rd; Trumansburg NY 14886.

Kitchen Cupboard

Our Meeting works at Kitchen Cupboard the first Wednesday of every month and any fifth Tuesday (if applicable). Times are from 1-3 pm, at the Salvation Army building, Albany St, Ithaca. Volunteers are always appreciated, especially for the fifth Tuesdays. Anyone interested in helping should contact Ginny Gartlein.

On Holidays: From Ministry and Oversight

The upcoming holiday season gives us extra times to gather together. We will hold meeting for worship on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 26, at 10:30 a.m. in the Hector meetinghouse (see the November Calendar, page 8).

Our annual pageant and Christmas dinner dish-to-pass will be held on Sunday, December 20.

We are considering having meeting for worship at the following times, but would like some feedback to know how many Friends might attend. Please contact Bronwyn Mohlke (277-4183, bjm9@cornell.edu) if you would like to attend the following meetings for worship:

- *Christmas Eve*, Thursday, Dec. 24, 7pm at the Burt House
- *Christmas*, Friday, Dec. 25 10:30am Hector Meetinghouse
- *New Year's Eve*, Thursday, Dec. 31, 11pm at the Burt House

We will confirm in the December newsletter which of these will occur, depending on the level of interest shown.

The Quaker Explosion!

For just under a decade, during the years that the religiously tolerant Oliver Cromwell was Lord Protector of England, Quakerism was the fastest growing religious movement in England and her American colonies – to such a point that Quaker historian Rosemary Moore has called this period the “Quaker Explosion.” During these years Quakers preached a “Revolutionary Gospel” addressed to “The Whole World,” boldly proclaiming the authenticity of their form of mystical and prophetic Christianity over the alleged “apostasy” of orthodox Churches. After Cromwell’s death and the restoration of the monarchy, Quakers were arrested by the thousand on charges of blasphemy and treason, dying by the hundreds in English jails. Although Quakers continued the same practices and testimonies as before, in order to survive, in their debates, tracts, and books, they stopped their energetic proselytizing, and now emphasized their doctrinal similarities with Orthodox Christianity. The “Quietist” period in Quaker history began.

On November 20 (see the November calendar on page 8), Tony Gaenslen will speak of the decade in which Friends called themselves “Children of the Light.”

In stark contrast to their Puritan and Established Church opponents, they taught that the “Light” (for early Quakers, Christ was the Light) gave them power to overcome their inner darkness and sinfulness and become transformed Children of Light and Sons and Daughters of God in the here and now of their daily lives. They saw the Light in Moslems, Jews, Native Americans no less than Christians, but they didn’t morph all world religions together under the rubric of a single “Inner Light.” They aspired to be “Valiant for the Truth” in what they called “the Lamb’s War” to bring God’s reign of peace and justice into being in their own lives and world. We may not be able reproduce the “Quaker Explosion,” but surely we can learn something from the vision, courage, and example of first generation Friends.

Tony’s presentation will last about 30 minutes. We will then open up the meeting for questions and discussion.

Women’s Clothing Swap

Do you have a closet or dresser full of clothes you don’t wear? Are you still holding onto those pants that are too big (or too small), that sweater that shrunk in the wash? That blouse your Aunt Maude gave you that you just don’t like? Or a baggy Flax dress you only wore once?

Simplify your life and dump those unworn clothes for things you want to wear! Come to a clothing swap for women and teen girls, Saturday November 14, 2009 from 2-4pm at Melissa Travis Dunham’s house (105 Dunmore Place, Ithaca). Bring any unwanted clothes, a snack to share, even a friend, and join us for fellowship and playing dress up. Don’t have any unwanted clothes? Stop by and find some clothes anyway! The more you take home, the less we have to haul away to charity. It’s recycling, it’s green, and it’s a lot cheaper and more fun than actual shopping!

Quaker Performances

Elizabeth Simkin, Hockett Recital Hall, Ithaca College

Elizabeth Simkin, cello, and Jennifer Hayghe, piano, will present a recital in the Hockett Recital Hall on Sunday, November 15th at 4 pm. This will be free and open to the public. The program will include Bartok’s Romanian Folk Dances, Aerialism, by Sebastian Currier (a brand new work), Schumann’s Fantasy pieces and Debussy’s cello sonata.

Alma Mohlke, Bailey Hall, Cornell University

Alma Mohlke is one of three students presently composing pieces of music to be performed by Boynton’s 7th and 8th grade band. She is working with a composer from Ithaca College to create and write the score for each of the band’s instruments. Since Kulp Auditorium is being renovated this year, her piece will be performed by the band at Bailey Hall on the Cornell campus on Thursday, May 13. She was also chosen to play a solo on her bassoon (with accompaniment) at that same concert. We’ll be able to announce the time as the date draws closer. If you want to help support activities of the band, Alma is selling citrus fruit. She is taking orders through November 9 for delivery to the parking lot at Meeting for Worship on December 6.

Lee-Ellen Marvin, www.26variations.com

For the second Arts for All Marathon, Lee-Ellen has taken on the challenge of creating twenty-six variations of a single, obscure Aesops fable and posting the variations as podcasts on her website.

The core story is about a talent competition and features a clown and a farmer. It’s a fun story in light of America’s obsession with reality talent shows. With more variations, the story is exploding into something more like a novel with young love, broken hearts, betrayal, and even a murder. This is not a project for young listeners or squeemish adults.

This project helps to raise funds for the Community School of Music and Arts. This gem of a small arts organization provides first-rate instruction in the arts to anyone with a desire to learn. The school provides about \$40,000 in scholarships each year to

Performances, continued on page 5

many of its students without the financial resources to pay for music, dance, or art lessons.

You can be a sponsor of this big effort by making a contribution to CSMA of any amount to the school. Perhaps \$26, since a marathon is 26.2 miles long, and Lee-Ellen is making 26 variations?

You can learn more about the school and the Arts for All Marathon at: <www.artsforallmarathon.org> To make a contribution, there is a link to a special PayPal portal or you can download a form and mail a check. It is easy and your gift to the school will be tax deductible and very much appreciated.

Quakerism 101

Anna Obermayer, one of the new Young Friends-In-Residence interns, is running a Quakerism 101 class at Perry City Meeting House. Though the class is underway, there are still many weeks remaining. The class meets at 9:30am on Sunday mornings.

There are two books for this class: 'Silence and Witness' by Michael L. Birkel and 'Essays on the Quaker Vision of Gospel Order' by Lloyd Lee Wilson. For more information, contact Anna at anna.e.obermayer@gmail.com.

Earthcare Action: Commenting on Unconventional Gas Drilling

The NYS Department of Environmental Protection (DEC) recognizes that it needs new guidelines and regulations for gas drilling in the Marcellus and Utica shale formations. On September 30, the DEC issued a "draft sGEIS" (supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement) for public review through November 30. However the draft sGEIS is over 800 pages long, and has not been widely available. Requests for a longer comment period have been heard in Albany, and there is a good chance the comment period will be extended. Thank you to all who have written postcards on this topic.

Below is a quick guide to commenting on the draft sGEIS and on other aspects of unconventional drilling.

Why are new regulations needed?

Geologists refer to drilling in the Marcellus shale as "unconventional" because the gas is not found in pockets, but is still "tightly embedded" in the tiny pores of the rock. These formations must be shattered under high pressure to get gas out of the pores so that it can collect in small pockets, and then be extracted under lower pressure.

This is a new way of drilling. Hydrofracturing (using pressurized water to shatter shale) has been in use for decades to improve water flow in drinking water wells and gas flow in "conventional" gas wells. But "fracking" for tightly embedded gas has significant differences: it uses more and different chemicals, much more water (millions of gallons per fracking) under much higher pressure, and uses horizontal drilling. This unique combination of drilling techniques was developed in the last few years by Halliburton, in conjunction with major energy companies such as Chesapeake and Fortuna.

Who regulates gas drilling?

The DEC is responsible for both regulating and encouraging mineral extraction in NYS (and has leased much of the state land they control). They issue permits for wells.

The NYS Public Service Commission (PSC) regulates gas pipelines over 10 miles long (there is essentially no regulation of shorter pipelines).

As noted last month, this form of gas drilling is largely exempt from federal oversight (the so-called Cheney/Halliburton loophole). If the federal FRAC Act is passed, it will close part of this gap.

What is a GEIS?

Once finalized, the *supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement* will be the basis for DEC regulations of drilling in the Marcellus and Utica shale formations. "Generic" means that the impact statement is considered to be an adequate review of the potential impacts of *all similar activity* within the state. Permits for drilling individual wells will be issued on a routine basis, without reviewing the environmental impacts on specific sites.

How can we submit comments?

Because comments on the draft sGEIS need to refer to that document, I am going to list where to see it, or to see summaries of it. The DEC website has the document, but 800+ pages take a long time to download. Local citizens have provided paper copies to many area town halls and libraries, including the Tompkins County Public Library and the Ithaca Town Hall.

Formal comments on the draft SGEIS should refer specifically to that document and to the relevant responsibilities of the DEC. More general comments (for example, requests for a moratorium on unconventional drilling until more effective protections can be provided, or changes in the DEC's mission and organization so the Mineral division "fox" is no longer guarding the mineral extraction "hen house") should be directed to our state legislators, to the heads of the DEC, and to the governor.

Comments to be considered as part of the review can be submitted via the DEC website (www.dec.ny.gov), in writing (NYS DEC, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233) or at designated public hearings, including the one here in Ithaca November 19, 7 pm, at the State Theater.

Where can I learn more?

There is an information session on the draft sGEIS on November 5th at 7pm at the Unitarian Church. You might also try:

Cooperative extension: gasleasing.cce.cornell.edu, 272-2544

Citizens' coalition: www.shaleshock.org

NYS Water Resources Institute: wri.eas.cornell.edu

Feel free to contact Margaret for more info at 272-2544

Thanks for all the attention people have been giving this issue.

— Margaret McCasland

Feeding the Spiritual Fire (Now with the help of Advance Scholarships!)

The Ithaca Monthly Meeting Scholarship Committee, a sub-committee of Ministry and Oversight, is now offering First Timer and Advance Scholarships to wider Quaker events and conferences. Our hope is to more actively encourage such attendance because we know that it usually deepens the spiritual life of the people who attend and that, in turn, benefits Ithaca Meeting as a whole.

We are encouraging people to try Powell House and some of the wider Quaker events through First Timer scholarships. We are also creating Advance Scholarships to upcoming Powell House and Pendle Hill conferences that seem like there would be a particular benefit to Ithaca Meeting to have people attend. We hope that these Advance Scholarships will serve as the extra nudge that some of us need to make the decision to attend.

Powell House, a Quaker Conference Center located near Albany, offers conferences for adults as well as youth in 4th through 12th grade. Conferences typically begin with dinner at 7pm Friday evening and end with Sunday lunch. Powell House has a modest First Timer Discount and now Ithaca Meeting will pick up the balance so that for the first Powell House conference a person from our Meeting attends the only cost would be for transportation. For youth, it often works out to share a ride with someone else attending the youth or adult conference same weekend. The point of this is to really encourage people to try Powell House.

For a list and descriptions of upcoming conferences you can visit <www.powellhouse.org> We plan to announce First Timer scholarships to other wider Quaker events as they approach.

We are offering two \$75 scholarships to each of two Powell House conferences in the near future.

The Body as a Temple for Spiritual Growth with John Calvi, November 6 - 8

Washing the windows, cleaning the antennae, clearing the radar- here are spiritual disciplines preparing us to receive more Light, more guidance, and fewer interruptions. Come experience meditation, Energy work, and simple massage- all tools of preparation and restoration. We'll look at how to hear the self less and bring in more wisdom; how to block the noise of the world and wash for coming Light.

Yearning for God

with Barbarajene Williams, November 20 - 22.

The late Howard Thurman urged: Don't ask what the world needs. Rather ask what makes you come alive. Then go and do it! Because what the world needs are people who have come alive. Could it be that our yearning for God and growing in our relationship with God is a call to come alive? Could it be that our yearning is about our desire for that life more abundant that Jesus promised for each of us? And more deeply, do we not yearn for our Religious Society of Friends to come alive? Alive in ways we have yet to imagine!

Ithaca Meeting has a long standing practice of providing financial assistance through our Gail Donnen White Scholarship Fund for those who request it. These Advance Scholarships will not change that. If you would like financial, or other, assistance attending a conference named above or that isn't named, please contact a member of our Scholarship Committee: Marion DaGrossa 273-4020, Barbara Ganzel 275-9512 or Sue Ruff (607) 798-0365.

Minutes of the September Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Tom Brown, Clerk
Steve Mohlke, Assistant Clerk
Marilyn Ray and Nancy Gabriel, Co-Recording Clerks
Mike Simkin, Treasurer

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

200910.1 Gathering. The Ithaca Monthly Meeting (IMM) of the Religious Society of Friends met on October 11, 2009, in the Café at Anabel Taylor Hall on the Cornell campus. At 12:40 p.m., 13 F/friends settled into worship. Clerk read Advices #15 and 16 from the October Newsletter. Clerk reviewed the agenda for the day's meeting. The Minutes were read from the September Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. Clerk introduced Bruce Berggren-Thomas and Ellie Rosenberg who would be holding the Meeting in the Light. @

200910.2 Report of Fall Gathering. Bronwyn Mohlke read the following report on highlights from Fall Gathering which was held at the Perry City Meetinghouse September 19, 2009 and was hosted by Perry City and Central Finger Lakes Meetings:

Fall Gathering of Farmington Scipio Regional Meeting took place at Perry City Meeting on September 19, 2009.

During the morning session we broke into small groups and shared deeply on the following two queries:

- What is holding you back?
- Are you open, ready, and willing to change?

In the afternoon, we held meeting for worship with attention to business. Some of what was shared was the following:

1. Regional Meeting now has a Website www.QuakerWNY.com. There is a map of our region, with a marker for each of the monthly meetings, with a link to more information for each Meeting, and a link to Websites for those Meetings that have them. There is also a calendar, for Monthly Meeting and Regional Meeting events.
2. Our region is hosting New York Yearly Meeting's Spring Sessions, April 11-13, 2010, at Chautauqua. It is our region's responsibility to host every three years.
3. FSRM has established a Peace Tax Escrow Account for Quakers and non-Quakers in our Region who wish to withhold all or part of their federal taxes in witness against war and war making. If you are interested in more information about this account, please contact Marilyn Ray or look for one of the bright blue flyers.

4. At Spring Gathering 2009 the Region approved using up to \$11,000 from the regional surplus funds for requests from Monthly Meetings in the Region or other organizations with ties to Friends in our Region (such as AVP/Friends Peace Teams) for activities that either further peace witness by individuals, meetings or organizations in the region OR build up the region through intervisitation, education or interactive experiences.

Requests will be entertained for up to a maximum of \$1500 and must have the Monthly Meeting's support and oversight (such as an approved minute). At this time, we do not anticipate that funding will be available in subsequent years. The application forms are available from Marilyn Ray and must be submitted via email to Karen Reixach <kreixach@gmail.com <mailto:kreixach@gmail.com>> by January 4, 2010. If you need a hard or electronic copy of the application or if you have questions, please contact Karen Reixach, 585-261-8334, kreixach@gmail.com <mailto:kreixach@gmail.com> or Marilyn Ray, 607-539-7778, mlr17@cornell.edu <mailto:mlr17@cornell.edu>.

5. Buffalo Meeting passed the following minute on healthcare:

We are deeply concerned that medical treatment currently provided in the United States is beyond the reach of many people.

Our belief is that every person should be treated compassionately. Each of us has unique value, and all deserve to live to the best of our potential. Healthcare is a basic necessity of life that our society has an obligation to provide. Access to medical treatment should not depend on one's current occupation, income, race, gender, age, disability or medical background.

Every person will require healthcare at some point in their lives, and should receive the treatment they need.

We seek a more just, sustainable and simplified healthcare solution.

Regional Meeting approved the minute. The Clerk of the region was directed to send the minute to regional members of Congress and key committee personnel working on health care reform.

200910. 3 Social Justice Committee. On behalf of Social Justice, Janet Frieswyk proposed the following minute which was APPROVED:

The Society of Friends seeks a world with equity and justice for all. In that spirit, the Ithaca Friends Meeting supports universal, comprehensive, and affordable health care for every person. @

200910.4 Finance Committee Charge. Dick Crepeau presented the following proposed charge for the Finance Committee.

In addition to providing general support to the Treasurer, the finance committee has four specific functions.

First, it reviews investments and, with the approval of the Trustees, adjusts the investment portfolio to balance good returns with safety of funds in a manner consistent with Quaker testimonies.

Second, the committee performs an in-house audit of the books at least every two years. The committee may request professional help if that appears useful.

Third, the committee solicits unrestricted contributions by letter from all members and attenders at least once per year.

Finally, the finance committee drafts a budget for the coming year for approval by Monthly Meeting and does various tasks associated with publicizing the budget. The committee communicates with other committees of the Monthly Meeting to ascertain their

expected expenses for the coming year. The committee received suggestions on the nature and amount of budget items from the Clerk, committees and members of Meeting. The committee then synthesizes this information with data on expenditures from previous years to propose a budget for the coming year. The proposed budget will be submitted for consideration by the November meeting for worship with a concern for business unless otherwise directed by Monthly Meeting. The committee also prepares, in conjunction with the Treasurer, documentation of the current state of the Meeting's finances to provide an adequate context for consideration of the budget. After Monthly Meeting had modified and approved the proposed budget, the committee prepares and distributes a finalized budget for the coming year. APPROVED @

200910.5 Treasurer' Report. Steve Mohlke presented the treasurer's report for September, 2009. He reported that he had paid a bill for about \$4,500 for the repairs to the Burt House roof, an amount substantially less than the \$6,000 Monthly Meeting had approved. He also reported that he had made several of the gift contributions from the Social Justice discretionary budget line. Friends received the report @

The following Minute was APPROVED:

Ithaca Monthly Meeting approves administering a fund for the Young Friends in Residence Program, a joint program of Perry City Monthly Meeting, Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting, and New York Yearly Meeting. @

200910.6 Discussion of the place of the Burt House in IMM.

Clerk requested that Steve Mohlke, Assistance Clerk, Clerk this section of the Monthly Meeting. Steve Mohlke suggested the following two queries to guide the discussion:

- What is the role the Burt House plays in our Meeting?
- What role might the Burt House play in Meeting if we have a Meetinghouse?

After F/friends addressed the queries, Steve gave the following summary of the discussion: The Burt House is currently serving a number of functions including serving as a place for: committee meetings; residence; witness functions; Young F/friends Center; and student gatherings. It is a historical gateway, a spirit center. Hypothetically, it could represent a significant financial contribution to a Meetinghouse all under one roof if we were to sell it. We acknowledge that the Burt House cannot be a single roof for our Meeting, but it could be part of many roofs. We do not know at this time what our needs will look like as we acquire a Meetinghouse. A sense expressed about the future is that some functions the Burt House serves cannot be replicated; at the same time, the financial resource the Burt House represents could be of great value to us. The Burt House is missing worship space and First Day School space. We acknowledge that not everyone shares the same level of connection with the Burt House. @

Clerk expressed appreciation to Bruce Berggren-Thomas and Ellie Rosenberg for their work. At 3:20 p.m., 13 F/friends gathered in silent worship before adjourning. We will meet again for Worship with Attention to Business on November 8, 2009 at the Café in Anabel Taylor Hall on the Cornell campus.

Respectfully submitted — Marilyn Ray, Co-Recording Clerk

November 2009 Calendar of Ithaca Monthly Meeting

Social Justice Committee Sunday, November 1, Rise of Meeting

Join Social Justice in the cafe; all are welcome.

Men's Fellowship Thursday, November 5, 7:30p

New day of the week, new time. Quaker Men will join for good conversation and popcorn at the Chapter House. Please join us!

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Sunday, November 8, Rise of Mtg

Please provide agenda items to Tom Brown by November 5th.

Film Showing: In the Light of Reverence Wednesday, November 11, 7:30p

Susan Wolf from the Indian Affairs Committee will be presenting a film that explores indigenous connection to specific places as a part of spiritual practice, and shows how these holy places are not respected and in some instances are violated. The program will be presented at Ecovillage in the FROG Common House. For directions and/or more information, contact Susan at QuakerWolf@gmail.com or 272-1618.

Peace Witness Committee Tuesday, November 10, 7:30p

The Peace Witness Committee will meet at the Burt House. All are welcome as we work to bring Friends' Peace Testimony to life. Bring your ideas on how we can best do that.

Holding our Business Meetings in the Light Thursday, November 12, 7:15-8:45p

Since July, we have experimented with having two people present at each business meeting who have only one purpose, "being a centered presence, holding the body in prayer in order to better ground the group in the Spirit." We will discuss experiences and questions about this practice at the Burt House. For more information, see "Holding our Business Meetings in the Light" on page XX and/or contact Steve Mohlke at 216-8411.

Women's Fellowship Friday, November 13, 7p

Meet at the Smart Monkey Cafe to talk about whatever we darn well feel like talking about, while enjoying a dessert, a great burger, coffee and/or a cold beer.

Every Sunday

- 11:00a **Meeting for Worship** for all ages (note: on October 4th, Meeting for Worship begins at 10:30a)
- 11:15a Children are invited to join **First Day School** classes gathering outside the Edwards Room

Women's Clothing Swap Saturday, November 14, 2-4p

Come to a clothing swap for women and teen girls, Saturday November 14, 2009 from 2-4pm at Melissa Travis Dunham's house (105 Dunmore Place, Ithaca). Bring any unwanted clothes, a snack to share, even a friend, and join us for fellowship and playing dress up. See "Women's Clothing Swap" on page 4.

Earthcare Sunday, November 15, Rise of Meeting

Join Earthcare in the cafe; all are welcome.

Quaker Explosion! Friday, November 20, 6p

Join Tony Gaenslein at Burt House for a dish-to-pass at 6pm, followed by a 30 minute presentation at 6:30. Tony will speak about the period during which Oliver Cromwell was Lord Protector of England and Quakerism was the fastest growing religious movement in England and her American colonies. For more about Tony's talk, see "The Quaker Explosion!" on page 4.

The Individual's Role in Group Discernment Sunday, November 22, 9:30a

Our meeting is moving forward in making difficult decisions about a meeting house. Please join us in Room 314 at Anabel Taylor Hall to focus on the individual's role in group discernment. Please also see "Spiritual Discernment" on page 2.

Dish-to-Pass Brunch Sunday, November 22, Rise of Meeting

In the cafe of Anabel Taylor Hall; bring finger foods to share!

Meeting for Healing Tuesday, November 24, 7:15p

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

Special Thanksgiving Worship Thursday, November 27, 10:30a

Join together at the Hector meetinghouse.

Other Weekly IMM Events

- Tues 9-9:20p **Worship** in your own home
- Wed 7:30p **Midweek meeting** for worship at the Burt House
- Thurs 5-5:30p **Peace Vigil** at the bottom of East State Street near the Community School for Music and Arts