



Newsletter of the

Ithaca Monthly Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

October 2009

CONTENTS

IMM Events: 1-2
In Our Community: 2
IMM Minutes: 3
Calendar of Events: 4
Meeting Friends: 4

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277-4183 • smohlke@lightlink.com

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227 N. Willard Way, Ithaca, NY 14850
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Listserv:

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 October 29th

Materials for November's newsletter may be submitted by the method of your choice to:
Rini Clarkberg
150 Giles St., Ithaca, NY 14850
279-4722 • mec30@cornell.edu

Return to Anabel Taylor Delayed until October 11th

Due to a scheduling conflict, Meeting for Worship will *not* move back to Anabel Taylor on October 4. We will stay at Hector Meeting House for an additional week, meeting at 10:30am as usual at Hector, and move to Anabel Taylor the following Sunday, October 11, holding Meeting for Worship at 11:00am.

On October 11th, the children's First Day School welcoming celebration will be held one half hour before that, at 10:30am, in the Edwards Room. Everyone is encouraged to attend this welcoming celebration.

Providing Pastoral Care for Our Meeting

Many members of our Meeting, without being asked or appointed, have quietly ministered to other members of our community, sometimes for a weekend, sometimes over periods of months or even years. They travel to the homes of ill or elderly Friends to hold Meeting for Worship, bring meals, do shopping, provide rides to appointments, watch children, and often just sit and listen.

In many meetings, this work has traditionally been assigned to Ministry & Oversight committees. In Ithaca Monthly Meeting, the Ministry & Oversight committee has not been able to do all the work by itself, and has depended on the work of these silent Friends.

Now Ministry & Oversight is considering recommending to the Meeting the formation of a small committee of three or four individuals who feel called to this ministry. The committee will work to coordinate Friends who are in need with Friends who are willing to lend a hand (recognizing that sometimes we are not sure whether we are in need or not, and that it's not always easy to ask for help).

The Pastoral Care committee will

- identify Friends who are in emotional, material, or spiritual need
- reach out and offer help to those who are frail, ill, or incapacitated
- schedule varying kinds of material help in a crisis
- keep in touch with members and attenders who are isolated or homebound

The committee will put together lists of people in the meeting who are willing to visit, provide transportation, or bring food to those who need it, and will schedule and coordinate assistance when it is needed.

The work of the committee, it should be emphasized, is not meant to supplant the kind of personal care Friends are accustomed to provide for each other as a matter of course.

Members and attenders with an interest in serving on the Pastoral Care Committee may contact Carolyn Kenyon at 273-7922, or write to her at ckenyon@twcny.rr.com.

IMM Events

Social Justice Committee

Sunday, October 4th, Rise of Meeting

Social Justice Committee will be meeting the first Sunday of the month at the rise of Meeting. Normally, this will take place in the cafe; this month, we will gather at the Hector Meetinghouse.

Oasis of Peace: Neve Shalom / Wahat al-Salam

Monday, October 5th, 7p

Neve Shalom / Wahat al-Salam (which means Oasis of Peace in Hebrew and Arabic) is a cooperative village of Jews and Palestinian Arabs of Israeli citizenship. Naom Shuster, a woman who is part of their second generation of leaders, will be speaking in Ithaca at the Unitarian Universalist Church 306 North Aurora St. Her talk is free, but there is a suggested donation of \$10. The Peace Witness Committee is one of the cosponsors of this event.

Men's Fellowship

Wednesday, October 7th, 8pm

Quaker Men will join for good conversation and popcorn at the Chapter House. Please join us!

Floating Meeting

Saturday, October 10, 4p

Floating Meeting is an intergenerational meeting "for worship with attention to eating" and time to get to know each other better. It became known as Floating Meeting because it takes place in a different home each month.

The next Floating Meeting will take place at Liam Murphy and Susan Hess's home (78 Genung Circle, 272-4526) on Saturday, October 10. Come early to pick apples! Apple picking from 4:00 on, and a dish-to-pass supper will begin at 6:00. If your spirit is willing, but your body can't climb ladders, don't worry ... we have a few trees near the house and younger people are often willing to help collect. It's a great chance to build intergenerational cooperation! If the weather cooperates, we will again make cider in our press and, if the time is nice, we can offer a great view from our hill and, maybe, a campfire. Come join us!

Peace Witness Committee

Tuesday, October 13th, 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.

Meeting for Healing

Tuesday, October 20th, 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, 272-8755.

Spiritual Discernment from Ministry & Oversight

Consensus is achieved through a process of reasoning in which reasonable people search for a satisfactory decision. But in seeking the sense of the meeting we open our selves to being guided to perfect resolution in Light, to a place where we sit in unity in the collective inward Presence. Through consensus we decide it; through sense of the meeting we turn it over, allowing it to be decided. "Reaching consensus is a secular process," says a Friend. "In sense of the meeting God gets a voice."

— *Beyond Consensus: Salvaging Sense of the Meeting*
by Barry Morley, Pendle Hill Pamphlet 307

Our committee on Ministry & Oversight is hosting a discussion of Quaker decision making; see "Beyond Consensus," below.

Women's Fellowship

Friday, October 23, 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.

Beyond Consensus

Sunday, October 25, 9:30a

Our meeting is once again engaged in making high-stakes decisions. Will we be successful this time? What does it mean to be successful? Please join us in room 314 of Anabel Taylor Hall to focus on the time honored Quaker process of reaching difficult decisions. Carolyn Kenyon will present material from *Beyond Consensus* (see quote, above) and lead us in exploring our decision making process. This is the first of three discussions offered by M&O to be focused on different aspects of spiritual discernment.

Butt House Work Day

Saturday, October 31, 1-4p

This year's Burt House work day is scheduled to coincide with Cornell's "Into the Streets Program," when we anticipate having four student volunteers available to help us. Please come and give us a hand. The work will all be outdoors: raking leaves, some weeding, and preparing a flower bed for spring.

In addition to helping with stewardship of one of our properties, it's a great way to meet some caring students and share with them something about our Meeting and the Burt House. Refreshments will be served.

Please note that this event is weather-dependent; we will work in sunny or overcast weather or even light sprinkles, but not if there is steady rain.

**Coming in November:
Film Showing: In the Light of Reverence
Wednesday, November 11th, 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. Discussion will follow. 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.

Words to Consider from Meeting for Healing

Australian Aboriginal Conflict Resolution

In the mutant world (European), there are people arguing and screaming and even hitting each other during a dispute. The matter is usually not resolved either. People just get mad and walk away or part from each other with ill feelings. I have learned that is because there is no one standard to use as an agreed-upon goal. Here, we recognize that each of us is entitled to be open to our own expressions and ideas. We do relate deeply to nature, and we see that the tree does not break because it will bend. The taller it becomes, the more it bends. When two people disagree, we stop to define what direction we are speaking from. There are seven, you know, and within. In a disagreement, one might state that they speak from the west, from the past, something the person understood to be a certain way. Or are they speaking from the east, basing their point of view on the best interest of some future endeavor? Perhaps they would say that they speak from within, saying what is in their heart or in their gut. Then, if they cannot see the other person's point of view and come to agreement, they would trade places. Yes, physically move and stand in the other's footprints. They would then speak from that point of view. Just as aggressively, just as passionately as before. Usually, then they can come to an understanding. If not, they would stop and say to each other, "What is the principle we are to learn from this?" Everyone is respected, everyone participates, each is supported, but we are a team. You might say a human team on a spiritual assignment.

— "Message from Forever" by Marlo Morgan

Announcements

Earth Action: Drilling the Marcellus Shale

Industrial gas drilling in the Marcellus Shale continues to be a major concern for area residents. By November, we will be able to send comments to the New York State DEC on their proposed gas drilling regulations. This month, the most urgent action is the same step we did at the August brunch post card activity: support the timely passage of the federal FRAC Act.

The Fracturing Responsibility and Awareness of Chemicals (FRAC) Act (in the House, HR 2766; in the Senate, S 1215) will restore key aspects of the Safe Drinking Water Act. It will also require drilling companies to fully disclose all chemicals used in the fracturing process (many important details are currently a trade secret of corporations such as Halliburton).

Early in his vice-presidency, Dick Cheney arranged for industries involved in extracting fossil fuels to be exempt from key aspects of federal environmental oversight. This was a double blow for the environment: first making it cheaper and easier to extract fuels which contribute to global warming, and then putting our air, water, and ecosystems at greater risk of pollution from by-products of mining and drilling.

While burning natural gas releases less heat-trapping gases than burning coal does, extracting gas from the Marcellus Shale is so complex that it will have a huge carbon "footprint." The process is also very water intensive, first removing massive amounts of water from local waterways and aquifers, and then releasing nearly as much water after it has been contaminated with drilling chemicals, plus toxic minerals and radioactivity naturally found in the Marcellus formation.

Congressman Maurice Hinchey wrote the FRAC Act, and it is being co-sponsored by Michael Arcuri and many other regional Congresspeople. At last checking, the only two sponsors in the Senate are our Senators from New York, Chuck Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand.

It's always helpful to thank our senators and congresspeople when they sponsor legislation such as the FRAC Act. But this is also a very good time to write members of the House Energy and Commerce Committee so that the Act can start moving closer to being signed into law. In particular, the Committee's chair, Henry Waxman, needs to understand how important the FRAC Act is to New York and other states which lie over the Marcellus Shale.

Letters or postcards can be sent to Waxman at:

Office of Rep. Henry Waxman
8436 West Third Street Ste 600
Los Angeles, CA 90048
Fax: 323.655.0502

A list of other members of this committee can be seen at: <http://energycommerce.house.gov/>

We Gather Together: 2009 Summer Retreat

Since 2002, our meeting has held a short summer-camp like retreat centered around the youth of our meeting. This year, we gathered at our land on route 79 August 26th through August 30th.

Camp was smaller this year than in the recent past, but still involved more than twenty children and as many adults. The decrease in attendance may be because this was the first time this event occurred towards the end of the summer.

As has been our practice for many years, we greatly enjoyed the opportunity to steep ourselves in the powerful combination of bouyant youth and the beautiful outdoors.

Our activities included:

- learning some basic sign language (thank you to Roberta Merrill, Susan Wolf, and Bronwyn Mohlke!)
- participating in some Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) activities (thank you to Shirley Way, Susan Wolf, and Pamela Hawkins from Rochester Monthly Meeting!)
- stenciling our own peace-sign t-shirts (thank you Alexa Yesukevich!)
- singing our hearts out (thank you especially to Wendy Wolfe and Emily Williams!)

Directory updates:

Friends, make note of the below to keep your Meeting Directory up-to-date:

Pat Pingel

3231 Halseyville Road
Trumansburg, NY 14886
387-7097
pingpatr@cs.com

Pat recently moved to the area from Reading, PA; she is a member of Reading Meeting.

Don & Mary Ann Crist

60 Forsythe Street
Owego, NY 13827
decrist@earthlink.net
gypsywoman827@earthlink.net

Rini and Larry Clarkberg no longer have a "land line." The phone number listed in the directory is now Larry's cell phone number. Rini's cell is 279-4722.

Carol and John Kimball: 105 Bella Vista Drive, Ithaca, NY 24850 /375-6608 / cck-imb@live.com

Margaret McCasland: for mail, please use PO Box 818, Ithaca NY 14851

Emily Williams and Alexa Yesukevich: 325 Cascadilla Street, Ithaca / Alexa: (703) 297-9848 apy3@cornell.edu / Emily: (703) 297-9849 ewy310@gmail.com

Like every year, the favorite and most memorable activity is swimming day. As we had some rain the night before, it was especially wonderful to enjoy the presence of many adult volunteers.

So many Friends supported the retreat it *so many* ways. Thanks to the *so many* who make it all happen.

Following our annual camp out on Saturday night, we had Meeting for Worship in our Birch Grove Sunday morning. More than twenty friends experienced a very gathered meeting that morning.

We Gather Together

Traditional hymn with new lyrics by Emily Williams

*We gather together to celebrate blessings
Community holding us each up by hand
When troubles are pressing and matters distressing
We look for what is just and there strong we stand*

*We gather together to listen inside us
Searching out light though deep it may be
Friends beside us to comfort and guide us
We work to live our lives with integrity*



We love you too: Roberta and Tonia at Six Mile Creek. For more pictures of our summer retreat, visit <http://ithacamonthlymeeting.org/gallery/>

Meeting Friends

Susan Wolf will be traveling to Britain with her sister after attending the Nightengales' singing weekend in Mohawk Valley. They'll be gone for three weeks, taking a bus tour that will whisk them through all the sights of any importance, if they can believe the itinerary!

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
Steve Mohlke, 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.)

200909.1 Gathering

The Ithaca Monthly Meeting (IMM) of the Religious Society of Friends met on September 13, 2009, at Hector Meetinghouse for Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. At 12:05 p.m., 20 F/friends settled into worship. Clerk read from "Expectant Listening: Finding God's Thread of Guidance" by Michael Wajda. Clerk reviewed the agenda for the day's meeting. The Minutes were read from the July Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. Clerk reported on the two Called Meetings in August about the West Dryden property. Unity was not reached on whether to buy the property or to lay it down at either of the two meetings. The West Dryden property remains a possibility for the new meetinghouse. @

200909.2 Finance Committee Report

Dick Crepeau reported that IMM has received a request from NYYM for information regarding the anticipated amount of our 2010 contribution to NYYM. The following two Minutes were APPROVED:

- The Ithaca Monthly Meeting expects to again give more than \$12,000 to NYYM in 2010, but is currently wrestling with the role of NYYM in our Meeting and seeking to understand NYYM's budget better. @
- MM requests that the Finance Committee take the lead in researching NYYM's budget, how it is split among Monthly Meetings in the Region and throughout the NYYM area; and the per capita contributions represented by each Monthly Meeting's contributions. @

200909.3 Report from Nominating Committee

Melody Johnson, reporting for the Committee, requested approval of the appointment of Antonia Saxon to Ministry & Oversight for the remainder of this calendar year. APPROVED @

Nominating Committee also requested that Emily Williams be appointed to CALM for the remainder of this calendar year. APPROVED @

200909.4 Burt House Committee

On behalf of the Burt House Committee, Clerk provided some background information about the roofing needs of the Burt House. Dick Crepeau reported that about \$4,986 was available in the Burt House repair budget at the end of August and \$21,612 was available in the general funds. MM APPROVED the following MINUTE:

- The Burt House Committee requests \$6,000 to repair the roof of the Burt House. @

200909.5 Property Committee Charges

Pursuant to the minute approved at the July, 2009 MM, Clerk brought charges for the three Property Committees that oversee stewardship of the Meeting's properties.

- a. The charge as presented in the Clerk's notes for MM for the Burt House Committee was APPROVED.
- b. The charge as presented in the Clerk's notes for MM for the Hector Meetinghouse Committee was APPROVED.
- c. The charge as presented in the Clerk's notes for MM for the Rt. 79 Committee was APPROVED. @

200909.6 Next Steps in Seeking a New Meetinghouse

Friends discussed perceptions that the Burt House has been seen as an obstacle to moving forward on a new meetinghouse. Some F/friends expressed openness to selling the Burt House in due time should the Meeting find a suitable home. Several F/friends expressed the desire to have a dedicated discussion about the place of the Burt House in our Meeting. @

The following Minute was APPROVED:

- MM requests the Treasurer, Clerk, Assistance Clerk, and Finance Committee develop a recommended maximum amount Meeting should spend for a Meetinghouse with two options: (a) without selling the Burt House; and (b) with selling the Burt House. @

At 2:55 p.m., 13 F/friends gathered in silent worship before adjourning. We will meet again for Worship with Attention to Business on October 11, 2009 at the Café in Anabel Taylor Hall on the Cornell campus.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Ray, Co-Recording Clerk

Advices & Queries

from NYYM Faith & Practice

Advice 15. 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 a lack of sympathy may cause harm where only good was intended.

Advice 16. Friends' business meetings are meetings for worship with a concern for business. When there seems to be disagreement, a free expression of all opinions should be encouraged. Those who speak in meetings for business are advised not to be unduly

persistent in advocacy or opposition, but, after having fully expressed their views, to recognize the generally expressed sense of the meeting. A deep and seeking silence can help to reconcile seemingly opposing points of view. Meetings should be conducted in the spirit of wisdom, forbearance, and love.

Query 14. Do we make ourselves available in a tender and caring way when we sense a need for assistance in time of trouble? Do we trust each other enough to make our needs known to someone in our meeting?

Query 15. Do we partake of the joy of the love of God and make our lives a celebration of the sharing of this love? Do our daily lives so demonstrate Friends' testimonies as to commend them to others?

October 2009 Calendar

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

Other Weekly IMM Events

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

Monthly Events of Ithaca Monthly Meeting

October 11th

Rise of Mtg **Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business.**
Agenda items should be provided to Tom Brown, Clerk, by October 8th.

October 25th

Rise of Mtg **Dish-to-pass brunch** in the cafe in Anabel Taylor Hall.
Please bring finger foods to share.

October Events (*For more information about asterisked items, see inside.)

Oct 4, Sunday

Rise of Mtg **Social Justice.***

Oct 5, Monday

7p Speaker from **Neve Shlaom / Wahat al-Salam** at Unitarian Universalist Church, 306 N Aurora Street.*

Oct 7, Wednesday

8p **Men's Fellowship** at the Chapter House.*

Oct 10, Saturday

4p **Floating Meeting** with Attention to Apples at the Murphy home, 78 Genung Circle.

7:15p **Meeting for Healing** at 112 Mount Pleasant Rd.*

Oct 13, Tuesday

7:30p **Peace Witness** at the Burtt House.*

Oct 20, Tuesday

6:30p **Meeting for Healing**, 112 Mt. Pleasant Road.*

Oct 23, Friday

7p **Women's Fellowship**, Smart Monkey Cafe.*

Oct 25, Sunday

9:30a **Beyond Consensus** discussion of high-stakes decision-making in our meeting, 314 Anabel Taylor Hall.*

Oct 31, Saturday

1p **Burtt House Work Day**, 227 Willard Way.*