



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

January 2010

IMM CONTACTS

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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

Events:

If you are interested in setting up or scheduling a program or presentation for our meeting, please see the instructions on the meeting website.

**NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS
Due January 28th**

Materials for January 31st'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

Prayer

Nancy Gabriel at Sage Chapel Service of Lessons & Carols, Dec 7, 2009

Friends,

This evening we are lifted, we are filled,
with light, with beauty, with comfort, with hope.

With the promise of fulfillment of our souls' eternal
longing for Emmanuel, God with us.

May the joy of this evening be for us, in the words of George Fox,

“a charge for you all in the presence of the living God: be patterns, be examples in all countries, places, islands, nations, wherever you may come, that your carriage and life may preach among all sorts of people; then you will come to walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in every one whereby in them ye may be a blessing and make the witness [of] God in them to bless you.”

Amen.

Meetings for Discernment

As your representative to NYYM Meetings for Discernment, Nancy Gabriel has forwarded the queries which will be considered over the daylong Meeting for Worship on February 20. This Meeting for Discernment is a time for us to consider the nature of our meetings and worship groups as active faith communities.

Our faith unites the historic beliefs of its Christian foundation with the corporate and individual search for the experience of God for today. This faith draws us into a community that emphasizes the integration of worship and work, faith and practice, in which we strengthen and challenge each other. Through this fellowship God's love and power can work towards the healing of the world. (NYYM Faith and Practice, pp. 10-11)

What do you cherish and what do you yearn for in your meeting as a faith community?

“In a true community we will not choose our companions, for our choices are so often limited by self-serving motives. Instead, our companions will be given to us by grace. Often they will be persons who will upset our settled view of self and world. In fact, we might define true community as the place where the person you least want to live with always lives!” (Parker J Palmer, 1977)

Do Parker Palmer's words reflect your experience?

What is required from us in order for us to reach wholeness and vitality as a faith community? What discipline? What action?

Nancy invites you all to receive these thoughts and Queries, and to share your responses with her, perhaps in a discussion setting: 277-8930 or ntg2@cornell.edu.

Continuation of Monthly Meeting Minutes (on page 3): On behalf of the Earthcare Committee, Margaret McCasland brought the following minute to December Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, where it was approved:

Energy Sources and Right Relationship with Earth

All sources of energy should be produced in ways that maintain Right Relationship with Earth and with all people and all other living things. Whenever we extract energy sources from the earth to use for human activities, we do so in ways that harm Earth's living systems and disrupt balance for living things.

We affirm the primacy of creating truly safe and renewable energy sources as quickly as possible. We are concerned that favoring natural gas as "cleaner" than coal both slows the necessary development of truly ecological energy sources, and obscures the full costs of extracting and using that fuel. Natural gas (methane) traps over 20 times as much heat as carbon dioxide. The many ways in which it is released into the atmosphere (i.e., leaks which regularly occur during exploration, drilling, storing, processing, transmission and then combustion) negate much--if not all--of its advantages over coal. Long-term costs include: the pollution of water and soil, the destruction of roads and other infrastructure, the costs of treating health problems resulting from release of toxins, and the loss of productivity of those whose health is adversely affected.

While there is much gas tightly embedded in shale formations throughout the US, one of the largest formations begins in New York and continues as far south as Tennessee. The gas industry has estimated that enough gas can be extracted from this Marcellus shale to provide about two years' supply for the entire United States. This is an amount that can easily be saved through conservation and efficiency measures, using technology that can be implemented quickly and that will continue to reduce our needs for energy until we can fully switch to renewable sources, using proven technologies such as geothermal, passive and active solar, non-food biofuels, and appropriate-scale wind and hydropower.

We call upon Friends to educate themselves and to examine their own lives and patterns of consumption. In unity with the Minute on the Care of God's Creation, approved by Friends' United Meeting in Triennial Session on July 15, 1999, "We call upon the nations of the world, and in particular our own governments, to enact laws and reach agreements which will protect the creation from the effects of human exploitation, greed and carelessness."

Announcements

Kitchen Cupboard Needs Support

For many years our Meeting has supported Ithaca Kitchen Cupboard as one of the participating congregations of Area Congregations Together (ACT). This means that the first Wednesday of every month someone (usually 2 or 3 someones) from our Meeting needs to be at the Salvation Army building in Ithaca to help the Kitchen Cupboard clients select food and personal care items, to bag it all up for them, and to send them off with warm wishes for a good month.

For the past 4 or 5 years the usual team of F/friends who handle this work each month has been Ginny Gartlein, Heather Ruff, and Melissa Travis Dunham, with a small number of other Friends stepping in as needed.

Recently Melissa started a full-time job and is no longer available to help with Kitchen Cupboard.

Does anyone else have Wednesday afternoon free once a month to step in and help? It could be on a regular or just occasional basis. You would need to be at the Salvation Army building on Albany St. in Ithaca from about 1 pm - 3 pm (or until the last client is served which can sometimes be as late as 3:30) on the first Wednesday of the month. The work is not difficult, although it can get busy at times. No experience necessary! Benefits include smiles, laughter, and a general appreciation for life's blessings. Any and all interested F/friends should get in touch with Ginny Gartlein at 272-3471.

Native America Video Titles Sought

From our Yearly Meeting's Indian Affairs Committee: We received a request from Andrew David of the Longhouse group at Sing Sing prison. They would like (VHS format only) movies of the following titles: *Last of the Dogmen*, *Last of the Mohicans*, *Lakota Woman*, *Broken Chain*, *Broken Arrow*, *Dances with Wolves*, *Clear Cut*, *Apocalypto*, *Black Robe*, *Squanto*, *Smoke Signals*, *Windwalker*, *I Will Fight No More Forever*, and *Windtalkers*. If anyone would like to donate a copy of any of these movies (used is fine), please contact Susan Wolf at QuakerWolf@gmail or call 272-1618. You can also bring them to Meeting to pass to Susan. Thanks!

Serving Our Meeting

Nominating Committee is still looking for f/Friends to serve on the Burt House Committee and Peace Witness. If you are at all interested, please contact: Sue Ruff, Alexa Yuskevich, or Erica Weiss.

Doug Shire's Band

Doug Shire's band, ONE LOVE Devotional Chant, is having a CD Release Concert on Friday, January 8th at 8:00 PM at the Ahimsa Yoga Studio in the Dewitt Mall, immediately adjacent to Moosewood Restaurant. We will be singing chants from a variety of world religious traditions, in an uplifting, joyful celebration. Dessert and chai will be served. Admission is \$5, or free with a CD purchase. This promises to be a wonderful event! For more information, contact Doug Shire or Jody Kessler at 272-0968.

**Minutes of the December 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.)

200912.1 Gathering. The Ithaca Monthly Meeting (IMM) of the Religious Society of Friends met on December 13, 2009, in the Café at Anabel Taylor Hall, Cornell University, for Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. At 12:40 p.m., 17 F/friends settled into worship. Clerk read NYYM Queries and Advices #13 (available in the December IMM newsletter). The Minutes were read from the November Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. Clerk reviewed the agenda for today's business. Alexa Yesukevitch and Carolyn Kenyon held the Meeting in the Light during the conduct of business.

200912.2 Report from Ad hoc Working Group for Immigrant Support. Garry Thomas brought the semi-annual report, briefly highlighting current aspects of the group's work with the two families IMM has been supporting. These Friends have offered a wide range of assistance, often in cooperation with local and government agencies. The group requested and Meeting APPROVED continuing the third Sunday collections for the Refugee Fund. @

200912.3 Peace Witness Committee. Marjorie Baines brought the committee's recommendations for donations to be made from their remaining budgeted funds. Meeting APPROVED giving \$140 to each of the following organizations: Bolivian Quaker Education Fund (BQEF), Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL), Friends Peace Teams, National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT), American Friends of Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam (NSWAS). @

200912.4 Social Justice Committee. Betsy Keokowsky brought the committee's recommendations for donations to be made from their remaining discretionary funds: \$200 to Women for Afghan Women; \$200 to Share the Warmth, a local project of Catholic Charities; \$100 for the World Fistula Fund (to aid in the medical treatment of women in Africa). APPROVED. @

200912.5 Nominating Committee. Melody Johnson brought the committee's report. With the formation of the Pastoral Care Committee, Ministry and Oversight has agreed to reduce its size by two members. Though a few vacancies remain to be filled, Meeting APPROVED the roster of Committee assignments for 2010. @

200912.5 Finance Committee. Dick Crepeau reviewed key features of the proposed 2010 budget. Among the proposed changes are small increases in the budgeted gifts to other organizations and in the Special Needs Fund. Responding to a question, Finance Committee has reviewed and researched IMM's contributions to Friends' General Conference, which have declined steadily over the past decade. The committee asked Meeting to consider whether we might increase that gift. Meeting APPROVED raising the amount to be given to FGC in 2010 to \$400. With these changes, Meeting APPROVED the 2010 budget. @

200912.7 Treasurer's report. Mike Simkin reviewed the monthly report, noting the anticipated need to pay for repairs to the Burt House and the Hector Meeting House. Contributions of approximately \$18,000 will have to be received by year-end to reach IMM's budgeted total for 2009. Treasurer proposed the following Minute, which was APPROVED:

To close out the now inactive Voices for Peace Fund, Meeting directs Peace Witness Committee to decide how to donate the \$121 remaining in that fund in an appropriate way to peace-related organizations.

Meeting received the Treasurer's report. @

200912.8 Program Committee. Dick Crepeau read the proposed charge for this committee, previously distributed, and it was APPROVED. He also reported that a new Quaker Basics series has been requested and Program Committee will discuss organizing it for this Spring. @

200912.9 Earthcare Committee. Margaret McCasland brought a revised version of the committee's draft of a Minute on Energy Sources and Right Relationship with Earth. She read the proposed Minute for Meeting's consideration. After questions, comments, and discussion, Friends produced this Minute:

[see inset, "Energy Sources," on page 2]

This minute was APPROVED. Earthcare Committee will distribute this Minute in a timely way to appropriate agencies of government, to Quaker Earthcare Witness, and to NYYM Earthcare Working Group.

200912.10 Next business meeting. Our next Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business will be our Annual Meeting, as well as the January monthly meeting, to be held on January 10, 2010, in the Café at Anabel Taylor Hall after the rise of Meeting for Worship.

At 3:10 PM, 15 F/friends gathered in silent worship before adjourning.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Gabriel, 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.

January 2009 Calendar of Ithaca Monthly Meeting

Men's Fellowship

Wednesday, January 6, 8p

Friends are invited to join others for casual conversation on any topic at the Chapter House.

Annual Meeting of the Corporation

Sunday, January 10, Rise of Mtg

The annual reporting of the trustees to the legally incorporated body of the Ithaca Monthly Meeting.

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

Sunday, January 10, Rise of Mtg

Annual reports from all committees should be provided items to Tom Brown by January 6th at the latest.

Peace Witness Committee

Tuesday, January 12, 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.

Women's Fellowship

Friday, January 15, 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.

Malawi Matters: Healthcare & Culture

Sunday, January 17, Rise of Mtg

A short talk & video—titled "Healthcare & Culture"—about Erica Weiss's trip to Malawi, Africa. Erica co-led a short term study abroad last May with 7 Ithaca College students for 2 weeks.

Meeting for Healing

Tuesday, January 26, 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.

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 Burt House
- Thurs 5-5:30p **Peace Vigil** at the bottom of East State Street near the Community School for Music and Arts