

Hamilton

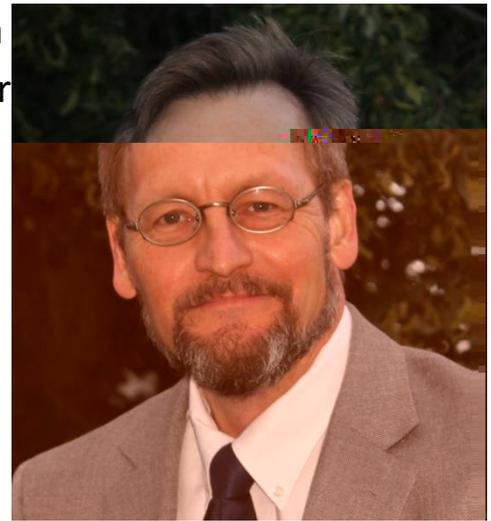
Friends

October/

# Coffee List

Yonge Street Meeting Friends (Quakers) is hosting an ecumenical talk given by Dr. Jeffrey Dudiak, Professor at King's University in Edmonton

# ***DOES RELIGION HAVE A FUTURE***



**Date/Time:** Friday, 27 October 2017 at 7:30 p.m.

**Location:** Yonge Street Meeting House, 17030 Yonge Street,  
Newmarket Ontario

**Just south of Eagle Street, on west side**

**Entrance by donation**

**Light refreshments will be served.**

**We are an ACCESSIBLE facility.**

**Reserve your seat**

**Contact:** D. Richard Kamus [[kamus@rogers.com](mailto:kamus@rogers.com)] 905-939-2262

Jeffrey Dudiak is Professor of Philosophy at The King's University, Edmonton, and a member of Edmonton Monthly Meeting of Friends. A lifelong Quaker, Jeff has been the clerk of the Friends Association for Higher Education, on the coordinating committee of the Quaker Studies Group of the American Academy of Religion, and on the advisory board of the journal Quaker Religious Thought. He has written, edited, and contributed to a number of books and journals in the areas of both Continental Philosophy and Quakerism. His five morning lectures at Canadian Yearly Meeting 2012 have been published by Friends United Press under the title "

## Sustainability Initiatives

Friends, at the last Meeting for Worship for Business we discussed the request from Canadian Yearly Meeting for all Monthly Meetings to report to CYM the initiatives they have undertaken to improve sustainability. These reports will be compiled by Yearly Meeting into a report to be sent to Friends World Committee for Consultation, in response to the Kabarak Call from the last World Conference of Friends. I was asked to make the report to our new General Secretary, Cameron Fraser, based on our discussion. Here is what I sent:

Hello, Cameron. This is our report, to be incorporated into CYM's report to FWCC regarding the Kabarak Call to sustainability.

Hamilton Monthly Meeting has made changes to improve the sustainability of our own faith home by improving the energy efficiency of the Meeting House:

- \* new, more efficient furnace;
- \* complete insulation of the walls, which were formerly just cement block;
- \* replacing old windows and doors with better-insulating windows and doors;
- \* using Bullfrog Power.

These have not all been done since CYM's commitment to respond to the Kabarak Call, but they are actions we have taken over the past several years.

In addition, for years we have been:

- \* recycling all paper, plastic, metals, etc.
- \* composting organic materials

We are presently in the process of having an environmentally friendly new roof installed.

Through the explicit encouragement by various individual members and through their example, all our members and attenders are enjoined to live out our testimonies of simplicity and sustainability, for example, reducing our carbon footprint by using Bullfrog Power, growing food for consumption, driving less and sharing rides, recycling and composting, etc. Some Friends have made significant changes in their lifestyle to better exemplify Quaker beliefs and heal our earth.

Sincerely,

Beverly Shepard

Clerk, Hamilton Monthly Meeting

## Hamilton Meeting at Play



-Submitted by Don Woodside



William Olenek has been awarded a Canada 150 Nation Builder award for his volunteer work with environmental causes.

-Submitted by Katherine Smith

## **What do our testimonies really mean?**



Small Great Things, Book by Jodi Picoult  
. Ballentine Books, 2016, 470 p.

This is a novel about a dedicated and capable labour-and-delivery nurse with 20 years of caring and helping others. Unexpectedly, she is faced with an ardent racist couple who demand that this nurse, who is black, not be allowed to touch their infant. When their baby boy dies from an innate deficiency, their very genuine grief is the motivation for accusing the nurse of murder.

She is fortunate in having a dedicated and capable public defender. The trial reveals how, for those of us who have benefitted from being part of a privileged minority, we carry unintended, yet pervasive and unwitting “institutional” racism. We are most likely to deny our racism, and feel that the claim is unjust. We are not vehement racists, hating those that are different from ourselves. But we protest the designation of racist from a position of being comfortably white. It is, after all, our birthright. But it defines our life chances just as surely as being a born a person of colour defines their life chances. Yes, I have just phrased this as a we-and-they difference. Please think about it.

Jodi Picoult is a mature and well-published (23 books) novelist, and this book is also her own self-discovery. Her creation of the novel’s likeable and admirable public defender parallels her own voyage into the unwitting and largely ignored territory of her own racism, and by extension, ours. What we take for granted, such as respectful civility from others, and a fair wage. But people who are visibly different cannot. Please view the site [Woke Folks Explaining Privilege](#). In this book, she tells us how she found it to be virtually a foreign culture, in a 6 page author’s note. She has written a small great thing.

-Submitted by Dick Preston, Hamilton M.M.