

Hamilton Quaker Newsletter

January 2025



In view of the harm done by the use of alcohol, tobacco, and other habit-forming drugs, consider whether you should limit your use of them, or refrain from using them altogether. Remember that any use of alcohol or drugs may impair judgment and put both the user and others in danger.

Advices and Queries #40

Upcoming Events and Announcements

In the November issue of the newsletter, we published a piece about a family in Gaza whom some Quakers known to us are choosing to support. The wrong email address was given for funds to be transferred to, should people in our meeting wish to help. Should you wish to provide assistance, you can e-transfer to this address susan.wortman@primus.ca or mail a cheque to 66 Hillcrest Ave, Hamilton ON. L8P 2W9. She will be sure that the money gets to the person who is in charge of donations and will be accounted for and allocated appropriately.

The first Enquirers' Discussion of the new year will be on Sunday, January 19, beginning at noon. The topic will be Quaker views on death. Participants are welcome to bring a lunch.

PSAC will meet online at 7:45 p.m. on Monday, January 20. Please use the regular Meeting for Worship Zoom link.

The Reading Group has returned from hiatus, and the next meeting will be on Sunday, January 26, from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. in our Zoom space. The reading group has chosen Deborah Haight's *Meeting* (23 pages). This pamphlet is available in our library and also online:

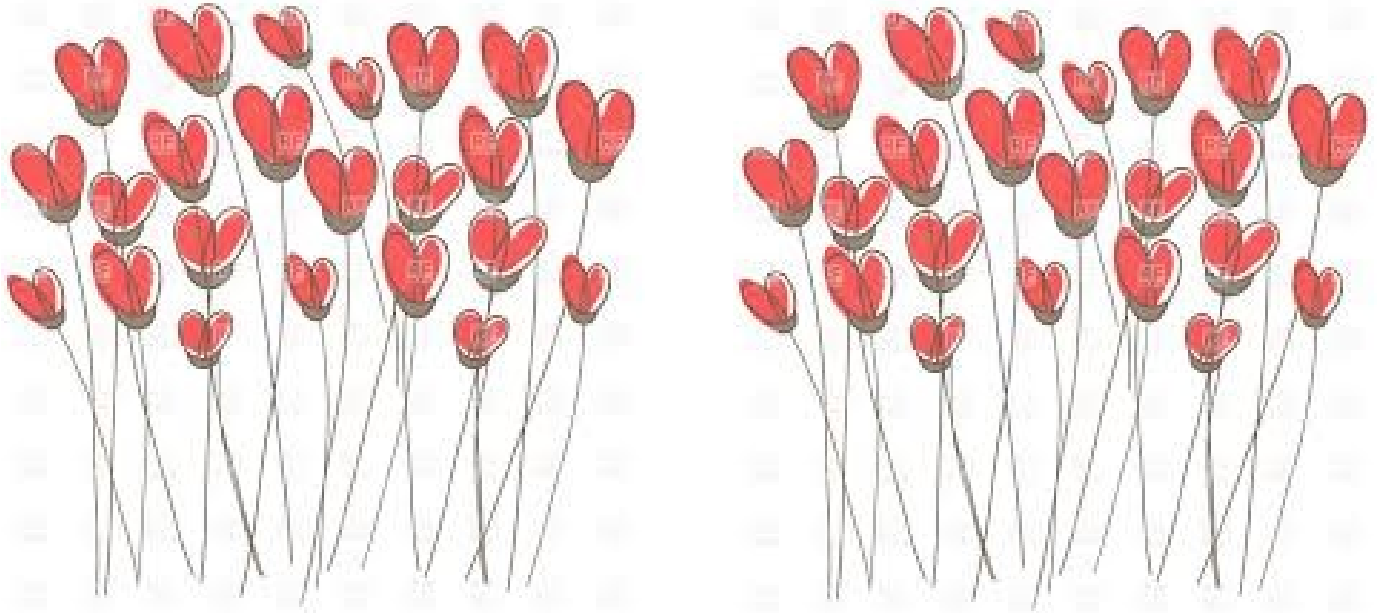
https://quaker.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Meeting_by_Deborah_Haight.pdf Please contact Shirla (shirla766@gmail.com) to be added to the participant list.

The next Meeting for Worship for Business will be held in person at the Meeting House on Sunday, February 2 at 12:30 p.m. You can also join us online on our regular Meeting Zoom link.



Volunteers Needed

We are looking for volunteers to help plan our spring retreat! This isn't a big job, and it is a fun way to connect with others in our meeting. Please contact Harriet Woodside (woodsideh@gmail.com) by January 15 if you would be interested in lending a hand!



Save the days!
Hamilton Monthly Meeting Retreat
May 30 to June 1, 2025
Camp NeeKauNis
Waubashene, Ontario
The more kids, the merrier!

First Day School Christmas Presentation

by Glenna Janzen



What a joy it was to work with the children in Meeting through the autumn until Christmas to explore the Christmas story and prepare the First Day School (FDS) presentation.

We were very glad to have Ada join us in late autumn and are delighted that they will bring their skills and enthusiasm to work with FDS and us this winter and spring.

Until about mid-April (depending on March Break considerations) we are looking forward to time with the children to study the Peace testimony and its meaning in our lives.

Working with the FDS children is a privilege and we encourage others to take some time with our children, whether a single session or a longer study. There are many resources available in our Meetinghouse, including the books with the stories and pictures from the Quaker Tapestry, which were originally FDS lessons.

From Advices & Queries #19. Rejoice in the presence of children and young people in your meeting and recognize the gifts they bring. Remember that the meeting as a whole shares a responsibility for every child in its care. Seek for them as for yourself a full development of God's gifts and the abundant life Jesus tells us can be ours. How do you share your deepest beliefs with them, while leaving them free to develop as the spirit of God may lead them? Do you invite them to share their insights with you? Are you ready both to learn from them and to accept your responsibilities towards them?

At Margaret's

by Beverly Shepard

Three windows side by side
form one wide
window colourless
as water,
objects on the sills
stripped of hue
in silhouette.
Beyond,
a silent, white mosaic
of snowflakes
fills
the valley between house
and grey trees,
where one branch
is decked with a single
cardinal,
puffed and scarlet:
all the colour
in the world.



About this Newsletter / Submission Guidelines

This Newsletter is a monthly publication of news and announcements relevant to Hamilton Quakers.

It is also a venue for members and attenders to share creative works or articles they have written on subjects that may be of interest to our Quaker community. As a general guideline we are looking for submissions that are inspirational and related to Quaker concerns, as well as announcements and news. Members and Attenders are encouraged to submit works for the newsletter.

Requests for newsletter items are announced after Meeting for Worship and/or via email during the week before Meeting for Worship for Business. They are due by the Friday before Business Meeting. Submission of materials implies permission to publish. Copyright for original material resides with the author.

If the person submitting the article is unknown to the editor or if there are questions as to whether the article will be appropriate for the Quaker newsletter, the editor will consult with the clerk(s) who will together discern what will be included. Written permission to publish must be obtained from the copyright holder if a submission is not the original work of the submitter, unless the works are in the public domain, or are covered under the creative commons license.

Hamilton Meeting reserves the right to edit submissions for length or content in consultation with the authors. Please limit submissions to a maximum of 750 words. When opinion pieces are included a line will be added indicating "Submissions reflect the opinions of their authors, and not necessarily of Hamilton Monthly Meeting".

Submissions should be directed to the current editor, Síân Reid, daywitch@gmail.com.

We acknowledge the land upon which Hamilton Friends Meeting House is located as the shared traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabeg, protected by the Dish with One Spoon Wampum Belt covenant. This historic peace agreement between the Iroquois Confederacy, the Ojibwe, and allied nations represents a commitment to share and protect the land, water, plants, and animals, with respect. It is the privilege of Hamilton Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) to share in the tradition of stewardship of this land, which has been the environment of human beings in this territory for thousands of years. We honour the original Peoples of this land and express a commitment to and gratitude for the opportunity to work together toward restorative justice and reconciliation.