

Hamilton Quaker Newsletter

March 2025



We do not own the world, and its riches are not ours to dispose of at will. Show a loving consideration for all creatures, and seek to maintain the beauty and variety of the world. Work to ensure that our increasing power over nature is used responsibly, with reverence for life. Rejoice in the splendor of God’s continuing creation.

“Be patterns, be examples in all countries, places, islands, nations, wherever you come, that your carriage and life may preach among all sorts of people, and to them; then you will come to walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in every one.

-- George Fox, 1656

Advices and Queries #42

Upcoming Events and Announcements

Canadian Friends' Service Committee hosted a lively discussion a few weeks ago about a Guaranteed Basic Livable Income in Canada. Anyone with an interest in a more just and peaceful society is warmly welcomed to join their next online discussion on Wednesday, March 12 at 7:00 pm Eastern. Register at <https://QuakerService/DiscussionGroup>. Anyone can join the conversation whether you were able to make it to the first discussion group or not.

There will be an Enquirer's Brown Bag discussion after meeting on Sunday, March 16. Discussion will revolve around a set of queries developed by Putney Friends Meeting in the United States to help us to bring and offer one another hope in these critical times. The queries can be found at: <https://neym.org/news/2024/12/encouragement-our-meetings-time-crisis> All are welcome to attend.

A small celebration will be held on Sunday, March 16 during after-meeting refreshments to recognize Nathi (Mona's son) and Tiana's recent wedding in Jamaica.

PSAC will meet online at 7:45 p.m. on Monday, March 17. Please use the regular Meeting for Worship Zoom link.

Thursday March 20, Mel Burns, Canadian Friends Service Committee (CFSC) Peace Program Coordinator, Karen Ridd CFSC Transformative Justice Program Coordinator, and Jeremy Vander Hoek, CFSC Indigenous Rights Program Coordinator will deliver a workshop available to PSACs and Friends across Canada. This is an opportunity to learn what other PSACs are doing and to be re-energized with new ideas. The idea for this meeting came from HMM and we hope many of us from HMM will attend. CFSC will provide the zoom link for this meeting.

First Day School is exploring aspects of peace. One of the books we will read is about personal and direct post WW2 aid to families in Europe. Carol Leigh recently received an email from an acquaintance in Cambridge whose daughter works at the shelter on Six Nations. The shelter wants to have a pair of **new**

slippers for each person, adult or child, who comes in, and a **new** stuffie for each child. We would like to gather contributions to take to the shelter, as this project fits nicely with the FDS theme. FDS will bring boxes to fill and write messages / draw pictures to include, and we hope that Hamilton Friends will help. We will be reading this book and writing the messages on March 23. Please bring contributions by that day. Friends who wish to contribute and are housebound can contact Carol Leigh (clwehking@gmail.com) or Glenna (glennajanzen@gmail.com) or call them at 905 627-8422 to arrange a pickup.

The next meeting of the Reading group will be on Sunday, March 23, from 7 to 8 p.m. in our Zoom space. The group will be studying *Deep Hospitality* by Rhiannon Grant - Pendle Hill Pamphlet - please let the clerk know if you wish to participate, so she can purchase a copy for you (\$11). 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, April 6 at 12:30 p.m. You can also join us online on our regular Meeting Zoom link.

Robbie McGregor is searching for Friends and attenders who may have reminiscences to share about the late Rex Barger. Her contact information is available in the most recent version of our directory for those who might be able to assist.

A Friendly reminder that CFSC has various print resources available to Friends. If you'd like copies for your Meeting House or other display area take a look at [this list of what's available](#) (PDF) and let Jeremy (Jeremy@QuakerService.ca) know what you'd like.

Save the Date! We will be holding a post-meeting farewell gathering on Sunday, April 13 for Chelsea Rainford and Janice and Rory D'Eon, who are moving to Nova Scotia.

Save the Date! The Hamilton Monthly Meeting retreat will be held at Camp NeeKauNis from Friday, May 30 to Sunday June 1, 2025. We would love to see you there!

State of Society Report

by Ministry and Counsel

Each year, Monthly Meetings across Canada prepare and submit State of Society reports to Canadian Yearly Meeting. These reflective reports aim to capture the activities and spiritual state of each meeting over the previous year. Ministry and Counsel has prepared the following draft, and invites comments before it is finalized. Please send comments and suggestions to Anya Moon (anyaemoon@gmail.com).

2024 was a busy and active year for Hamilton Monthly Meeting (HMM). We noticed an increase in newcomers, many of whom have continued to attend regularly, and we also noticed an increase in attenders across all age groups from children to young adults to older adults to seniors. We appreciate the vibrancy this provides our Meeting both in spiritual ways (e.g., vocal ministry) and logistical ways (e.g., volunteers for after-Meeting refreshments). HMM continued the enquirer's group for new attenders. There are more children attending First Day School, and the number of First Day School teachers and activities have increased. Our library and maintenance committees remain very active, and we were pleased once again to use our upstairs apartment to house temporarily a relocated Friend. Our Meeting supports various initiatives aimed at combatting homelessness in the community. This year, based on the Peace and Social Action Committee's recommendations, we purchased community bonds to help fund community housing facilities owned and operated by a local charity, Indwell.

We attempted to provide multiple opportunities for Friends, both seasoned and new, to connect with one another through supper groups, a monthly reading group, a Valentine's Day potluck, a spring retreat, and holiday sharing of cookies and carols. Our monthly newsletter is a source of information and connection. We continue to appreciate the option of remote attendance after a lot of work went into improving the technology needed for this.

Our ongoing challenge is to effectively encourage members and attenders to participate more fully in the work of the Meeting and other Quaker bodies. This challenge is becoming more noticeable because our core of experienced members is dwindling. Our Meeting grieved the loss of two longtime Friends in 2024.

The combination of seasoned friends and new attenders offers an opportunity to foster spiritual growth in our Meeting. We are mindful that seasoned friends' needs both overlap and are different from those who are new to Meeting. We ask ourselves how we can model Quaker ways and inform newcomers of Quaker history and process while allowing space and opportunities for all to seek in ways that feel right to them.



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.