

Hamilton Quaker Newsletter

September 2024



Do you uphold those who are acting under concern, even if their way is not yours? Can you lay aside your own wishes and prejudices while seeking with others to find God's will for them?

Advices and Queries #36

Upcoming Events and Announcements

There will be a Brown Bag Lunch discussion about the future of Half-Yearly Meeting on Sunday, September 15, following Meeting for Worship.

Yonge Street Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends invites you to come and celebrate the 400th year of George Fox's birth. Festivities will take place at the Yonge Street Meeting House, 17030 Yonge Street in Newmarket (L3Y 8V3), on Sunday, September 15, from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. rain or shine. There will be games, crafts, singing, light refreshments, beverages and cake. Please bring a lawn chair, if you are able. Attenders are also welcome to join in Meeting for Worship at 10:30. While the RSVP date has passed, Friends who are interested in attending can contact the organizers at clerk@newmarket.ca to see if it is still possible.

PSAC will meet online at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, September 16. Please use the regular Meeting for Worship Zoom link. This is our first meeting since our summer break, and a great time to join us!

The Gardening Committee invites you to join them for a work bee in the Meeting House garden on Saturday, September 21 from 10:30 a.m. until noon. This is an opportunity to do some general yard work and possibly make a start on using some of the wood chips! There will be refreshments!

The next Quaker Education Session will be on Sunday, September 22, beginning at noon. Participants are welcome to bring a lunch.

The next meeting of the Reading group will be on Sunday, September 22, from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. in our Zoom space. We are reading Thomas King's *The Truth about Stories: A Native Narrative*, from the [CBC 2003 Massey Lecture Series](#). This month, we will be discussing chapter / lecture four. Please contact Shirla (shirla766@gmail.com) to be added to the participant list.

Friends will have the opportunity to visit the Food Share facility in Hamilton on Thursday, September 26 at 10:00 a.m. Felicia Kostecky from Food Share spoke with Friends after meeting a few months ago, and explained that the organization distributes food to all the food banks across the city.

The Canadian Friends' Service Committee would like you to know that their free online conflict transformation workshop series is back by popular demand. A few spots still remain and you can register by visiting <https://QuakerService.ca/>. The series will run every Tuesday in October, starting Oct 1. It runs on Zoom from noon-1:30 p.m. Eastern time.

The next Meeting for Worship for Business will be held in person at the Meeting House on Sunday, October 6 at 12:30 p.m. You can also join us online on our regular Meeting Zoom link.

Need any trees? The Shepards live in the country and are surrounded by woods. The trees keep producing offspring, and many of these spring up in inappropriate places, such as in the rockery or right next to another tree or too close to the driveway or between the patio stones. Each year, quite a few baby trees that can't survive where they've taken root have to be dug up, or clipped out. It would be better if they could be given away to someone who wants a tree (or two, or...). There are maples, white pines, cedars, birches, and no doubt others, such as black cherry and hawthorn (though these would take some searching), as well as lilac and smoke bushes. If you would like a little, healthy tree or bush to plant at this correct time of year for tree planting, please let the Shepards know. They'd be glad to help you out!



River Run Rally in Support of Grassy Narrows

by Siân Bowen-Cole

The story of the mercury poisoning of the peoples of Grassy Narrows First Nation stretches back to before 1970 when it was discovered that the pulp and paper mill had been polluting the river with mercury. This is one of Canada's worst environmental disasters. The fish in the river were poisoned by the mercury, and members of the First Nation whose primary source of food was fish ingested the poison. It bioaccumulates, and is transferred from mother to child during pregnancy and breastfeeding.

Mercury poisoning affects the central nervous system (brain and spinal cord) causing balance, speech and memory disorders, organ failure and often results in death.

There has been some attempt to clean up the river, which remains polluted, and as yet there is no treatment centre for the community. The pulp mill continues to contaminate the river with chemicals combining with the mercury to make it more toxic.

The oldest copy of *Quaker Concern* (CFSC) in Friends House Toronto from 1976 has a front page article about Grassy Narrows. Forty-eight years have passed since the article was written, nothing has changed. The water remains contaminated and undrinkable.

Teaching Grade 5 social studies, I learned with the kids about boil water advisories in Canada, which led us to discover the situation in Grassy Narrows. We wrote letters to the government. Recently I saw an opportunity to do more and actually join with others in Toronto and I signed up for the River Run Rally.

There is a bus leaving Hamilton on the 18th of September going to the rally and right back after. I have a place on it and there are about 15 more spots. You can register for the bus at <https://form.jotform.com/242204268693055>. The rally begins at noon at Grange Park in Toronto.

Judith Robinson Remembered

by Carol Leigh Wehking and Beverly Shepard

As Friends heard in August, Judith Robinson, who attended our Meeting often some years ago, before moving to Kitchener, died in hospice 3 months ago after a battle with cancer. Carol Leigh and Beverly both remember her well and are saddened by this news.

Carol Leigh

Some Hamilton Friends will remember Judy Robinson, who attended Hamilton Meeting sporadically over many years, was a regular at events and retreats, and was active with PSAC. She was a very intelligent and accomplished person and was fascinating to converse with on a variety of topics. She was a writer, and at least two of her plays received dramatic readings at the Meetinghouse. Judy's had a career as a teacher and she cared deeply about education and its place in our lives.

Judy developed cancer, but she had been hopeful of recovery as recently as March, however, she died on June 10. Her celebration of life took place on July 5. This was not a Quaker event, and we were not informed. I feel quite sad that she is gone; there was no one like her!

I, for one, will miss her.

Beverly

As Carol Leigh has written above, Judith was a dedicated writer. In addition to books and plays, she wrote for the *Globe and Mail* as a regional reporter. A couple of her plays have been produced in Canada and in the United States. They tended to focus on political situations south of our border, old and new, a topic which fascinated her.

On a personal note, Robbie and I were once in a supper group with Judith (and others). We discovered this about her cooking: she liked to prepare dishes

very simply, such as roast chicken without salt or spices or sauces, but *perfectly* cooked. That sort of sums up her approach to many aspects of life.

She and I were last in touch in April, when I assured her I was praying for a miracle, the only thing that could heal her then, when she was in hospice care. I too will miss Judith.

Judith's most recent book, Working Miracles, is available through Amazon. It's the story of Aimee Semple McPherson, evangelist and healer, who was born in Canada but lived mostly in the United States.



Greetings from the Quaker Community of the Western Cape, South Africa

by Mesut Yilmaz

Melike and I were in Cape Town, South Africa, at the beginning of June for the “Participedia Partners Conference” program, which was organized by McMaster University at the University of the Western Cape.

Before I left Hamilton for South Africa, Christina Edwards, a friend from Kitchener Meeting House, informed me that there is a Friends House in Cape Town. So, throughout the program, I looked for an opportunity to visit with the local Friends. I found it on my last day in Cape Town.

I arranged my time to participate in the Quaker Community of the Western Cape’s Meeting on Sunday, June 9. I checked the meeting time (9:30 am) and address on the webpage. I needed to hurry up for the meeting and then return to the hotel to finalize the check-out procedure before 11:30 a.m. I took a taxi and went to the meeting house. Around 20 minutes later, I was on Rye Road.

Two buildings faced each other on the street. The Quaker Meeting House, with a lovely garden, was on the left, and the Quaker Peace Centre, with its vibrant coloured name board, was on the right. Both institutions looked like the wings of a dove which is ready to fly toward PEACE.



The garden gate was open as usual for them. I climbed up the stairs, entered the hall, and found a space to sit in the left corner of the room. I know that there is a space for the new ones all the time. There were nine friends in the hall, and four friends were on the Zoom meeting.

At 10:30 a.m., during the after-words period, I introduced myself and conveyed the Hamilton Meeting House's fondest regards to the Quaker Community of the Western Cape.

I met with Heather Tuffin and Graham Thomas, who were sitting in front of me at the meeting. George Ellis was on the Zoom too. I wished I could have stayed longer, but I had to return to the hotel quickly to finalize the check-out.

I was so glad to have connected with the Friends in Cape Town at the Cape of the Continent. This connection happened from the North to the South. I brought the Quaker Community of the Western Cape's greetings to Hamilton in person. I am proud of this mission.



Thoughts at CYM 2022

by Carol Leigh Wehking

Be kind.
Have mercy.
Recurringly,
continually...,
god is love.
LOVE
is god.....



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.