

Hamilton Quaker Newsletter

November 2024



If pressure is brought upon you to lower your standard of integrity, are you prepared to resist it? Our responsibilities to God and our neighbour may involve us taking unpopular stands. Do not let the desire to be sociable, or the fear of seeming peculiar, determine your decisions.

Advices and Queries #38

Upcoming Events and Announcements

HELP NEEDED: Hamilton Friends have been given a donation of some versatile, stackable beds that could turn our small upstairs room into a bedroom when needed. They are, however, in a fifth-floor apartment in Dundas. The Prestons have offered their van for transport, but we need a couple of strong, willing workers to get the beds into the van and then out of it and into the upstairs of the Meeting House. If you think you can help, please contact Alice Preston in the next few days.

PSAC will meet online at 7:45 p.m. on Tuesday, November 12. Please use the regular Meeting for Worship Zoom link.

Members and attenders are invited to participate in World Religions Conference to be held at McMaster University on Sunday, November 17 from 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in Room B138 in the Peter George Centre for Living and Learning. This year's theme is Religion and World Peace. Parking is free, and refreshments will be provided. You can reserve your spot at the [registration page](#).

The next Quaker Education Session will be on Sunday, November 17, beginning at noon. Participants are welcome to bring a lunch.

The next meeting of the Reading group will be on Sunday, November 24, 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 the Afterwords, which are available only in the printed version, and were not recorded. The group also hopes to choose the next book they will study. 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, December 1 at 12:30 p.m. You can also join us online on our regular Meeting Zoom link.

Hamilton Meeting hosted the meeting of Canadian Yearly Meeting's Discipline Review Committee on October 26. They were glad to have a comfortable place

to work, and had a very productive day. Lunch & snacks provided by Glenna Janzen were much appreciated! DRC hopes to meet again at Hamilton in late April.

The children's Christmas presentation will take place after Meeting for Worship on Sunday, December 15. First day school participants are looking forward to seeing you all there.



Appeal to Assist a Family from Gaza

by Siân Bowen-Cole and Susan Wortman

Dear Friends,

Our good friend Susan Wortman, who was, for several years, an attender at Hamilton Monthly Meeting, has been helping to support a family from Gaza who have managed to get to Egypt. Many of us have wondered what we can do to support people suffering from violence in Gaza and Susan and the group she is working with would appreciate any money you could send her way to support them. I will include some of the letter and contact information for Susan at the end if you feel led to support this family.

Dear Hamilton Monthly Meeting,

I am writing with my best wishes, and to ask if you would consider financially supporting a family that I and a few others have been supporting, first in Gaza and then to help them evacuate, and now sustaining them in Cairo.

In February, a dear friend Rabbi David Mivasair, asked if I would help with a group he was forming to support a family in Gaza, emotionally and financially. He is forming groups like this around families in Gaza, some of whom he has been helping for five years.

This has become an incredible experience for me, has lifted me out of the depression I was in around this issue, and brought so much joy into my life, amongst the horror that is Gaza. There are now seven of us in our group, two of whom are Arabic speakers. To begin with we helped support them in Gaza after their home in North Gaza was bombed and after they walked 40 KM to the south, only to be displaced 7 more times, witnessing bombing and killings, sometimes of relatives.

Amani is the strong 36 year old matriarch of not only her own family (5 children and an injured husband) but is the eldest of 12 siblings! She decided in late February that she wanted to evacuate from Gaza to Egypt. This was an

extraordinarily difficult and expensive proposition, but somehow, miraculously, we managed to raise the \$30,000 necessary in a month-and-a-half, and after a nail-biting two week delay after registering, Amani and the 5 kids crossed over the border at Rafah to Egypt!

Her husband, and some other siblings with the help of others, were able to cross over shortly before the border was closed and bombed. Now, they are in Cairo, where while safe, life is not easy. Palestinians are not permitted to work, go to government schools, access government assistance, and have to pay for any medical expenses. We are committed to this little family, and are trying to help where we can with some of the extended family.

This is why we are asking for your help. I will list all the expenses we are fundraising for. Any contribution would be deeply appreciated.

The monthly rent, food and utilities for Amani's family come to about \$1,400. Amani needs monthly injections for a medical condition: \$400. Six of Amani's sisters live in an apartment with 2 husbands, and 6 kids (4 and under). We are trying to help them when we can. Their total rent and expenses come to around \$3,000.

We have found a private school that will accept Palestinian kids, and paid for the first semester's fees, but the second semester in the new year will be another \$1,000. All these figures are rough, and vary according to exchange fees and bank transfer fees.

As I said, this has become an amazing experience for me. I message with Amani virtually daily, and we have video visits regularly, with another group member translating for us. It is chaos with all the kids, and even more so when she is visiting with her sisters and all their kids! But it is also deeply moving to be part of their determination to survive.

This has been a long read, but I wanted to give you a taste of what this family is all about.

We are very careful with the funds, tracking every dollar in and out. Two of our members are in charge of the money, and if you would like details of when it is sent, how it is spent, we can provide that.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this request!

Susan Wortman

PS: I thought I'd give you a specific thing we're raising funds for: winter clothing for Amani, her kids, and sisters and their kids. It looks like they'll need about \$670-700 dollars to clothe 10 people.

People can etransfer me to this address susan.wortman@primus., or mail a cheque to 66 Hillcrest Ave, Hamilton ON. L8P 2W9. I will be sure that the money gets to the person who is in charge of our donations and will be accounted for and allocated appropriately.



Happenings around the Meeting House

photos by Glenna Janzen and Alice Preston



Thanksgiving Day Potluck!

First Day School
Preparations for their
Presentation of the
Christmas story



5 or so of September

by Nathan Lise

I am the king of
the world

No sense taking it all away.

There are people, here, there,
everywhere,
Who try to do
BETTER.

I am not always
King.
For a while.

BETTER.

we understand that people are not the same thing
the always the same thing same thing

It Takes You Away.
But I don't understand.

flowing
flowing
flowing
into the distance.
Locating the true point,
the misunderstood principle.

I'm not an essence or a physical manifest.

We search- but the jar remains
broken.

this texture, close to my center,
locates the key point:

You may understand the
sounds my body makes,

I do not.
I don't think I ever can.

Recall a child:

before the expiration.
Wellness isn't always a trap

for the unexpected,
For the brave,
For those who struggle.

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I just want to keep writing. Maybe then I'll have it down.
I'll have it captured. I'll understand. But maybe I won't.

Friends, my friend's mom
died yesterday.

"worse than alzheimer's", somehow.

Took care of her for 5 or 6 years.

My age. And now she is gone
and joins her father.

There is nothing “right” to do.
But we grieve.
We resort to our base instincts.
And cry.
And find power in that.
Then, only then can we stand up in meeting.
Find a way, through cryptic poetry
to laugh and share our minds.
(I know some say a lack of ‘crypticism’ is preferred-
or something like that.)
Yet, the truths stand,
“there is no wrong way to
share in meeting”.

So here I go.
And stand.
I grieve.
But there is still
light.

And then I sit.
And hope it’s possible.
That possible could be true.

So, we try.
Fate turns.
Art is written.

I don’t know how to be.

But out it came.
I hope we are better
for it.

And I'll never, fully,
truly know.

→The spirit of happy cooking lingers and rests.

→The truth of spirit.

↳ spirit lingers.

“It's only the body that goes.”

Photo by Nathan Lise



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.