

**Hamilton Monthly Meeting**  
of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)  
7 Butty Place, Hamilton, Ontario, L8S 2R5  
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**NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2006**

**Refreshment List**

FEBRUARY 12 Glenna 19 Dawn 26 Ruth  
MARCH 5 Louise 12 Caroleigh 19 OPEN 26 Sian, Rhiannon and Ben  
APRIL 2 Christina 9 Ian 16 Dick 23 OPEN 30 OPEN  
There may be a few spots still open. If you would like to take a turn please sign up on the list in the kitchen.  
Many thanks, Christina - housekeeping

**Upcoming Dates**

Feb 18 Visit and performance by Tibetan monks  
Feb 18-19-20 Young Friends Retreat at Meeting House  
Feb 23 Working for Peace Event  
April 9 Consultation and Renewal discussion after meeting  
April 22 Spring Retreat

**Kathleen Hertzberg Birthday Party**

There is an open house to celebrate the Kathleen Hertzberg's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday at the Toronto Monthly Meeting House, Sat Feb 11, 2 to 4 pm. All are welcome.

**Working for Peace in the Twenty-First Century: exploring our peace testimonies.**

Sponsored by Peace and Social Action Committee

When: February 23rd, 7pm to 9pm

Where: Friends Meeting House, 7 Butty Place (off Lower Horning, off Whitney Ave.)

**Agenda:**

- 1) Position statements of 5 – 10 minutes duration each (totaling about 45 minutes)
  - a) Quaker historic peace testimony and its contexts in the 17th and 21st centuries. Helen Brink. (move foyer poster to the Meeting room.)
  - b) Mennonite peace testimony. Murray Lumley (subject to consent).
  - c) Canadian military peacekeeping. Mike Fox.
  - d) Non-violent Peace Force Canada. Sybil Grace
  - e) Christian Peacemakers. Tim Epp, Redeemer College.
- 2) Reading of the Axworthy - Roche letter on establishing a Federal Department of Peace
- 3) Open discussion (totaling about 45 minutes) to include other groups, including PBI, Physicians for Global Survival,
- 4) Refreshments and casual conversations

### **PSAC activities update:**

The PSAC letter regarding sending more Canadian troops to Afghanistan, composed by Ruth and Reuven and edited by PSAC members, has been published in the Spectator on Feb 2nd and e-mailed on Feb 4th to the Toronto Star and The Globe and Mail. In old-fashioned letter form it is en route to the four major political party leaders. In addition, Jesse Husk drafted a letter requesting (on behalf of PSAC) volunteer contact-persons in all CYM MM's and WG's. This has been sent, via the CYM e-mailing list, thanks to Beverly. The Afghanistan letter was appended as an example of the kind of Friendly sharing we envision.

### **Canadian forces in Afghanistan**

*Letter in Hamilton Spectator Feb 2/06*

We are deeply disturbed by Canada's present military involvement in Afghanistan – not traditionally as peacekeepers, but to a large extent in a combative role. It is also dismaying to be told that this would release the US forces for combative activities elsewhere.

We see the anguished parting of Canadian soldiers and their loved ones: we are aware of the dangers awaiting them in Afghanistan. The area is in chaos because of the concentration of insurgents, warlords, Taliban fighters and suicide bombers. We also feel that this mission will cause distress to some Afghani families.

Killing in the Middle East, has failed to bring about peace. However, a glimmer of hope has recently been relayed to the West by Osama bin Laden – to enter into dialogue leading to the cessation of hostilities in Iraq and Afghanistan. Without minimizing the possibility of betrayal, dialogue is to be preferred to silence and further killing. Some will remember it was the face-to-face meeting between Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev that brought real reductions in world tensions. We should pursue such dialogue energetically: it might possibly bring five years of carnage to an end.

We urge that Canada's combative venture in Afghanistan be aborted. It is out of keeping with our traditional and prestigious role as peacemakers and peacekeepers. By doing so, we would join France, Germany, Spain, and [possibly] Holland, with whom we might well attempt to combine our energies in the pursuit of peace.

Richard Preston, Clerk, Peace and Social Action Committee,  
Hamilton Monthly Meeting. Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)  
Richard Preston, 105 Hostein Dr, Ancaster ON L9G 2S9 905-648-1598

### **Proposed creation of new discussion group.**

On Sunday, January 1st, Advices and Queries # 27 was read during ministry. It exhorts us to 'live adventurously' and 'let your life speak'. Many members spoke with great feeling on this theme. One suggested it was perhaps time for a new experiential discussion group to be formed, and that there was 'enough God in each of us' for such a group to meet without any particular Quaker agenda, but simply to speak truth to each other about our inner feelings and states. Such a group was felt to be particularly important since 'afterword' has been discontinued. On Sunday, Jan 8th, this idea was moved forward by a few people who are willing to explore how the idea can be more widely extended and a first meeting was held on January 10th.

Obviously scheduling a time convenient to all is an impossible task. One suggestion from Sybil is that a map be provided showing the location of HMM members, and that, where clusters are clearly identified, discussion groups could be held locally at different peoples' houses. This might be particularly helpful for those who live in communities far distant from the Meeting House.

Anyone interested in joining or learning more about this project is invited to join the group presently being held

on Tuesday afternoons at 2 p.m. in the Meeting House, or contact Ray, Dick, Ian, or Carol Leigh.

## Missing Saucer

Friends, someone who came to the thank-you luncheon put on for HMM Friends by Diana and Sean in mid-January took one of the plants (which were being given as thank-you gifts) that was on a china saucer rather than a painted earthenware pot saucer. That plant had somehow lost its own saucer and we substituted the white one with a little green design around the edge. It's my saucer! - part of a whole dinner set. I hoped to get it back, and said so at the time. We will do our best to supply the person who has it with a replacement saucer if s/he wishes, but we don't even know who has my china one. Please return it and let us know if you'd like a painted one in its place. Thank you! Bev

## Additions to HMM Library since Dec 14<sup>th</sup> 2005

We have added about 23 items in the last two months, listed below by category. There is an increased interest in books, dvds and tapes on ecology/environment and sustainable lifestyles in the Meeting. To accommodate this we are setting a Special Collection area for these resources. Look for it in the corner by the library window. Suggestions and donations are very welcome as we face the practical question, "What do I do with this changed worldview, personally, as a family and faith community?"

| Title   | Author   | Call Number |
|---|--|-------------|
| <b>Category: Biography, incl Qkr</b>  |  |             |
| Letters and papers from prison : edited   | Bonhoeffer, Dietrich, 1906-1945.                         | 230.09 BON  |
| Muddling Toward Simplicity<br>(Canadian Quaker pamphlet 58)                                       | Findley, Thomas W. (1921 - )                             | 289.6 FIN   |
| Protestant mystics, The:An anthology of<br>spiritual experience from Martin Luther to T. S. Eliot | Fremantle, Anne Jackson, 1909-                           | 248.22 FRE  |
| <b>Category: Christianity</b>   |  |             |
| Bearings: or, Friends and the new<br>Reformation (Swarthmore lecture 1969)                        | Creasey, Maurice A. / Friends Home<br>Service Committee. | 230.9 CRE   |
| Broken For Life (Swarthmore Lecture)  | Burnell, S. Jocelyn                                      | 289.6 BUR   |
| Incendiary Fellowship, The  | Trueblood, Elton, 1900-                                  | 210 TRU     |
| Yoke of Christ, and other sermons., The   | Trueblood, Elton, 1900-                                  | 240.252 TRU |
| Your other vocation.  | Trueblood, Elton, 1900-                                  | 262.14 TRU  |
| <b>Category: Ecology/Environ</b>  |  |             |
| Home from Nowhere : Remaking Our<br>Everyday World for the Twenty-First Century                   | Kunstler, James Howard                                   | 307.12 KUN  |
| Oil on Ice : connects the fate of the Arctic<br>National Wildlife Refuge to energy policy         | Djerassi, Dale   | DVD 301.3   |
| Plan B 2.0 : Rescuing a Planet Under Stress<br>and a Civilization in Trouble                      | Brown, Lester Russell, 1934-                             | 333.7 BRO   |
| Radical Simplicity: Small Footprints on<br>a finite Earth   | Merkel, Jim  | 333 MER     |
| <b>Category: Lifestyle</b>  |  |             |
| Extreme simplicity : homesteading in the city   | Nyerges, Christopher / Nyerges, Dolores                  | 640.49 NYE  |

|   |                                 |             |
|---|---------------------------------|-------------|
| Freedom of Simplicity   | Foster, Richard J.              | 234.1 FOS   |
| <b>Category: Peace/Nonviolence</b>  |                                 |             |
| Nonviolent Communication :<br>a Language of Life  | Rosenberg, Marshall B.          | 153.6 ROS   |
| Nonviolent Communication<br>Companion Workbook : A practical guide for individual, group, classroom study | Rosenberg, Marshall B.          | 153.6 LEU   |
| <b>Category: Quaker Faith/practice</b>  |                                 |             |
| Very Good Week Behind Bars, A (Pendle<br>Hill Pamphlet 380)   | Ravndal, Janeal T.              | PHP 365 RAV |
| <b>Category: Religion(s), World</b>   |                                 |             |
| World's Religions, The: Our great<br>wisdom traditions  | Smith, Huston. / Smith, Huston. | 291 SMI     |
| <b>Category: Social Justice</b>   |                                 |             |
| Foundations for Reconstruction:<br>how to build an enduring moral order                                   | Trueblood, Elton, 1900-         | 222.16 TRU  |
| <b>Category: Society/Culture</b>  |                                 |             |
| Future in Plain Sight, The: Nine clues to the<br>coming instability                                       | Linden, Eugene.                 | 303.49 LIN  |
| Party's Over, The : oil, war and the fate of<br>industrial societies                                      | Heinberg, Richard.              | 333.823 HEI |
| Twelve Principles : Living with Integrity<br>in the Twenty-first Century                                  | Hawes, Martin, 1956 -           | 304.44 HAW  |
| <b>Category: Spiritual Journey</b>  |                                 |             |
| Care of the Soul : How to add depth<br>and meaning to your everyday life : the illustrated edition        | Moore, Thomas, 1940-            | 158.1 MOO   |

### **Hamilton Monthly Meeting Spring Retreat**

This year we will gather on Saturday, April 22, at the Meeting House, to spend a day in a variety of activities designed to help us think about our life as a Meeting. Are we declining? If so, what should we do about it? If not, what has happened to the energy that used to enable all the activities and tasks we have set ourselves? Do we need greater outreach? Fewer commitments and offices? Does our busyness affect our spiritual life positively or negatively? These are some of the questions we may be exploring at the retreat. Ministry and Counsel hopes that many of us will be able to set aside that day to share with each other and to turn aside, for a short time, from the cares and enticements of the rest of the world. Lunch and supper will be included. Mark your calendar and watch for details and registration information in newsletters to come. Anyone willing and able to offer help in organizing this retreat is encouraged to contact Bev.

### **Tibetan Monks at the Meeting House in February! Feb 18**

Hamilton Meeting is hosting a visiting group of monks from their monastery in South India on Saturday afternoon, Feb 18. This will be concurrent with the planned Young Friends Retreat; everyone is welcome. See January newsletter for more details.

**Hamilton Monthly Meeting**  
**Meeting for Worship for Business**  
**Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2006**

**Present:** Mona, Blair, Don, Bev (Clerk), Ian (recording clerk), Don, Dick, Harriet, Christina, Carol Leigh, Glenna, Wilf.

Regrets:

1. Meeting began with Silent worship at 7:35pm.
2. **Minutes of Jan 8<sup>th</sup>**, Meeting for Worship for Business (M4W4B):  
Minutes were accepted as read, with notation that Christina sent her regrets.
3. Agenda was prioritized.

4. **Continuing Business**

**4.1 Meeting Retreat**

The date is firm as April 22<sup>nd</sup>, the theme is ‘present and future life of Hamilton Meeting. Ministry & Counsel (M&C) and Nominating Committee (NC) are working on the particulars, and they welcome any offers of assistance.

A Meeting retreat for 2007 has been set for last weekend in March, at Mt Mary in Ancaster retreat centre. Space has been reserved.

**4.2 Revisiting Removal of ‘After-word’ from First Day Worship**

In November we decided to try a period without the use of ‘afterword’ as part of our first day worship. We consider it a worthwhile part of our community life. Speaking in worship requires an inner discipline and also encouragement from the community. We agree to reinstate a short interval each Sunday for afterword. FDS is scheduled from 11:15 to 12:15 on second and fourth Sundays. We undertake to review this practice again in May. We ask the clerk to announce that those present are welcome to leave if need be at the rise of worship.

We understand our purposes for ‘afterword’ to be to:

- encourage vocal ministry
- express ideas not quite ready for vocal ministry
- respond to ministry
- not to engage in discussion

**4.3 Memorial meeting for Bea Fletcher**

Robbie M is the contact for Bea’s family member, June Watson. A memorial meeting is scheduled for the last weekend in April or May. Friends are encouraged to contact Carol Leigh with content for the memorial minute.

5. **Business Arising from the minutes**

**5.1 CYM Consultation and Renewal Working group**

David McKay has agreed to visit HMM on April 9<sup>th</sup>, including a potluck or meal and continuing through the afternoon. The CnR queries were included in the January HMM newsletter. We agree to hold a preliminary discussion before the CnR visit, on Friday Mar 10<sup>th</sup>, with a potluck, 6pm for 6:30 meal. We agree to hold a brownbag discussion on Mar 26<sup>th</sup> to discuss the latest draft chapter of Faith and Practice.

## **5.2 Use of Clerk's Discretionary fund**

We agree to accept donations for this fund. Donations have been received to date and a cheque has been drawn as per minutes of Jan 8, item 5.1.

## **6. Reports.**

**6.1 Treasurer report.** Donations collected for Clerks Discretionary fund. Blair reported that Revenue Canada advises donations should not be identified for a specific person but to a fund or budget category. The proceeds must be disbursed objectively by an appropriate group in the meeting. We agree to increase the Clerk's Discretionary fund to \$600 for 2006. We attach to the archive copy of minutes an excerpt from IT-110R3, Gifts and Official Donations item 15, "Non-qualifying contributions".

## **6.2 Young Friends Retreat, Feb17/18/19**

Wilf Ruland reports that the planning is not yet firmed up and there may be some question of the event happening at all.

The Tibetan monks are definitely scheduled for the Saturday evening meal. A tentative program is to show Tibetan culture and art on Saturday afternoon, a shared meal, followed by a Quaker worship. Billeting has been arranged outside of HMM.

**6.3 Peace and Social Action Committee** Dick reports that a letter was published on Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Spectator protesting Canadian forces deployment to Afghanistan. We accept Ruth and Reuven Kitai's offer to work with PSAC to distribute the letter more widely.

PSAC discussion event on Feb 23: Working for Peace in the Twenty-first Century: exploring our peace testimonies. The agenda includes position statements of five different peace advocacy groups:

- Quaker peace testimony
- Mennonite peace testimony
- Canadian military Peacekeeping
- Nonviolent Peace Force Canada
- Christian Peacemakers

The Axworthy-Roche letter on establishing a federal department of Peace will be read and distributed, followed by open discussion including other groups eg PBI, Physicians for Global Survival, OPIRG. We encourage Hamilton Quakers to attend this event to reinvigorate our peace concern.

## **7. New Business**

7.1 State of Society Report. A document is in process, and will be presented next month.

7.2 Half Yearly Meeting June 2006. No report was available, carried over.

7.3 Quaker response to deployment of troops in Afghanistan.

The clerk asked the meeting to consider if we feel moved to address this concern in other ways. We agree to bring this item forward as business arising in future meetings for business.

7.4 Faith and Practice, latest draft chapter. See 5.1 above.

## **8. Other Business**

## **9. Correspondence**

10. **Date and time** of next Meeting for Worship for Business: Sunday Mar 5<sup>th</sup>, 1pm at HMM.

11. The meeting ended with silent worship at 9:55pm