

**Hamilton Monthly Meeting**  
of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)  
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**NEWSLETTER MAY 2006**

**Refreshments**

May 7 Lenny 14 Sybil 21 Bev 28 Betty

June 4 Robbie M 11 Glenna 18 Ray 25 OPEN

Please sign up in the foyer if you would like to provide refreshments after M4W. If you need further information about what is involved please contact Christina or Nicky

**Upcoming Dates**

May 28 at 2 pm Memorial Meeting for Bea Fletcher

June 2-4 Half Yearly Meeting at Camp NeeKauNis

June 11 Meeting of the Whole (see below)

June 18 Meeting for Worship in Brink's garden at 11 with potluck lunch.

Aug 12-19 Canadian Yearly Meeting at Canadian Mennonite U in Winnipeg

Aug 11-12 Pre-CYM workshop with George Lakey

**Addresses**

Tony Butler's email is now anthony (dot) butler (at) sympatico (dot) ca

Fax # no longer in service

**Meeting of the Whole**

At the June meeting for worship the children will remain in the meeting room for the whole hour. Tables will be set up to allow for children's drawing, crafts, etc, and adults are invited to join the children in these activities. This format has lead to a very positive experience both for the children and the adults in meeting.

**Help Needed**

Friends to help Carol Leigh and Glenna with the children's program at Half Yearly Meeting at Camp NeeKauNis, June 2-4

**Canadian Yearly Meeting**

Would anyone planning to attend Canadian Yearly Meeting in Winnipeg in August please contact Bev? Thanks.

**Clerks Needed**

Hamilton Meeting needs volunteers to become 'clerk for the month', which involves preparing the agenda and acting as clerk at meeting for worship for business. We need one for June. Former clerks have volunteered to sit with the clerk during the meeting and

act as a resource, if this is desired, and would be available to help with creating the agenda.

### **Iraq: Why Are We Here?**

Written by Tom Fox on Nov 25, 2005, the day before he was abducted in Baghdad.  
Submitted by Mona, from Toronto Monthly Meeting newsletter

CPT's Iraq team went through a discernment process to compare the project's compelling benefits with its costs: financial, psychological, physical. The exercise led me to the larger question: why are we here?

My understanding of God's message is that we are to take part in the creation of the Peaceable Realm of God. Again, if I understand the message of God, how we take part in the creation of this realm is to love God with all our heart, our mind and our strength and to love our neighbours and enemies as we love God and ourselves. In its essential form, different aspects of love bring about creation of the realm.

I have read that the word in the Greek bible translated as "love" is "agape". I have read that this word is best expressed as a profound respect for all human beings simply for the fact that they are all God's children. I would state that idea in a somewhat different way, as "never thinking or doing anything that would dehumanize one of my fellow human beings."

As I survey the landscape here in Iraq, dehumanization seems to be the operative means of relating. U.S. forces in their quest to hunt down and kill "terrorists" kill, as a result of this dehumanizing work, not only "terrorists", but also innocent Iraqis: men, women and children in various towns and villages.

It seems as if the first step down the road to violence is taken when I dehumanize a person. That violence might stay within my thoughts or find its way into the outer world and become expressed verbally, psychologically, structurally or physically. As soon as I rob a fellow human being of his or her humanity by sticking a dehumanizing label on them, I begin the process that can result in torture, injury, and death.

"Why are we here?" We are here to root out all aspects of dehumanization that exist within us. We are here to stand with those being dehumanized by oppressors and stand firm against that dehumanization. We are here to stop people, including ourselves, from dehumanizing any of God's children, no matter how much they dehumanize their own souls.

### **"Enjoy it while you can, it's all going to go"**

submitted by John, from an email

The future is not about gas or ethanol or biomass, its about not using oil at all. Because the Net Energy Return on Total Energy Invested, combined with Population Density, is not going to support anything past 1600s era European agriculture, classic Edo, or Kerala Indian culture, and that's if we are lucky.

Gasoline vs diesel vs ethanol vs compressed natural gas will result in different energy depletion downslopes, but in the end, we're all "going Amish". There is so much inertia in the system we may not live, our generation, to see this end point, but that IS where we are going.

I'm all for 'enjoy it while we can' – if you're reading this you're on the internet, unlike

most of the world population...who's never made a telephone call. You're a Have, not a Have Not, so go to Google video and watch Cosmos, by Carl Sagan. Great late 70s stuff! Learn and enjoy, because your descendents, if you have any, are going to think the moon is the "Mother of Tides" or the "Daughter of the Milky Way", or something...and forget about the planets. They'll be "Wandering Hunters" again.

From 'chain hydrocarbon polymers' to the 'super heterodyne circuit', it's all going to likely be forgotten in a few generations, so: enjoy it while you can. This does not mean burn more gas, it just means surf Project Gutenberg and walk to your library. Enjoy it while you can because it's all gonna go.

**Hamilton Monthly Meeting  
Meeting for Worship for Business  
Sunday May 7, 2006**

**Present:** Mona C, Lenny, Sybil, Carol Leigh, Glenna, Rex, Louise, Helen B, John (clerk), Don (recording clerk), Robbie M

**Regrets:** Ian, Bev

1. **Meeting began** with silent worship at 1:15 pm

2. **Minutes** of Meeting for Worship for Business (MWB) of April 6, 2006 were accepted with (a) the addition of Louise to those present and (b) clarification of April 2006 minute 8.2; the date of Aug 13 for a potluck in the garden is firm.

3. **The agenda** was approved.

**4. Business Carried Over**

**4.1 Clearness for Marriage:** Dawn and Ryan have asked that the date of their marriage be shifted to June, 2007, to allow time for the clearness for marriage process.

**4.2 Quaker Ecology Action Network (QEAN).** There has been support for the adoption of the Quaker Ecology Action Network as a committee of Canadian Yearly Meeting (CYM), but concern has been expressed that CYM cannot afford to fund it. Concerns were expressed that if committee status were obtained, that local activity of the network would be inhibited, while on the other hand its functioning would be clarified and its ability to speak on behalf of Friends would be enhanced. Helen B offered to forward a summary of our discussion to the QEAN. She continues to maintain an interest and welcomes comments.

**4.3 Right Use of Wissa Fund.** Please refer to Minute 8.1 of April 2006 for background. Darlene, our representative to the Ecumenical Committee for Refugees, forwarded suggestions for use of the money for refugees in Hamilton. The possibility was raised that some of it (total is \$3000) be used to assist the Wissas in relocating, possibly returning home to Afghanistan. We clarified that the funds were not part of the income from the Dunford Bequest. We agreed to allot \$1500 to the Wissa family and will seek a way to transfer the money to them. They are not constrained as to how they use it. Louise has offered to explore the possibility of making this transfer safely and will report back to MWB in June.

**4.4 Response to Canada's participation in the war in Afghanistan.** Concern was expressed about being a peace church in a country at war. Concerns were further expressed about the illegal nature of and the geopolitical motives for this war. John was asked to provide a summary of these concerns for the newsletter. Friends who wish to maintain an active involvement with this issue are encouraged to email Rex.

## **5 Reports**

**5.1 Nominating Committee report.** Nominating Committee (NC) report (see attached) was received as read and we approved sections 1, 2, 3, and 5. We agreed that while the Archives Committee needs to be laid down, we will maintain an Archivist. Concern was expressed that we need to continue to maintain paper-based records. Robbie M will organize a review of our archival needs between September and December. We express our thanks to Robbie S for the work he is doing on our Archives, and request that a duplicate set of electronic records and the originals of our paper records be kept in the Meeting House. We do not support adding Archivist duties to those of the Clerk of the Meeting.

**5.2 Naming Committee.** Section 3 of Nominating Committee (NC) report asks that a provisional Naming Committee be identified by MWB in the event that John needs to step down from NC in the fall. We held over this task until June MWB.

**5.3 Maintenance Committee:** Break in to our garden shed. There have been 2 break-ins to our garden shed in the last four days. We need to keep it locked to secure gasoline for the lawn mower and protect others from harm by our tools. We agreed to replace the lock.

## **6 New Business**

**6.1 Delegates to Canadian Yearly Meeting (CYM).** Beverly and Carol Leigh, who are attending, have other responsibilities at yearly Meeting (YM) and are not available to be delegates. We will consider naming delegates at June MWB.

**6.2 Reporting requirements** for committees of Hamilton Monthly Meeting (HMM). Mona C will present an ad hoc report recommending reporting dates for HMM standing committees for receipt at a future MWB.

**7. Date of next Meeting** for Worship for Business: Thurs June 1, 2006 at 7:30 pm.

**8. The meeting ended** with silent worship at 4:00 pm.