

HAMILTON MONTHLY MEETING
of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
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NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2007

Refreshments for Meeting for Worship

Nov 11 Jesse; 18 Ruth; 25 Jean
Dec 2 Glenna; 9 Sybil; 16 Mona C

Friends are invited to sign up to provide refreshments on the new list that is in the foyer for this much appreciated service. If you have any questions please contact Christina or Nicki.

PLEASE NOTE!!!

Change in time of Meeting for Worship: Dec 2 and thereafter will start at 10:30.
Meeting for Worship for Business will always be on Sunday, starting Dec 2.

Upcoming Dates

Nov 11 after meeting for worship: walk labyrinth in Burlington
Possible potluck, date and program not specified.

**HMM Delegate's report of Yonge Street Half Yearly Meeting, Nov 3, 2007
by Sybil**

Mona C, Marianne, Christina and myself joined a well attended gathering for the day and evening at Toronto Meeting House. HYM business occupied the morning and the afternoon featured Janet Ross of TMM now teaching religious studies at McMaster. Her intriguing presentation on connections between myths of Christians, Jews, early Egypt and Sufis involved us periodically in silent contemplation of a query she presented, which was then shared with a neighbour. Her content was fascinating and I hope it can be turned into a Quaker pamphlet in the near future.

We also heard about FWCC from Virginia Dawson, who attended this year's triennial in Ireland. Because of travel concerns, both environmental and financial, triennials are laid down and the next gathering will be in 2012 in Nairobi.

Applications for a Quaker youth pilgrimage to the UK (www.fwcc.org) must be in by Nov 30.

Regional gathering for the Great Lakes Yearly Meetings will be held in our area in autumn 2008. They are currently searching for space west of Toronto and east of

London, residential, so anyone with information might contact Virginia.

Food and entertainment were great. Our bag lunches were supplemented with a delicious soup, and supper was catered by Chris Chattin. Sarah Nasr coordinated a wonderful concert by five very talented Quakers, including Jesse on her flute and recorder. Apparently an evening of jamming and singing continued well past midnight, long after we visitors had crawled home!

Hamilton Monthly Meeting
Meeting for Worship for Business
Sunday, Nov 4th, 2007

Present: Helen B, Mona C, Christina, Sybil, Ian (recording clerk), Jesse, Dick, Bev (presiding clerk), Don, Harriet

Regrets: Glenna, Robbie M, Carol Leigh

- 1 The meeting began in silent worship at 1p.m.
- 2 **Minutes and Agenda** The October minutes were read and approved with one correction: Bev had sent her regrets at being unable to attend. In the absence of the presiding clerk, John was asked and accepted to serve as presiding clerk for the October Meeting.

Agenda

- archives report is deferred to December
- Appointment for Multifaith Council deferred to future meeting
- add response of CMMC to invitation to hold fall meeting at Hamilton

Called meeting of M4B on Oct 16, held but not minuted.

This minute was approved at that meeting: We ask Mona C and Sybil to be our delegates to Yonge Street Half Yearly Meeting in Toronto on Nov 3rd, 2007. Both agreed. Other Friends are encouraged to attend.

3 **Continuing Business**

- 3.1 **Washroom.** John reports that no information is yet available on the costing of this project.

4 **Business Arising from October minutes**

- 4.1 **Emergency request funds.** Don read the written report prepared by the taskgroup containing two alternative two proposals, 1) that we state our policy to callers requesting emergency money that we do not make direct donations and that we supply the money directly to agencies, and 2) that we make a substantial donation to local organizations providing relief, finally that we delegate two people in meeting to adjudicate emergency requests and be

empowered give up to say \$50 without consultation with others in the Meeting. See report for more details.

We considered and favour Proposal 1, with the option being available to make direct donations on a direct basis in exceptional circumstances. In any event we do not want to give money on a rapid response basis and will consider giving specific items such as food. We ask the taskgroup to work through the issues and a process for implementing this policy.

4.2 **Regional Multifaith Committee.** Ian's report will be carried over to a future meeting.

4.3 **Time for Meeting for Worship**

Christina has asked various members of meeting (23) their views of the time of meeting. It appears that there is a strong interest in moving the meeting time to 10:30 all year round. We agreed to change the start time of meeting to 10:30 and review its consequences in a year's time. Christina agrees to revisit this in a year's time and bring it to the agenda. We will begin the new start time on the first Sunday of December (Dec 2nd). Ian offered to contact Dawn L about changing the website to show new times.

4.4 **Monthly schedule of Meeting for Worship for Business.**

We discussed the following points:

- a Sunday date saves gas and travel time for a second trip
- a Sunday meeting is more congenial to social gathering
- very few people attend one day and not the other
- the theory of alternating dates was to provide flexibility for peoples home life and encourage participation in M4B
- Sunday meetings seem to be shorter, we seem willing to stop the meeting at an agreed time
- many people operate better at mid day.

We agreed to move the meeting schedule to Sundays beginning in December on the first Sunday of the month, unless otherwise convenient. We will review this decision in December 2008.

4.5 **Answering Machine.** John offered to procure, install and instruct on the use of a new answering machine.

4.6 **Continuing Meeting of Ministry and Counsel (CMMC) Meeting in Hamilton**

The CMMC has accepted an offer from Halifax for the Spring and asks if they could visit Hamilton in October 2008. We agreed to this request.

5 **Reports**

5.1 **Archive report** held over to future meeting

6 **New Business**

6.1 Rep to Representative Meeting. Bev reported that Dawn requests to stand aside for the Nov Meeting. Bev agreed to take her place for this meeting.

6.2 **Dunford Bequest.** Harriet has a request from a client who is penniless, 27 years old, and refugee from Berundi. He is putting himself through high school. He requests \$700 to start his own household. There is about \$2100 in the Dunford Bequest available for disbursement. We agreed to donate \$700. The Clerk will advise Blair, Treasurer, to issue a cheque to the recipient via Harriet.

7 **The next meeting** is Sunday Dec 2nd, preceded by Meeting for Worship at 10:30 and a festive lunch. M4B is to start around 1pm.

8 The meeting closed with worship.