

HAMILTON MONTHLY MEETING
of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
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NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2008

Refreshments for Meeting for Worship

Feb 3 Mona C, 10 Janis, 17 Chris, 24 OPEN
March 2 Ruth

Friends please note that I will be away in South Africa visiting my mother and other family members, so please take THIS as your friendly reminder that you are ON for the First Day indicated. May you find this service a blessing to you.

Christina

PLEASE NOTE!!!

New start time for Meeting for Worship as of Dec 2, 2007: 10:30am

Upcoming Dates

Feb 17 Discussion of Yearly Meeting's affiliation with Friends United Meeting at a brown bag lunch (see below).

Feb 24 after Meeting for Worship; Screening of documentary about Quakers (see below)

Feb 29 Potluck; Family Fun Night; see below

March 2 after Meeting for Worship and shared lunch; Meeting for Worship for Business

Mar 27 Potluck; End of Life (see below)

April 12: tentative date for spring retreat (see below)

Family Fun Night

All families and all Friends who are young at heart are invited to come out for our first Family Fun Night, on Friday February 29th at the Meeting House. We will meet at 6:30 pm for a potluck supper, followed by an evening of fun activities which may include party games, storytelling, board games, and some songs. These will be geared towards the children in attendance. Anyone with suggestions or requests for evening activities, please contact Wilf

From the treasurer:

Friends are reminded to place their postdated cheques for 2008 donations in the donation box or the Treasurer's file in the lobby. Cheques should be made payable to The Religious Society of Friends. Thank you for your kind consideration.

Blair

State of Society Brainstorming session

After Meeting for Worship on Sunday, February 10, (this Sunday, Friends!), we will have a

brainstorming session regarding our State of Society Report for 2007 (posted at the Meetinghouse - it was read at M4W4B February 4) to revisit last year's (2006) State of Society Report and relate it to this year's draft, making suggestions and alterations together. We hope that all Friends and attenders will feel welcome to come and offer input, and that we may have a worshipful, spirit-led time together.
-from Ministry and Counsel

End of Life

There's a potluck planned for Friday the 27th of March. In our discussion afterwards we'll talk about two things:

One, end-of-life plans. No one ever knows when the end of life is coming. Just about anyone, any age, could be hit by the proverbial bus. Is there anything we would like our loved ones to know about our own wishes? Can we help our own parents or other family members or friends to phrase and convey their wishes? Could Hamilton Meeting be a place to hold such plans for Friends so that it would always be known how to access them?

Two, our beliefs. Is there really an end to life, or is it simply a transformation to another kind of life? Is there a heaven? A hell? Reincarnation? Eternity? What DO we believe?

These could be very interesting discussions, and they have meaning and import for adults of any age.

Beverly

Spring Retreat

At Meeting for Business, Caroleigh, clerk of Ministry and Counsel, confirmed a one day retreat is in the planning stages. The theme is "Slowing Down to the Speed of Life". The date is tentatively set for Apr 12th. If you have ideas, please contact her.

Documentary about Quakers, including Hamilton Meeting.

The film about Quakers which has been a project close to the heart of our friend Chanda is ready in almost-final form. She has sent us a DVD of it, along with a set of notes about what is still to be done (mostly audio adjustments, music, and some colour adjustments), and we have scheduled a viewing after Meeting for Worship on February 24. Chanda and her husband Nathan will be with us to hear our comments. Please mark this date! We can have a potluck lunch before the screening if Friends would like that.

Bev

Friends United Meeting

Coming up! We're planning a brown bag lunch accompanied by discussion on February 17th to consider the relationship of Canadian Friends - who are all part of Meetings of the "liberal unprogrammed tradition" - to Friends United Meeting (FUM), which is made up mainly of Meetings which are pastored and programmed. Presently Canadian Yearly Meeting (CYM) is a member of FUM, but recent events have caused many Friends to question this association. Bev Shepard (past presiding Clerk of CYM) recommends to Friends, in preparation for the discussion, that they take at least a brief look at the Richmond Declaration of Faith, whose re-affirmation at the General Board Meeting of FUM last spring is one of the most contentious issues. Please see the January newsletter for more details.

Anna

Anna (roving member of HMM) and her boyfriend Ari are planning to come from BC for the spring and would love to be in the employ of Friends or friends in their gardens. Both Anna and Ari have been trained in permaculture design and cob building, and Anna is as I write studying to be a certified herbalist. Here is a sample of what they are willing to do, though this is not all - please feel free to think up other things!

- basic yard maintenance (raking, trimming hedges, light pruning)
- decorative yard maintenance (ie. fixing that wobbly stepping-stone, repairing that mosaic, putting a few nails in the deck etc.)
- basic irrigation
- garden consultations
- garden bed preparation including: herb spirals, mandala gardens, medicine wheel gardens, kids gardens
- using permaculture techniques and principles
- heirloom varieties/rare plants, herbs
- composter building/composting advice
- treeplanting

If you are interested, please contact Caroleigh.

Hamilton Monthly Meeting Meeting for Worship for Business Sunday Feb 3rd, 2008

Present: Blair, Andy, Don, Harriet, Helen B, Mona C, Beverly (clerk), Dick, Betty, Ian (recording clerk) Caroleigh, Roberta, Glenna

Regrets: Rex

- 1 The Meeting opened in silent worship.
- 2 Minutes of 13 Jan 08: these were read and approved.
- 3 Agenda: approved, with the addition of three items under new business.
- 4 Reading of State of Society Report (Caroleigh). A draft was prepared by M&C for consideration at this meeting, to be posted on noticeboard (but not included in minutes or newsletter) for comment and will be re-read at next M4B for approval. We agreed to hold a brainstorming session after M4W next Sunday to develop the specifics that will illuminate the ideals and intentions expressed therein.
- 5 Business arising: YSHYM Coordinating Committee meeting. HMM has responsibility for the adult program at the June 6th to 8th gathering. We ask Friends to come forward to plan the theme and organize the Saturday program.
- 6 Reports:
 - 6.1 M&C Report

- Spring Retreat: Caroleigh confirmed a one day retreat is in planning stages. The theme is “Slowing Down to the Speed of Life”. The date is tentatively set for Apr 12th.
- A Friend and former attender at HMM has requested that HMM be the location for her imminent funeral. M&C has approved this request and this meeting is in agreement. She has also requested a M4W at her home which will be arranged. Bev, Betty, Don, Glenna and Mona offered to help on the funeral arrangements.

6.2 Treasurer’s Report: Budget. Blair spoke about this report showing 2007 actual vs budget and 2008 budget. Planned income for 2008 is \$25,146 and expense is \$24,060, net surplus \$1,086. We approve this budget with thanks.

6.3 Nominating Committee: Glenna spoke about the List of Positions approved at the January Meeting. Harriet is approved for the position of Pastoral Care. We will be adding the new position of Emergency Response Group to this list.

7 New business:

7.1 What HMM Friends would like to see on Tuesday evening of CYM 2008? This is the evening usually set aside for HMAAC (Home Mission and Advancement Committee) and CFSC (Canadian Friends Service Committee) to present on their current projects. This year the CYM clerks will be selecting a program and are asking for input. The three proposed topics are:

- the environmental impact of CYM gathering and committees;
- Quakerism and Christianity;
- relationships in all their fullness.

All topics were considered interesting but the weight expressed in this meeting was with the Christianity topic.

7.2 Potlucks for spring:

Friday, Feb 29st, Supper, Songs and Stories. All ages welcome.

Thur Mar 27, End of Life Planning, no matter what age you are now!

7.3 We note that the FGC Annual Gathering June 28th to July 5th “Courageously Faithful” is being held this year at Johnstown, PA, well within reach of Ontario by car.

8 Correspondence: None

9 Next Meeting: Sun Mar 2nd.

10 The Meeting closed in silent worship.