

Hamilton

Friends

January

2016

Newsletter



Advice:

For a Quaker, religion is not an external activity, concerning a special "holy" part of the self. It is an openness to the world in the here and now with the whole of the self. ... to put it in traditional language, there is no part of ourselves and of our relationships where God is not present.

Harvey Gillman, 1988. *Quaker Faith & Practice*, 20.20

Refreshment List

January 3: Louise

January 10: Bev



Thursday January 14: Potluck and Presentation on Synthetic Biology by Anne Mitchell (TMM). Come at 6 to set up. We will eat at 6:30.

Thursday February 25: Potluck and Presentation by Jenn Preston on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Recommendations.. Come at 6 to set up. We will eat at 6:30.

Friday March 11: Potluck and Discussion. *Diverse Beliefs; Common Worship.*

Friends and Attenders of our Meeting come from many different religious traditions and often express their spirituality in strikingly different ways. How is it that we can come together in a common form of worship? After our meal we will share our beliefs and how they relate to Quaker Worship.

We have had quite a few discussions around specifically Quaker practices and beliefs, but we don't talk much about the ones that diverge -- from each other, and from traditional Quakerism. Here are some examples of the questions that might come up.

- Do you believe in God?
- Do you consider yourself a Christian? If so, do you believe in the resurrection, virgin birth, etc.?
- Do you have connections to some other faith -- Buddhism, Wicca, etc.? How does this affect your spiritual life?
- Have you experienced radical changes in what you believe?
- Are you much like your childhood self, religiously, or very different, or something in between?

This is an opportunity for all - new attenders through those who have been around for a while - to learn about each other's spiritual beliefs.

ABHOON O BIRTHERS!

D'brawshmaya

Nethqadash
shmakh

Teytey malkuthakh

Nehrey tzevyanach aykanna
d'brawshmaya aph b'arha

Hawylan lachma
d'sunqanan yaomana

Washboqlan khaubayn (wakhtahayn)
aiykana daph khnan
shbwoqan l'khayyabayn

Wela tahlan l'nesyuna
ela patzan min bisha

Metol dilakhie malkutha
wahayla wateshbukhta
l'ahlam almin

Father-Mother
of the Cosmos!

Focus your light
within us—
make it useful!

Create your reign of Unity now!

Your one desire then acts with ours,
as in all light, so in all forms

Grant what we need each day
in bread and insight

Loosen the cords of mistakes that
bind us, as we release the strands we hold
of others' guilt

Don't let surface things delude us
but free us from what holds us back

From you is born all ruling will—the power and life
to do, the song that beautifies all,
from age to age it renewes

Truly—power to these statements—may they be the ground from which
all my actions grow

AMEYN

Translation: Neil Douglas-Klotz

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-Submitted by Dick and Betty Preston



Dear F(f)riends, as your Treasurer it is my privilege to be the one who processes your donations (large and small, each according to our means) which support our Meeting. Since last November, I have witnessed an extraordinarily generous response to our call for donations in support of Meeting's initiative to bring a Syrian refugee family to Hamilton. Our usual donors have responded quickly and strongly, as expected.

There have also been unique and wonderful initiatives, including the following:

- Caroline Martindale invited the guests at her birthday party to bring a donation instead of a gift;
- Simon Woodside and Sarah Woodside (and baby Theo!) entered a Santa-5K run, and invited family and friends to make a donation;
- numerous F(f)riends told family and friends about our initiative, with donations coming in from many new directions.

All told, donations of about \$17,000 for our refugee support initiative were made in 2015. Thank you one and all for your generosity!

Wilf Ruland (HMM Treasurer)



Sunday January 24: Quaker Q&A session after Meeting for Worship and refreshments. Bring a bag lunch and your questions, large and small.

NOVEMBER 27, 2015

“A Persistent Peace”; a disarmingly intimate political commentary ¹

by [Ontario Arts Review](#) • [Play](#), [Theatre](#)

Review by Terry Gaisin



We're serious fans of 'BLUE BLOODS' so the expression "*family always comes first*" has special meaning. We kind-of like our grandkids and even our two daughters; BUT, the people who help us publish **O.A.R.** are our real family and when one of them accomplishes something we "schlep nachas" or take a personal pride. Contributor **Judith Robinson** has written a play and naturally, I was there to witness the event. Great concept; super execution.

Judith is a teacher and a writer, this project took her ten years to finalize.



the protagonists of “A PERSISTENT PEACE”

In the late 70's Jimmy Carter was about to become the 39th President of the U.S. His close friend Cyrus Vance was earmarked to become Secretary of State but Carter needed to know how Vance stood on ameliorating the Cold War. Through Ambassador Rockefeller's contacts; communication was arranged with Andrei Gromyko and potential POTUS advisor Zbigniew Berzezinski, (*Dick Preston*) the national security advisor to the previous administration. Their machinations and interactions (assumed and researched) form the basis of 'A Persistent Peace' and was presented as an almost-debate with a narrator to bridge the progress. Folks old enough and politically astute enough to remember the era will find the deliberations fascinating and re-collective.

The Vance portrayal was by *Graeme MacQueen* and his emotions ring true; almost like he was inside of the man's psyche. The phraseology & interpretations seem convincing and credible. The developing respect and almost-friendship that evolves between him and Gromyko, ably played by *Paul Dekar* are the real meat of the play and are more than well-written; they carry an implication of eavesdropping or espionage by the author.

The peanut-growing Carter who was elected more as a protest against the eight years of the Nixon/Ford presidencies, than about appreciation for his intellect or political message. Mostly, it was that he wasn't a Republican. Something like Canada's recent landslide for our '*Not Quite Ready*' new Prime Minister! SALT-II limiting arms and the use of the infamous Red Phone kept the Doomsday Clock at a tentative 11:55. D.C. is a long way from Plains GA. Thus, *Ray Cunningham* has to present his role as more than a little daunting. His reading was a little understated for someone about to be the most powerful person in the world. By play's end, he evolved into the compelling individual with all the perquisites allotted the Presidency.

Given the international political unrest in today's World, and the challenges facing countries and their elected or totalitarian rulers; **A PERFECT PEACE**, (or maybe an alternative title) is contemporary and thus deserves a larger and staged version. Think of the fun set designers could have with a 45 degree mirror and a Great Seal on the floor of an oval stage! The one-night performance at The Quaker House was an intimate try-out, which even allowed a post-curtain discussion.

-Submitted by Dick Preston