

HAMILTON MONTHLY MEETING
of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
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NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2009

REFRESHMENTS FOR MEETING FOR WORSHIP

Jan 4: Christina; Jan 11: Don and Harriet; Jan 18: Janis and Andy; Jan 25: Chris
If F(f)riends would like to participate in this much appreciated service please sign up on the sheet in the foyer. If you haven't provided refreshments before and would like to do this, there is an information sheet in the kitchen on the wall by the fridge. Christina would also be happy to give you any information that you might need to feel comfortable doing this job.

UPCOMING DATES

Sunday 18 January: Meetinghouse Cleanup

Wednesday 21 January: Israeli peace activist Jeff Halper speaks at McMaster University Health Sciences Centre room 1A1 at 7:30 p.m. (national tour co-sponsored by CFSC)

Friday 23 January: Potluck with film "Forgiveness" (we hope the film arrives),

Thursday 19 February: Potluck on *Quakerism: Christianity, Diversity and the Loving Community*

HELP NEEDED FOR CYM:

Dear Friends,

The most important point to arise at Representative Meeting in November was probably that of our finances, because right now they are intimately connected to our future. Canadian Yearly Meeting struggles with financial issues every year, and in the words of our Finance Committee clerk, we practice "faith-based budgeting": that is, we budget donations to cover our expenses and have faith that the donations will come in. This method works surprisingly often!

However, at Yearly Meeting sessions in 2007, Friends approved the hiring of a Quaker Education Coordinator and a Youth Secretary, both part-time positions, and at sessions in 2008, the budget implications of this decision were made clear to us - and Friends approved the expanded budget.

Both positions are presently combined, for donation purposes, under the title "Quaker Education Programme", and \$64,000 must be in place (one year's salary for both positions) before hiring for either begins. The Consultation and Renewal Working Group which proposed these two positions, after extensive consultation with Friends across Yearly Meeting, believed that both would eventually pay for themselves by

helping to strengthen the Society of Friends in Canada, increasing attendance, membership, and commitment. However, for a time we will need to increase contributions to Yearly Meeting to support the initiation of these important positions.

If every adult member of the Religious Society of Friends in Canada gave just about \$5.00 more each month, we would meet this goal. Of course, this is unlikely to happen, and some of us will give more while some give less. In either case, donations to help meet this objective must be separate from regular contributions to CYM and should be so designated. Your appeal letter from the CYM clerk in early December has a special form for this purpose. I urge everyone who is concerned with the future of our religious society to consider whether s/he can make this extra commitment.

Blessings, Beverly

MEETING FOR WORSHIP FOR BUSINESS
HAMILTON MONTHLY MEETING OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS
11 JANUARY 2009

Present: Mona C, Christina, Blair, Glenna, Jean, Robbie M, Andy (Clerk), Betty, Dick, Beverly, Carol Leigh (Recording Clerk), Don, Harriet

- 1 Meeting began with **worship** at 12:40
- 2 **Minutes of the Meeting of 7 December 2008:** approved as read.
- 3 **Business Arising**
 - 3.1 **Spring retreat and Quaker Quest:** Dick reports that a Quaker Quest facilitator is not available for May 9, the date of our spring retreat. Ministry and Counsel will continue to plan for the Spring retreat.
 - 3.2 **Coordinating group for Meetinghouse cleanup** on the 18th of January: Jean will note the tasks and organize the assigning of them; an email will go out to the list. Jean asks that anyone who has noted tasks already should contact her. Blair agrees to be "email buddy" for Mona to inform her of this and any other email messages for the list.
 - 3.3 **Dating of minutes:** Yonge Street Half Yearly Meeting asks that constituent Meetings consider whether we wish to continue to use for minutes of YSHYM the old Friends' practice of numbering the months and days rather than using secular names. HMM Friends expressed that using archaic forms is an obstacle to newcomers, and that using secular names for months and days makes it easier for people to feel comfortable in the Society of Friends.
 - 3.4 **Potlucks:** The film called *Forgiveness* has been ordered by Don for purchase for the HMM library. (It is not available for rental.)

It has also been put forward that we have an Archives potluck in January (before Robbie M leaves for China), and defer the film until February. Friends felt that a smaller working group should do initial work on archive issues, perhaps by email, and bring suggestions back to the working group (of clerks and recording clerks, and Friends who formerly served in these roles). We will continue with the film for the January potluck. February potluck will be Thursday, February 19.

3.5 **Recommendations of the C & R implementation Committee:** these will form the basis for the February potluck.

3.6 **Energy Issues and the Meeting House:** Suggestions from last report include: Bullfrog Powering the Meetinghouse, solar panels, and on-demand water heating. (cf minute 5.1 in December 2008 minutes) It is suggested that HMM maintenance committee contact the Physical Development committee of Camp NeeKauNis Committee for information on research already done by that group about on-demand water heating. Christina has done further research about Bullfrog Power, and has made telephone numbers for further information available. She reports that 2.56 metric tonnes of CO₂ per year would be saved if we convert to Bullfrog power. We will convert to Bullfrog Power for the coming year, accepting the higher expense. Discussion of solar panels is carried over to February.

4 **Reports**

4.1 **Representative Meeting:** report from Beverly. The report is received with thanks; it is attached. Friends are asked to consider the report and take actions as led, in particular the concerns around the two new staff positions for CYM. Beverly suggests this is an excellent way to help Friends prosper in Canada. (Such donations should be designated for Quaker Education Programme.) Beverly will summarize action issues for separate inclusion in the Newsletter and bring these to Friends' attention after M4W. A brown bag discussion may be held in April re frequency of Representative Meeting if there is sufficient interest.

4.2 **Treasurer:** Blair brought the year-end report for 2008; it is received with thanks to Blair for his care and thoroughness. Budgeted donations were 10.5% under budget. Fortunately, expenses were 18.5% under budget, so we are solvent, but some budget lines were unused, as well as others being underfunded. For example, it is brought to our attention that we have not spent our budgeted amount for refugee support for the year. We ask the Clerk to follow up on needs for this money, which is funded from the **Dunford bequest**. In addition, the outreach budget was unspent; Friends are asked to consider this. Notes of good wishes were sent from Cecelia and Sybil with their donations, expressing goodwill to our Meeting, and from Jean expressing thanks for Meeting's support. Particular thanks are expressed to Blair for making the budget accessible and keeping account of our finances so faithfully.

4.3 **Nominating Committee** (re temporary replacement on Ministry and Counsel for Robbie M): no report received with thanks.

5 **New Business**

5.1 **Proposal to form a Worship Group in Cambridge** A letter was received from [four individuals associated with Hamilton Meeting] stating their desire to start a worship group in Cambridge under the care of HMM. The Friends involved have assured HMM that they do not intend to diminish participation in HMM with this step. We will be guided by Organization and Procedure as to the responsibilities on both sides. We understand the importance of this and wish to support it in every way, and appreciate the outreach that this

represents. The letter, along with this minute, will be sent by the Clerk to Kitchener Area Monthly Meeting. We look forward to the closer association that this may make possible between HMM and KAMM.

5.2 Representative for Hamilton Chapter of Ontario Multifaith Council. A name has been put forward and we anticipate a report in February.

6 **Correspondence:** none received

7 **Next Meeting:** Sunday, 1 February 2009 after Meeting for Worship.

8 **Worship:** meeting ended in silent worship: Mona began our worship by reading a note of thanks and goodwill from Denise.

Attachment to the Minutes for January 2009:

Report on Representative Meeting, 21-22 November 2008

- Beverly

It's a fact of life everywhere - within Quaker meetings as well as in the rest of the world - that many things cost money. Canadian Yearly Meeting struggles with financial issues every year, and in the words of our Finance Committee clerk, we practice "faith-based budgeting": that is, we budget donations to cover our expenses and have faith that the donations will come in. This method works surprisingly often - often enough that it no longer seems an anomaly. However, at Yearly Meeting sessions in 2007, Friends approved the hiring of a Quaker Education Coordinator and a Youth Secretary, both part-time positions, and at sessions in 2008, the budget implications of this decision were made clear to us. Both positions are presently being combined, for donation purposes, under the title "Quaker Education Programme", and some \$64,000 must be in place (one year's salary for both positions) before hiring for either begins. The Consultation and Renewal Working Group which proposed these two positions, after extensive consultation with Friends across Yearly Meeting, believed that both would help strengthen the Society of Friends in Canada, increasing attendance, membership, and commitment, thus eventually paying for themselves. Friends at Yearly Meeting shared this belief. However, for a time we will all need to increase contributions to Yearly Meeting to support the initiation of these important positions. If every adult member of the RsoF in Canada gave just about \$5.00 more each month, we would meet this goal. A hiring committee for the Youth Secretary is already begun.

Dale Dewar, as Clerk of Canadian Yearly Meeting, has spoken up on behalf of Canadian Quakers on matters such as war resisters and the Israel-Palestine conflict, and has continued our dialogue with Friends United Meeting over their discriminatory hiring practices and the reaffirmation of the Richmond Declaration of Faith, among many other issues with which she has dealt.

One area which has caused much discussion in the last few years is that of permitting other organizations, specifically Friends General Conference, of which CYM is a member, to use our directory information for mailing. The matters of privacy, solicitation of funds, and an excess of postal mailing all affect our decision not to share our mailing list with organizations beyond CYM, even those of which we are members. We affirmed

this decision in November.

Dana Bush of Calgary MM has been appointed to the Kairos delegation to the tar sands. (See minute 59 from CYM sessions 2008.) She is very knowledgeable in this matter and will represent Quakers well.

I presented the letter which this Meeting had approved regarding Ian's status as a Quaker chaplain. The minute in response to the letter is as follows: "Minute of Call for Chaplaincy – Ian. Beverly read a letter from Ian and his committee of care regarding his call to the ministry of chaplaincy. He is no longer employed as a chaplain. His current ministry is similar to what many of us do as ministry with a sense of call. We refer his letter to the Elders with a Concern for Chaplaincy and ask them to consider whether it is appropriate to sustain his minute of call for chaplaincy."

Representatives agreed to consult with their committees and monthly meetings about what would be involved and required for Representative Meeting to meet only once a year, as well as the nature of the body suggested in Consultation and Renewal recommendation O-1 (a body probably comprised of CYM clerks and the CYM treasurer and empowered to make time-sensitive decisions between sessions of YM and Representative Meeting), and to bring the results of our considerations to the May Representative Meeting. I suggest a brown-bag lunch and discussion following meeting some Sunday for those who are interested.