

HAMILTON MONTHLY MEETING

of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

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NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2010

"The humble, meek, merciful, just, pious and devout souls everywhere are of one religion and when death has taken off the mask, they will know one another, though the diverse liveries they wore here make them strangers.." William Penn.

- Submitted by Paul

"At its core, war is impoverishment. War's genesis and ultimate end is in the poverty of our hearts. If we can realize that the world's liberation begins within those troubled hearts, then we may yet find peace...What good has ever come from the slaughter of the innocents?" - Kathy Kelly.

- Submitted by Glenna

REFRESHMENTS FOR MEETING FOR WORSHIP

7 Feb: Louise; 14 February: Laura; 21 February: Jean; 28 February: ****

UPCOMING DATES – PLEASE COME!

25 February: Pizza, DVD on Uranium Issues and Discussion. Contact Wilf [Editor's note: POSTPONED due to weather];

28 February: Cambridge Worship Group. Contact Caroleigh;

28 February: After Meeting discussion on Friends' General Conference Development Committee presentations for 19-21 Sept 2010;

26 March: Potluck and Robbie's story of Trout Lake NWT's story;

30 May: Potluck and Tour of Ian's farm

19-21 September: HMM hosts FGC Development Committee (see 28 Feb after-meeting discussion)

MISSING A JACKET?

Two fleece jackets, one white and one blue, have been hanging in the coat racks at the Meeting House for some time. Please check them if you are missing a jacket.

THANKS FROM HILDA BIRKETT

The family and I appreciated having people from Meeting share in the memorial service for Misha. It was a wonderful celebration of his life and meant a great deal to us all. If anyone from Meeting happens to be in this “neck of the woods”, please phone me – I’d be happy to see you “for old times sake”! Greetings to all who remember us. Hilda

Q-ACTION: SOME IDEAS FROM THE CFSC E-NEWS

Why is the Refugee Appeal Division not being implemented? In December, Bill C-291, compelling implementation of the Refugee Appeal Division (RAD), was defeated in Parliament by a tie-breaking vote by the Speaker. Refugee claimants’ fate is determined by a single Refugee Board member, even as the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (2001) provides for an appeal process. Ask your MP why the RAD is not being implemented. A backgrounder is available from the Canadian Council for Refugees <www.ccrweb.ca>, of which CFSC is a member.

Contact New Public Safety Minister, Vic Toews. In January’s cabinet shuffle, MP Vic Toews was appointed Minister of Public Safety. This ministry oversees the implementation of anti-terrorism measures. Welcome Mr. Toews to the post and indicate to him that a substantive public report about the implementation of the recommendations of the O’Connor and Iacobucci inquiries is long overdue. Ask him if he plans to carry out a review of all anti-terrorism measures, as has been hinted in the press, and if so, encourage him to solicit input from the public. His e-mail address is: ToewsV@parl.gc.ca, website: www.victoews.com, where his phone numbers are listed.

Action on climate change. Members of the World Council of Churches <www.oikoumene.org> delegation attending the UN Framework Convention

on Climate Change in Copenhagen unanimously criticized the Copenhagen Accord, which was negotiated in secret by a small subset of countries (the U.S., China, India, South Africa and Brazil). They recognized that, once more, the poorest people will be those most affected by this unfair deal. The Accord maintains that the scientific thinking for keeping temperature increase below 2 degrees Celsius is important, but fails to make commitments to reduce emissions. Ask MPs how Canada can reach the necessary 40% decrease in CO2 emissions by 2020 in order to stay below the 2 degree mark, as well as about Canada's contribution to a fund for adaptation in the most vulnerable developing countries, as called for by the WCC. Canadian Yearly Meeting is one of two Quaker bodies that are members of the WCC.

PrayerCircles for Our Damaged Democracy. Pray at 7 am and/or 7 pm for 7 minutes focusing on democracy in Canada (times/durations optional). Whether an individual or a group, the prayer itself forms the circle. "Open to all faith communities and/or people with no faith".

FROM FRIENDS' RECIPE FILES ...

MARY RAY'S COOKIES (~3 ½ dozen)

Mary-Ray Cate sojourned in HMM somewhere about 1979 or so – she and several other young doctors were doing a specialty in Family Practice at MUMC, one of the few places that offers that. She moved to New Mexico and has worked in or near Santa Fe for decades now, still active as a Quaker. She brought these cookies to Meeting, and we all liked them!

1 ½ cup whole wheat flour

1 cup sugar (I use *less*)

1 t. baking soda

¼ t. salt

1 t. ginger (I use a little more)

¼ t. ground cloves

½ c soft butter or margarine

1 egg

¼ cup molasses (half fancy molasses and half blackstrap, mixed)

¾ c. large flake rolled oats

Sift together flour, sugar, soda, salt, spices. Add shortening, egg, molasses &

beat until smooth, ~ 2 minutes. Stir in rolled oats.
Drop from T. onto greased cookie sheet about 3" apart.

Bake at 375° about 8 minutes. Let cool for 1 minute before removing from baking sheet to cooling rack.

(Also good with raisins...)

NEED MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS BUSINESS MEETINGS?

You can find Minutes from previous Meetings for Worship for Business, as well as other information on things Quaker at the Hamilton Monthly Meeting web site, <http://quaker.ca/hamilton>

HAMILTON MONTHLY MEETING MEETING FOR WORSHIP FOR BUSINESS SUNDAY, 14 FEBRUARY, 2010

Present: Mona C, Christopher, Ian, Glenna, Jean, Robbie M, Andy - Clerk, Betty, Dick, Wilf, Shirley, Bev, Carol Leigh - Recording Clerk, Don, Harriet

1. **Worship:** Meeting began at 12:30 with silent worship
2. **Minutes of the Meeting of 10 January 2010:** minutes were accepted as distributed.
3. **Business Arising**
 - 3.1 **Memorial Minute for Denise Barron:** the minute was read by Jean. We appreciate this very much and thank Jean, Betty, and Carol Leigh for writing it. **It will be sent to CYM office and included in the HMM Newsletter.**
 - 3.2 **Potlucks**
 - 3.2.1 **January 22: Intergenerational evening:** the evening was a success; thanks to Wilf and Shirla for organizing, and to those who got Rex to be present, and to all who came. Next time we will try to coordinate more fully with the schedule of younger

children.

3.2.2 **February 25: DVD on uranium issues.** We will look at the selections from the DVD that we have in our possession which **Beverly will choose** for us, and discuss them. Wilf will order pizza for 6:00 p.m.; **Friends are asked to let Wilf know if they are coming.** [Editor's note: Event POSTPONED due to weather]

3.2.3 **March 26: Robbie M** will present the story of a community book developed in the Northwest Territories in which she was deeply involved.

3.2.4 **April:** instead of a potluck at the Meetinghouse, it has been suggested that we take a **field trip to the Canadian Yearly Meeting Archives at Pickering College in Newmarket**, and talk to Jane Zavitz-Bond, CYM archivist. **Robbie M will enquire about suitable dates.** Continuing.

3.2.5 **May 30:** potluck at **Ian's Farm.**

3.3 **Feedback on CYM C n R Implementation Committee Recommendations** Friends are reminded to send individual feedback by 26 Feb. Also, **Draft CYM Faith and Practice.** Friends are reminded to forward responses to HMM Clerk before February 26.

3.4 **Hosting Friends General Conference Development Committee** (Sept 17-19, 2010): We will **meet after Meeting February 28** to discuss the issues involved in hosting the FGC Development Committee and the proposed topics for their presentation to us; **Chris C and Betty P will bring sandwiches and cookies respectively** -- catered brown bag!). The **Clerk will write to the FGC DC to let them know what we are doing.**

3.5 **Meeting with David Sweet:** (Jan 3.5) Dick. Dick went on his own to meet with David Sweet. They met for an hour and had a good discussion with a balance of listening and speaking. David made several cogent points regarding the cut to CIDA funding to KAIROS, explaining among other things that no one who receives CIDA funding should view it as an entitlement. With regard to the Department of Peace, he did not see himself or his party supporting it, since it is seen as an enlargement of an already overlarge bureaucracy. He did say that he felt that Canadians are doing this work. In the discussion of a Peace Service, Dick felt that David was able to hear the points Dick made. Dick felt that some understanding was gained on both sides and intends to continue this relationship.

3.6 Replacement of water heater: (Maintenance Committee)
Don reported that the Maintenance Committee met in the Meetinghouse with Jeff Anderson (who has done our recent renovations) to discuss this and other issues. The recommendation is to renovate the second bathroom, including replacing the old water heater with a new electric 20-gallon one (half the present size), with a storage cabinet above. The arrangements for delivery of the hot water within the MH will remain the same. The kitchen taps will be repaired or replaced; some creativity will be needed. Jeff will analyse all the needs and give us a quote. The various options of gas and on-demand water heating were considered in making this recommendation. Meeting thanks the Maintenance Committee for their diligence. We accept the recommendation in principle and we look forward to the quote from Jeff.

4. Reports

4.1 **Treasurer: Relief of Local Hardship** funds for 2009: report on recommended allocation (Bev, Chris, Robbie, Don). This group has met electronically, and has determined an equitable distribution of funds. The **funds will be distributed now** to the groups identified last year for support by our Meeting: The Good Shepherd, Salvation Army, Wesley Centre, Mission Services and Out of the Cold, \$200 each. **Report attached.**

Outreach Funds: we are unable at the moment to track the expenditures for the help we committed to for the production of flyers for the Open Doors Open House. We will try to determine whether we paid our committed amount, and do so if it has not been done.

4.2 Ministry and Counsel

4.2.1 **Spring Retreat:** The HMM Spring residential Retreat will be held next weekend Feb 19 -21, at Crieff Hills Retreat Centre, with 20 participants. The theme is Community, looking both inward and outward. Ministry and Counsel will send an email to the registrants (and telephone Mona) noting the times, and reminding those who have not paid how to make the payment, as this should be done ahead of time.

4.3 Peace and Social Action Committee:

4.3.1 Dick has suggested that we host an **informal evening** for Graeme McQueen to come and discuss with Hamilton Meeting

the “9-11” attack on the World Trade Centre and the conspiracy theory.

4.3.2 **Possible public meeting** Dick raises the possibility that HMM might host a public meeting on “What Has Happened to the Peace Movement”. There is concern about the fragmented nature of the peace movement locally. We will consider hosting such a public meeting, and ask Dick, Don, Bev, Chris, Robbie and Ray and any other interested Friends to consider the idea and bring the issue back to M4W4B.

4.3.3 Dick draws our attention to the lack of coordinated information in Hamilton about the many groups undertaking peace initiatives, broadly defined. It is proposed by the Hamilton Culture of Peace Network that an **online directory of peace-oriented groups** be created for the City of Hamilton. We affirm that the creation of such a directory is consistent with Friends’ peace testimony, and approve the establishment of a HMM fund to support this work. We are willing to receive dedicated donations from Friends and others earmarked for this project, which will be administered by the Hamilton Culture of Peace Network.

4.4 **Outreach:** planning for Open Doors 2010: Friends are asked to read Paul’s report (circulated by email) and make responses to Paul and Bev. A paper copy has been provided to Mona C.

5. **New Business**

5.1 **Location of the computer:** Jean (on behalf of the Archives Committee) spoke of the needs of the Archives Committee hoping that the computer can be removed from the library back into the Pendle Hill Room to facilitate the work of the Archives Committee. Library Committee will be able to use the computer for continuing to update the catalogue or for other needs; the hope is not to inconvenience the Library Committee. Ian reported that HMM library users are not using the computer to search the collection, so it is therefore not likely to be missed in its present location. We thank Ian for his enthusiasm in creating an online catalogue, and the work he has done to bring the library into a more up-to-date functioning. We will discuss library needs and uses in the future.

6. **Correspondence:** None at this time

7. **Next Meeting: Sunday, 7 March 2010**

8. **Worship:** Meeting closed with silent worship at 2:50

ATTACHMENTS TO FEBRUARY MINUTES

1. MEMORIAL MINUTE FOR DENISE BARRON

Denise Barron

November 20, 1919 Aberdeen, Scotland -- May 19, 2009 Hamilton, Ontario

Denise Martin Murray was born in Aberdeen Scotland, the third of four children in a rather intellectual family. She enjoyed a happy childhood, marred only by being confined for a time with rheumatic fever. That time of inactivity led to her love of bird watching, which gave her great joy throughout her life. Her first job upon completing school was in a library, but through the Second World War, she worked for the Ministry of Food. On June 30, 1944, she married Morrie Barron. By 1947, they had been blessed with a son, Dugald (known outside the family as Bill) and with him they moved to Hamilton, Ontario, Canada in 1951. They attended a Unitarian church for a time, but were early members of Hamilton Meeting, and mainstays of the Meeting for many decades. Their daughter Beth was born in 1959 and the family lived in University Gardens in Dundas for many years. Even after Morrie's death in 1988, Denise continued to live in the family home until her late 80's, when she moved to a retirement home.

Very early on coming to Quakers, both Denise and Morrie were deeply immersed in the everyday life of the Meeting. While Morrie was active as treasurer and trustee, caring for the physical fabric of our meeting house, Denise cared for the social and spiritual fabric. Over the years, Denise served the Meeting officially in many ways, including serving on Ministry and Counsel, serving as Recording Clerk for business meeting, and producing the newsletter. She was among those who helped to develop the meeting house library. More informally, she was involved in countless activities, from discussion groups, to craft groups such as weaving, quilting and rug hooking, to helping at potluck suppers and craft sales. Denise was always involved and became a central figure in our meeting. A frequent answer to many a question, from Quaker process to "where's the sugar", was "ask Denise!"

Hers was a caring presence in our midst: a humble person who gave much and asked for little. Denise rarely spoke in Meeting, but helped to give strength to the silence. Her ministry was rather in actions than words. After Meeting, during refreshment time, Denise would circulate and chat to everyone, including those who might not have been at Meeting for a while,

and especially to newcomers. She was very discerning of people and their qualities. She and Morrie often invited new attenders home to lunch after Meeting, an especially welcoming gesture which was deeply appreciated by those for whom it was an experience of Denise's warmth and generosity. She had her finger on the pulse of meeting, and usually knew what was going on with each family or attender. She did not have grandchildren of her own, but was always interested in and supportive of the young people of Meeting and was "in loco grandparentis" to a number of Meeting children. She felt blessed by her own children and loved them dearly. Denise always caringly maintained her connection with Scotland and her family in Britain, but with her own relations far away, the Meeting was her extended family.

She was a good listener, as those who visited her for tea would find. Wise advice, realistic and delivered in a forthright manner would be given to those who confided their troubles to her. She had a soft shoulder and many people used it. Denise was first and foremost very human. She always urged us to remember those in need and the less fortunate.

For several years, Denise volunteered at the Peace Research Institute run by Alan and Hanna Newcombe in Dundas. She had a lifelong interest in world affairs and politics, and was an avid reader. She was an early and continuing member of Voice of Women, and in her inconspicuous way, was a great example for other women, as she kept herself informed, involved, and politically and socially active throughout her life. Even when macular degeneration compromised her eyesight and reading was physically difficult, she persevered with large magnifiers and then talking books. Even after moving from her home to a retirement home, she never lost her interest in or concern for the Meeting. She would voice her opinions and concerns to others to be passed on to the Meeting.

Denise had a good sense of humour, occasionally a naughty one. Besides reading avidly on serious topics, Quakerism, and on world affairs, she also appreciated fine literature and enjoyed a good mystery. She had a fondness for nice clothes and enjoyed looking well dressed. She was happy to participate in the "frivols", or shared lunches with no serious topic which HMM had a tradition of holding for several winters to lighten the darkness of the season. Always fond of birds, watching them at her feeder was a source of joy in her later years, as they were in her retirement home, where despite her seriously reduced vision, she could still enjoy them as they flitted to and from her feeders.

Denise lived her roles as wife and as mother with deep devotion, and with

great integrity lived her Quaker principles in her daily life. She was devoted to Meeting and gave generously of herself to the Meeting as a whole and to Friends individually. She was dearly loved and will be sadly missed.

2. REPORT ON RELIEF OF LOCAL HARDSHIP FUNDS

The "relief of local hardship" donation will be sent to the same organizations as last year (Out of the Cold, Good Shepherd Centre, Wesley Centre & Mission Services; each group will receive a cheque for \$200.00. - Submitted by Christopher