

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

REFRESHMENTS FOR MEETING FOR WORSHIP

3 May: Darlene; **10 May:** Betty; **17 May:** Ruth; **24 May:** ____ **31 May:** ____

UPCOMING DATES – PLEASE COME!

9 May 2009: HMM Retreat, “Reaching Out & Reaching In”

28 May 2009: May potluck with Anne Mitchell on “Right Relationship: A Whole Earth Economy”

31 May: Cambridge Worship Group

5 – 7 June: Yonge Street Half-Yearly Meeting, “Finding our Faith, Engaging our Diversity”, at Camp NeeKauNis near Midland.

11 June 2009: Meeting for Worship for Business, 7 p.m.;

14 June 2009: Celebration for Rick McCutcheon’s doctorate after M4W. Contact Carol Leigh and/or Betty to find out how you can help.

June potluck date TBA: “Food and Sustainability”, to be held at Ian’s farm.

CLOSING THE DOOR OF THE MEETINGHOUSE

Please make sure the back door is securely locked and fastened before leaving the Meetinghouse. Please close the door whether you think you are the last Friend to leave or not. - Twice a Friend has found the door wide open...

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, quaker.ca/hamilton

GARDENING AT THE MEETING HOUSE

Have some time? Want to help? Contact Jean to find out.

ABOUSFIAN ABDELRAZIK: LETTER FROM FIRST DAY SCHOOL CHILDREN

May 3rd, 2009

Dear Minister Cannon,

We are children who attend the First Day School of the Hamilton Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (the Hamilton Quakers).

We have learned about the story of Mr. Abousfian Abdelrazik, a Canadian citizen who is stuck in Sudan because your government refuses to issue travel documents to allow him to come home. This is very puzzling for us, and we want you to explain why your government is not letting him come home.

Quakers highly value the truth and honesty - and we do not think that you have been telling the truth about Mr. Abdelrazik. We think your government should be setting an example for Canadians, but we think that what you're doing to Mr. Abdelrazik and his family is not a good example. It looks like bullying to us.

We do not understand why you are keeping Mr. Abdelrazik from his family here in Canada. We have heard that his older daughter since she was 19 has had to act as the parent for her younger sister, because her Dad (Mr. Abdelrazik) is stuck in Sudan and because her mother has passed away. This seems very wrong to us - children should not have to do the job of parents.

His children haven't seen their father in over 6 years. We think this is awful. We would miss our parents very much if we didn't get to see them for 6 years.

We think this case is very simple:

- If he has done something wrong, then he should be brought home to face charges and have a trial.
- If he has done nothing wrong, then he should be brought home for sure.

Please stop acting like a bully and allow Mr. Abdelrazik to come back to Canada right away.

Yours sincerely,

The Children of First Day School

PENDLE HILL WEEKENDS SUPPORT MEETINGS

Do you serve as clerk of a small meeting? Are there new attenders or members of your meeting who would welcome a Quakerism weekend with others new to Friends? Are you looking for support for your First Day School or your peace and justice work? This summer and fall Pendle Hill offers several weekend workshops designed to bring together Friends around common concerns to support the life of local meetings.

These workshops include:

- [Clerking the Small Meeting](#), July 10-12, with Peggy Dyson-Cobb and Katherine Smith, who have clerked extensively in Baltimore Yearly Meeting;
- [Inquirers' Weekend: An Introduction to Quakerism](#), July 24-26, with Erin McDougall and Carl Magruder;
- [Faithful, Effective Work for Peace and Justice](#): 5th annual retreat for Clerks and Members of Peace & Social Concerns Committees, September 18-20, with presenters from the American Friends Service Committee, the Friends Committee on National Legislation, and other Quaker organizations; and

- [Nurturing Our First Day Schools](#), September 25-27, with Helen Garay Toppins and Pamela Wood, New York Yearly Meeting Friends whose approach is designed for any size group of children.
For more information visit www.pendlehill.org or call ext. 3 at 610-566-4507 or 800-742-3150.

PENDLE HILL'S SUMMER SPEAKER SERIES PROMOTES RADICALLY FAITHFUL LIVING:

Pendle Hill's Summer Speaker Series, *The Kin-Dom of God: Living into the Covenant*, will take place Thursday evenings from June 18 to July 23, 2009 from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. in the Barn at Pendle Hill in Wallingford, PA. The series is free and open to the public. Participants are expected to include Pendle Hill retreat and workshop participants, community members, YALDers (Young Adult Leadership Development participants), and Friends from neighboring meetings.

Featured speakers and themes include:

- June 18: Shaine Claiborne, co-founder of the Simple Way Community and author of *Jesus for President*, on "Living as an Ordinary Radical";
- June 25: Zachary Moon, Quaker student at Chicago Theological Union, on "The Prophetic Possibility: Radical Imagination and the Disciplined Life";
- July 2: Will O'Brien, founder of The Alternative Seminary in Philadelphia, on "Sabbath Economics: Are the Answers to Global Economic Crises Found in the Bible!?"
- July 9: Carl Magruder, a/k/a *The Earth Quaker* on "Beyond Sustainability";
- July 16: Noah Baker Merrill, Quaker founder of *Direct Aid Iraq*, on "When the Hound of Heaven is on your track: Leadings, Vocation, and Surrender"; and
- July 23: Debby Churchman, Quaker resident of the Disciple House of Church of the Saviour in Washington, DC on "Radical Faith at the End of the Empire."

For details visit www.pendlehill.org after May 8 or call 610-566-4507 or 800-742-3150.

**HAMILTON MONTHLY MEETING
MEETING FOR WORSHIP FOR BUSINESS
SUNDAY, 3 MAY, 2009**

Present: Christopher, Christina, Glenna, Andy (Clerk), Wilf, Carol Leigh (Recording Clerk)

Regrets: Mona, Beverly, Jean

1. Worship: Meeting began at 12:40 with silent worship.

2. Minutes of the Meeting of 5 April 2009 were read and approved with minor clarifying corrections; as well, regrets were received from Carol Leigh, Recording Clerk and from Glenna.

3. Business Arising

3.1 Fall Yonge St. Half Yearly Meeting:

Christina reported for the committee. The theme will be "Practicing Peace and Justice Then and Now". Plans are proceeding on this topic; we thank the committee for their work and look forward to further plans. We propose the date 24 October 2009. HMM will host the

Meeting at our Meetinghouse.

Friends are also reminded to REGISTER for the Spring HYM before 15 May; it will be at Camp NeeKauNis on June 5,6,7.

3.2 Naming Committee: Both proposed names have declined; Wilf is named to work with Christopher on the Naming Committee.

3.3 Potlucks

3.3.1 Report on April Potluck: The April potluck had good attendance and a very interesting programme with Syed Jaffer.

3.3.2 May Potluck (Mona via Andy): Mona has contacted Anne Mitchell, who has agreed to lead us on the topic: Right Relationship: A whole Earth Economy, on the third Thursday in May (the 21st). Anne Mitchell is a member of Toronto MM and the Executive Director of the Canadian Institute for Environmental Law and Policy.

3.3.3 June Potluck (Chris): Chris spoke with Ian, who is flexible as to the date. We will consider how this will work with other commitments in June. Andy and Chris will work on this.

3.4 Cleaning of Meeting House (Don/ Harriet): Don and Harriet are continuing to work on this matter.

3.5 Donation of \$150 to Department of Peace Initiative: This is being looked after.

3.6 Hosting of FGC Development Committee (Beverly via Andy): Beverly has let the FGC Development Committee know that we are in principle willing to host in 2010, with the understanding that the practical details are still to be worked out. We need to know whether there is more expected of the Meeting beyond offering billeting and meeting space. Rose Marie of Pelham Executive Meeting has offered to help.

3.7 Abousfian Abdelrazik: HMM has been added to the list of groups supporting the campaign to bring him back to Canada. The supporting minute has been sent to Representative Meeting and Canadian Friends Service Committee. The letter to the Minister of Foreign Affairs has been sent.

Wilf will continue to keep us updated by email.

Wilf read to us the powerful letter which the First Day School children have written to the Minister of Foreign Affairs. It will be published in the Newsletter when the signatures have been collected.

4. Reports:

4.1 Ministry and Counsel has met regularly as usual. One concern is regarding the Summer Camp Fund begun last year. M&C recommends that HMM have a summer camp fund in the budget, used to support children identified by M&C as needing special assistance. M&C further recommends the allocation of \$400 to the summer fund, and

recommends that donations be invited to help defray this expense.

4.2 Peace and Social Action Committee: Dick (who is at Camp NeeKauNis for a work weekend) reports that the Department of Peace Initiative AGM held in Hamilton was successful. The report will be filed with the minutes, and has already been sent out on the email list.

4.3 Maintenance Committee (Reuven through Andy): grass cutting has been arranged for about \$600 with Grant Aberdeen of Aberdeen Landscaping , the same people who do the snow removal. We are reminded that we have approved moving to Bullfrog Power and that action is still required.

5. New Business

5.1 Meetinghouse event for Rick: Rick M. (former member of HMM, now a member of Prairie Monthly Meeting), has completed the requirements for his PhD, and will receive his hood from Dick in June. We will host a tea party in Rick's honour at the Meetinghouse on June 14. Carol Leigh and Betty will coordinate this, with Tamara and Rick's input.

6. Correspondence:

6.1 A letter was received from Jennifer P. requesting transfer of her membership to Kitchener Area Monthly Meeting, where she has been attending the Guelph Worship Group for some years. This transfer will be made, but we note sadness at losing Jennifer from HMM.

6.2 We need to update our list for people receiving the *Canadian Friend*. Glenna will follow up with this.

6.3 We received a letter from Continuing Meeting of Ministry and Counsel in November 2008, reminding us that “any Friends registered with their Provincial government as a Registrar of Marriages be made aware that they have authority to register only marriages that take place in right ordering under the care of a Meeting within the Religious Society of Friends, according to our practice, custom, and Discipline,” and drawing our attention to *Organization and Procedure* 10.1, 10.6, and 10.8)

6.4 From Canadian Friends Service Committee, a letter asking us to consider two policy items to be considered at Canadian Yearly Meeting this summer. We are asked to discuss the two items, one on uranium mining and nuclear energy, and one on Palestine/Israel. We will circulate the material by email (with e-mail buddies conveying the information to those not on email), asking for feedback, and then expect to have a brown-bag discussion that may produce a statement from HMM

7. Next Meeting: Because of the expected absence of many Friends on the weekend of June 7, we will hold the next Meeting for Worship for Business on Thursday, 11 June 2009, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. (NB! A departure from our usual time!)

8. Worship: Meeting ended with silent worship at 1:35

Carol Leigh
Recording Clerk