

HAMILTON MONTHLY MEETING  
of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)  
7 Butty Place, Hamilton, Ontario, L8S 2R5  
[www.quaker.ca/hamilton](http://www.quaker.ca/hamilton)  
[quakers@hwcn.org](mailto:quakers@hwcn.org)  
905 523 8383

## SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER 2009

### REFRESHMENTS FOR MEETING FOR WORSHIP

20 September: Ray, 27 September: Carol Leigh & Glenna

### UPCOMING DATES – PLEASE COME!

**Potlucks: September date TBA; October Date TBA; November date TBA:** Paul: “Fellowship of Reconciliation” - experiences in Bogota Colombia;

**24 October:** Yonge Street Half-Yearly Meeting, “Justice Then and Now”, at HMM;

**October date TBA:** Cambridge Worship Group

### MEETING WELCOME FOR EVERETT

On Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup> the Meeting is planning a “Welcoming” for Everett, the baby son of Diana and Sean. A delicious lunch will be provided following Meeting for Worship. There will be games, visiting and fun for all.

Everyone is welcome. We will be collecting for a communal gift. A small contribution for lunch would be appreciated. If anyone would like to make cupcakes let us know.

Please contact Harriet, Jean, Janis, Shirla or Betty

***If anyone has a larger 3- tiered cake stand would you let us know?***

### TO FRIENDS AROUND THE WORLD

We write to tell you that Quakers in Australia have set about the formation of an Australian Quaker Centre which is intended to be a resource centre not only for Australia, but also for the the whole of the Asia -West Pacific area. Our vision is that the Australian Quaker Centre will:

- Have an atmosphere of prayer, simplicity and gratitude before God.
- Be willing to encounter inwardly the indigenous spirituality and care of this land and its peoples.
- Assume everyone is becoming more deeply part of a spiritual community.
- Embody Quaker practice in all its aspects and activities.
- Reflect a way of life that is spiritually, physically, environmentally and economically sustainable in Australia.

It is not intended that the Centre will model mimic either Woodbrooke or Pendle Hill, though we draw much inspiration from their work. It The AQC will be much smaller, a consequence of our much smaller Quaker population, and will be typically Australian in character and atmosphere, and have an Indigenous presence.

For a period of three months starting in early September 2009 we have been fortunate in obtaining the use of a rural retreat property approximately 45 minutes drive from Canberra. The property has modern accommodation for twenty guests plus resident staff. There is an old garden, abundant wildlife and sweeping views of the landscape overlooking a (now dry) lake bed.

The Centre has come into being as a consequence of a vision from David Johnson, and has been fortunate in obtaining the services of Helen Bayes as is the 2009 Resident Director. A In Sepetember and October a number series of varied courses are being offered by the Centre, this year with November a time for workshops and residential visitors.

The vision is that the Australian Quaker Centre will:

- Have an atmosphere of prayer, simplicity and gratitude before God.
- Be willing to encounter inwardly the indigenous spirituality and care of this land and its peoples.
- Assume everyone is becoming more deeply part of a spiritual community.
- Embody Quaker practice in all its aspects and activities.

This initiative is a major undertaking for our small Quaker community, which is distributed far and wide over our vast country. Any help that Friends can offer in support of this project would be most welcome. Any people travelling this way would be welcome to join us.

More information is available on the following website: [www.aqc.@quakers.org.au](http://www.aqc.@quakers.org.au), or by emailing [AQC@quakers.org.au](mailto:AQC@quakers.org.au).

submitted by Helen Bayes, Director of the Australian Quaker Centre. (Helen was the 2009 Sunderland P.

Gardner lecturer at CYM)

## UNCHAINED MELODY

I look at what I've done!  
The world won't be the same  
since I have lived on Earth,  
left here and there my name.

And you as well, my friend,  
you left your mark on things,  
a trace of daily acts  
that subtle changes brings.

Who knows where the chains end  
that we so blithely start?  
They end in pain or bliss,  
but always play a part.

My children walk the Earth,  
their little children nurture,  
The chain of life unfolds  
in ever-changing culture.

My words resound in air  
or dot the printed page;  
heard or read by few,  
yet help to set the stage.

I did not shake the worlds,  
build up or tear down cities;  
yet modest works cause ripples  
of little joys and pities.

May our chains keep on growing,  
my dear sisters and brothers;  
unbroken weld the links  
each firm to the others.

Don't let the future end  
which has so barely started;  
labour and struggle on,  
both tender and stout-hearted.

Hanna Newcombe ("Poems from the Journey", poetry by Friends in Canadian Yearly Meeting, 2007.  
Canadian Quaker Pamphlet No.65, Argenta, BC: Argenta Friends Press, pp. 24-25)

## TEARS

I  
The  
Liquid  
Of sadness  
And sorrow. The  
Drop descending from  
Its creator released a sign,  
A message and symbol. All the  
Anguish of depression and the woes  
That are presented in an insignificant  
Liquid crystal of transparence clear as glass,  
Yet it's visible in so many light alterations. It's a  
Song, it has its rhythm, a tune of great disagreement.  
Nameless, but the title known by all, understood by  
Each living being that is subjected to the same  
Emotions: sentiments and feelings. It's a  
Musical shared between souls.  
And the closest distance  
Between many.

Sakhile

**HAMILTON MONTHLY MEETING**  
**MEETING FOR WORSHIP FOR BUSINESS**  
**SUNDAY, 13 SEPTEMBER 2009**

Present: Christopher, Glenna, Jean, Andy (Clerk), Shirla, Carol Leigh (Recording Clerk), Don, Harriet  
Regrets: Beverly

1. Worship: Meeting began at 12:25 p.m. with silent worship

2. Minutes of the Meeting of 11 June 2009 were read and approved as distributed.
3. Business Arising
  - 3.1 Yonge St. Half Yearly Meeting at Hamilton Monthly Meeting October 24
    - 3.1.1 Planning: HMM is hosting the fall YSHYM Meeting. Christina, Wilf, and Christopher have the programme and the flyer ready; the flyer is being sent out.
    - 3.1.2 In addition, there is an opportunity for a visit by Florence Ntakarutimana from Burundi, a Friend from the African Great Lakes Initiative, who will be in Ontario visiting various Meetings as well as Canadian Friends Service Committee to discuss her reconciliation work among ethnic groups in East Africa (specifically Rwanda) during this time. We will welcome Florence to participate with us in HYM, but the programme is already set and guest speakers have for some time been committed. The Clerk will write to the Friends arranging Florence's itinerary making this invitation and offering to arrange a potluck with Hamilton Friends in the week following HYM if that is desirable.
    - 3.1.3 Regarding food for HYM: Harriet Woodside and Jean Johnson will coordinate food: a snack as people arrive, the soup for the lunch, and the evening meal.
    - 3.1.4 Selection of delegates: We ask Mona C and Beverly to be our delegates, subject to consent.
    - 3.1.5 The agenda for HYM will be sent out and included in the Newsletter shortly by HYM Clerk, Glenna. This will give Hamilton Friends the opportunity to review the agenda and make any additions at the next M4W4B.
  - 3.2 The Memorial Minute for Helen Paulin was read at a Meeting for Worship in July and forwarded to Yearly Meeting office; it will be attached to these minutes.
  - 3.3 Memorial Minute for Denise Barron: Jean, Betty, and Carol Leigh will prepare this minute.
  - 3.4 Potlucks
    - 3.4.1 Report on June potluck: This was held at the Brinks' home after our outdoor meeting there, and the potluck lunch was a very enjoyable celebratory farewell to Jesse.
    - 3.4.2 September Potluck: Christopher will discuss Ian's wishes with him and offer the idea of help with preparation for a potluck on Friday September 25, or deferring the potluck if Ian prefers.
    - 3.4.3 October Potluck: see 3.1.1
    - 3.4.4 November Potluck: Paul has offered to present a programme for a potluck on his experiences in Bogota, Columbia this summer. We are pleased to accept this offer and will work out the date with Paul.
  - 3.5 The reports for the Spring Retreat and Spring HYM are deferred.
4. Reports
  - 4.1 Canadian Yearly Meeting: Glenna, HMM delegate to 2009 Canadian Yearly Meeting, presented her report; it is attached. We thank Glenna for her diligence. We are asked to consider Recommendations K1, K2, K3, & L1 by the Consultation and Renewal Committee, and to forward our views to the Consultation and Renewal Implementation Working Group. We are also asked to consider the proposal that CYM meet every second year rather than yearly. This report contains much to consider; Friends are encouraged to read it and ask Glenna about any issues therein.

4.2 Open House: The open house, part of Open Doors, an initiative of seven West Hamilton churches, was a success; there was a steady stream of visitors who were very interested in Friends' ways.

5. New Business

5.1 Representative to Community through Interfaith Dialog: Christopher explained this event which is a lead-up to the Gandhi Peace Festival and McMaster Peace Week. Chris is approved as HMM representative.

5.2 Invitation to Ecumenical Luncheon at the Good Shepherd, Friday, Oct 16. We ask Christopher and Don to attend on our behalf, to begin to explore how HMM may better involve ourselves in meeting the needs in our own community. We ask Don and Chris to report back to business meeting.

5.3 Hearing assistance in the Meeting House: It is necessary to make this more readily available and visible, for the use of people who may come who may not know it is there. Don will help to train Friends in the use of our hearing system and we will make it more available with more who can enable its use. Don and Reuven will consider this and develop a plan to implement.

5.4 Shower for Everett: A baby shower is planned for October 4 for Everett, son of Diana and Sean, who was born on June 8. Harriet, Jean, Shirla, and Betty will be planning this event with help from Friends. (Meeting for Worship for Business will be deferred; see below.)

5.5 Thanksgiving: we will not celebrate a communal Meeting Thanksgiving meal this year due to many other events scheduled for the same general period.

6. Correspondence

6.1 Letter from Lawrence Cannon concerning Abousfian Abdelrasik: an acknowledgement of our letter was received by our Clerk.

6.2 Letter of thanks from Ecumenical Committee on Refugees. A letter was received regarding last year's donation, which comes from the Dunford Bequest, expressing enthusiastic appreciation. In addition, Harriet reported on funds from 2007 used to aid a young refugee in Hamilton, who is doing well and demonstrates money well spent. We are grateful to Elise Dunford for her foresight and generosity.

7. Next Meeting: Thursday, October 8, 7:30 p.m. (Note change from usual day)

8. Worship: Meeting closed at 2:20 P.M. with silent worship

Carol Leigh, Recording Clerk

Attachments to the minutes follow ...

**MEMORIAL MINUTE**

**Helen McMaster Paulin**

**18 June 1916 – 30 December 2008**

Our dear Friend, Helen Paulin, passed away on 30 December 2008. Born in Montreal, Helen was the sixth and last child of Andrew Ross McMaster and Florence Walker. Her father was a well-known lawyer and Liberal politician. Educated at Netherwood Girls School and McGill University, she thrived in the

heady atmosphere of intellectual life in the '30s. Deeply concerned by the lot of the poor and the unemployed she was active in the Student Christian Movement and then joined the Young Communist League in 1937. In 1940 she secretly married Bernard Muller, but the marriage did not survive much past the birth of her son Andy in 1943. She returned to Toronto, first as a social worker, then briefly as a union organizer and finally as a freelance title searcher. In 1956 she left the Party in despair over the invasion of Hungary. Following a brief foray into teaching high school, she married Murray Paulin in 1958 and returned to school for an MA in Sociology. In 1966 Helen and Murray adopted a daughter, Hester, who was then six, and Helen devoted her life to childrearing. She became interested in Buddhist meditation and travelled extensively. Following Murray's death in 1986 she moved to Hamilton and developed a wide circle of new friends. She began attending Hamilton Monthly Meeting, where her son and daughter-in-law, Andy and Janis Muller, were active members.

Helen was an active participant in the peace work of Hamilton Monthly Meeting. She was a regular participant in our weekly peace vigil held in downtown Hamilton and a regular in the Mothers' Day Peace walk. She was a lively participant in our Sunday morning study groups and a vigorous supporter of the Culture of Peace network. Through the Meeting she developed a special friendship with Rex Barger. In 2002 she had a bad fall and required a pacemaker. Rex started to stay with her to provide help and companionship. By 2006 Helen had developed Parkinson's disease and moved to a retirement home. Following a fall in December 2006 she moved to a nursing home, first in Stoney Creek and later across from her old condo in Hamilton. Despite the fine care received she continued to decline until her death.

Approved at Meeting for Worship

12 July 2009

**REPORT TO HAMILTON MONTHLY MEETING ON CANADIAN YEARLY MEETING 2009**  
**At Kemptville, Ontario**

Canadian Yearly Meeting took place 14 to 22 August at the Kemptville Campus of the University of Guelph. The theme this year was *Friends with Mother Earth*. Our theme was expounded in many ways, including through Special Interest Groups (SIGs), through our Quaker study with Keith and Ellen Helmuth, and through committee reports.

The Uranium Working Group hosted several SIG sessions; however unity was not reached regarding the minute requesting the cessation of the use of nuclear energy was not approved.

Program Committee presented a report asking us whether we are living our testimonies in our CYM and recommended that CYM meet every two years\*\* and that Friends look into a feasibility study regarding building a Conference Centre at Camp NeeKauNis. Program Committee noted that our annual gathering costs CYM \$35,000 in addition to the approximately \$40,000 received in registration funds.

The CYM Treasurer reported that we have not yet raised the necessary funds for the Youth Secretary and the Quaker Education positions. The Clerk of the Fundraising Committee noted that if 1,000 Quakers donated \$10 per month we would raise \$120,000 per year – more than enough to fund these two positions. Pledge forms to donate to these funds are available at [cdixon@still-crazy.org](mailto:cdixon@still-crazy.org).

In response to CYM's request for guidance on effective advocacy for peace in the Middle East, Quaker Peace and Sustainable Communities Committee (QPASCC) drafted a policy statement that was circulated to Meetings prior to CYM. A minute giving guidance to Canadian Friends Service Committee and to Monthly Meetings as they engage with the Canadian government and other bodies on this issue was approved. Continuing Meeting of Ministry and Counsel (CMM&C) is working on a Friends Ways module to address the topic of Conflict in Meetings. Their work will also address the need for a workshop which can be conducted at regional gatherings or in Monthly Meetings. CMM&C is also working on end-of-life issues and expects to have a kit for Monthly Meetings ready to display at the next CYM.

Monthly Meetings are asked to examine the following C'n'R recommendations, and respond to the C'n'R Implementation Committee in preparation for considering these items in 2010: K-1, K-2, K-3, L-1\*. Responses can be made to Marilyn Manzer at "Marilyn Manzer" [mm@marilynmanzer.com](mailto:mm@marilynmanzer.com).

Friends approved adding a representative from Half-Yearly Meetings (HYMs) to Representative Meeting and Canadian Yearly Meeting. This will assist communication between HYMs and yearly meeting.

A copy of the Draft *Faith and Practice for Canadian Yearly Meeting* was given to each Friend in attendance at CYM. Monthly Meetings will receive copies. Friends are encouraged to read and reflect on the Draft Faith & Practice in preparation for making a decision on adopting it as the *Faith & Practice for Canadian Yearly Meeting in 2010*. Feedback can be sent by February 2010 to the F&P Development Committee at [mollyw@cooptel.qc.ca](mailto:mollyw@cooptel.qc.ca)

The ad hoc Committee on Sexual Ethics presented a document of guidelines and suggestions for adult right relationships. The committee suggests forming a study-group or group Meeting event to read this difficult document, and requests comments be sent to the Clerk of the Committee, Bruce Dienes by February 2010 at [bdienes@capflex.com](mailto:bdienes@capflex.com). The report can be downloaded at [http://www.quaker.ca/Committees/adhoc/SEC\\_report\\_2009.pdf](http://www.quaker.ca/Committees/adhoc/SEC_report_2009.pdf)

Once again Friends laboured over the issue of retaining membership in Friends United Meeting. Sylvia Graves, the General Secretary for FUM, made a presentation on the history of the FUM personnel policy and there were two sessions hosted by the Ad hoc Committee on FUM which gave Friends a history of CYM's relationship with FUM and provided some time for questions. In related M4W4B sessions, a number of Young Friends spoke on the value of maintaining our connection with FUM. We were unable,

however, to reach unity regarding our membership in FUM, so at present, CYM remains a member meeting.

Keith Helmuth presented the week's Quaker study on the topic: "The Evolutionary Potential of Quakerism Revisited". His talks helped us listen to our past and present and to use our Quaker ability for "freelance thinking" to reflect on our future in the light of our past.

The Sunderland P. Gardner lecturer was Helen Bayes from Australia Yearly Meeting. She challenged us – albeit quietly - "to awaken our prophetic voice, shaggy and wild".

One phrase stood out for me this year. It was repeated again and again. The phrase was, "helping one another up with a tender hand". This phrase seems to me to be one that could help us discern the way forward in our relation to the earth and all our relations.

---

\*\* Monthly and Half-Yearly Meetings are asked to thresh the proposal to change to a biennial CYM.

\* **Recommendation K-1:** that the Records Committee be laid down and that a new Board of Records and Archives be established, reporting to Yearly Meeting through Representative Meeting.

**Recommendation K-2:** that the size and membership of the Board of Records and Archives be recommended to yearly Meeting by the Nominating Committee in consultation with the Trustees and the current Records Committee. We suggest that the members of this Board reside within reasonable travel distance from Pickering College; that the term of office for members be no less than five years, renewable as appropriate; and that persons who are not Friends but have expertise in archival work be eligible to serve (with the exception of the position of clerk), filling no more than one third of the positions.

**Recommendation K-3:** that Ecumenical/Interfaith Committee be laid down.

**Recommendation L-1:** that we maintain our membership in Friends World Committee for Consultation, Friends General Conference and Friends United Meeting.

The entire Consultation and Renewal report can be found at  
[http://www.quaker.ca/Committees/cnr/CnR\\_final\\_report\\_to\\_CYM.pdf](http://www.quaker.ca/Committees/cnr/CnR_final_report_to_CYM.pdf)