

Hamilton Friends April 2019 Newsletter



Advices and Queries

32. Bring into God's light those emotions, attitudes and prejudices in yourself which lie at the root of destructive conflict, acknowledging your need for forgiveness and grace. In what ways are you involved in the work of reconciliation between individuals, groups and nations?

Coffee List

April 7th: Janis Muller
 April 14th: First Day School
 April 21: _____ (Easter Sunday)
 April 28th: Flemings - Marcy, Andrew, and Liam

May 5: Harriet and Don
 May 12: Darlene James
 May 19: _____
 May 26: Christina



Calendar

April 28: Potluck: Truth and Reconciliation and Friends – presentation by Dick Preston
May 4: Yonge Street Half-Yearly Meeting at Yonge Street Meeting House (See separate e-mailing with details and registration form)
May 5: Meeting for Worship for Business (Note: changed from the previously-announced May 12)
June 16: Potluck: Peace building presentation by Matt Legge (based on his new book)
May 25: Spring retreat at Cedar Haven

Your Friendly Ministry and Counsel hopes you will attend this year's spring retreat, a one-day event at Cedar Haven, the Shepards' house in north Flamborough. The theme will be "More Than Talkin'! -- The Truth About Quaker Ministry". What constitutes ministry in a Quaker meeting? There are many ways Friends minister to each other: through words, thoughts, silence, sharing of work and play. In a quiet day in the woods, we'll explore the various forms of ministry and how they may be offered. More details to follow, but mark the date: Saturday, 25 May.

April 2019						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

May 2019						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Truth and Reconciliation Call to Action Working Group

On April 7 at M4W4B it was decided that a working group would be a practical way for HMM to explore options regarding our response as Quakers to the Truth and Reconciliation Call to Action.

SO FAR

- * We acknowledge the land on which we worship as common practice.
- * We invited Elizabeth Doxtater to share stories and her inspirational corn husk dolls with us. We purchased Elizabeth's book, "The Art of Peace" which was a companion to her presentation. It is in our library.
- * We are proud of the work that Jennifer Preston has done and continues to do concerning our Indigenous neighbours.

CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES

- * Potluck on April 28 after Meeting. Dick Preston will be leading us in a discussion about Truth and Reconciliation.
- * Write a letter to Andrew Scheer regarding the stalling of Bill C-262 (see attachment). This bill when passed will provide a framework to implement the UN Declaration of Indigenous Rights in Canada.
- * Visit the Queen's Square Art Gallery and discover the stories behind the quilt squares made by Indigenous and Settler neighbours (see attachment for information)
- * Become informed. Many people have found a memoir entitled, "The Reason You Walk" by Wab Kinew enlightening. "The Inconvenient Indian" by Thomas King brings, as the fly cover says, "humour, razor-sharp analysis, and insight, compelling every reader to confront the uncomfortable and urgent reality of our people today".

LOOKING AHEAD

*The Two Row on the Grand event will be coming up in June.

This is a wonderful opportunity for those who enjoy paddling to make Indigenous friends, learn about the Two Row Wampum, Indigenous spirituality and culture. Check their website for details.

*Six Nations on the Grand Pow Wow July 26-28

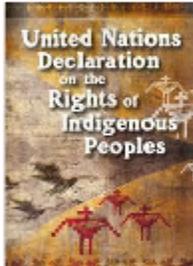
Perhaps a group from HMM would like to go? If you are interested let Christina know.

* The Working Group is currently exploring opportunities to make meaningful connections with our Indigenous neighbours.

April 10, 2019

CANADA
CRUCIAL HUMAN RIGHTS LEGISLATION
THREATENED BY PARTISAN TACTICS

Bill C-262 is a proposed new federal law that would create a framework for Canadian implementation of the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*.



On Tuesday, April 9, as a result of delaying tactics by two Conservative Senators, the Senate ran out of time to carry out a crucial vote needed to move the Bill to the next stage of deliberations.

Last year, the Liberal, NDP and Green Members of Parliament came together to pass Bill C-262. However, now that the Bill is before the Senate, there growing concern that the opportunity to pass this important human rights legislation could be lost because of the kind of partisan stalling tactics used on April 9.

The Conservative government of former Prime Minister Stephen Harper had initially opposed the UN Declaration. However, the Harper government eventually changed its position and in 2011, issued a formal statement of support for the Declaration, saying that it had listened to Indigenous leaders and learned from the experience of other countries.

The delaying tactics employed on April 9 by Conservatives would prevent the Bill even being examined by a Senate Committee. Even if they eventually relent and allow the Committee hearings to proceed, the delay could jeopardize passage of the Bill, which must be voted on before the current session of Parliament ends.

In a public statement Wednesday, April 10, Grand Chief Wilton Littlechild, former Commissioner with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, said "After more than two decades of deliberation in the United Nations, and more than a decade of political debate in Canada, the opportunity to finally move ahead with concrete, meaningful implementation of the *UN Declaration* must not be squandered by unprincipled stalling tactics."

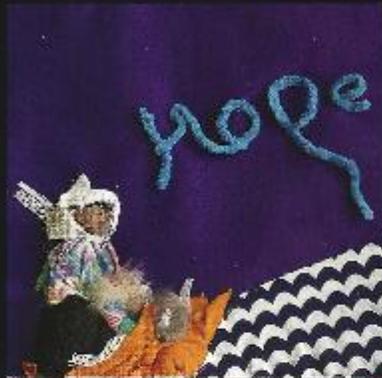
Please send a message to Conservative Leader Andrew Scheer.

You may make some or all of the following points:

- Partisan politics must not stand in the way of promoting of human rights or reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples.
- The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples has been the subject of extensive public debate in Canada, as demonstrated by the decision of the previous Conservative government to reverse its position and publicly support the Declaration.

NEIGHBOURS

Community Project facilitated by Heather Majaury
March 8 – April 20, 2019
Opening: Friday, March 8, 7:00pm
Queen's Square Gallery



Heather Majaury (Algonquin Anishinabekwe) moved to the Haldimand Tract in 2002. The descendant of historically unregistered Indigenous peoples and pioneer settlers she grew up in Algonquin traditional territory where most of her close and extended family still remain. She is a performing artist who values lived experience as expert knowledge. She believes that story-sharing (dibajmowinan) is a powerful tool that can be used in the service of ongoing reconciliation to help inform social policy and actions. She believes that crucial to the work of developing resilient communities is the cultivation of common social memory while also respecting and learning from individual difference within larger and more general narratives. She feels the spaces and tensions evoked between patterns and anomalies, chatter and silences, hold dynamic generative and transformative potential toward positive social change.

In Neighbours, Heather enlists the community in responding to the Truth & Reconciliation Commission Call To Action 93 through quilt making, story sharing, and other arts based methods.

All are welcome to participate in the project at Queen's Square Gallery.

Family Quilt Square Making

Monday, March 11 to Friday,
March 15, 9:30am – 3:30pm

Tales of Turtle Island

Monday, March 11 to Wednesday,
March 13, 3:45 – 4:45pm

Sharing Circles

Thursdays: March 21,
March 28, April 4, and April 11, 6:00 – 8:00pm

COMMON WATERS

I recently entered a juried show entitled "Common Waters" . The jury is still out! I thought Friends might be interested to know about this major collaborative project in Cambridge running from June 14 - September 22 hosted and organized by Cambridge Art Galleries and BRIDGE Centre for Architecture. The show will comprise of art installations, activations, events and conversations that examine our relationship with water. Our common water here in Cambridge, of course, is the Grand River watershed.

I am excited about this venture and look forward to seeing how art forms will be used to build community around environmental issues and in this case around water. I am interested as a Settler in working with our neighbours at Six Nations who live downstream to build a sustainable future for all.

My idea

Two years ago I participated in the Two Row on the Grand event organized and hosted by the Haudenosaunee Nations. It was a physically exhausting but spiritually uplifting experience. As we Settlers paddled the Grand with our Indigenous hosts we learned about the Two Row Wampum of 1613 and the mutual respect for each other's community that is enshrined in that ancient Treaty. As we shared our time together I realized that the Grand River makes us, Settlers and Haudenosaunee Nations, a close community in an important way. We both share the Grand River for our basic needwater. Common waters equals common responsibility to safeguard our common ability to thrive in this region. I am grateful to our Haudenosaunee neighbours for being so generous to Settlers and sharing the water of the Grand with us.

I plan to express my belief in the Two Row Wampum as a foundation stone in building community along the Grand River to safeguard our common waters through the medium of soft pastels on paper. Over the last few years I have often painted the Grand River. I have chosen two of these paintings and washed them down in water. Superimposed on the washed paintings are two parallel lines in purple which draw us back to the Two Row Wampum Belt. These lines symbolize a separate-but-equal relationship based on mutual respect. I believe it is through mutual respect between Settlers, the Haudenosaunee Nations and the environment that we build sustainable communities and protect our common waters.



Painting #1 Common Waters: Common Responsibility 12x16 Soft Pastels on Kitty Wallis paper

Painting #2 Common Waters: Common Well-being 12x16 Soft Pastels on Kitty Wallis paper

Also a laminated artist's statement to hang with the paintings. Take home sheets about the Two Row Wampum to be available for viewers.

For further information about the Two Row Wampum Treaty, Google and click on Wikipedia.

-Submitted by Christina Edwards

The Cambridge Worship Group will be meeting at 2 pm on Friday April 26 at 64 Wellington Street in Cambridge. All welcome! Please let Christina know if you are planning to come. Her email is cmeedwards64@gmail.com, phone #519-740-8889

Yonge Street Half-Yearly Meeting (Quakers) is
hosting a workshop presented by

Steve Fick & Signy Fridriksson

Ottawa Monthly Meeting



Strengthening our Quaker Community

*Strategies for more effective communication, creative use of conflict,
and building and rebuilding connection.*

Date/Time: Saturday 4 May 2019 (9:00am-5:00pm)

Workshop at 2:00pm

Location: Yonge Street Meeting House, 17030 Yonge
Street, in Newmarket, Ontario

Just south of Eagle Street, on the west side

Meals: Breakfast, lunch, and supper are provided.

We are an ACCESSIBLE facility.

Contact: D. Richard Kamus [kamus@rogers.com]

905-939-2262(H)/416-948-5855(cell)

Signy and Steve have a good sense of the joys and the challenges that face our various Quaker communities. They have been very active members of the Religious Society of Friends for almost 40 years, serving on multiple committees and clerking in various capacities at the Monthly Meeting, Yearly Meeting and International levels. They have been involved with Friends Couple Enrichment as participants for 17 years, and as a leader couple for nine years. In addition, they have worked as couple counselors for three years, and have been members of an intentional living community, Terra Firma Cohousing, for 22 years. All these experiences have afforded opportunities to learn what it takes for a community to function well.

Yonge Street Half-Yearly Meeting

DRAFT Agenda for a Meeting for Worship for Business

to be held at Yonge Street Meeting House on 4 May 2019

Opening worship and clerk's reading

Land Acknowledgment

Welcome

Monthly Meeting Delegates

Reporter for *The Canadian Friend*

Agenda Review

STATE OF SOCIETY REPORTS

Hamilton Monthly Meeting

Toronto Monthly Meeting

Yonge Street Monthly Meeting

MINUTES

- 1 Minutes of the Meeting held on 20 October 2018

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- 2 Concern from the Sexual Abuse and Harassment Committee of TMM (2018.10.2.1)
- 3 Report from the HYM Program Committee (2018.10.3.2)
- 4 Upcoming Half-Yearly Meeting Sessions (2019.10.3.4)
 - *Fall 2019: October 4–5 at Friends House, hosted by TMM*
 - *Spring 2020: May 2nd at Hamilton Monthly Meeting*
 - *Fall 2020: October 3rd at Yonge Street Monthly Meeting*

5 Reports

– *from Coordinating Committee*

– *from CYM Representative Meeting Liaison*

6 Friends Serving Yonge Street Half-Yearly Meeting

The following positions are currently vacant

- Assistant Treasurer (*for a term of three years starting in May 2019*)
- YSHYM Presiding Clerk and Recording Clerk [or two Co-Clerks] (*for a term of three years starting in October 2019*)

NEW BUSINESS

7 Statement on Social Justice from Toronto Monthly Meeting

8 Charitable Status for Half-Yearly Meeting

9 Closing Minute of Thanks

Closing Worship

Friends Currently Serving Yonge Street Half-Yearly Meeting

Co-Clerks: Beverly Shepard and Ruth Pincoe (*to May 2019*)

Treasurer: Anne Christie (*to October 2021*)

Assistant Treasurer: [*position to be filled*]

Continuing Meeting of Ministry and Counsel (*one member appointed by each of the constituent monthly meetings*): Sheldon Clark (HMM), Ebby Madera (TMM), and Gini Smith (YSHYM)

YSHYM Representative to CYM Representative Meeting: Gini Smith (*to October 2020*)

Coordinating Committee Representatives (*appointed by the constituent monthly meetings*): Glenna Janzen (HMM), Anne Christie (TMM), and Gini Smith (YSMM).

Yonge Street Half-Yearly Meeting Coordinating Committee *is composed of the Coordinating Committee Representatives plus the following YSHYM positions ex officio:* the YSHYM Clerk(s), the Treasurer, and the Clerk of Continuing Meeting of Ministry and Counsel.

Program Committee *is a committee under the care of coordinating committee; the members were appointed by the constituent monthly meetings for a three-year term ending in June 2021:* Chris Hitchcock (HMM), D. Richard Kamus (YSMM), Rosemary Meier (TMM)

NOTES

-Submitted by Glenna Janzen

I'm attaching a poem written by my mother, now deceased, about a Quaker meeting. I believe she is describing the meeting house in Westbury, Long Island, NY. She didn't go there too often because it was a distance from our home but was always a Quaker in heart and deeds. I grew up on Long Island and my mother, grandfather and other members of the family were Quakers. Actually, one of our descendants was a man named Nicolas Waln, who came over about the time of William Penn, who helped settled Pennsylvania.

<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Waln-4>

My mother wrote quite a few poems about faith and nature.

Hope you enjoy this one. Janet MacDonald

SUNDAY ... GO TO QUAKER MEETING

We softly tread along the path,
Trying not to make a sound;
The pebbles crunch beneath our feet
On hallowed ground.

We life the latch upon the door,
A relic from our country's past;
It brings to mind Colonial days
And mem'ries vast.

We whisper greetings to the folks
Arriving now by three's and two's;
We silently slip into seats,
Our cares to lose.

Few sounds are heard to jar our thoughts
From emphasis on saintly things;
The congregation settles down:
The mind takes wings.

An ancient clock ticks time away;
There's comfort in the stillness 'round,
A quiet shuffling of the feet,
The only sound.

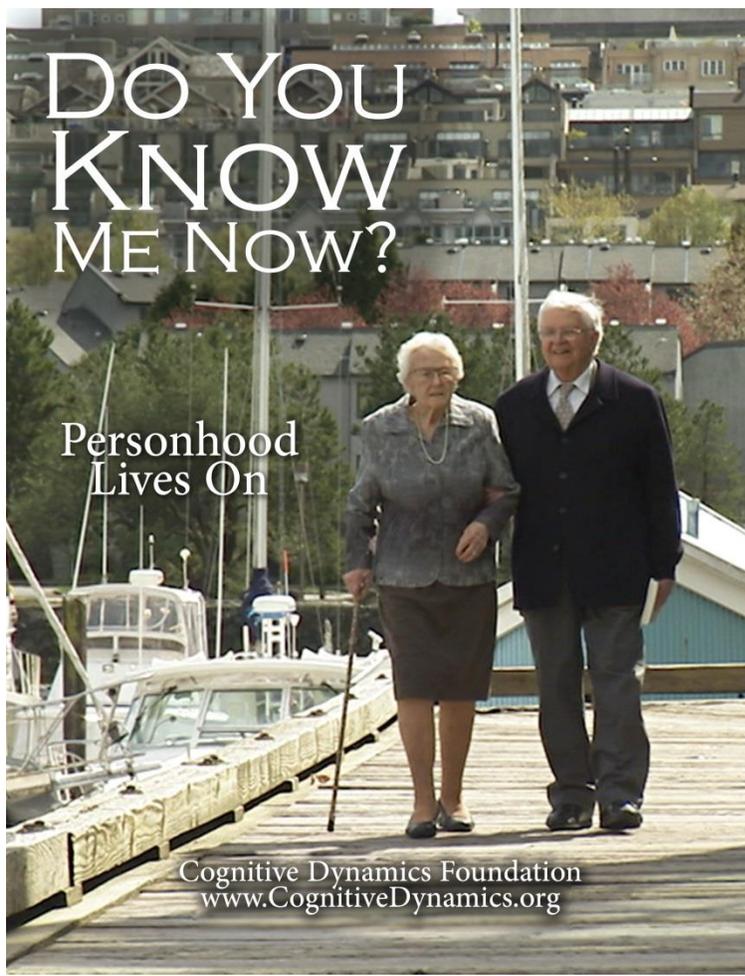
The steeple of a neighboring church
Gives out the chime of distant bells,
Our mind has turned to speak with God,
On Him it dwells.

As we all listen for His voice
There's no distraction in the room.
The wood is plain, the windows bare
But there's no gloom.

Our windows need no colored glass,
For sunlight streams in through the panes.
Outside the towering trees of green
Toss leafy manes.

A gentle voice may break the spell
To share an inspirational thought.
To feel more deeply all those things
Which God hath wrought.

June C. Quast, Nov. 15, 1962



Dear Friends,

A few years ago I co-produced, directed and wrote a half hour documentary with neurologist Daniel C. Potts, MD, who specializes in care for people with Alzheimer's, and other memory issues.

Titled, '**Do You Know Me Now?**' we intentionally focused on helping caregivers wanting to have 'in the present' moments with their loved ones, with memory loss.

We won a couple of awards with '**Do You Know Me Now?**', including a Silver Remi at the 2017 WorldFest, Houston.

Recently neurologist and producer Daniel Potts decided to release this documentary, **FOR FREE SCREENING FOR ALL** on the internet.

Why? Because we want to reach as many caregivers as possible. **(Please find the documentary, FREE, for general public release, at <https://youtu.be/ivyNozOfz74>)**

Half of the documentary was shot in Vancouver, B.C., part in Oregon, Cleveland, Ohio, L.A., and Alabama.

The Canadian participants in the film, theologian, co founder of Regent College in Vancouver, BC, James Houston, and his wife and partner, Rita Houston.

Canadian author, Cathie Borrie, who wrote a book based on her mother Joan`s musings, titled [The Long Hello](#).

In the U.S., the amazing Naomi Feil, Founder of Validation Therapy, and her husband, Ed Feil. And finally, neurologist, Daniel Potts, his mother and father... His father Lester had Alzheimer`s, was without speech, when he suddenly started painting scenes from his life, places and people he cared about. Lester had never painted before. But painting became his way to communicate.

In mid March, 2019, shortly after releasing the documentary for FREE viewing online, Dr. Potts received this note from a New York City neurologist -
Congrats! Beautiful documentary.

The theme correlates very much to yoga philosophy - our true selves are never-changing, when we go beyond the thinking & cognitive mind our deeper selves emerge.

I also thought the bit on Validation Therapy as a way to connect with emotions and lead to resolution fascinating! Rooting for you (and for the sake of our profession) that we can spread awareness about these techniques.

Best wishes,

Sarah

Sarah Mulukutla, MD MPH

Chair, Neurohealth & Integrative Neurology Section

American Academy of Neurology

Mindful Neurology, PLLC

New York, NY

<http://www.mindfulneuro.com>

Please free to share 'Do You Know Me Now?' with anyone you think might benefit.

**Thank you kindly,
Judith Murray**

Terra Images Inc.

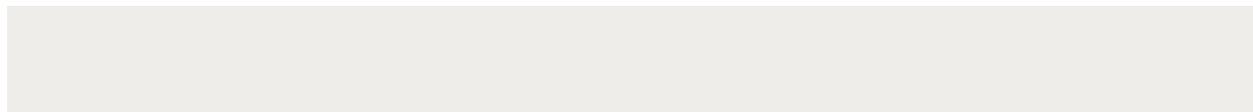
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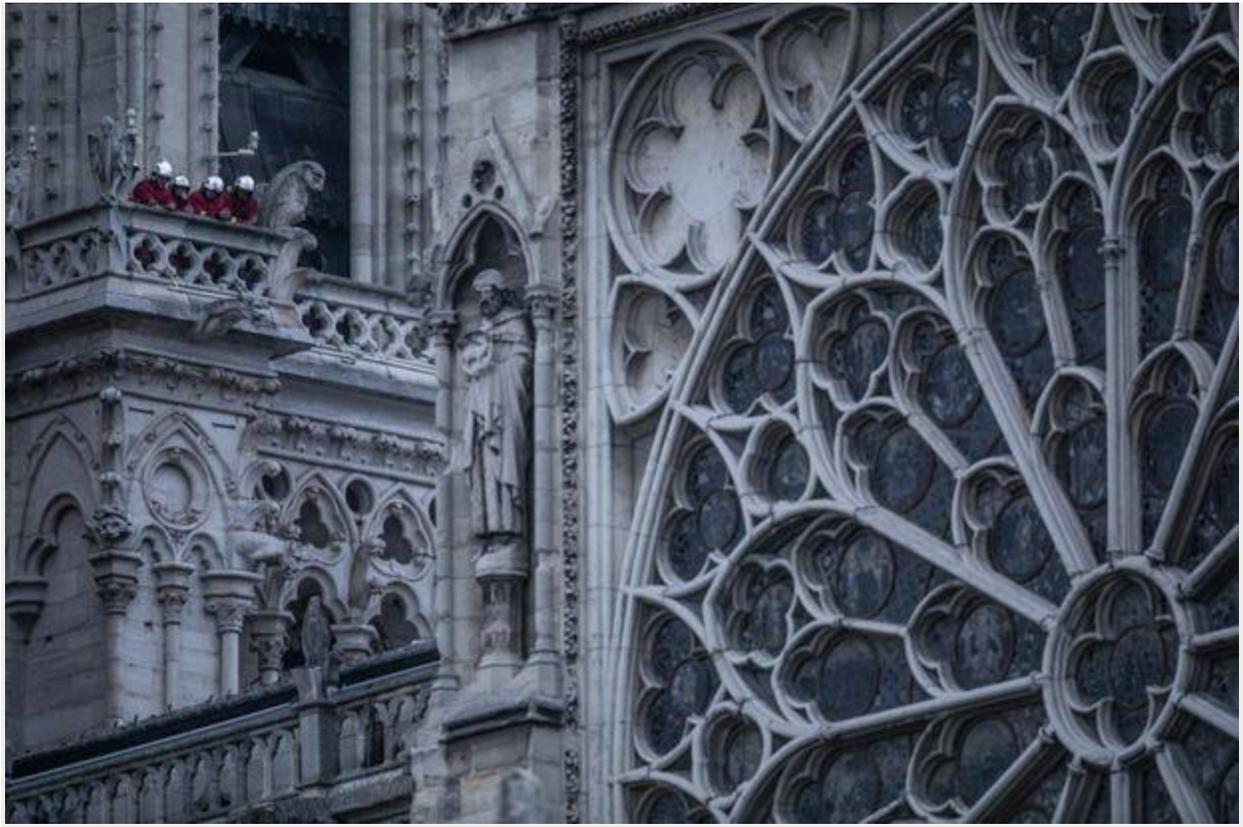
Burlington, Ontario

L7P 1Y9

905 331 7263

-Submitted by Judith Murray





Fire officers survey a section of the Notre-Dame Cathedral following a major fire on April 16, 2019. A blaze broke out on Monday afternoon and quickly spread across the building, causing the famous spire to collapse.

DAN KITWOOD/GETTY IMAGES

Memory's postcards: 'So intensely beautiful'

I have visited Paris many times, studied there, lived there. But I am never "there" until I have paid my respects to Notre-Dame, which is the living heart of Paris.

Did you know the city's mileage indicators give the distance to Notre-Dame? Not to city hall. To Notre-Dame.

The first time I saw the Grand Dame of the Seine was in 1963, part of a student-abroad program. I was 18, tired, a little jet lagged. A counsellor asked if I wanted to accompany him to pick up some documents; we climbed on his scooter and off we went into the Paris night. We crossed a bridge into darkness, then suddenly, to my right, floodlights illuminated the façade of Notre-Dame. It was so close. So immense. And so intensely beautiful. All those lifelike sculptures, with their stories, admonitions and blessings, standing out starkly in the Paris night.
Memory postcard 1.

Years later, in 1976, a friend and I rented a garret room on the Left Bank, overlooking Notre-Dame. The sun emerged from rain clouds just at dusk, its low, warm light flooding the cathedral. Above it, two densely coloured rainbows arched over Notre- Dame. Postcard 2.

In 2011, on a dark February day so cold I could see my breath, my husband, son and I slipped in a side door of the cathedral, under one of the massive Rose windows. We entered quietly, to the sound of a male choir intoning Vespers. I see it still: The nave is tall, the vested priest sends a wave of incense past the Rose window. The smell is sweet. The wisps spiral. Song fills the church. We stand in a moment of medieval ritual, our spirits and hearts transported. Postcard 3.

I am desolate. How wonderful it would be for something good to rise from this inferno, with differences put aside as the world as one helps to rebuild Notre-Dame.

Judith Murray, Burlington, Ont.

