

Hamilton Quaker Newsletter

October 2021



Photo by [Markus Spiske](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Do you take part as often as you can in meetings for church affairs? Are you familiar enough with our church government to contribute to its disciplined processes? Do you consider difficult questions with an informed mind as well as a generous and loving spirit? Are you prepared to let your insights and personal wishes take their place alongside those of others or be set aside as the meeting seeks the right way forward? If you cannot attend, uphold the meeting prayerfully.

Advices and Queries #15

Upcoming Events and Announcements

Meeting for Worship will enter silence at 10:30 a.m. The Clerks will try to open the Zoom space by 10:20 to allow people a time to chat and settle in before worship begins. We have resumed in-person worship at the Meeting House. You must complete the Indoor Worship Waiver and agree to its terms and conditions (only once) before you attend. It is available from Wilf Ruland (deerspring1@gmail.com).

October 11 at 1 p.m. there will be a Brown Bag Thanksgiving held in the backyard of the Meeting House, weather permitting. Please bring your own dinner and cutlery, and a chair, as we will not be using Meeting House supplies, or the Meeting House kitchen.

October 16 is Yonge Street Half-Yearly Meeting, hosted by Toronto Monthly Meeting. This session will take place online from 10:00 am to 4:30 pm. The workshop focus will be “Peaceful and Clear Communication within Meetings” and the facilitators will be Trevor Chandler (Interior BC Quakers), Christina Tellez (Halifax Monthly Meeting), and Matt Legge, the Peace Program Coordinator of the Canadian Friends Service Committee. All are welcome, although there will be no children’s session for this event.

The Reading group will resume studying Richard Wagamese’s book *One Drum* on Sunday, October 17 from 3 to 4 p.m. in our Zoom space. This session will focus on the chapter “The Vision Quest” from pages 134 – 150. Please contact Shirla (shirla766@gmail.com) to be added to the participant list.

Friday, October 22nd, 7 - 8:15 p.m.: An evening to continue learning about Quakers. We will be having a discussion on "The Gathered Meeting" using our Meeting for Worship link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/> Meeting ID: 740 802 684 Passcode: 425488. Please see the September newsletter which has the article "The Gathered Meeting" by Sheldon Clark.

The Peace and Social Action Committee will meet on Wednesday, October 27, at 7 p.m. Please review Grant Linney’s op-ed piece in *The Hamilton Spectator* prior to the meeting. It can be found at:

<https://www.thespec.com/opinion/contributors/2021/09/24/how-the-new-government-can-take-a-more-collaborative-approach-on-climate-change.html> Meetings will remain virtual, in our Zoom space, for the time being. Please contact Paul Dekar (pdekar@cogeco.ca) if you would like to be sent the link for this meeting.

November 7 will be our next Meeting for Worship for Business. The meeting will be held at 1:00 p.m. in our Zoom Meeting space, unless the Meeting House Re-opening Committee advises otherwise. Email will be sent inviting members and attenders to this meeting.

Darlene James is delighted to announce the birth of her first grandchild, Alexander Liam Bennett-James, to son Dan James and daughter-in-law Katy Bennett, on July 23, 2021 in London, England. Parents and baby are healthy and happy, and virtual visits abound!



Syrian Newcomers found Sanctuary Upstairs

by Wilf Ruland

The Meeting House at 7 Butty Place is much loved by members of Hamilton Quaker Meeting. Nestled in a quiet residential neighbourhood and featuring a spacious and beautiful property and gardens, the Meeting House is a cozy place to come to for our weekly Meetings for Worship. Most people are familiar with the downstairs of the Meeting House -- in particular our big Meeting Room.

But there is also a less well-known upstairs apartment in the Meeting House, which features a bedroom, kitchen, washroom and larger living room which can double as a second bedroom at night. (Photos of this space were featured in last month's newsletter.) The apartment was recently used as a temporary home and quarantine location for a newly arrived family of four refugees from Syria. Our newcomer guests were sponsored by a private group with members from Barton Stone United Church as well as other individuals in the community.

The newcomers arrived on September 8th, after a gruelling 36-hour trip. They found sanctuary in the upstairs apartment, which was to be their home for the next 3 weeks. Their stay in the upstairs apartment served a dual purpose: it allowed their sponsoring group time to search for and find an apartment for them, and it provided a safe quarantine location, which the Canadian government requires for all newcomers arriving in Canada from overseas.

Due to the quarantine requirements, the family was restricted to the property and needed to have shopping done and food delivered to them -- this work was organized and done by the sponsoring group. During their last week at the Meeting House, the newcomers were able to receive guests including members of their extended family who had previously been sponsored by Hamilton Quakers.

I have been asked by the newcomer family, by their extended family, and by their sponsoring group to extend their very sincere and heartfelt thanks to

Hamilton Quakers for allowing the family the use of the upstairs apartment at a critical and vulnerable time. To help show their gratitude, the sponsoring group carried out an impressively deep clean of the upstairs apartment, and donated for our future use various kitchen wares and a replacement futon, which will help make it into a more functional living space.



Falling Into Silence

by Carol Leigh Wehking

And when the words are done,
And all that needs expression has been voiced,
We gently cease, and silence envelops us,
Familiar and comfortable.
Enfolded as if in invisible arms,
We are gathered before scattered.

Where Are They Now?

During the pandemic, Peter Cross reached out to current and former members and attenders of Hamilton Monthly Meeting for news of former young friends who have been associated with the Meeting over the years. We welcome similar submissions from other former First Day School students!

Sarah Woodside: Sarah was seven when she attended her first Meeting for Worship. After First Day School, she announced that she liked it because it was "serious." In the intervening years, Sarah, at 17, was one of two Canadian youth selected, with support from HMM, to go to Palestine on a Youth Pilgrimage. This contributed to her decision to take a degree in Middle Eastern Studies at McGill. During university she was an intern with the Canadian Friends' Service Committee and the contacts she made there led, a few years later, to being selected as an intern at QUNO (Quaker United Nations Office) in New York City. After a few years of high school teaching, Sarah went to Boston to do first a masters and then a doctorate in the areas of conflict resolution and negotiation. Sarah has one son, six year old Theo. She is currently an assistant professor at Northeastern University in Boston, and lives in Canton, Massachusetts.

Simon Woodside: Simon was a wiggly four year old when he began attending Hamilton Monthly Meeting. He got through Meetings for Worship by playing, not always quietly, with small cars. At age 13, Simon had a life-changing experience. While he was a legislative page at the Ontario legislature, he was introduced to Apple computers. There was no looking back. Simon subsequently studied Computer Science at the University of Waterloo. He was a strong supporter of the co-op program there and advocated for changes, some of which are still in place. Simon set up, without UW assistance, a co-op placement at Apple in California. This paved the way for many more UW students. After his graduation, he was hired as a program manager at Apple. Currently, Simon is the Chief Technical Officer of Medstack, a software company he founded (this is the third company he has founded). MedStack has won several awards and its customer base and income have grown steadily. Simon has a house in Westdale and sometimes answers to "Theo's Uncle."

About this Newsletter / Submission Guidelines

This Newsletter is a monthly publication of news and announcements relevant to Hamilton Quakers.

It is also a venue for members and attenders to share creative works or articles they have written on subjects that may be of interest to our Quaker community. As a general guideline we are looking for submissions that are inspirational and related to Quaker concerns, as well as announcements and news. Members and Attenders are encouraged to submit works for the newsletter.

Requests for newsletter items are announced after Meeting for Worship and/or via email during the week before Meeting for Worship for Business. Submission of materials implies permission to publish. Copyright for original material resides with the author.

If the person submitting the article is unknown to the editor or if there are questions as to whether the article will be appropriate for the Quaker newsletter, the editor will consult with the clerk(s) who will together discern what will be included. Written permission to publish must be obtained from the copyright holder if a submission is not the original work of the submitter, unless the works are in the public domain, or are covered under the creative commons license.

Hamilton Meeting reserves the right to edit submissions for length or content in consultation with the authors. When opinion pieces are included a line will be added indicating "Submissions reflect the opinions of their authors, and not necessarily of Hamilton Monthly Meeting".

Submissions should be directed to the current editor, Síân Reid, daywitch@gmail.com.