

Hamilton Quaker Newsletter

June 2026



Do you cherish your friendships, so they grow in depth, and understanding and mutual respect? In close relationships, we may risk pain as well as finding joy. When experiencing great happiness or great hurt we may be more open to the working of the spirit.

Advices and Queries #21

Upcoming Events and Announcements

There will be a potluck lunch following Meeting for Worship on Sunday, June 14. Savoury items are preferred, as we are well supplied with desserts. Please no shrimp or items containing shrimp, as we have a member with a serious allergy. Items containing peppers should be clearly labelled for the same reason. You may wish to bring a lawn chair to sit outside if the weather is good. All are welcome!

It is time for an update of the Hamilton Monthly Meeting Directory! Please send changes or updates to Glenna Janzen by June 15. If you are aware of someone who would like to be listed in the Directory and is not, please ask them to send in their information. A reminder that the Directory is exclusively for the use of Hamilton Friends and attenders listed.

PSAC will meet on Tuesday, June 16 at 7:45 in our Zoom space. All are welcome to join!

On Sunday, June 28, there will be an hour-long yoga session after meeting for worship and refreshments. Please bring a yoga mat if you require one, and a pillow and blanket for shavasana if desired. All skill levels, ages, and genders are welcome!

Steve Bunn has written up a report, initially for PSAC, about the Quaker presence at CANSEC protest in Ottawa. Due to its length, we are not republishing it here, but do encourage you to look it up by copying and pasting the address below (does not hyperlink):

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1eHO7XLX6AznS5RcelLUAerLAoCv9R87G/view?usp=sharing>

Canadian Yearly Meeting will convene in Winnipeg from July 19 to 24. The last day to register to attend in person is June 26, while the last day to register to attend virtually is July 13.

The deadline for submissions to a new collection of Quaker poems is fast approaching. Poems in both English and French are accepted. No more than 72

lines from a single individual will be published. Submissions should be made to canadianpoetryfriends@gmail.com by August 31.

The next Meeting for Worship for Business will be held in person at the Meeting House on Sunday, September 13 at 12:30 p.m. You can also join us online on our regular Meeting Zoom link.

Save the Date! There will be a potluck dinner on Friday, September 25 on the topic "Considering Reparation".



Clerks on Tour!
HMM Clerks in PEI

Camp NeeKauNis Retreat

*by Carol Leigh Wehking, photos by Paul Dekar
and Siân Bowen-Cole*



From May 29-31, 39 people from Hamilton Meeting gathered at Camp NeeKauNis for a retreat focused on our Quaker testimony of Community. Seasoned Friends as well as newcomers,

ranging in age from 1 to 85, including all the First Day School families, enjoyed perfect weather, good food, and fellowship. We participated in planned programme times, the usual meal team tasks, and much free time to get to know one another better. Thanks to the planners, the cooks, our interim director, and those who went the 'extra mile' pitching in to keep things going.



From Library Committee

Canadian Yearly Meeting Library and Archives has requested a description of about 200 words from each Meeting in Canada to file with their archives. Library Committee thought friends in Meeting might also be interested in this, as it gives background information on our Meeting and Meetinghouse.

In the 1940s, the Albert and May Martin family, Frank King, Gertrude Haller, the Burton and Lillian Hill family, and the Fred and Joey Butler family constituted most of the Friends meeting for worship in various of the families' homes in Hamilton.

In 1951, drawing on help from other Monthly Meetings in Ontario, Albert Martin began working to establish a Monthly Meeting in Hamilton. Meetings were held in schools and institutions that rented out space on Sundays, and later, when the Butty Place property had been purchased, in the farmhouse on the property.

After sufficient funds were raised, Friends built a Meetinghouse designed by Tony Butler. The cornerstone was laid in 1970 and the first Meeting for Worship in the new Meetinghouse was held in 1972. In 1991 - 1992 a second story was added to the Meetinghouse (a possibility which was part of the original design), as more space was needed for First Day School.

Since then, this space has been well-used for First Day School, various meetings, and occasional overnight guests. There is now a small apartment which has given refuge to several newcomer families and individuals, as well as Friends "between accommodation".

The Meetinghouse has often hosted CYM committees, youth retreats, and Continuing Meeting of Ministry and Counsel, as well as offering space to compatible groups from the Hamilton community. Friends meet weekly for Meeting for Worship and for First Day School.

Mamas4Palestine Protest Action

by Steve Bunn

On Sunday, June 7th, several of us from Hamilton Meeting (Ada, Liz, Coraline, Amelia, Steve, Celeste and Gordie) attended the Mamas4Palestine protest action at the corner of Brant St. and Lakeshore Blvd in Burlington. Liz and Steve held protest signs for the duration of the action, and were joined on occasion by Coraline, Amelia, Celeste and Gordie. In addition, and under Ada's continual care and direction, the children put a sizeable effort into the creation of sidewalk chalk drawings intended to attract attention to the plight of children in Gaza.

The mothers and fathers and children who make up the Mamas4Palestine organization were grateful for the support they received from the Quakers...especially the support from the kids. While disappointment and anger with the Canadian government's decision to continue supplying Israel with weaponry for use in Gaza was palpable amongst the protesters, the overwhelming emotion at the action was one of grief – grief for the children of Gaza, dying in horrific fashion and in unconscionable numbers, and grief for the children of Israel, born into an existence soiled by a century of war, with no end in sight.



I heard one sign-wielding young mother talking about how she had never been to a protest before due to the fact that she “does not do well with confrontation,” but she showed up for the Mamas4Palestine action because “reading her phone and crying all the time while doing nothing was an even worse feeling.” For all of us at the protest, the feeling of not knowing what to do, and the forlorn hope that doing something must surely be better than doing nothing, was a sentiment to which we could easily relate.



It should be noted too that the protest received a great deal of public empathy and support, from drivers honking, to cyclists flashing the peace sign, to pedestrians stopping to thank us for our presence. In the end, it was an edifying experience for the children and the adults, and, despite the atmosphere of grief, it was an honour to represent the Quakers at this event.

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. They are due by the Friday before Business Meeting. 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. Please limit submissions to a maximum of 750 words. 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, Siân Reid, daywitch@gmail.com.

We acknowledge the land upon which Hamilton Friends Meeting House is located as the shared traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabeg, protected by the Dish with One Spoon Wampum Belt covenant. This historic peace agreement between the Iroquois Confederacy, the Ojibwe, and allied nations represents a commitment to share and protect the land, water, plants, and animals, with respect. It is the privilege of Hamilton Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) to share in the tradition of stewardship of this land, which has been the environment of human beings in this territory for thousands of years. We honour the original Peoples of this land and express a commitment to and gratitude for the opportunity to work together toward restorative justice and reconciliation.