



Montreal Monthly Meeting Newsletter

Infolettre de l'Assemblée quaker de Montréal

Co-editors/ Comité de rédaction:

Contributors / contributeurs
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Life of the Meeting /

The favorite Canadian topic—weather—entices us with strong signs of spring, then treats us to slants of wind, snow and ice. The month of March is dreariness. But with the arrival of April, expectancy grows that the bliss of warm earth and birdsong is on its way. First Day Meetings at the Greene Centre in Montreal and at Café la Mosaique in Lévis continue throughout to be well attended and sources of joy for those present.

Covid-19, an Enduring Issue

Although the World Health Organization has declared that Covid-19 no longer represents a global health emergency, fallout from the pandemic continues.

At our February 25 Meeting for Business, Friends considered how to balance the health issues of those who favor all of us wearing masks with those of those with whom we share hearing impairments and sinus conditions are exacerbated by masks. In the end, the Meeting struck a compromise which we hope will facilitate both communication and protection.

First, we made a list of safety regulations which should always be in effect:

- The two air purifiers in the sunroom will remain on at medium before, during and after worship.
- Chairs will remain well spaced. This may be difficult during socializing after meeting.
- A couple of windows (or more) will be opened a fraction in cold weather, temperature permitting. More windows should be opened in warm weather.

The meeting will obtain high quality N95 or KN95 masks to give to anyone who wants to wear a mask, and will consistently make it known that they are available.

The meeting will ask that those who have symptoms of respiratory or gastric illness stay home to avoid infecting others.

Those still concerned about their safety should approach either Leigh Smit or Geoff Garver for help. They may wish to:

- Sit close to an air purifier (this may be done without consulting Leigh or Geoff).
- Have the meeting begin looking into a superior quality mask which provides almost absolute safety in conditions such as ours. The meeting will seek information and advice on this topic. Given the cost of these masks, the meeting will provide a financial contribution to support an individual who decides to buy one to ensure their safety during worship.

Although some may find online meetings less satisfying, they are an option for those who wish to exclude contact with others and prevent illness. Two online meetings are available weekly, one synchronized with the Sunday meeting at the Greene centre, and the other on Wednesday evening (see list of scheduled meetings.)

Letter from Montreal Meeting Inviting Canadian Quaker Discussions on Gender Queeriness

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Timing of the first discussion will be set together with persons expressing interest in taking part. If you wish to join the group, please respond to Geoffreyen Edwards at the address given in the open letter. Please note that Friends of all ages and gender orientations are invited to take part.

Crafty Prospects

The importance of our socializing after Meeting for Worship cannot be emphasized enough. At a recent tea-and-biscuit session, Leigh Smith announced her ambition to learn how to sew her own clothes. It didn't take long before a senior Quaker, Janette Fraser, who knows this art from the ground up, was besieged with requests to share her knowledge. Before we knew it, we had committed to a crafts session once a month at the Greene centre, a session which could include the basics of sewing, embroidery, darning and so on. From there the vision expanded to knitting, crocheting, and in a daring extension of the inspiration, Geoff Garver offered a cooking class in the adjacent kitchen, with gougeres to be first on the menu. Brooke Nancekivell in her role as Clerk offered to provide organization of infrastructure and administration.

Who knows where this could go. Janette contributed her artistry to the *Quaker Tapestry*, chronicling key moments in the history of Quakers. We look forward to creative Sunday afternoons together. More to follow.

First Day School

The First Day School project continues under the leadership of Leigh Smith and Geoffreyen Edwards. Children are invited to join us at All Friends, but especially on the third Sunday of every month, when special activities and discussions are planned for them. The next session will be on March 17 at 11, in a room adjacent to our Meeting for Worship.

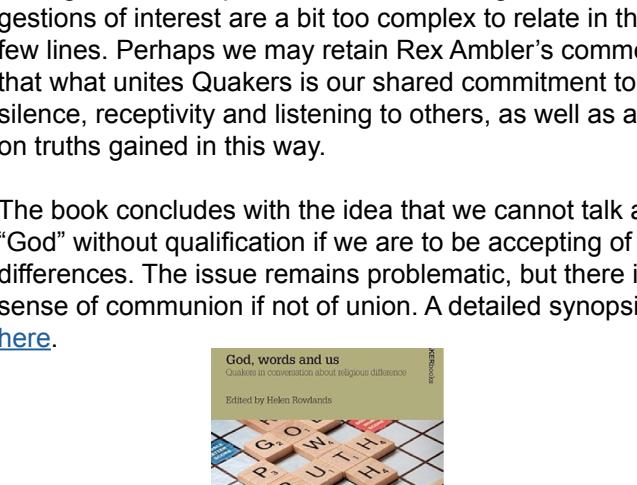
Hybrid Meetings: a Reflection

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Would you consider a monthly or one-time donation to Montreal Monthly Meeting?

Our treasurer Claire Adamson reports that our expenses last year exceeded our donations by roughly \$2000. Nevertheless in a burst of confidence late last year, we budgeted for more projects and causes this year than last year—all doubtless our hopes for income!

If you are able to donate to this group so many of us recognize as our spiritual home, please do so. Our website offers a number of ways to make this donation.

The moral man is he who is opposed to injustice per se, opposed to injustice wherever he finds it; the moral man looks for injustice first of all in himself.
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Time to Learn / To Hear, Watch, Read / À voir, à lire ou à écouter

God, words and us: Quakers in conversation about religious difference, edited by Helen Rowlands, Quaker Books, London, 2017

Book review by Geoffreyen Edwards

This fascinating book is an attempt to resurrect the way of Canadian Quakers. Canadian Yearly Meeting is offering an online course called "Quaker Basics: Introduction to Quaker and Friends Ways". The book will take place over six sessions starting in April. The registration deadline is March 26th, and the cost is \$100. Don't miss out on this opportunity to deepen your understanding of Quakerism. More information and registration can be found [here](#).

Deadline for application is March 26! Don't wait.

Winnipeg Monthly Meeting Sessions

Once a month, the Winnipeg Monthly Meeting invites us to join them in an education session free of charge. Meetings are on Zoom at 8 pm EST. If you would like to attend a session, contact [Glenn Morison](#) for registration. Upcoming sessions:

March 27th- Introduction to Quaker Speak: Watch a few and share (Kern WMM)

April 1st - George Fox Birthday Party (Keith Barber WMM)

May 20th - Quakers, Capitalism & Income Inequality (Glenn Morison WMM)

Find your way to the website for more information.

Quakers at Large

A lively weekend in New York City

by Geoff Garver

Last November, in the midst of an unusually taxing workload that I knew would start eating up toward the end of February, I booked a room for March 7 to 10 in my favorite place to stay in Manhattan: Pennington Friends House, a Quaker Residence near Union Square with two lovely rooms for guests. Guests are welcome to pin residents for a light breakfast and dinner, and right around the corner is Fifteenth Street Meeting, with its large mid-19th century Meetinghouse. With a mighty rate of around US \$160, the Phœbe Room and its half-bathroom, double bed and artwork with quotes from Bayard Rustin, Margaret Fell and Rufus Jones, is very popular. It's wise to book months in advance!

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Plaidoyer pour la paix, une nouvelle lecture de la prière de Saint-François, Leonardo Boff, Fides, Montréal, 2002, 126p.

Book review by Jean-Louis Demers

Quaker beliefs have always been strongly oriented toward peace and equality. Some Quakers in Montreal Community wonder if we are living up to our principles. This book, however, can help us to reflect on the reality of what we are doing.

Following its discussion of the Quaker faith, the book goes on to explore alternative framings. Several suggestions of new ways to think about peace are presented.

That said, some of us are still not fully convinced that the Quaker way of life is the best way to live. The book also addresses the question of what we can do to help others live in peace.

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A Treasure Trove of Films by and about Indigenous People

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Time to Learn /

Reminder: if you need financial help to attend a workshop, please apply to M & C for aid.

An Excellent Basic Quaker Course

New attendees to our Meeting seem to find enjoyment in our company and (mostly) quiet ways. Some Quakers in Montreal Meeting wonder if we are letting newcomers down because we spend most of our time together enjoying our company. We don't spend enough time sharing the basic beliefs and values of Quakerism which have enriched our lives.

For any new attendee to our Meeting who is interested in the ways of Quakers, the CYM course below is an ideal introduction. Several of us have taken this course and have found it a wonderful starting point for our Quaker journey. If the cost seems hefty to you, apply to M & C for a subsidy. This is part of M & C's mandate and budget to support our Meeting for Worship.

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