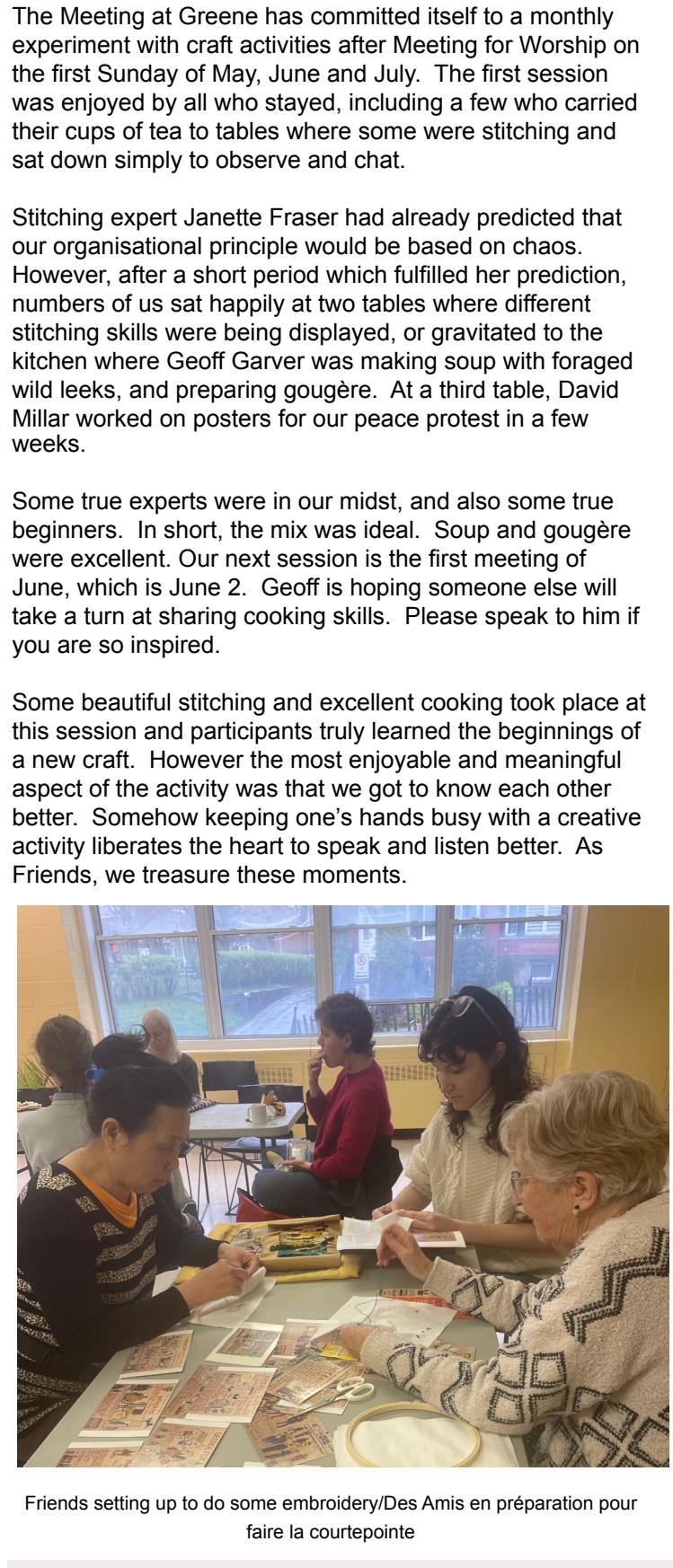




Montreal Monthly Meeting Newsletter

Infolettre de l'Assemblée quaker de Montréal



Contributors / contributeurs
Co-editors/ Comité de rédaction:
Jean-Louis Demers
Geoffreyen Edwards
Wendy Sturton
Eira Garrett

Translators/Traducteurs: **Contact**
Jean-Louis Demers Newsletter Team/ Équipe de l'infolettre
Geoffreyen Edwards newsletter@montreal.quaker.ca
Wendy Sturton Website / Site internet
Christine Lesage Montreal Quaker Meeting

Life of the Meeting / La vie de l'assemblée

Potluck Nourishes Body and Spirit

Shortly after the close of Meeting for Worship on April 21 at the Greene Center, Friends set up our bi-monthly potluck: heating food, making tea, placing tables and chairs, laying out cutlery and dishes. In some cases conversations began at the end of Meeting were too absorbing to drop. Since no work had been specifically assigned to anyone, every participant was a welcome surprise and no one was missing. In the long run, everyone contributed time, energy, food, dishwashing and listening skills.

The food was delicious and plentiful. Participation in work was spontaneous. Conversation seemed to nourish everyone, both at table and at the kitchen sink. Newcomers to the meeting had picked exactly the right Sunday to join us for the first time.

Our next potluck, assuming we follow our own schedule, will take place on June 16. Bets are on that if it's sunny, we will cross the street and enjoy our fellowship in Stayner Park.

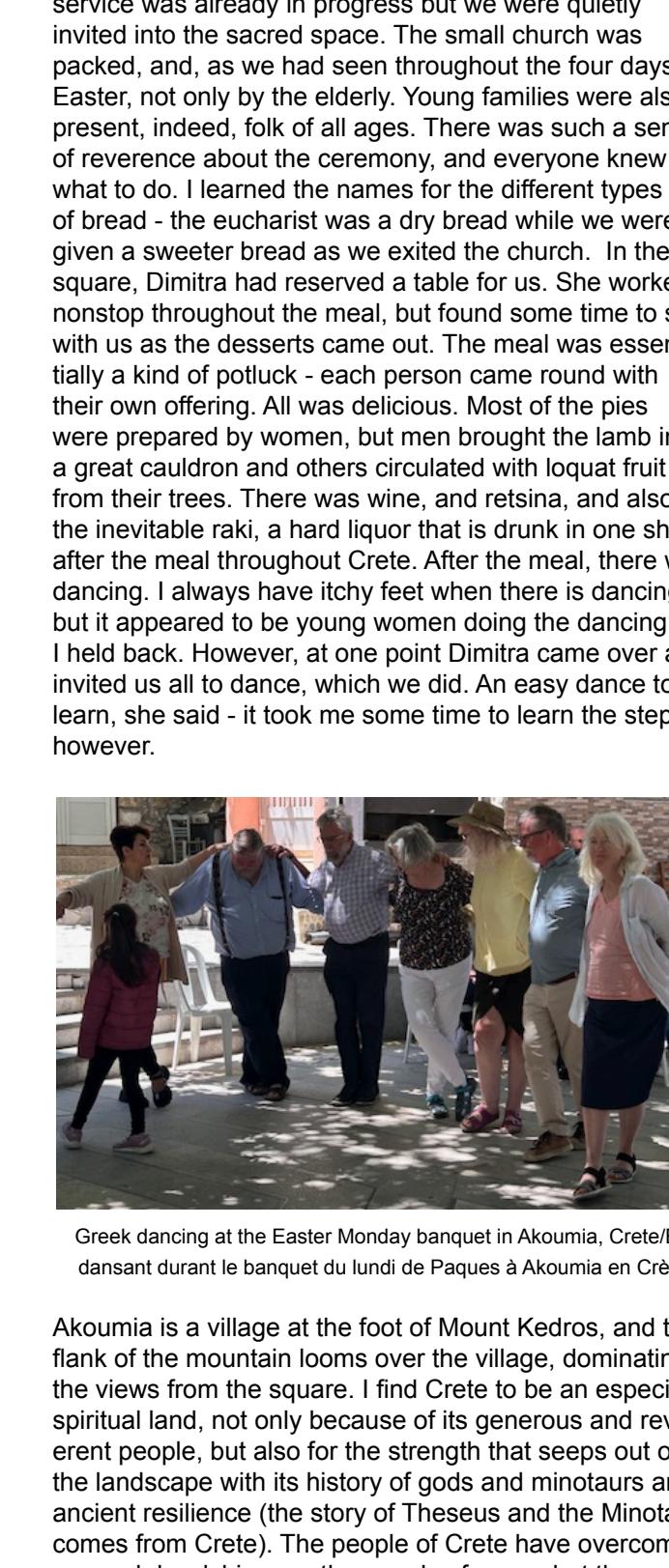
Creative Hands

The Meeting at Greene has committed itself to a monthly experiment with craft activities after Meeting for Worship on the first Sunday of May, June and July. The first session was enjoyed by all who stayed, including a few who carried their cups of tea to tables where some were stitching and sat down to simply observe and chat.

Stitch expert Janette Fraser would have already predicted that our organization principle would have been on cheese. However, after a short period which fulfilled her prediction, numbers of us sat happily at two tables where different stitching skills were being displayed, or gravitated to the kitchen where Geoff Garver was making soup with foraged wild leeks, and preparing gougères. At a third table, David Millar worked on posters for our peace protest in a few weeks.

Some true experts were in our midst, and some also true beginners. In short, the mix was ideal. Soup and gougères were excellent. Our next session is the first meeting of June, which is June 2. Geoff is hoping someone else will take a turn at sharing cooking skills. Please speak to him if you are so inspired.

Some beautiful stitching and excellent cooking took place at this session and participants truly learned the beginnings of a new craft. However the most enjoyable and meaningful aspect of the activity was that we got to know each other better. Somehow keeping one's hands busy with a creative activity liberates the heart to speak and listen better. As friends, we treasure these moments.


Friends setting up to do some embroidery/Des amis en préparation pour faire la couture!

Peace Protest on May 19

Montreal Monthly Meeting will take part in a peace protest organised by Kairos called "Gaza Ceasefire Pilgrimage". The final shape our protest will take will be to fleshed out with Friends at meeting, but may be as simple as walking across the street with posters to Stayner Park and there expressing our deep concern for Peace in Israel and Gaza. We will take a photo of ourselves to be added to the portfolio carried by Kairos representatives to Parliament on May 22.

There can be no doubt that members of Meeting are sadly troubled about this terrible war, along with many others in Montreal. Our sadness and horror have been expressed in oral ministry and in private conversations during the last months.

This common effort may seem small. But some individuals in our community have made greater private efforts to express their hopes for peace, ranging from visiting the student encampment at McGill and engaging students in discussion about true peace, to writing letters, to attending other protest activities.

How can we deepen our commitment to this profound Quaker value: Peace? Where could the Spirit lead us in this endeavour? Later in the Newsletter you will find a short article about a commitment to a peace action which has lasted 40 years. There is no single way to witness to a devotion to Peace.

Quaker Peace Testimony (1660): "We utterly deny all outward wars and strife and combats with outward weapons, for any end, and under any pretence whatsoever; and this is our testimony to the whole world. The spirit of Christ, by which we are guided, is not changeable, so as once to command us from a thing as evil and again to move unto it; and we do certainly know, and so testify to the world, that the spirit of Christ, which leads us into all truth, will never move us to fight and war against any man with outward weapons, neither for the kingdom of Christ, nor for the kingdoms of this world."

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