



**TORONTO MONTHLY MEETING of the
RELIGIOUS SOCIETY of FRIENDS (QUAKERS)
60 Lowther Avenue, Toronto, Ont. M5R 1C7
www.quaker.ca/toronto**

Friends House:	416-921-0368	E-mail:	Tmm at web dot net
Toronto Monthly Meeting Office:	416-921-8002	Fax:	416-920-5214

TMM Newsletter: February 2010

Meeting for Worship is held at Friends House every Sunday at 11:00 AM. All are welcome.
Please see the back page for a list of regular events held throughout the month.

Ministry and Worship

A Supplication

I ask for daily bread, but not for wealth, lest I forget the poor.
I ask for strength, but not for power, lest I despise the meek.
I ask for wisdom, but not for learning, lest I scorn the simple.
I ask for a clean name, but not for fame, lest I condemn the lowly.
I ask for peace of mind, but not for idle hours, lest I fail to hearken to the call of duty.

*from Thoughts and Essays (1909),
in Christian Faith and Practice, 90*

— February Deadlines —

Sunday 14 February

- Agenda items for Meeting for Worship for Business
- February Annual reports:
 - *Toronto Monthly Meeting Nominating Committee suggestions for Canadian Yearly Meeting nominations*
 - *Statistics*
 - *Religious Education Committee*
 - *Library Committee Report*

Monday 22 February

- Items for the March *TMM Newsletter*

Meeting For Worship for Business

SUNDAY 21 FEBRUARY, 12:45 PM

All Friends and attenders are encouraged to attend. Minutes of the Toronto Monthly Meeting for Worship for Business are available in the library.

Report on the State of the Society

Worship Sharing, Sunday 7 February, 12:45 PM
Meeting of Ministry and Counsel will facilitate a worship sharing session after Meeting for Worship, to receive input for the TMM annual report on the state of our Meeting. For preparation, Friends may wish to read pages 96–97 of *Organization and Procedure of Canadian Yearly Meeting*. Copies are available in the Friends House Library and online at <http://www.quaker.ca>.

**Scrupling with Friends on Democracy in Canada
Friends House, Sunday 7 February, 3:00–4:30 PM**

*For TMM members and regular attenders.
Liberal MP Carolyn Bennett, and NDP MP Olivia Chow have agreed to participate. We are still seeking a sitting Conservative MP.*

This session is not to be a debate, a panel discussion, or an argument to win or lose, but rather a serious search for ways to stem the decline of our representative democracy a trend of concern to Friends and to many elected representatives. Scrupling is an old Quaker practice. When faced with difficult issues, Quakers sit with neighbours and friends to listen, share, and search for ways to respond, each within their own responsibilities. In his *Journal*, John Woolman writes about scrupling in relation to war and slavery.

We hope to have a conversation with these elected representatives based on our common concerns, which transcend party politics, arguments, and blame. Friends and regular attenders of TMM are asked to attend, with heart and mind prepared, and to try to bring a different mode of interaction to the urgent task of rebuilding good and accessible government. For more information, please contact Ursula Franklin (416-932-8969) or Anne Mitchell (416-533-8402).

Film Screening: *Decalogue*

Wednesday 17 February, 7:00 PM

The Religious Education Committee will present a screening of selections from the ten hour-long film series *Decalogue* by Polish director Krzysztof Kieslowski. These films, originally made for Polish television, are based on the Ten Commandments as they pertain to the struggles of modern life.

Peace and Social Action Committee

February Events at Friends House

Friday 12 February, 8:00 PM

Join in an evening of singing songs about peace and justice songs, with potluck refreshments.

Sunday 21 February, NOON

PSAC will host a fundraising lunch for Haiti relief, before Monthly Meeting for Worship for Business. Volunteers to help with this meal are welcome: please contact Lyn Adamson or Elizabeth Block.

Sunday 28 February, 12:45 PM 28th

A speaker on Haiti.

Haiti Earthquake Relief

Friends who wish to donate to relief for Haiti are reminded that Quakers have long-standing relationships with Medecins sans frontières (1-800-982-7903, www.msf.ca) and the Mennonite Central Committee (1-888-622-6337, www.canada.mcc.org). Both organizations are already on the ground in Haiti. For more information, see the memo from CFSC on the bulletin board, or contact Jane Orion Smith at CFSC (cfsc at cfsc dot quaker dot ca).

The Joy of Quaker Committees

Pendle Hill, 12–14 February

Walter Hjelt Sullivan has sent an invitation to attend a workshop entitled "The Joy of Quaker Committees: Clerking and Working with Spirit," led by Steve Smith. For information about Pendle Hill, visit www.pendlehill.org. Follow this link for more details and RSVP, follow this link:

<http://www.facebook.com/n/?event.php&eid=243016537961&mid=1af5f6fG3badb9d8G14834e5 G7>.

First Day School Date Changes

First Day School will be held on February 7 and February 28. Children of all ages (including adults!) are welcome.

Canadian Yearly Meeting Positions

CYM welcomes nominations for the following positions. Please consider the openings below and suggest names (yours or someone else's) to TMM Nominating Committee. More details are posted on the bulletin board and are also available on the CYM website (www.quaker.ca).

- CYM Clerk
 - CYM Recording Clerk
 - Finance Committee
 - Camp NeeKauNis Committee
 - Canadian Friends Service Committee
 - Discipline Review Committee
 - Ecumenical/Interfaith Committee
 - Epistle Summarizing Committee
 - Home Mission and Advancement Committee
 - Nominating Committee
 - Program Committee
 - Publications and Communications Committee
 - Records Committee
 - Youth Programs Coordinator for CYM Session
 - Continuing Meeting of Ministry and Counsel
 - Quaker International Affairs Program Committee
 - Representative to FWCC, Section of the Americas
 - Interfaith Committee on Chaplaincy in the Correctional Service of Canada
 - Delegate to Representative Meeting
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New in the Library

Peter G. Brown, Geoffrey Garver, with Keith Helmuth, Robert Howell, and Steve Szechi, *Right Relationship: Building a Whole Earth Economy*. San Francisco: Berrett-Koehler, 2009.

Jack Kirk, *Concern: Spirit-led Quaker Action*. Wallingford, PA: Pendle Hill Publications, 2009 (first published in the anthology *Friends Face the World*, ed. Leonard Kenworthy. 1987. [Jack Kirk discusses how concerns are opened to us, how we may test them, and how we may find in them a centre of spiritual gravity for our lives. How do we discover our callings as individuals, and what is our calling as a community of Friends?])

Canadian Council of Churches Conference on Biotechnology

It was my pleasure to be part of the Canadian Council of Churches conference on Biotechnology. As one new to the field with an interest in education I was pleased at the accessibility of the language and the information presented. A key element that emerged in several discussions was the importance of education and a wider understanding of issues related to biotechnology, a subject often portrayed in extreme terms. Education is perhaps the most promising way to counter the influence of financial investment in determining the focus for research and development. The conference itself demonstrated good educational practices in the way activities were planned and executed.

Breakout groups and mind maps generated by attendees helped to foster a collaborative environment in which all were welcome to inquire and contribute. There is no easy answer, but public engagement is essential for guiding matters related to biotechnology in a responsible manner. We pray for guidance and wisdom in finding the best way forward to share and expand this important knowledge. I am especially grateful for the relationships fostered by this conference. Surely this is the simplest way to support compassionate education: to form friendships with those from whom we have a great deal to learn.

Anne Mitchell and Jaya Karsemeyer attended this conference. Jaya wrote the report.

Conscience Canada Newsletter & AGM

The Conscience Canada newsletter available online (at <http://www.consciencecanada.ca/home.shtml>) includes a 'Peace Tax Return 2009' that can be used to express opinions about paying for war. A DVD entitled "Work for Peace, Stop Paying for War" is also available on the website. Jeremy Hinzman will be one of the speakers at the Conscience Canada annual general meeting to be held on 27 March.

Peaceworks Report

Training Sessions

PeaceWorks has successfully concluded "Communication in Action," the first series of six training sessions.

The second series, "Nonviolence in Action," began on Thursday 21 January and will run to 25 February.

The third series, "Activism in Action" will cover campaign organizing, written and spoken communication, outreach, media, and new technologies. These Thursday evening sessions will begin on 25 March. Please contact Lyn Adamson (peaceworks at primus dot ca) for more information and registration.

Martin Luther King Forum

On 14 January 2010 PeaceWorks held a forum to honour the power of nonviolence that Martin Luther King expressed in his life and work. Fifty people heard speakers on a wide range of topics: Lee McKenna on work in Sudan; Jim Loney on his inner journey during his captivity in Iraq; and Paul Schwartzentruber on the work of Ekta Parishad, a Gandhian nonviolence movement in India. Dave Noganosh and Roderick Brereton of Urban Rez Solutions spoke of the challenges facing us here in Toronto.

Missing Friends!

Several recent issues of the English Quaker weekly periodical *The Friend* (London) are not in the library and have not been signed out:

20 November 2009 (2 copies)

27 November 2009 (1 copy)

4 December 2009 (1 copy).

We ask Friends to remember that reference material should *not* to be removed from the library, and that all circulating items must be signed out.

The TMM Office Completing the Audit

Raja and Linda Stemmler have worked out a time line to complete the TMM audit, and this financial work will likely require 75% of Linda's time through February and March. The Personnel Committee asks everyone's cooperation in helping to accomplish the audit by keeping Linda's workload to a minimum.

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OF THEE AND THINE

Andrew Scorer has a new email address: [awscorer at gmail dot com](mailto:awscorer@gmail.com).

REGULAR EVENTS AND NOTICES

SUNDAY 7 FEBRUARY

- 11:00 AM – Meeting for Worship
- 11:00 AM – First Day School (Children join Meeting for Worship for the first 15 minutes.)
- 11:00 AM – West End Worship Group (contact Gerhard Peters 905-488-0740 for location)
- 12:45 PM – Worship Sharing on the State of the Society report
- 3:00 PM – Scrupling with Friends on Democracy in Canada

SUNDAY 14 FEBRUARY

- 9:30 AM – Early Meeting for Worship
- 11:00 AM – Meeting for Worship
- 12:45 PM – Religious Education Committee presentation

SUNDAY 21 FEBRUARY

- 11:00 AM – Meeting for Worship
- 12:45 PM – Meeting for Worship for Business

SUNDAY 28 FEBRUARY

- 11:00 AM – Meeting for Worship
- 11:00 AM – First Day School (Children join Meeting for Worship for the first 15 minutes.)
- 10:30 AM – Downtown Worship Group (contact Ann Farrell 416-364-6907 for details)

THURSDAY EVENINGS

- 5:30 PM – Quaker Program at Toronto West Detention Centre meets with a group of 6 to 18 prisoners for discussion and support. Contact Fred Franklin (416-932-8969) for more information.

NEWCOMERS

Welcome. If you are new and interested in participating in Toronto Monthly Meeting activities or have questions, please speak with the co-clerks Wanda Forsythe or Jim Caughran, or any other member.

FRIENDS WHO HAVE PHYSICAL DIFFICULTIES

Financial assistance for taxis is available for those Friends and attenders who have physical difficulties getting to Meeting for Worship by public transport. Please speak to a member of Ministry and Counsel or the Resident Friends to obtain taxi chits.

THE VISITING COMMITTEE

The Visiting Committee co-ordinates visits with members and attenders who are unable to attend Meeting for Worship. Please contact a member of the Committee if you know of someone in need of a visit: Daisy Auty, Suprabhat Dey, Stephen James, Ruth Malloy (Tel. 416-769-4400), Andrew Scorer, and Erika Whitney.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Please let the TMM Office ([tmm at web dot net](mailto:tmm@webdotnet)) know of changes in your address, phone, or e-mail. Due to government privacy legislation, this information will be put in the newsletter only if you request it. Please note that personal information is removed from the version of the *TMM Newsletter* posted on our website. These changes will, however, be added to the TMM Directory and passed on to Canadian Yearly Meeting for their Directory unless you request otherwise.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

The trouble with a nine-to-five job is that it really cuts into your day.
Grace Pincoe, Toronto Monthly Meeting