

Montreal Monthly Meeting Newsletter Lettre de l'Assemblée quaker de Montréal

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Images: Geoff Garver & Brooke Nancekivell

Life of the Meeting / La vie de l'assemblée

The favorite Canadian topic—winter—entices us with strong signs of spring, then treats us to onslaughts of wind, snow and ice. The month of March is treacherous. 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 Mosaïque in Levis could be 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 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 when in presence with each other, and those who prefer not to wear masks under conditions are exacerbated by masks. In the end, we agreed on 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 level, 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.
- Masks should be opened in warm weather.
- The meeting will obtain high quality N95 or KN95 masks to give to anyone who wants 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 bring 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 is providing 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 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 gougerie to be first on the menu. Brooke Nancekivell in her role as assistant 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 Smit and Geoffrey Edwards. Children are invited to join us at all times, but especially on the third Sunday of every month, when special activities and discussions are planned for the next session will be on March 17 at 11, in a room adjacent to our Meeting for Worship.

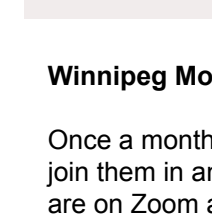
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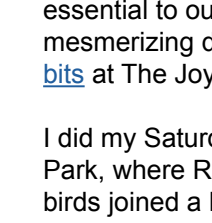
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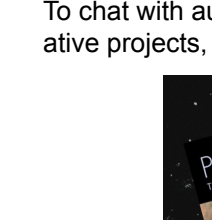
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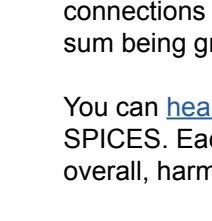
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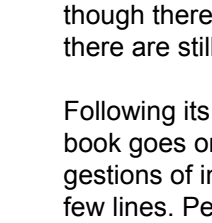
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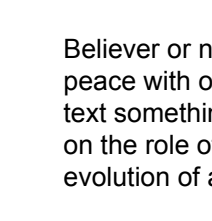
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Le sujet préféré des Canadiens, la température, nous donne du courage par les signes très favorables du printemps, et par la suite nos mers de vents, de neige et de glace. Le mois de mars est traître, mais avec l'arrivée de mai, le plaisir de voir que la terre se réchauffe et que le chant des oiseaux est de retour sont des signes d'espoir. Les assemblées du dimanche au Centre Greene à Montréal et au Café La Mosaïque à Lévis continuent d'attirer les gens et sont une source de bonheur pour ceux qui y sont présents.

COVID-19, un problème persistant

Malgré le fait que l'Organisation mondiale de la Santé ait déclaré que le COVID-19 n'est plus une situation d'urgence internationale, les répercussions de la pandémie continuent de se faire sentir.

À notre assemblée d'affaires du 25 février, les Amis ont réfléchi à comment équilibrer les problèmes de santé et ceux de la pandémie. Après avoir communiqué avec Geoffrey Edwards et Brooke Nancekivell, nous sommes convenus que nous présenterons des problèmes de santé et ceux de la pandémie. À notre assemblée d'affaires du 25 février, les Amis ont réfléchi à comment équilibrer les problèmes de santé et ceux de la pandémie. Après avoir communiqué avec Geoffrey Edwards et Brooke Nancekivell, nous sommes convenus que nous présenterons des problèmes de santé et ceux de la pandémie.

Premièrement, nous avons fait une liste des règles qui devraient toujours être suivies :

- 1. Les deux purificateurs d'air dans la pièce seront à force moyenne avant, pendant et après l'assemblée.
- 2. Les chaises seront espacées. Ceci peut être difficile à maintenir lors de la période de rencontres sociales après l'assemblée.
- 3. Quelques fenêtres ou plus seront ouvertes en partie lors de températures froides, lorsque le climat le permet. Plus de fenêtres seront ouvertes lorsque la température sera clémente.
- 4. L'assemblée fournira des masques de haute qualité N95 ou KN95 à toutes les personnes qui voudraient en porter et fera un rappel à ce sujet lors de l'assemblée.
- 5. L'assemblée demandera à ceux qui présentent des symptômes de maladie respiratoire ou gastro-intestinale de demeurer à la maison pour éviter d'infecter les autres.

Ceux qui sont toujours inquiets pour leur sécurité personnelle devraient demander conseil à Leigh Smit ou Geoff Garver. Ils pourraient :

- 1. S'asseoir près d'un purificateur (cela peut être fait sans consulter Leigh ou Geoff).
- 2. Demander à l'assemblée de vérifier si leur siège possède un filtre à haute qualité N95 ou KN95.
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Bien que certains trouvent les assemblées en ligne moins engageantes, elles sont une option pour ceux qui veulent s'exclure du contact avec les autres et ainsi prévenir la contagion. Deux assemblées en ligne sont disponibles par semaine, une est synchronisée avec l'assemblée du dimanche au Centre Greene, et la seconde est offerte au Centre de la Mosaïque. Nous espérons que cela nous aidera à adopter une position quaker sur des enjeux qui affectent la santé et le bien-être des individus du genre queer dans la société canadienne. [Pour lire l'intégralité de la lettre, vous le trouverez sur notre site web.](https://www.montreal.quaker.ca)

La date de la tenue de la première discussion sera établie avec les gens intéressés à s'y impliquer. Si vous voulez vous joindre au groupe, veuillez communiquer avec Geoffrey Edwards à l'adresse indiquée dans la lettre. Veuillez vous inscrire avant le mardi 19 mars à 11 heures, dans une salle adjacente à notre culte de notre assemblée.

Possibilités Créatives

L'importance de l'aspect social après l'assemblée de culte ne peut pas être sous-estimée. Lors de la collation qui suit l'assemblée, Leigh Smit a exprimé le désir d'apprendre à coudre ses propres vêtements. Peu de temps après, Janette Fraser, quaker de longue date et maître de couture, fut débordée de demandes à partager son savoir. À cet effet, elle a offert un atelier de couture le mardi 19 mars à 11 heures, dans une salle adjacente à notre culte de notre assemblée.

Qui sait jusqu'où cela pourrait nous mener. Janette a déjà préparé un atelier de couture le mardi 19 mars à 11 heures, dans une salle adjacente à notre culte de notre assemblée.

École du dimanche

Le projet de l'école du dimanche continue sous la direction de Leigh Smit et Geoffrey Edwards. Les enfants sont toujours invités à nous joindre, mais encore plus le troisième dimanche de chaque mois, quand des activités spéciales et des discussions sont spécialement planifiées pour eux. La prochaine aura lieu le 17 mars à 11 heures, dans une salle adjacente à notre culte de notre assemblée.

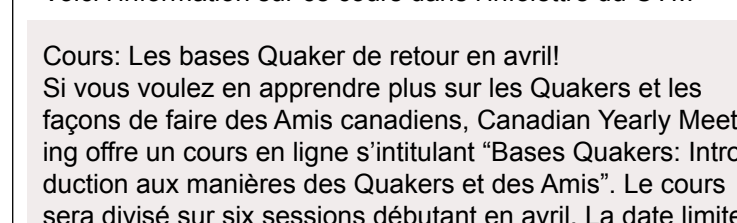
Assemblées hybrides : une réflexion

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Un don unique ou mensuel à l'Assemblée mensuelle de Montréal?

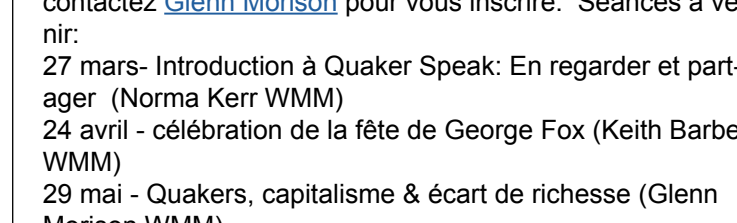
Notre trésorière Claire Adamson rapporte que nos dépenses de la dernière année ont dépassé nos dons de quelque 2000 \$. Néanmoins, dans un élan d'enthousiasme, l'année dernière nous avons alloué un budget prévisionnel pour des projets et de causes doublant presque nos autres revenus!

Si vous êtes en mesure de faire un don à ce groupe que tant de nous considèrent comme notre foyer spirituel, merci de contribuer. Notre [site web](https://www.montreal.quaker.ca) propose plusieurs façons d'y parvenir.



L'homme moral est celui qui s'oppose à l'injustice par le fait de son quakerisme; l'homme moral cherche d'abord l'injustice en lui-même.

~ Bayard Rustin



Time to Learn / Formations

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 campers and (mostly) quiet ways. Some Quakers in Montreal to the meeting attend our meetings for Worship down because we spend most of our time together enjoying your company. We don't spend enough time sharing the basic beliefs and values of Quakerism which has enriched our lives. For any new attendees to our Meeting who is interested in the ways of Quakers, the starting point below is an excellent introduction. Several workshops have been held 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. It's part of M & C's mandate and budget to support you in taking a great course like this one.

And a bonus: not only do you get an overview of the Quaker panorama, you also get to meet new attendees from across Canada. Friendships have developed from this encounter, and we hope that will happen to you.

Course: Quakerism is back in April! It's time to re-engage in learning about Quakers and the way of Canadian Friends. Join us for a new course in the form of an online course called "Quaker Basics: Introduction to Quaker and Friends' Ways". The course 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 Quakers. More information and registration can be found [here](https://www.montreal.quaker.ca).

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 Morrison](https://www.winnipeg.quaker.ca) for registration. Upcoming sessions:

- 24th - Introduction to Quaker Speak: Watch a few and share (Norma Kerr WMM)
- April 24th - George Fox Birthday Party (Keith Barber WMM)
- May 29th - Quakers, Capitalism & Income Inequality (Glenn Morrison WMM)

Online Courses at Woodbrooke

Woodbrooke is an international Quaker learning and research organisation based in Britain. The wealth of online courses offered by this institution is worth exploring. Many topics are free. The only warning you might want to heed is to consider the time difference when you register for a course!

Begin your exploration of these courses [here](https://www.woodbrooke.org.uk).

Quakers at Large

A lively weekend in New York City

Last November, in the midst of an unusually taxing workload that I knew would start easing 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](https://www.penningtonfriendshouse.com), a Quaker residence near Union Square with two lovely rooms for guests. Guests are welcome to join residents for a light breakfast and dinner, and to enjoy the big flock of birds nesting in the building. Its large mid-19th century Meetinghouse. With a nightly rate of around US \$150, the Phebe Room and its half-bathroom, double bed and artwork with quotes from Bayard Rustin, Margaret Fell and Advocaat, is very popular. It's wise to book months in advance!

My weekend in Manhattan was lively and joyous. I arrived March 7 in time to see the musical Six, a modern take on the six Black and Latina pop divas. I spent much of Friday morning walking along Hudson River Park between Tribeca and Chelsea, and in the afternoon I attended the **Winnipeg Monthly Meeting** in the Phebe Room with a cottage-like installation commemorating Seneca Village, a Black community that was thrived in the mid-nineteenth century until it was demolished under eminent domain and razed to create Central Park. [Fitting Art](https://www.fittingart.com), in the evening, my friends and I saw a funny and moving "addition and recovery comedy" called **The White Chip**.

I did my Red-breasted birding at the reservoir in Central Park, where Sunday-morning birders, Buffalo and other birds are regular attendees. I then strolled to the park for the first time — who knew there are two (very artificial) waterfalls there? After, I roamed through The Metropolitan Museum of Art, and in an echo of my morning walk, I discovered, nestled amid the Medieval Art, Arms and Armor and European Sculpture and Decorative Arts sections a stunning little **Alfrolutist Period Room** with a cottage-like installation commemorating Seneca Village, a Black community that was thrived in the mid-nineteenth century until it was demolished under eminent domain and razed to create Central Park. [Fitting Art](https://www.fittingart.com), in the evening, my friends and I saw a funny and moving "addition and recovery comedy" called **The White Chip**.

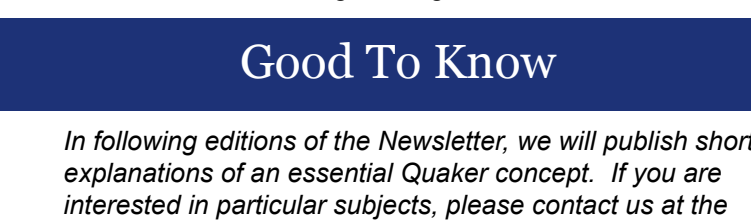
I started Sunday at the 9:30 meeting for worship at Pennington Street Meeting, where I brought greetings from Montreal Monthly Meeting and especially from the Phebe Room to you all. During the meeting, sounds of a protest passing through the neighborhood could be heard. I rose to reflect on how silence does not always mean absence of noise, and how, since I could not make out what the protest was about, I realized it might be about so many things. I had seen several pro-Palestinian protests during the weekend, as well as a restaurant displaying the flags of Israel and Ukraine. I expressed gratitude for the silence that opened my heart and mind to thinking about what I can live my life to make better in some way a world that sometimes seems filled with bottemless wells of injustice. And later, as I left on the train north of out Penn Station, I felt grateful for my multi-layered and thought-provoking weekend in New York.

A Friday, April 5, 2024, from 5 to 7 pm

On Friday, April 5, 2024, from 5 to 7 pm a co-editor of this newsletter, Geoffrey Edwards, will be at Indigo Place Montreal Trust to sign his science fiction novel [Indigo: The First Book of Qeco](https://www.indigo.ca). Two other English-language authors from Quebec City, David Andrews and Mary Thaler, will be there to sign their novels as well.

All three novels belong to the sci-fi/fantasy genre. To give you a taste of their diversity, consider this quotation describing their essential features: "A Viking queen chooses between survival and destruction. A blues-harp player sets out on a motorcycle ride into the land of myth. And thousands of years in the future, a novice space engineer discovers that the question of gender remains as fraught as ever."

To chat with authors about the novels and their ongoing creative projects, please drop by!



CYM Gathering of Canadian Quakers at Camp NeeKauNis this Spring

There is no doubt that in the summer, our fancy turns to ideas about summer vacations. Having you considered the possibility of attending the annual gathering of Canadian Yearly Meeting? It will be held this year on the shores of Georgian Bay in Ontario from July 24-31, at Camp NeeKauNis, the beloved Quaker camp on the lake.

Accommodations are flexible; camp cabins are available, hotel/motel accommodation can be found in the area, and you can pitch a tent on the campgrounds if so inclined. Children are welcome and there is a fully developed children's program with this author in order to concentrate on his message, a lot of fun and learning.

Montreal Monthly Meeting is working to encourage the development of some workshops in French. We know that there are many French-speaking Friends, and we are looking for a mother-tongue in French, and others who are bilingual. Participating in workshops in the language of choice would be a pleasure for them as well as us.

The spiritual adventure, add the prospect of meeting Canadian Quakers from across Canada in a beautiful spot close to a stunning waterfront.

Find out more about the gathering [here](https://www.cym.ca).

Good To Know

In following editions of the Newsletter, we will publish short explanations of an essential Quaker concept. If you are interested in particular subjects, please contact us at the Newsletter address:

Quaker worship: "Quakers are a non-creedal people"

When Quakers are asked what we believe, we have no prescribed reply. We have no written creed or authority which indisputably answers. Our beliefs and sense of our Quaker journey are a variety of things. For adults, the common experience in our meetings. Together we explore the mysteries supporting our lives. This exploration