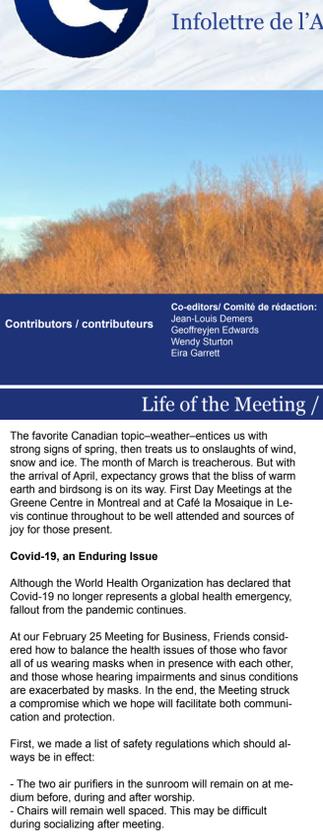


Montreal Monthly Meeting Newsletter / Lettre de l'Assemblée quaker de Montréal



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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 throughout 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 to remain in their comfort zones and are exacerbated by masks. In the end, the meeting adopted 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 any 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 gougers 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 Geoffreyrey 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.

Hybrid Meetings: a Reflection

Geoff Garver and Brooke Nancekivell have sent out a questionnaire about our hybrid meetings. We are interested in whether the Zoom format should be offered every Sunday. Until now, one Sunday a month we do not offer the Zoom option. This topic will be taken up again at Meeting for Worship for Business.

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 most doubling 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](http://www.montreal.quaker.ca) 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.

~ Bayard Rustin

Le sujet préféré des Canadiens, la température, nous donne du courage par les signes très favorables du printemps, et par la suite nous sommes de vents, de neige et de glace. Le mois de mars est traité, 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 la 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 de bien-être des individus qui nous portent des masques avec ceux qui présentent des troubles de l'audition et des sinus qui sont exacerbés par les masques. En bout de ligne, l'assemblée espère avoir trouvé un compromis qui facilitera la communication et la protection des gens qui participent aux assemblées.

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 (ce qui peut être fait sans consulter Leigh ou Geoff).
2. Demander à l'assemblée de vérifier si leur siège possède à l'avant des masques de qualité supérieure qui offriraient une sécurité presque complète dans nos conditions. L'assemblée cherchera de l'information et des conseils à ce sujet. Compte tenu du coût de ces masques, l'assemblée fournira une contribution financière aux individus qui voudraient en acheter pour assurer leur sécurité.

Bien que certains trouvent les assemblées en ligne moins satisfaisantes, 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. Plus d'information à propos de ces assemblées en ligne.

Lettre de l'Assemblée de Montréal en invitation à une participation à une discussion avec les Quakers du Canada à propos du "gender quack"

Tout récemment, une lettre au nom de l'Assemblée de Montréal a été envoyée par notre co-animateur Geoff Garver (Canadian Young Friends), invitant les Quakers Canadiens à participer à des discussions à propos de l'identité de genre queer. La lettre propose un programme ambuleur: premièrement, d'organiser des discussions à ce sujet pour la communauté Quaker, avec l'objectif de favoriser l'engagement et l'acceptation des autres dans nos assemblées. Deuxièmement, 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. www.montreal.quaker.ca Pour lire l'intégralité de la lettre, vous le trouverez sur notre site web.

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 Geoffreyrey Edwards à l'adresse indiquée dans la lettre. Veuillez vous inscrire aux Amis de tous les âges et de toute identité de genre sont invités à participer.

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 organisé une série de ateliers de couture. Les ateliers d'artisanat des bases de la culture, de la broderie, du raccommodage, etc. Cette idée faisant son chemin nous a amenés vers le tricot, la coudre et par une expansion audacieuse, Geoff Garver offrait un cours de cuisson dans la cuisine adjacente, avec des discussions sur le menu. Brooke Nancekivell dans son rôle d'assistante à l'animation a offert d'organiser et d'administrer cet événement.

Qui sait jusqu'où ceci pourrait nous mener. Janette a déjà parlé à l'occasion de la *Quaker Tapestry*, qui chronicle les moments clés de l'histoire des Quakers. Nous avons hâte d'aller aux dimanches créatifs en communauté. Plus d'information à venir.

École du dimanche

Le projet de l'école du dimanche continue sous la direction de Leigh Smit et Geoffreyrey 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

Geoff Garver et Brooke Nancekivell ont envoyé un questionnaire aux personnes qui se joignent à notre assemblée sur Zoom nous concernant à propos de nos besoins des personnes qui ne peuvent pas se joindre physiquement. Nous voulons savoir si ces besoins sont combinés. Nous voulons particulièrement évaluer la nécessité d'offrir cette option à tous les dimanches. Jusqu'à présent, il n'y a qu'un dimanche par mois qui n'est pas disponible sur Zoom. Une discussion à ce sujet sera amorcée lors de notre prochaine assemblée d'affaires.

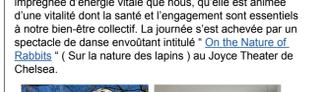
Un don unique ou mensuel à l'Assemblée mensuelle de Montréal?

Notre trésorière Claire Adamson rapporte que nos dépenses de la dernière année ont dépassé les contributions de nos membres de \$2000. Néanmoins, dans un élan d'enthousiasme, l'année dernière nous avons alloué un budget prévisionnel pour de projets et de causes doublant presque nos espoirs de revenu!

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](http://www.montreal.quaker.ca) propose plusieurs façons d'y parvenir.

L'homme moral est celui qui s'oppose à l'injustice per se et non qu'il la trouve; 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 CYM course below is an excellent 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. 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: Quaker Basics is back in April! It will be a 6-week course in evening classes on the way of Canadian Friends Yearly Meeting with a focus on 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.woodbrooke.org.uk).

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 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](http://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 right around the clock, the staff of Quaker Friends House offers a 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, on the lookout for meeting Brants to my delight. On Saturday, I then walked along the High Line a bit to an intriguing gallery exhibit called *The Flesh of the Earth*. A message from the curator, Enuma Okoro says in part: "We must return to thinking of the earth as also imbued with life force energy as we are, with an aliveness whose health and nature is essential to our collective well-being." The day ended with a mesmerizing dance performance called *On the Nature of Rabbits* at the Joyce Theater in Chelsea.

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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, on the lookout for meeting Brants to my delight. On Saturday, I then walked along the High Line a bit to an intriguing gallery exhibit called *The Flesh of the Earth*. A message from the curator, Enuma Okoro says in part: "We must return to thinking of the earth as also imbued with life force energy as we are, with an aliveness whose health and nature is essential to our collective well-being." The day ended with a mesmerizing dance performance called *On the Nature of Rabbits* at the Joyce Theater in Chelsea.

I did my Red-breasted birding at the reservoir in Central Park, where Sunday-morning joggers, Buffalo and other birds and the big flock of crows were plentiful. The day ended with the first time I discovered the northern sections of 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 "Afronautical 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. [Fittingly](http://www.metmuseum.org), it then joined friends to see a terrific exhibit about [The Harlem Renaissance](http://www.harlemrenaissance.com) in the evening, my friends and I saw a funny and moving "addiction and recovery comedy" called [The White Chicago](http://www.whitechicago.com).

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