



EDUCATION & OUTREACH QUARTERLY

“Query No. 7: Be aware of the spirit of God at work in the ordinary activities and experience of your daily life. Spiritual learning continues throughout life, and often in unexpected ways...”

Welcome To Our First Issue

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If you are a new Friend, we’d like to get to know you, and if you’ve been a Friend for some time, we’d like to get reacquainted through this new quarterly newsletter.

The Education & Outreach Committee of Canadian Yearly Meeting (CYM) seeks to support Quaker education within Friends’ meetings in CYM and to promote outreach to the wider public. Through the *E&O Quarterly* we will strive to keep you up to date with E&O Committee programs and activities that support Quaker spiritual and educational development.

News of Ourselves & Others

Cameron Fraser To Take on the Role of E&O Committee Clerk

I was born in Victoria, BC and spent much of my childhood in Quesnel, BC, before returning to Victoria for high school and university studies.



I attended the Anglican Church for my entire childhood. I began exploring meditation practice in 2000 as part of the [Victoria] Downtown Churches Association's Prayer in the Style of Taizé , including spending a week in Taizé, France, in 2003.

I attended the Fern Street Meeting House for the first time in 2005, and the Religious Society of Friends naturally developed into my spiritual home.

I have worked for the last five years in the Gulf Islands School District, including serving as Vice Principal and teacher of the Saturna Ecological Education Centre and Principal and teacher of Pender Islands School.

I have been working on a Master of Arts (MA) degree for the past six years. I transferred from the University of Victoria's Educational Leadership and Psychology graduate program to Royal Roads Interdisciplinary Studies program in February 2016. My MA studies have evolved into a focus on facilitative leadership. I am currently rounding off my course work with a certificate in Organization Design and Development. I am excited to begin my MA project and thesis in the summer of 2017.

I was very excited when asked to consider taking on the role of clerk for the Education and Outreach Committee (E&O) of Canadian Yearly Meeting. I believe my background in education and facilitative leadership, combined with studies in appreciative inquiry and Quaker approaches to organization, will help me to assist E&O in accomplishing its important work. This role will also provide me with opportunities for additional spiritual and educational development.

Editor's Note: Cameron will co-clerk with Marilyn Manzer (clerk of E & O Committee) until July 2017, when Marilyn will complete her term of service.

CYM Visitation Program—The Story So Far

“The Society of Friends is a fellowship of seekers, not an organization bound together in dogma. If we are true seekers, we will be finders. If we are finders, we should advance.” CYM Gleanings, 1955, from Faith & Practice of CYM



In 2007 the CYM Consultation and Renewal Working Group recommended that a Visitation Program be established to provide an opportunity for experienced and knowledgeable Friends to visit Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups.

The objective of these visits was to increase Friends’ understanding of Quaker faith and practice, including our practice of corporate discernment, approaches to conflict in meetings, and the organization and activities of CYM. The CYM Education and Outreach Committee (E&O), which was formerly called the Home Mission & Advancement Committee (HMAC), was given the responsibility for oversight. Stephanie Deakin of Vancouver Island Monthly Meeting is under contract to E&O to be the Visitation Program Coordinator.

Stephanie has invited each Monthly Meeting to discern and submit names of Friends who might have gifts of ministry to offer through visitation. A database of Friends and their gifts and leadings was created. Such gifts include facilitating learning sessions on Quaker business practice, Quaker history and other topics, assisting with conflict resolution, addressing a specific concern, or simply bringing a ‘ministry of presence’.

Since the beginning of the program, the Visitation Program has helped facilitate 20 visits to Meetings and gatherings across the country. Some Meetings have taken advantage of the program more than once, some not at all.

Visitors enrich the visited Meeting as well as their own home Meetings, and strengthen the ties between us. Having a visitor—or sending a visitor—helps us to recognize what is unique to our Meeting, and what is part of our shared experience as Quakers in Canada.

Here are some queries from visitor retreats:

- How do the testimonies speak to us when considering visitation? What are the guides in our lives right now? How do we experience the connection between Faith and Practice?
- How can visitation help to strengthen our community and our spiritual connections? In what ways can we deepen the spiritual connections in our Meetings?
- How might we respond to the advice to live adventurously through visitation? How might our community respond?



Quaker Meeting

(Oil painting by Egbert van Heemskerk [Library ref. Pic F051], Library of the Society of Friends, London, UK)

If you would like to know more about the program—who/ what’s on the list, how to get a visitor, or how to be a visitor—check out the visitation page under the Resources tab on the Quaker.ca website or contact Stephanie at: visitationcoordinator@quaker.ca.

Kirsten Ebsen Attends Friends General Conference 2016

Kirsten Ebsen (Vancouver Monthly Meeting) received one of E&O’s grants, which enabled her to attend last summer’s Friends General Conference (FGC) at the College of Saint Benedict in St. Joseph, Minnesota. The theme was “Be humble, Be faithful, BE BRAVE,” and attendees were reminded by co-clerks Marybeth Neal and Paul Landskroener that “faithful and bold are connected via humility, for without humility there is no spirituality.”



**Muriel H. Duckworth,
1908-2009**

*(Art-rendering after a
photo by Janet Munson
in honour of Muriel
Duckworth's 100th
birthday)*

Canadian Quaker and founding member of the Nova Scotia Voice of Women for Peace, a provincial branch of the national peace organization called the Voice of Women (VOW).

A variety of speakers spoke on the necessity for Friends to reenergize their efforts “to build real, multi-racial communities” and to spend time reflecting on how we might “move away from the domination culture that is the status quo.” Rex Ambler's plenary and presentations were particularly insightful spiritual lessons.

Kirsten held a Special Interest Group (one of 50) with readings from her play “The Malta Play.” She was concerned that her dramatic presentation, detailing the mid-17th century abuse and trial of two Quaker women by the Inquisition, might create unease with the Gathering's hosting institution. Kirsten was assured by the prioress that the Roman Catholic Church cannot whitewash its past history.

The Gathering was well-attended, with nearly one thousand F/friends participating, from the Americas, Europe, and Africa. It offered a variety of workshops, Bible study sessions, book launches, evening movies, spirit-led jaunts and walk-a-bouts, and sessions that dealt with non-theistic topics. Kirsten found it a great opportunity to stretch and grow her spirituality, while getting to know international Friends, and to reconnect with some old ones. She highly recommends that Friends consider attending the upcoming FGC Gathering which will be held at Niagara University, Niagara, New York, July 2-8, 2017.

Editor's Note: *As 2017 is sabbatical year for Canadian Yearly Meeting, the upcoming FGC Gathering may be a great way to meet with other Friends to strengthen our fellowship and increase our Quaker spiritual education. E&O has a budget line to assist Canadian Friends to travel to Quaker events. E&O recommends applying by March 20th so that requests can be considered at the upcoming March meeting.*

News updates on E&O Programs

E&O Grants & Loans Applications

Education and Outreach Committee (E&O) offers grants and loans, and supports referrals for other funds.

Applications received by March 20 will be reviewed at our late March committee meeting in Toronto. This date is also the deadline for applying for the Pendle Hill Scholarship.

We have chosen to interpret education in a fairly broad sense. E&O supports Friends to participate in a range of personal educational initiatives, including attending Friends General Conference, and art and spiritual retreats. Our committee encourages Friends to submit a proposal for consideration.

Detailed instructions on how to apply for E&O program grants and loans can be found on the CYM website:

<http://quaker.ca/resources/education/>.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to send an Email:

e-and-o-grants-loans@quaker.ca

Gleanings from Our Fall 2016 Course, “Uh-oh, Is That a Leading?”

“Uh-oh, Is That a Leading?” was developed as an on-line course by David Summerhays for Canadian Yearly Meeting. The course contained six two-hour sessions that explored Quakers' perception of leadings from our mid-17th century beginnings to the present day. The course readings and resource materials for each session examine 'leadings' through worship, storytelling, and worship sharing.

Here are a few 'gleanings' that participants in the course provided:

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A Special Request to Our Readers:

As we move forward with the *E&O Quarterly*, we hope to reach a wide range of Friends through a variety of responsive technological formats. We gratefully request that Friends with IT skills and/or ideas contact us to offer suggestions or technological assistance.

Please email us to offer your thoughts and/or assistance:
newslettereditor@quaker.ca

When you align your heart with love it is a call to action. Love is the act of giving. Love is transformative of self, others, situations. You are acted upon as much as you are motivated to act.

A leading is an invitation to change/a change of heart, requiring a leap of faith/ imagination.

A state of mind or attitude, willingness to be lead, open to sensing with the heart. Dwelling in the place where leadings come from so that they are always accessible and can give you the courage to say "yes" to the love that is inside you and act in that spirit always. Act faithfully.

A leading: An invitation to move forward in a way that is surprising but tantalizingly possible. With a leap of faith and a very enriching move forward. Transforms my relationship.

Outreach Cards Under Development

The Outreach Subcommittee of E&O is working to develop new outreach materials that can be used by meetings and worship groups. One design under consideration is a business card size format that will feature a Quaker quote, query or symbol on one side of the card. The alternate side text fields will allow local meetings and worship groups to customize the information to fit their specific needs.

If you have favourite quotes or queries that you feel may be appropriate to be used, please email your contribution to:
e-and-o-clerk@quaker.ca.