



Yonge Street Half-Yearly Meeting

Here it is, Friends. Your reminder and registration information about the spring session of Yonge Street Half-Yearly Meeting on June 4th, 2022. It will be an online gathering only, and we're inviting Friends from anywhere in Canadian Yearly Meeting to join us if you wish. You'll see that the programme is very interesting and apropos, especially in the current world situation.

9:15-9:45 - Join Zoom, Fellowship (Bring Your Own Doughnuts!)

9:45-11:00 - Meeting for Worship with reading of Memorial Minutes for Friends who have died since Spring 2021

11:00-11:15 - Break

11:15-12:30 - Meeting for Worship for Business with reading of State of Society Reports

12:30-2:00 - Lunch and Stretch Break

2:00-3:15 - Program: Julie Harlow of Pacific YM speaks on "Friends House Moscow: 26 Years of Service in Russia and Beyond"

3:15-3:30 - Break

3:30-4:30 - Q&A, discussion of presentation, closing worship

Please remember to have a Friend or Friends in your Meeting prepared to do the reading of the State of Society report and any Testimonials you may have. Please send items for the business agenda, as well as copies of the reports and memorial minutes, to Jane MacKay Wright, Clerk, <janemw70@gmail.com>.

Please note: REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED to receive the information on the link for the meeting. Register in advance here:

https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcvduihqj0tHdatVqbC7nc87NKi_5rwqZp8

After registering, you will receive a confirmation e-mail containing information about joining the meeting.

The programme is on the topic “Friends House Moscow: 26 Years of Service in Russia and Beyond”. Our speaker, presenting on Zoom, will be Julie Harlow, an American Friend who is on the International Board of Friends House Moscow. (friendshousemoscow.org). Friends House Moscow is not a Quaker Meeting, but a collaboration among Quakers worldwide. It is overseen by an International Board which is composed of Quakers from Russia, the USA and Europe. The Board sets strategy and makes funding decisions for the charitable activity that Friends House Moscow carries out in Russia and Ukraine. You are invited to send her questions in advance of her presentation at fhmus@sbcglobal.net, if there are specific things you want to know. Here’s more about Julie.

Julie Harlow was in Russia when the Soviet government fell in 1991. One day she was in Leningrad, and the next day, she was instantly in St. Petersburg. She had spent the previous seven years leading tours of Russia for Friends and friends of Friends, carrying a traveling minute from Pacific Yearly Meeting. She began working toward the fulfillment of the vision of a Quaker presence in Russia immediately after the collapse of the USSR. Active with the international governing board of Friends House Moscow since its inception, she can share the challenges, disappointments and successes from its beginnings up to the current program. She also speaks knowledgeably about current conditions in Russia based on research and personal experience traveling there since 1984.

Julie is a former teacher, an experienced and entertaining speaker who has been well received at the Summer Gatherings of Friends General Conference and meetings throughout the US since 1992. She draws on previous experience as a leader of tours to the USSR from 1984 through 1991 and six years of presentations to public schools about life in the Soviet Union as well as her deep commitment to the spiritual practices of Friends. Going virtual has not diminished the effectiveness of her presentations.

Learn how Friends House Moscow (FHM), a Quaker center in Russia, provides a Quaker presence and nurtures seekers throughout Russia, Ukraine and beyond; supports programs promoting peace, conflict resolution and justice; helps orphans, refugees, victims of domestic violence, disabled children, COs, teachers of non-violence and AVP; and translates Quaker materials into the Russian language.

Pacific Yearly Meeting has written a travel minute for Julie, supporting her work to inform Friends about the “unique contribution that Friends are making in the areas of the former Soviet Union.”