

NELSON RECOGNISED MEETING NEWSLETTER

Quakers - the Religious Society of Friends – Aotearoa New Zealand Te Hahi Tuhauwiri

May 2021

Spiritual Thought

When it is dark enough, you can see the stars.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

DIARY OF EVENTS:

Wednesday May 5th 7pm Quaker Meeting House 30 Nile St.:
Becoming Friends, sharing spiritual journeys. A spiritual nurture group
and introduction to Quakerism for newcomers. All welcome

Sunday May 9th 10.30am – 2.30pm Family Service Centre 27
Talbot St. Motueka: Top of the South Meeting, with discussion on
involving children & young people in Quakers, led by Megan
Stewart-Ward. Shared lunch. All welcome.

Saturday May 15th 10.30am Speakers Corner Montgomery Car Park:
Rally in support of Palestine, organised by Te Tau Ihu Palestine
Support.

Wednesday May 19th 7pm – 9pm John & Anthea's home: Home
Discussion Group, John will lead a discussion on outreach. All welcome

Saturday May 22nd 10.30am Gather top of Trafalgar St., march to
Speakers Corner Montgomery Car Park: Rally in support of
Palestine, organised by Te Tau Ihu Palestine Support.

Sunday 23 May, 7.00pm at the Musical Theatre, 95 Atawhai Drive, Nelson: theatrical debate about “the greatness of war” entitled “A Great Raw”. It will discuss the stand taken by Archibald Baxter and other peace activists.

Wednesday June 2nd 7pm Quaker Meeting House 30 Nile St.: Becoming Friends, sharing spiritual journeys. A spiritual nurture group and introduction to Quakerism for newcomers. All welcome

Thursday June 3rd 5.30pm for 6pm start Quaker Meeting House, 30 Nile St. Nelson: Meeting of Peace Action Whakatu Nelson Please come. All welcome.

Deadline for next Newsletter

Our Newsletter is a way to share our lives – to help build our Quaker community. Thanks to everyone who has sent contributions. Please consider sending in your news, a book review, a quote that speaks to you.... Send newsletter items to Christine Gillespie c.gillespie@xtra.co.nz **The cut-off date for items for the June newsletter is Friday, June 4th, 2021.**

A Brave and Startling Truth

By Maya Angelou

We, this people, on a small and
lonely planet
Traveling through casual space
Past aloof stars, across the way of
indifferent suns
To a destination where all signs tell
us
It is possible and imperative that we
learn
A brave and startling truth

And when we come to it
To the day of peacemaking
When we release our fingers
From fists of hostility
And allow the pure air to cool our
palms

When we come to it
When the curtain falls on the
minstrel show of hate

And faces sooted with scorn are
scrubbed clean
When battlefields and coliseum
No longer rake our unique and
particular sons and daughters
Up with the bruised and bloody
grass
To lie in identical plots in foreign
soil

When the rapacious storming of the
churches
The screaming racket in the temples
have ceased
When the pennants are waving gaily
When the banners of the world
tremble
Stoutly in the good, clean breeze

When we come to it
When we let the rifles fall from our
shoulders
And children dress their dolls in
flags of truce
When land mines of death have been
removed
And the aged can walk into evenings
of peace
When religious ritual is not
perfumed
By the incense of burning flesh
And childhood dreams are not
kicked awake
By nightmares of abuse

When we come to it
Then we will confess that not the
Pyramids
With their stones set in mysterious
perfection
Nor the Gardens of Babylon
Hanging as eternal beauty
In our collective memory
Not the Grand Canyon
Kindled into delicious color
By Western sunsets

Nor the Danube, flowing its blue soul
into Europe

Not the sacred peak of Mount Fuji
Stretching to the Rising Sun
Neither Father Amazon nor Mother
Mississippi who, without favor,
Nurture all creatures in the depths
and on the shores
These are not the only wonders of
the world

When we come to it
We, this people, on this minuscule
and kithless globe
Who reach daily for the bomb, the
blade and the dagger
Yet who petition in the dark for
tokens of peace
We, this people on this mote of
matter
In whose mouths abide cankerous
words
Which challenge our very existence
Yet out of those same mouths
Come songs of such exquisite
sweetness
That the heart falters in its labor
And the body is quieted into awe

We, this people, on this small and
drifting planet
Whose hands can strike with such
abandon
That in a twinkling, life is sapped
from the living
Yet those same hands can touch with
such healing, irresistible tenderness
That the haughty neck is happy to
bow
And the proud back is glad to bend
Out of such chaos, of such
contradiction
We learn that we are neither devils
nor divines

When we come to it
We, this people, on this wayward,
floating body
Created on this earth, of this earth
Have the power to fashion for this
earth

A climate where every man and
every woman
Can live freely without
sanctimonious piety
Without crippling fear

possible
We are the miraculous, the true
wonder of this world
That is when, and only when
We come to it.

When we come to it
We must confess that we are the

On-line resources: in our own website: quakers-in-nelson.org.nz and our
Facebook page: Quakers in Nelson. National Website: quakers.nz

**Our Programme: below is a reminder of the different activities each
month.**

First Week of the Month: Sunday: Meeting for Worship, 10.00–11.00am

Wednesday: Becoming Friends, 7.00 pm – 8.45pm

(Alternate Even Months) Sunday: Business Meeting 12.00 pm

Second Week of the Month: Sunday: Meeting for Worship, 10.00–11.00am

Third Week of the Month: Sunday: Meeting for Worship, 10.00–11.00am

Wednesday: Home Discussions, 7.00 pm – 9.00pm

Fourth Week of the Month: Sunday: Meeting for Worship, 10.00–11.00am

***Children are welcome at all Meetings for Worship. Activities will be provided
for them.***
