

<http://strawberrycreek.quaker.org>

This newsletter can be accessed by email or at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/StrawberryCreek>

REGULAR EVENTS & CALENDAR

SUNDAYS

Meeting for Worship 10:00 AM. Held at the Berkeley Technology Academy, 2701 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, corner of Derby St., Berkeley. Religious Education (Sept–June) and childcare (year-round) provided 9:45 AM. to end of Meeting for Worship. Please arrive with children before 10:00 AM; no guaranteed childcare after 10:15 AM. After announcements, all are welcome to stay for refreshments. Please bring your own reusable cup and utensils.

Oakland Worship Group 5 PM. At the home of Karen and Peter Lin, 296 Rishell Drive. For more information, call (510) 530-0479 or visit <http://www.oaklandquakers.org>

WEDNESDAYS

Mid Week Morning Worship 7:00 AM Berkeley Friends Meetinghouse, 2151 Vine Street.

THURSDAYS

Mid Week Evening Worship 7:00 PM in the parlor at Berkeley Friends Meetinghouse.

SUNDAY, Jan 7

Advices and Queries on Simplicity read by Care of Meeting Committee during the first 15 minutes of meeting for worship

Twelve Step Meeting. 12:00 PM Anyone in any 12 step group is invited. Contact Darcy Stanley at (415) 595-2348 or darcy393@gmail.com

Quaker Political Action Worship Group 11:45 AM and Mondays at 10:00 AM. Contact Laura Boles (boles9552@gmail.com)

WEDNESDAY, Jan 10 (2nd Wednesdays)

YAF (Young Adult Friends) 6:00-8:30 Monthly Meeting at Berkeley Friends Meeting. Contact Henri Ducharme (510-417-5736) or hducharme@gmail.com for information.

SUNDAY, Jan 14

Business Meeting 11:50 AM

SUNDAY, Jan 21 Worship Sharing 9:00 AM

YAF Lunch 12:30. To RSVP or get information email Cat Schmidt, hi@cath.land.

Quaker Film Series 1:00 2151 Vine St. Berkeley, CA. Check the Berkeley Friends Meeting calendar for information

SUNDAY, Jan 28 Committee Sunday

Newsletter Deadline for February newsletter@strawberrycreekquakers.org

SUNDAY, Feb 4

Advices and Queries on Social and Civic Responsibility read by Mutual Care Committee during the first 15 minutes of meeting for worship

Twelve Step Meeting 12:00 PM Anyone in any 12 step group is invited. Contact Darcy Stanley at (415) 595-2348 or darcy393@gmail.com

News and Announcements

Strawberry Creek Meeting Calendar

Contact the newsletter editor at newsletter@strawberrycreekquakers.org, to get your event listed on the calendar. The calendar can be found on the Strawberry Creek web site, <http://strawberrycreek.quaker.org/calendar.php>, on our Facebook Page and in the Facebook Friends Group.

Political Action Worship Group 1/7, 1/8

The Quaker Action Worship Group (QAWG) meets every Monday from 10-11 AM at people's homes, and the first Sunday of the month at Strawberry Creek Meeting at 11:45 AM to 1:20 PM. QAWG offers worship and moral support for Friends who wish to explore the connection between Quaker faith and practice during the current historical moment. For more information, please contact Laura Boles (boles9552@gmail.com)

College Park Quarterly Meeting, 1/20

The Winter Session will be held on Saturday, 1/20/2018 from 8:30 am to 4:30pm at the San Francisco Friends Meetinghouse, which accessible by public transit, especially BART. Get off at Civic Center Station to walk to 65 9th Street. There will be interest groups and worship sharing. No pre-registration is required. The cost is \$25.00 for adults older than 25 and \$10.00 for those younger than 25. For more information, contact CPQM representative Tom Yamaguchi, 510-548-5294.

YAF Lunch 1/21

The YAF Lunch will be on Sunday, 1/21, 12:30. The lunch is jointly organized by Berkeley Meeting and Strawberry Creek Meeting, and will be at a restaurant TBD near Berkeley Meetinghouse. Some funding is available for the lunch, so don't hesitate. To RSVP or get information email Cat Schmidt, hi@cath.land.

BFMM Reading Group on 19th Century Quaker Women

Sunday at 7:00 PM Scheduled dates in January: 1/21/18, and 1/28/17. To receive readings in PDF format, contact Sue Friday at berkeleymeeting@gmail.com.



Barbara Graves

Friend Barbara Graves died on 12/22/18. This article from the New York Times is about her activism.

WASHINGTON TALK: BRIEFING:

Turning In Medals

By Wayne King and Warren Weaver Jr.

Published: October 9, 1986

A group of veterans and a 73-year-old woman who was the first civilian to receive the Bronze Star, will return their medals in a ceremony at the Lincoln Memorial today to protest the United States role in the conflict in Nicaragua.

At 10 A.M., a group of veterans will deposit 75 medals, primarily Purple Hearts, collected from other veterans around the country as a protest against a growing United States military involvement in the Nicaraguan war.

Among those taking part is Barbara Graves, a Quaker pacifist awarded the Bronze Star in 1945 for her work in directing nursing homes for battle-fatigued Allied airmen in Britain in World War II.

"At the time that I was working with combat fliers," she said, "I had the vague idea that it was to make the world safe for democracy. Then came VE Day, Hiroshima, Nagasaki and VJ Day. Then the war was over and we were promptly told we had to prepare for conflict with our former ally, the Soviet Union. That's when I began working actively for peace."

Retrieved 12/31/17 <http://www.nytimes.com/1986/10/09/us/washington-talk-briefing-turning-in-medals.html>

Subscriptions to Western Friend

Thanks to all who joined the group subscription to Western Friend. If you have not sent your payment check to Tom Yamaguchi yet, please do so as soon as possible. He put the order on his credit card, and he needs to pay off the balance in the next two weeks. His address is 1015 Channing Way, Berkeley, CA 94710. Editor Mary Klein appreciates our subscriptions and donations.

Adult Education Session 1/21: 2018

Nominations: Growth or Decline?

Ask not what Strawberry Creek Meeting can do for you--ask what you can do for your Meeting.

[a nod to Kennedy's 1961 inaugural address]

Serving on Meeting committees builds community, friendships, and offers direct experience with spiritual discernment and decision-making. Co-sponsored by Nominating and Care of Meeting Committees, in this session a panel of present and past Nominating Committee clerks will discuss, answer questions, and invite comments about how Nominating Committee fills over 70 positions on our standing committees each year, how to deal with declining participation, and how Meeting might respond if those trends continue. Increase participation? Downsize or reduce the number of committees? Do less? Restructure? Do more activities with self-organizing committees? This special Meeting for Learning will interest and challenge old-timers as well as newcomers.

Save the date 2/18/18

Same? Different? How? Listening to Testimony on Race. The working group on Power, Privilege and Race will hold a discussion with listening and reflection based on four selections from the NY Times series of short videos, "A Conversation on Race." For information contact Susan Burr.

Yahoo List VS Facebook Group?

The Communications Committee thinks that effective communication in a large and dispersed group like SCMM relies on redundancy, so having several different ways to disseminate information is optimal. Our means of communication are verbal announcements after Meeting for Worship, the bulletin board at Meeting, this newsletter, the calendar, the Yahoo email list, and the Facebook group and page. Each of these has different capabilities and potentials, and SCMM should continue to use these means redundantly. In particular, Strawberries are encouraged to post information pertinent to the life of the Meeting on the Yahoo email list, if possible. If you are not able to post there, send your message to newsletter@strawberrycreekquakers.org and ask for it to be forwarded.

New Member Statement: Amy Dewey

In childhood, Amy enjoyed playing with other children at the Quaker Meeting in Ashland, Oregon. As a teenager she felt close to other Quaker young people and discovered in community with them, the faith, self-doubt, and deepening of thought that is involved with Social Witness.



While at Mills College, she attended Vine St. Meeting off and on; then after graduation, she located Strawberry Creek Meeting and felt at home with this Meeting. She joined other young adult Quakers and appreciated that community; she and several other attenders organized and continued a "Young Friend's Brunch", which met monthly for several years. As those who regularly attended this affair moved away, it came to a natural ending. Recently she has become the Clerk of the Communications Committee, and has learned to find Spirit in Meeting for Worship On the Occasion of Business.

She has developed spiritually in our Meeting and found a niche for her service in being our web coordinator. She has sought spirituality as found in Meeting for Worship, in Hula dance, and in yoga; she finds like-minded people among SCMM attenders. She wishes to become a member to continue her spiritual growth.

PESW What is Thy witness?



Years ago, Friend Laura Boles was sitting at a café across from Berkeley Friends Meeting when she saw the words *There is the light of God in everyone* outside the Meetinghouse.

She decided to go in and she kept returning because something unfolded for her in the silence. She felt a calling to apply to Divinity School, where she schooled herself in Quaker theology, and she trained to become a chaplain. Key to her calling was finding her own 'shadow', so that she could sit in a room with others who are in a dark place. She learned not to hold back and to own her leadership abilities. After her training, she worked at Kaiser Hayward, where she had the opportunity to start a Palliative

Care program, at that time a relatively new idea often derided as giving up on the patient. She also chaired the Ethics Committee, where her leadership abilities were tested when a family's cultural traditions excluded a mother from decision-making about her baby's care. Laura guided a process that respected the mother's rights and supported staff as they worked with the family. Laura recalls her time at Kaiser as formative, and says she'll always be a healer.

After last November's election, Laura found herself feeling anger and hate. At the same time, she realized that Quakers have something to offer to others. She started the Quaker Action Worship Group because now, more than ever, no one was listening to each other. She thought, "I DO know how to talk with others. We have many gifts as Quakers like our tradition of consensus and of listening. I want that to shine."

Advices and Queries for the Month of January: Simplicity

Life is meant to be lived from a Center, a divine Center... a life of unhurried peace and power. It is simple. It is serene. It takes no time, but it occupies all our time.

Thomas R. Kelly, Testament of Devotion, 1941

A life centered in God will be directed toward keeping communication with God open and unencumbered. Simplicity is best achieved through a right ordering of priorities, maintaining humility of spirit, avoiding self-indulgence, resisting the accumulation of unnecessary possessions, and avoiding over-busy lives.

Elise Boulding writes in *My Part in the Quaker Adventure*, "Simplicity, beauty, and happiness go together if they are a byproduct of a concern for something more important than ourselves."

Do I center my life in an awareness of God's presence so that all things take their rightful place?

Do I live simply, and promote the right sharing of the world's bounty?

Do I keep my life uncluttered with things and activities, avoiding commitments beyond my strength and light?

How do I maintain simplicity, moderation, and honesty in my speech, my manner of living, and my daily work?

Do I recognize when I have enough?

Is the life of our Meeting so ordered that it helps us to simplify our lives?

Quaker Center News

Join Stephen Angell to examine the lives of Quaker Abolitionists: Levi Coffin and Lucretia Mott from 1/26-28/18. Get more information and register early at <http://www.quakercenter.org/mott-and-coffin/>.

Get inspired by Diane Randall from FCNL from 2/23-25/18 to explore *What Canst Thou Say? Finding our Quaker Voice in Public Life*. Learn more and register at <http://www.quakercenter.org/finding-our-quaker-voice/>.

Awakening to the Presence 3/19-24/18. Bob Runyan, Janet Leslie, Jim Anderson and Kathy Runyan will facilitate. Find out more and register online at <http://www.quakercenter.org/awakening-to-the-presence/>.

JOB OPENING: Quaker Center is accepting applications for the position of Maintenance Technician. This is a full-time residential position. Please see <http://www.quakercenter.org/about-us/employment-opportunities/> for more information and to apply.

Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting
Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business
December 10, 2017 Minutes

The Meeting opened at noon with silent worship. Ralph Murphy clerked the Meeting. Thirty-six Friends were present.

Cat Schmidt shared responses from the Communications Committee to the Advices and Queries on Meeting for Worship for Business. Friends returned to worship for further reflections. Cat was encouraged to submit the response to *Western Friend* for publication. [See below.]

The minutes for the November 12, 2017 Meeting for Business were approved as read.

The agenda was reviewed. Correspondence consisted of a thank you from *Western Friend* for our \$150 donation. There was no clerk's business.

Old Business:

1. **2018 Budget (Finance Committee, James Hosley)** James Hosley reported no concerns were raised about the proposed budget. The 2018 Budget was approved as presented.
2. **2018 Nominations to the Nominating Committee (Naming Committee, Judith Schumacher-Jennings)** Judith Schumacher-Jennings reported no concerns were raised on the nominations seasoning over the month. The Meeting approved the nominations of Charlie Blanchard (clerk), Margaret Schneider, Patricia Dienstfry, Beth Rodman, Betsy Morris, Josh Gallup, and Nancy Wolf Jackson.
3. **Membership in BOCA (Peace, Earthcare and Social Witness Committee, David Rutschman)** No concerns were raised about the Meeting joining the Berkeley Organizing Congregations for Action. The Meeting approved joining and thanked David Rutschman for agreeing to be our representative and Kathy Barnhart for her earlier work on BOCA.

New Business:

1. **Carolyna Marks Fund Distribution (Peace, Earthcare and Social Witness Committee, David Rutschman)** David reported that the PESW Committee recommends the Meeting approving the repurposing of the Marks grant to help Youth Spirit Artworks students attend a workshop at the John Woolman Center for restorative justice workshop. Those with concerns should speak to a member of the PESW Committee. David will ask for a final report on the use of the grant to the Meeting.

Reports:

Ministry of Elaine Emily: Elaine Emily stated that her goal in her ministry is to be faithful to her leading, which is non-rational, non-cognitive, and still frustrating. At the beginning it was centered on hands-on healing. She was called to quit her job overseeing 100 staff members. Part of her ministry is spiritual accompaniment of others as an elder: Ched Myers of Bartimaeus Community named her as an elder in this work when she accompanied him, but that was done outside the Quaker community. Lloyd Lee Wilson then invited her to a group of Quaker elders and ministers. A Friend noted that Elaine's role in reviving the positive aspect of eldering has had important impacts in Australia, North America and the U.K. The Anchoring/Oversight committee has also benefited greatly by working with Elaine.

Elaine said that she was stirred and sensed a leading after she went to a Quaker Lesbian conference in 1994 and to another conference with Quaker healer John Calvi. This led to her asking Orange Grove Meeting, her meeting at the time, for a clearness committee which then became an oversight committee. In 2004 she

requested an Anchoring/Oversight committee under the care of Strawberry Creek. Bob Burnett, Gordon Bishop, Micki Graham-Newlin, Jay Smith, and Susan Black served on that Anchoring/Oversight committee. Then Laura Cornell, Andrew Youngmeister, Beth Wrightson, and Leonard Joy served. She reported that her Anchoring/Oversight committee has been laid down. Elaine's sense of faithfulness comes out of the Strawberry Creek Meeting community. In 2016 she was led to attend a gathering of Quaker women in public ministry which further reinforced her leading. Now that her health has improved, she may go back to hands-on healing.

The Meeting thanked Elaine for her presentation and held her and her ministry in the Light.

Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL Representative, Stephen McNeil) Stephen noted that he was also one of six Pacific Yearly Meeting Representatives and that Shelley Tanenbaum was the Quaker Earthcare Witness Representative and Rick Herbert served on the Field (outreach) Standing Committee. All attended the November Annual Meeting along around 300 others from 30 Yearly Meetings and Friends organizations. Due to the recently completed successful capital campaign, to which many here contributed, there is, among other items, a new Quaker Welcoming Center next door to the FCNL building and \$500,000 a year for young adult participants. Over 400 young adults participated in the annual Spring Lobby Weekend in March. They came from 65 Quaker meetings, 35 states, and 20 schools and groups. The Annual Meeting theme was "Learn, Lobby, Lead." Prior to the Annual Meeting 400 attended the Quaker Public Policy Institute to prepare and then lobby on cutting Pentagon spending by calling for a first time audit of the Pentagon. This year our Meeting will again help set legislative priorities. The Peace, Earthcare and Social Witness Committee will hold an open meeting on what our priorities suggestions will be on February 25th, a draft from that session will go to business meeting for discernment on March 11, an open adult education session on March 18th, and final consideration on April 15. This is the 75th anniversary of the founding of FCNL and a celebration will be held in the founding site, Richmond, IN, on May 10-12. The next Annual Meeting will be held November 29th-December 2nd in Washington, DC.

Announcements: Avotcja Jiltoniro thanked all for the Meeting's support of relief efforts for Puerto Rico, Domenica, and Texas. Wanting to be accountable, she will issue a spending report soon.

The Meeting closed at about 1:15 p.m. with silent worship.

The next Meeting for Business will be held on January 14, 2018, at 11:50 a.m. at the Berkeley Technology Academy.

Submitted by: Ralph Murphy, Clerk, Rachel Findley, Alternate Clerk, and Stephen McNeil, Recording Clerk.

Response to the Advices and Queries on Meeting for Worship for Business by Communications Committee

Meeting for Business is our Meeting's way of answering, how does truth fare among us? Are we supporting each other in the work we're doing? It would be boring if I didn't care about and love the Meeting and its members. Because I do, it is really valuable and wonderful, like asking loved ones, how was your day? We should come in with the intension of understanding what Spirit wants of us. When we do that, it is a form of activism. We are implementing our values and testimonies by truly listening.

Meeting for Business in our large Meeting can often be about blindly approving the work done by committees, because we trust them. In smaller Meetings that don't have the committees to do that work, it is done in Meeting for Business, making Meeting for Business longer and more substantial. Is approving what a committee already decided truly valuable?

Other times, we do have deeply spiritual discussions about what is happening in Meeting and in the work being done to support the Meeting. Meeting for Business is where we digest what is happening. It's like chewing our cud or masticating to hear the different points of view. When things get hard, there is more to chew on. How we handle the hard stuff, and handling the hard stuff, teaches us that we can handle more than we think we can.

Seasoned Friends sometimes have tools that newer Friends do not have. On the other hand, newer Friends, particularly teenagers, might work harder to "do it right" while seasoned Friends get lazy. Are we doing the work to find the truth?

It is good to know what we're saying, what the phrases mean and what their historical context is. We observed that the clerk often asks, "Are friends ready to approve X?" The response is "approved". Is this misunderstood as a worldly way of doing business? We played with the idea that the clerk could instead ask, "Are friends in unity?" The answer would be a simple yes.

Meeting for Business is about Quaker process and values, and presenting our truth. The emphasis on "process" is about being mindful of the language we use. We want it to reflect Quaker values and not social injustices embedded in ordinary business language used outside of Meeting. We discussed the history of words such as "sir" and the choice of early Friends to not bow or doff their hats. Are we following in that tradition and appropriately questioning language choices that support the current power structure? Are we making language choices that empower those who have been disempowered?

We are endeavoring to listen to truth as individuals that coheres to being accepted among Friends, not because it is a Quaker value. We want to hear the truth as it reflects our current understanding of the light, of our communal unity with regard to the truth.

Other religions have rules that originally had important purposes, but over time have lost their relevance. Our process is designed to support us in seeking the truth, not just following a set of rules, so that we can hopefully have a way being in the world today that is relevant and in keeping with our history as Friends.

This is what we have to offer the world.

It is the work of trying to be perfect, knowing that we will never achieve that, but continuing to work at it, that is important, that is what being a Quaker is all about.

Youtube video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dlnmflvxwgi>

Website: <http://metaphorproject.org/>

Blog: <http://metaphorproject.org/blog/>

The Metaphor Project assists progressives and liberals in mainstreaming their messages by framing them as part of the ideal American Identity story. It is the practical application of the theoretical findings of modern cognitive science, particularly in the work of George Lakoff, Drew Westen, and Jonathan Haidt. The Metaphor Project helps activists reach the American public and political representatives by teaching them how to communicate their message with the colorful metaphors, images, catch phrases, and memes that are an ongoing part of our national political dialogue. For example, by adapting phrases like "play by the rules" or other common frames, activists can evoke the best values Americans share. Because they use language to present their ideals, progressives can "speak American" with complete integrity.

polarized politics.

Susan is the author of *Move Our Message: How to Get America's Ear*, and she blogs on *The Daily Kos* under the screen name is Susan Strong. On *OpEdNews*, her name is Susan Strong. For framing suggestions that address fast breaking news, she posts on Twitter (@SusanStrong) and on The Metaphor Project's Facebook page. Her work seems especially timely in these days of so much partisanship and

activist by creating the Metaphor Project. To her own surprise, she's still doing this work 20 years later! other Americans. She decided to pair her academic background with her long experience as a progressive academic researcher. In 1997, she realized that progressive activists needed to understand how to talk to 1981 when she volunteered with the Nuclear Freeze campaign, when she was still teaching and doing Friend Susan Strong's early leading to work for peace, justice, and environmental sustainability began in

Friend Susan Strong's The Metaphor Project – Framing Our Messages for Americans



STRAWBERRY CREEK MONTHLY MEETING

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TO:

January 2018 ISSUE

TIME VALUE