

**Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting
Of the Religious Society of Friends**

October 2017 Newsletter

<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, Oct 1

Advices and Queries on the Meeting Community read by First Day School 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, Oct 4

Handwork Group 6:00 PM Contact Beth Rodman (510) 365-1685

SUNDAY, Oct 8

Business Meeting 11:50 AM

SUNDAY, Oct 15 Worship Sharing 9:00 AM

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

WEDNESDAY, Oct 18

Handwork Group 6:00 PM Contact Beth Rodman (510) 365-1685

Quakerly Singing 7:00 PM Contact Clifford Ham (802) 377-7956

SUNDAY, Oct 22 Committee Sunday after Meeting for Worship

SUNDAY, Oct 29

Newsletter Deadline for October newsletter@strawberrycreekquakers.org

SUNDAY, Nov 5

Advices and Queries on Reaching Out read by Facilities 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 10/1

The Quaker Political Action Worship Group 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 am. This group meets to discern a deeper connection between our Quaker tradition and practice and our ongoing political activism, and now includes a few Berkeley Friends. We gather together as Quakers to develop the discipline needed to listen for that of God in everyone. For more information, please contact Laura Boles (boles9552@gmail.com)

SCMM Fall Retreat Sat. 10/7

Our Fall Retreat will be held at the beautiful Redwood Gardens Community Room and go from 8:30 (light breakfast) to around 4:30. Join other Strawberries for worship sharing, intergenerational fellowship activities, worship, lunch, and artistic expressions (poetry and song) related to our theme: "The Beauty in Our Difference." The suggested donation is \$10.00 but no one will be checking. Contact Jay Cash (jonahcash@gmail.com) for information.

PESW Harvest Potluck 10/8

For several years now the Peace, Earthcare and Social Witness Committee has held quarterly "locavore" potlucks with the assistance of Loaves and Fishes. The purpose was to encourage us all to buy or harvest locally (thus using less energy in transportation and storage). We now invite folks to bring dishes with or without local ingredients and/or extra harvest foods from your gardens or yards to the Oct 8 meeting which is meeting for worship on the occasion of business. Remember no oven or fridge available at the Meeting. Also remember to take away your dishes or containers.

You might take the time to visit the website of the Center for Urban Education about Sustainable Agriculture, www.cuesa.org. The site has pictures of what is in season now, recipes, and interviews with famous local chefs and much more. See <https://cuesa.org/eat-seasonally/charts> for what's in season.

W&M Healing Circle 10/15

The Worship and Ministry Committee is sponsoring a Healing Circle after Meeting on Oct 15. (Apologies to people who will be at Quarterly, but dates are hard to find). The circle will be an opportunity for us to talk about what we need from Meeting for Worship and how we can work together to keep the space deep and spiritually grounded. It will be facilitated by the Healing Justice staff at AFSC, Laura Magnani and Fatimeh Khan, who is a trained "circle keeper."

Quakerly Singing 10/18

Quakerly Singing, third Wednesday, Oct 18, 7 to 9 PM, at Lydia Bryans, 1617 Channing Way, Berkeley. Contact Clifford Ham for information, questions, or needs: (802) 377-7956. We will be using "Worship in Song," as well my collection of gospel and other hymns. If you have a song you'd like to add to our collection and can lead it, feel free to bring it along.

PESW What is Thy witness? 10/22

The Peace Earthcare and Social Witness Committee Meeting will begin each committee meeting with a 15 'witness sharing' by an invited participant. If you would like to share your leadings, your witness and your Light, please let Stephen McNeil or David Rutschman know of your interest. Friends are always invited to participate in the committee meetings (it is an open committee), and are welcome to stay for the whole meeting or leave after the sharing. Also, if you would like to see our agenda before the meeting, please ask David to put you on the email list.

SCMM Welcoming Lunch 10/29

12:30 to 4:30. 2550 Dana St, Berkeley, CA 94704
The Lunch is intended to welcome traditional newcomers to SCMM, people who have been attending for a while but who haven't attended a

Welcoming Brunch before, and people who are returning to Meeting after an absence. The event will include lunch and dessert, interactive discussion and worship-sharing. There will be a sign-up sheet at the Welcoming Table. For information, to help out, or to RSVP contact Rhea Farley (jrf8@humboldt.edu)

CPQM College Park Quarterly Meeting 10/13-15

Awaken to call of the Divine Spirit at the Fall College Park Quarterly Meeting held at Sierra Friends Center. 13075 Woolman Lane, Nevada City, CA 95959. October 13 to 15, 2017

Rejoice in nature and Quaker fellowship. Discuss common problems within Meetings with Friends. You may learn you are not alone and together with others you may find new ways forward. Learn about new programs and improvements at Sierra Friends Center while we examine ways we can pay attention to the Light within ourselves and all people, everyday wherever we are. Please register on line only at our new CPQM website at www.collegeparkquarterlymeeting.org There is no mail in requirement. Please pay at the Registration table only.

REGISTER EARLY: Register by Tuesday, October 3, 2017. If you have not registered by then you are still welcome to come but will need to communicate with the Registrar. Registrations after the deadline (10/3/17) will incur a \$20 late fee per family.

BFMM: Roots of Injustice, Seeds of Change: Towards Right Relationships with All 10/14

Berkeley Friends Meetinghouse 2151 Vine St, Berkeley, CA Saturday, Oct 14th, 9:30 AM-4:30 PM. The program, under the skilled facilitation of Patricia St Onge of Haudenosaunee (Mohawk), Quebecois descent, adopted Cheyenne River Lakota, will explore how the original actions of European settlers have impacted American ideas concerning slavery, the institutionalization of racism and the Doctrine of Discovery's contemporary effects on People of Color. Those of us of European settler ancestry will consider how we can own this history as elders, millennials, Bay Area residents—in our lives, actions and relationships.

YAF Young Adult Friends Lunch 10/15

The first Young Adult Friend's (YAF) Lunch will be on Sunday, Oct 15, 12:30. (Generally Young Adult Friends are people 35+ or younger, but exceptions can be made.) 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! The YAF Lunch will be held on the third Sunday of every month. To RSVP or get information email Henri Ducharme at hducharme@gmail.com.

AFSC Celebrate 100 years of the Bay Area AFSC 10/28

First Unitarian Church of Oakland, 685 14th Street, Oakland Saturday, Oct 28, 10 am - 5 PM. The Bay Area American Friends Service Committee is hosting a day-long program consisting of workshops led by our various programs on the topics of peace advocacy, immigration reform, prison abolition, and more as well as a celebratory panel and keynote performance. You won't want to miss it!

PESW: Discussions about "Viking Economics" Thursdays, 11/9, 16, and 30,

at the Berkeley Friends Meetinghouse at 7:15 PM. "Viking Economics" was written by Friend George Lakey. The discussion will be facilitated by Catya de Neergaard and Shelley Tanenbaum. The discussions will consider what the Scandinavians did to ensure social and economic justice for all, how they did it, and how America can do it too. It is suggested to read it before the discussions, but reading a third of it before each discussion works too.

CofM: Adult Education 11/19

Many Strawberries are active in a variety of Quaker activities, from Meeting committees to statewide, national or international organizations. If there's sufficient interest, Care of the Meeting Committee will host an adult education opportunity to share experiences about what we love about different Quaker activities we've done outside Meeting for Worship. If you would like to participate in such a

discussion or worship-sharing, contact John McCarthy (john.mccarthy@comcast.net) or 510.841.7875.

W&I Welcoming & Inclusion Working Group

Maybe Friends have noticed that the very successful Nametag Project has grown into a Welcoming Table, a very positive addition to our Meeting. If you would like to assist with the Welcoming Table, please contact John McCarthy.

Henri Ducharme noted that some young people are unable to participate in Young Adult Friends events for financial reasons, so he is starting a fund to assist young people who wish to participate. Contact Henri at hducharme@gmail.com.

W&I Picture Gallery

Several years ago Al Thompson and James Hosley created a Strawberry Creek photo gallery that had a picture of each person in our Meeting. It helped us get to know one another, which isn't easy in a large community like ours, especially for newcomers. The Welcoming and Inclusion Working Group would like to put together new photo gallery with names (and perhaps committee affiliations) that we can post each week during the social hour. Al and James are willing to advise and assist with such a project, but we need others to take the lead and help out. In particular, we need volunteers to bring a camera and take pictures, keep track of the pictures taken and to be taken, find a way to put together names with pictures, create the gallery, and take care of the display. If you are able and willing to help this project, contact Al Thompson athompsonx@gmail.com 510/316-4919 or James Hosley bluejkh@sonic.net 510/841-1717

SCMM First Day School News

Our new FDS teacher is Ari Standish from Berkeley Meeting. She is the co-clerk of JYM.

SCMM Strawberry Creek Friends Group on Facebook

Our Meeting Facebook Group supplements or complements the yahoo listserv without replacing it.

The Facebook group has over 50 members already. Discussions are often easier to follow and manage on Facebook. The Facebook group is a "closed" group. Memberships have been approved by trusted administrators. Postings are more private than normal Facebook posts. The Communications Committee still encourages Strawberries to keep posting to the Yahoo group because quite a few people do not use Facebook. Contact Barbara Birch (birchcarl@live.com) for information.

(BLQC) Ben Lomond Quaker Center News

Join Margaret Sorrel and Dinah Bachrach from Oct. 27-29 for What Matters in the End? Accompanying Oneself or Another to Death at Quaker Center. Explore your readiness to die, chosen death, caregiving and receiving, difficulties that arise between the person dying and the one accompanying that person. The focus will be on personal exploration and clarification of physical, emotional and spiritual issues surrounding death. Find out more and register online at <http://www.quakercenter.org/what-matters-in-the-end-accompaniment-in-dying/>.

Join George Lakey from Nov. 16-18 to examine The Quaker Legacy and the Art of Campaigning for Social Justice. George will facilitate the practice of building courage, resilience, and teamwork. Be willing to apply what you learn back home -- this weekend can provide the defining moment for your next decade. Learn more and register online at <http://www.quakercenter.org/the-quaker-legacy-and-the-art-ofcampaigning-for-justice/>.

BFMM Reading Group on 19th Century Quaker Women Sundays at 7:00 PM

The group continues through January 28. Scheduled dates are 10/1, 10/22, 10/29, 11/5, 11/19, 12/3, 12/17, 1/21/18, and 1/28/17. To receive readings in PDF format, contact Sue Friday at berkeleymeeting@gmail.com.

SCMM Winter Gathering

Save the date for the 12th month Gathering at the Albany Center on Saturday, Dec 9, 4-8 PM

Advices and Queries for the Month of October: The Meeting Community

Meetings for Worship and Business are the center of our spiritual community. There, as we come to know each other in the Spirit, we build the “beloved community.”

Mutual respect and care in the Meeting form the foundation from which we can test, support, and exercise leadings of the Spirit. At its best, the Meeting community provides a framework for us to learn and practice mutual care, which strengthens us as we act in the world.

All members of the Meeting community should share in the care of one another. While respecting privacy, we must be aware of and sensitive to each other’s needs. We must also be willing to ask for assistance when we are in need.

Do I strive to be inclusive in my relationships within the Meeting?

Do I care for the reputation of others, refraining from gossip or disparaging remarks?

Am I committed to the difficult work of forgiveness, and affirming God’s love for the whole community?

How are love and unity maintained among us?

Do we practice the art of listening, even beyond words?

How have we been sensitive to the personal needs and difficulties of members and attenders, young and old?

Do we visit one another in our homes and keep in touch with distant members?

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

The Meeting opened at 11:55 AM with silent worship. Ralph Murphy clerked the Meeting. Thirty-eight Friends were present.

Phyllis Malandra shared responses from the Loaves & Fishes Committee to the Advices and Queries on Peace. Friends returned to worship to reflect on these and additional responses were given. The minutes for the July 9, 2017 Meeting for Business were approved as read.

Correspondence and Clerk’s Business:

We received thanks for our \$150 donations to the Western Friend, the Friends Committee on Legislation-CA and the Friends Committee on National Legislation. Pamela A. Mederos-Streetz and Amelia Victoria Mederos-Streetz have submitted letters requesting membership. Their requests for membership were referred to the Care of the Meeting Committee.

The Clerk stated that his naming of Peter Lin, convener, Judith Schumacher-Jennings and Mary White to the Naming Committee was posted on the listserv last month and no concerns have been raised. The Meeting approved these Friends to serve on the Naming Committee.

Old Business:

Membership Request (Care of the Meeting Committee, Rhea Farley) The membership transfer request of Marj Byler has seasoned over the past two months. No concerns were brought forward to the Care of the Meeting Committee and the request was approved by the Meeting. The welcoming committee for Marj will be Mary White (convener), Susan Strong and Rick Herbert.

New Business:

Nominating Committee (Jay Cash) Jay Cash reported that Raven Moon has requested release from the Communications Committee. The Meeting has released her with thanks. Nominating Committee now nominates

Sarah Hawthorne for membership on the Communications Committee. The nomination will season for a month. Any concerns should be raised with a member of the Nominating Committee.

Reports:

Treasurer (Richard Leath) Richard Leath called attention to the written report. We have spent \$20,559 more than we have taken in in donations. That is a little more than usual. The recommended amount for an annual donation to the Meeting is \$625. Weekly announcements will be made to the Meeting going forward to year end.

Berkeley Meeting/Strawberry Creek Meeting Joint Working Group (Tom Yamaguchi) Tom Yamaguchi presented a report from the six members of the working group: Tom Bird, Zoe Koehler, Kylin Navarro, Judy Tate, Margaret Mossman, and Tom Yamaguchi. The group convened to consider ways we might work together. It supported Steve Smith's talk on September 8th, providing snacks, set up and clean up.

Having heard of the Smith's family health issues, we stopped the report and held the Smith family in the Light. The group discussed various directions that a collaboration could go, with written input from Margaret Mossman and Ralph Murphy. The Thursday evening worship has been reactivated. Kylin Navarro and Tom Yamaguchi are point people for the working group. The working group will meet again on October 1.

One Friend encouraged the working group to consider including Berkeley Friends Church in the collaboration. The names of Keith Barton and Dharma Galang were suggested as possible contacts.

Worship and Ministry Committee (Elizabeth Strain) Elizabeth Strain reported that the Thursday night worship at 7 pm at Vine Street is resuming in the parlor. Several adult education sessions have been planned: one for September 17th when participants will talk about spiritual practices used outside of meeting; another on some aspect of Quaker history; a presentation and crafts sale by Friends House Moscow; and two evening sessions on "othering."

Worship and Ministry was thanked for keeping us in balance at the last meeting for worship when an attender announced with passion tinged with racist comments her leaving the Meeting. While individuals in the Meeting had reached out to her over the two years since her last message in meeting for worship, it is the Worship and Ministry Committee who is best suited to keep the Meeting a safe place and a place for centering. We spent some time in reflecting what happened last week. It was seen as an attack on identity by some, with several walking out, one in tears. While we acknowledged that the person who spoke was in pain and hurt, we also acknowledged that maybe as a Meeting we cannot contain that pain and hurt. One Friend said she was troubled that concern was not expressed for the speaker who may have given the best message that she could. A member noted that the worship and silence did get deeper and deeper after the speaker left and that she was grateful for this. Another commented that the people who got up and left were extremely helpful to her. This was a good opportunity to understand our capacity for spiritual labor for the sake of unity.

It was suggested that we have an after Meeting session on how we as a Meeting might respond. A Friend said that he too was grateful to the people who acted: our testimonies such as the one on equality should come before an individual's needs. Sometimes everyone's needs cannot be met simultaneously.

Announcements: Tom Yamaguchi announced the College Park Quarterly Meeting will be held at Sierra Friends Center on October 13-15. Jay Cash said that the Meeting Retreat will be October 7 in the Community Room of Redwood Gardens at 2550 Dana Street at 1 pm. Rhea Farley announced that the welcoming brunch for "new" people will be held on October 29th. Stephen McNeil announced that Peace, Earthcare and Social Witness Committee is hosting a book group on George Lakey's Viking Economics at Vine Street on three evenings in November (11/9, 11/16, and 11/30). Letter writing to public officials has been going well with 20 letters sent on the last two First Days of the month. There will be a locavore potluck in the Fall and Spring with the next one October 8th. The next PESW Committee meeting on September 23 will start with a ten minute presentation on Quaker Earthcare Witness by Shelley Tanenbaum. All are invited to come for those first ten minutes and then feel free to leave the meeting.

The Meeting closed at about 1:10 PM with silent worship.

The next Meeting for Business will be held on October 9, 2017, at 11:50 AM at the Berkeley Technology Academy. Friends are encouraged to bring food for the locavore potluck.

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

Report: Loaves and Fishes Response to Advices and Queries on Peace (9/10/17)

Our committee met to discuss the Advices and Queries just after a very volatile and unpeaceful Meeting for Worship. This and the Quaker witness at the No Hate rally the week before set the stage for the discussion. The discussion began with one person saying “our answer to the query began last Sunday.” Others spoke of their conflict within about having family and other responsibilities that led them to be more cautious about public events. We all agreed this was a very valid concern and each person must find a comfortable way to encourage peace. One person said she was trying to be more careful in her speech.

People need to understand the difference between spirited, active nonviolence and the desire to say “this is not our fight, I do not want to get involved, not everyone in this fight agrees with me.”

A long discussion followed about the meaning of bearing witness. Is this a passive act? One of the queries asks do I confront violence even in my personal life. This query was the subject of much discussion.

Putting yourself in-between can mean being a witness, which brings down the level of violence versus supporting one side or the other

Active listening to other opinions and beliefs without judging

As Quaker witnesses we condemn violence without condemning the people

Can we hold in the light palpable violence

Let us not ignore, nor deny the power that these groups may possess. Instead, as the banner declared, “Let us see what love can do.” Pacifism is not passive. We are called to confront violence, an active term. Other active terms in the query: doing, reaching out, being an instrument of peace in the world. To us this means every day in all we do...it is not every easy and often hard...



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TIME VALUE