

<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, Mar 4

Advices and Queries on Stewardship and Vocation read by Peace Earthcare and Social Witness 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~~ (cancelled) and Mondays at 10:00 AM. Contact Laura Boles (boles9552@gmail.com)

WEDNESDAY, Mar 14 (2nd Wednesdays)

6:00-8:30 YAF (Young Adult Friends) Monthly Meeting at Berkeley Friends Meeting. Contact Cat Schmidt at hi@cath.land for information.

SUNDAY, Mar 11

Business Meeting 11:50 AM

SUNDAY, Mar 18 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. See below for more information.

SUNDAY, Mar 25 Committee Sunday

Newsletter Deadline for February newsletter@strawberrycreekquakers.org

SUNDAY, Apr 1

Advices and Queries on Personal Relationships read by Worship and Ministry 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)

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.

SCMM Friendly 7s

The first round of Friendly 7s dinners will start in March. Watch your email for details if you signed up last month. Friendly 7s are small potluck dinners where seven (or so) Friends (one host and guests) collaborate on a meal/social gathering on a weekend night in the host's home.

17th and 18th Quaker Splits/Schisms

BFM Library Committee is sponsoring an adult education class to begin evenings in the first week of March on liberal Quakerism in the US and Britain. For more information, contact Sue Friday at asuefriday@gmail.com.

Quaker Heritage Day 2018 Mar 10

Quakers and the Eco-Reformation, 9 am- 3:30 pm at Berkeley Friends Church. The speaker is Cherice Bock, co-clerk of the Sierra Cascades Yearly Meeting of Friends. A lifelong Quaker, Bock sees environmental concerns as one of this generation's most important social justice issues. Visit her website at www.chericebock.com.

For info about the event, check

<http://www.berkeleyfriendschurch.org/qhd/>

Adult Education Session on FCNL congressional legislative priorities in 2019/2020! Mar 18

PESW Committee will hold an open session on why and how the Meeting selects up to seven priorities for FCNL work in the next Congress. Results from the last meeting will be presented. Results from this session will be brought to the April Business Meeting. For more information, see <https://www.fcnl.org/updates/setting-legislative-priorities-1169>.

Quaker Films Series BFM Mar 18

20th Century Quaker Documentaries I

Films highlighting the AFSC's good work will be shown. In the first, Conservative and programmed Iowa Friends use the Scattergood School to help displaced persons from Nazi-occupied countries.

Games Night at BFM Sat. Mar 24 5-8 pm

Attention, Friends! Bring your favorite board games and cookies to share to this kid-friendly event co-sponsored by SCMM and BFM First Day School Committees. Pizza & other snacks will be provided.

Quaker Action Worship Group (QAWG) Events

March For Our Lives Mar 24 San Francisco Civic Center. Support the Florida student activists' push for stricter gun safety laws. QAWG will gather at 11:45 am for silent worship at a location TBA, before the rally starts at 1:00.

March for Science Apr 14 Oakland. QAWG will sponsor a booth, if finances allow, featuring information about Quaker environmental activism on caring for the earth, such as pamphlets from QEW, FCNL, FCNLCA, and AFSC. Participation from all three Quaker organizations in the East Bay will be encouraged. For more information about QAWG activities, email Laura Boles at boles9552@gmail.com.

FCLCA Fundraiser Apr 1

Join in a community exchange to benefit FCLCA (fclca.org). Bring your household treasures for a 'silent auction' to benefit our Quaker voice in Sacramento. Nice clothes, jewelry, art work, toys (no stuffed animals), small appliances, housewares in good condition, food, plus services will be accepted. Direct your questions to Shelley at sheltanen@att.net, 510-926-2728.

Friends and the Indian Boarding Schools: Truth, Reconciliation, and Healing Apr 16, 7:00, BFM

Native Americans continue to suffer the consequences of forced assimilation by means of Indian boarding schools in the 19th and 20th centuries. They are asking the churches that actively collaborated with the federal government's racist policies to contribute toward healing processes by doing research on their roles during the Indian boarding school era. Truth-telling is a first essential step in the truth, reconciliation, and healing process that they envision.

Paula Palmer, under the care of Boulder Meeting, has been doing research on Quaker-run Indian boarding schools, and will present her findings this evening, so that Friends can reflect on the consequences for Native American communities and the meaning of this history for the Religious Society of Friends today. What role will Friends today play in the movement for truth, reconciliation, and healing? Financial support for her ministry needed: checks can be made out to "Boulder Friends Meeting" under whose care her ministry falls. Checks are being collected by Stephen McNeil (415-350-9305). For more information: <https://www.boulderfriendsmeeting.org/ipc-boarding-school-research/#> and Friends Journal, October 2016

SCMM Spring Retreat

Friday 4:00, May 4, to Sunday midday May 6, 2018 at Quaker Center in Ben Lomond, CA. Everyone is welcome, but newcomers to SCMM are especially encouraged to attend. Contact Zoe Koehler (zbkoehler@gmail.com) for details and to register by 4/22.

PESW What is Thy witness?



Friend Carl Anderson shared his life-long witness and protest against nuclear war. Carl thinks that the nuclear threat occupies less space in our public awareness than other issues because there are vivid images of the dangers of nuclear war, but they aren't recent. It will be difficult to end the prospect of nuclear war because

unlike many other peace issues with specific natural constituencies, the nuclear threat involves acknowledging tensions between our personal, community and national identity. People must see our common identity as a priority, and this requires a massive change of consciousness.

Carl's witness began with his father's strong belief that the atomic bombings in World War II saved his life. While Carl and his father viewed the issue from different perspectives, he grew up understanding that nuclear weapons matter. When Carl was 7 years old, the launch of Sputnik was a national shock because Americans assumed the US was the leading power. As a precocious boy who excelled at math and science, Carl became aware that the atomic bomb was the work of gifted intellectuals, and that he was growing up near the Berkeley Radiation Lab, where plutonium was first produced and isolated in 1940.

As a child, Carl attended a progressive church with his mother, where, in a Sunday school lesson, he named 'the Russians' as the enemy he would choose to love. The arms race created milestones for his early years. When he was 11, the Berlin Wall went up, at age 12, atmospheric testing was resumed, and the Test Ban Treaty was signed when he was 13. When he reached draft age, Carl became a Conscientious Objector, giving him an opportunity to explain his beliefs, and he recalls, "my father wrote a letter of support, although he disagreed with me."

As a young man, Carl was influenced by John Howard Yoder's *The Politics of Jesus*, an exploration of Gospel narrative that reveals Jesus' concern with social, moral and political issues. Carl has sought out people and places to engage in dialogue on nuclear related issues and to promote peace. He has maintained correspondence with leaders in the field, provided witness at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, shared ideas at PYM and with Friends House Moscow. Carl reminds us that while the protests may have died down, the problem didn't go away.

SCMM Free Pass for Quaker Center Programs

Did you know that SCMM members and attenders can participate in Quaker Center programs (including summer youth camps!) for free? Our meeting pays \$1,200 each year for an Annual Pass that we make available to different people for each program, particularly individuals who might not otherwise

participate. Check out which programs might interest you and then contact our Quaker Center Pass Coordinator (Lydia Bryans lbryans@outlook.com) to sign up. Individuals who have not used the pass recently have priority, and the pass is given to the individual with the highest priority one month in advance of each program.

Quaker Events Fund Scholarships

SCMM has a modest scholarship fund to help members and attenders participate in Quaker events such as Yearly and Quarterly Meetings and Friends General Conference. To apply for 2018 events, please read Financial Aid for Quaker Events (under Committees on our web site) and submit a written request to Care of the Meeting Committee clerk John McCarthy <john.mccarthy@comcast.net> as far in advance of the event as possible, and no later than May 1, 2018. Requests will be considered at the next regularly scheduled Care of the Meeting committee meeting – which can be as much as a month following a request. Friends are encouraged to apply for funds for events that help them develop their capacity for service or to enhance a spiritual leading, if the cost of such an event is a burden to themselves or their families.

Quaker Center News

Awakening to the Presence Mar 19-24. Bob Runyan, Janet Leslie, Jim Anderson and Kathy Runyan will facilitate experiences of individual worship, the gathered meeting, listening to the ways that Spirit has been at work in the lives of others, and witnessing the work of Spirit within each of us. Find out more and register online at <http://www.quakercenter.org/awakening-to-the-presence>

Toward Right Relationships with Native Peoples Apr 13-15 with Paula Palmer. Beginning with an historical overview of genocide and colonization, to the role Quakers played in this history, to examples of positive processes for peacemaking, truth and reconciliation and restorative justice. Register early at <http://www.quakercenter.org/toward-right-relationships-with-native-peoples/>.

Quaker Service and Art Camp 6/23-30 for kids entering 5th-9th grades. Campers will experience a multi-generational community with activities, service projects, or travel to Santa Cruz. They will explore Quaker practices through town meetings, experiential learning, inter-generational kitchen and cleaning crews, games and music. Learn more and register your child early at <http://www.quakercenter.org/youth-camp/>

BEN LOMOND QUAKER CENTER (CA) is accepting applications for two full-time Co-Director positions beginning spring 2019 to provide spiritual leadership to West Coast Friends. Seeking applications from couples or two individuals. LGBTQ & persons of color encouraged to apply. See the Quaker Center website to review the job description. <http://www.quakercenter.org/about-us/employment-opportunities/>

Advices and Queries for the Month of April: Personal Relationships

In daily relationships with others, both inside and outside the home, our lives as Friends speak immediately and lastingly. In these relationships, our faith may also be severely tested. We are called to respond to that of God in everyone: we are all children of God. Friends celebrate any union that is dedicated to mutual love and respect, regardless of the unique make-up of the family. We strive to create homes where the Spirit of the Divine resides at the center and where the individual genius of each member is respected and nurtured.

Human sexuality is a divine gift, forming part of the complex union of body, mind and spirit that is our humanity. In a loving adult relationship in a context of mutual responsibility, sexuality brings delight, fulfillment and celebration.

The presence of children carries a special blessing as well as responsibility. Children bring unique spiritual gifts — wonder, resiliency, playfulness and more. Recognize and honor the Divine Light within children and treat them with the dignity and respect that is due to all people. Listen to and learn from children; share with them those values and practices that are central to our own lives. Special care must be given to resolving problems between adults and children in a manner that gives equal weight to the feelings and needs of both children and adults. Tender parenting is one of the critically important peace vocations in our society. Make every effort to offer all parents the personal and institutional support that this challenging work requires.

Take a strong stand against any form of abuse, whether that abuse is minor or severe, and whether it is emotional, physical or sexual in nature. The terrible impact of abuse on the most vulnerable members of our families creates lifelong suffering for its victims and is a major source of violence in our society. Perpetrators are themselves usually victims of similar violence and should be approached with compassion as well as firmness.

- *Do I make my home a place of friendliness, joy, and peace, where residents and visitors feel God's presence?*
- *Are my sexual practices consistent with my spiritual beliefs and free of manipulation and exploitation?*
- *What barriers keep me from responding openly and lovingly to each person?*
- *Do we open our thoughts, beliefs, and deep understandings to our children and others who share our lives and our hospitality?*
- *Do we provide our children and young adults with a framework for active, ongoing participation in the Meeting?*

Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting
Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business
February 11, 2018 Minutes

The Meeting opened at 11:50 with silent worship. Ralph Murphy clerked the Meeting. Thirty-eight Friends were present.

Renee Watkins shared responses from the Mutual Care Committee to the Advices and Queries on Social and Civic Responsibilities. Friends returned to worship for further reflections.

The minutes for the January 14, 2018 Meeting for Business were approved with the following corrections in Old Business B. Membership Request, “Care of the Meeting Committee” and in Announcements: Puerto Rico relief updates are posted on the Meeting’s “Facebook page” and “Betsy Morris, a member of Quaker Action Worship Group....”

The agenda was reviewed. Correspondence consisted of a thank you from Quaker Bolivia Link for our \$150 donation.

Old Business:

A. Membership Request of Amelia Victoria Mederos-Streetz (Care of the Meeting Committee, Beth Rodman) Beth Rodman reported that there were no concerns raised about the membership request. The Meeting was in unity to accept the membership request of Amelia Victoria Mederos-Streetz. The welcome committee will be Rhea Farley (convener), Renee Watkins, and Rachel Findley.

New Business:

A. Membership Resignation Request of Ted Obbard (Care of the Meeting Committee, Beth Rodman) Beth Rodman read the thoughtfully-worded resignation request which the Care of the Meeting Committee recommended accepting. The Meeting was in unity with the recommendation. The Clerk will write a letter noting this unity.

B. Amendment to the FY 18 Budget (Finance Committee, James Hosley) James Hosley reported that the Finance Committee recommends that the Meeting create a line item to provide \$500 for funds for Young Adult Friends activities. The Meeting accepted the recommendation.

C. Nomination (Nominating Committee, Charlie Blanchard) Charlie Blanchard reported that the Nominating Committee recommends the nomination of Lari Keeler as Pacific Yearly Meeting Representative for 2018, a position now vacant due to the current representative’s inability to serve. The nomination will season for one month. Any concerns should be raised with the Nominating Committee.

D. Memorial Minute for Barbara Graves (Worship and Ministry Committee, Beth Wrightson) The Recording Clerk read the minute, crafted by Andrea English and Stephen McNeil. Worship and Ministry Committee had reached out to Glendora Patterson to ensure that the wording met with her approval. The Meeting approved the minute. A Friend noted that Barbara Graves’ World War II experience restoring fighter pilots to fly again led to her conversion to pacifism and Friends. Another Friend noted that past Earlham College President Landrum Bolling, another Quaker forged a pacifist from World War II experiences, also died recently at 105.

Reports:

A. **Lari Keeler on Their Ministry:** Lari Keeler thanked the Meeting for the opportunity to report on their ministry, a calling to be a hospice chaplain. Seven years ago they were part of an Americorps placement in Providence Hospice in Seattle. While running in the rain they got the calling to be a hospice chaplain. In 2012 they moved to Berkeley to attend the Pacific School of Religion. Friends recommended attending Strawberry Creek Meeting where they felt welcomed. An Anchoring Committee was formed because they felt the need for people's support. Reflecting on the life and witness of Barbara Graves, Lari feels we are all ministers here. Today they are a chaplain at Suncrest Hospice. Lari has also had a calling to be their true self, coming out as Lari with they/them pronouns and as gender Queer. They wouldn't be here without the Meeting. "I feel loved when I am called Lari: at the Fall Retreat there was a bingo square that said 'Lari means Love.'" It is special that we are doing this as a team, with so much interconnectedness. In tears Lari said they are grateful for us all.

A Friend has had the practice of being silent in Meeting for Business, but now stepped out of that role to say whatever words Lari uses, he wanted to share those tears. The Meeting thanked Lari for their ministry which we held in the Light.

B. **Treasurer's Report (Richard Leath)** Richard Leath said, moving from the sublime to the financial, that we ended our fiscal year \$3,800 ahead of the expenses.

C. **Nominating Committee (Charlie Blanchard)** Charlie Blanchard reported that the Committee is engaged in talking with members and attenders. In two months (April) they will bring forward a slate of nominees. At that time some people will still be seasoning their potential role in the Meeting. The Committee may not have reached all, so do ask to be called or called back if needed. We normally nominate for one year, and some may be willing to continue their role. It is good practice to rotate roles, for in moving around, we get to know different people. We try to balance what people want versus what the Meeting needs. One immediate need is for one more person on Loaves and Fishes Committee for the rest of the year. Rick Herbert volunteered.

A Friend who missed out talking with the Nominating Committee last year objected to the use of the word "normal" in the outreach calls to all. Charlie reported that the Committee makes the effort to contact all in the gathered section of the Meeting Directory and expects call-backs as a useful assistance in reaching everyone.

The Meeting thanked the Nominating Committee for this work.

D. **Worship and Ministry Committee (Beth Wrightson)** Beth Wrightson reported that in April there will be an adult education session on how to be an Anchoring Committee member. The Barbara Graves Memorial organizers are Joyce Samati (set up, ushers, flowers) and Barb Tittle (food and clean up). A memorial service for Micki Graham will be held April 14th under the care of the Meeting. Beth reports that as their committee is fielding requests for funding, they note that there are some gaps in the Meeting members' understanding. Also, the different specifications for different funds administered by different committees seem to leave some gaps in coverage. Care of the Meeting Committee is reviewing how to connect to the right committee for funding requests. A Friend hoped that we will be open to more creative ways to share our resources.

Announcements:

Rick Herbert reported he is bringing the green composting pail each week.

Shelley Tanenbaum reminded Friends of the FCL-CA fundraiser being held on April 1 after Meeting.

David Rutschman for Peace, Earthcare and Social Witness Committee invited all to the February 25th first discernment session on crafting our Meeting's recommendations on legislative priorities we'd like to see FCNL and us carry out in the next Congress.

Susan Burr announced that on February 18, 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."

Rhea Farley noted that the Spring Retreat needed organizing volunteers. It may be at Quaker Center Ben Lomond May 4th and 5th if volunteers come forward.

Betsy Morris, a member of the Quaker Action Worship Group, has been working with homeless activists who may need bail as a result of their activities. Those interested in the creation of a bail fund, please see her.

The Meeting closed at about 1:50 p.m. with silent worship

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

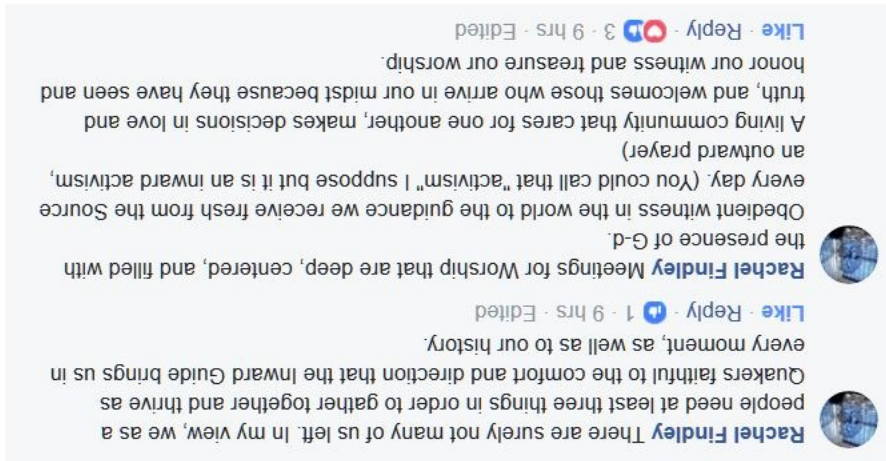
Submitted by: Ralph Murphy, Clerk, Rachel Findley, Alternate Clerk, and Stephen McNeil, Recording Clerk.

Report: Responses from the Mutual Care Committee to the Advices and Queries on Social and Civic Responsibilities

The Mutual Care Committee discussed our Quaker contributions to communal and civic life. Most of us expressed some sense of inadequacy as to our personal commitment of time and energy. We echoed the words “it’s never enough.” Some of us feel we do little everyday acts of service but do not do much in the public sphere. It seems that in both public and private service to the community we have to balance on the one hand feelings of inadequacy and even futility with on the other hand feelings of accomplishment and efficacy. It must be said that all the people in this discussion, whatever their judgment of their activities, have been and are quite active in service to SCMM and most in some sort of political expression of Quaker values. One member of our Committee spoke of trying to resolve an interpersonal problem within the meeting and said: “I am in a stage of developing courage and finding my calling. Perhaps this meeting is a special place where this can be done.”

It was 1682 when William Penn write “It is a reproach to religion and government to suffer so much poverty and excess.” That was 336 years ago. When Robert Reich tells us the gap has been widening between the excessive and the poor for decades, it feels crushing to have elected a president who will make the gap so much worse. The problem of poverty and excess, although it goes through cycles, never goes away. I believe I should remember to turn to the testimonies of my Quaker faith for grounding. Integrity—do I strive to seek and speak my truth? Unity—do I strive to join others in living our truth? Equality – do I strive to see through difference? Simplicity – do I strive to live simply? Do I strive to embody peace in myself and promote peace in the world? Community – do I strive to move out into the world as a Friend? I believe the best way I can be socially and civically responsible is to deepen and live into my faith.

What does Friend Rachel Findley post on Facebook?



The screenshot shows two posts by Rachel Findley. The top post, dated 3 hours ago, discusses the importance of inward prayer and receiving guidance from the Source. The bottom post, dated 1 hour ago, emphasizes the need for Quakers to gather together and thrive as a community, as well as to our history.

Rachel Findley There are surely not many of us left. In my view, we as a people need at least three things in order to gather together and thrive as Quakers faithful to the comfort and direction that the Inward Guide brings us in every moment, as well as to our history.
Like · Reply · 1 · 9 hrs · Edited

Rachel Findley Meetings for Worship that are deep, centered, and filled with the presence of G-d. Obedient witness in the world to the guidance we receive fresh from the Source every day. (You could call that "activism" I suppose but it is an inward activism, an outward prayer) A living community that cares for one another, makes decisions in love and truth, and welcomes those who arrive in our midst because they have seen and honor our witness and treasure our worship.
Like · Reply · 3 · 9 hrs · Edited

STRAWBERRY CREEK MONTHLY MEETING

Box 5065, Berkeley, California 94705

Phone messages: 510/524-9186

<strawberrycreek.quaker.org>

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

FIRST CLASS MAIL

TO:

March 2018 Issue

TIME VALUE