

<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, Dec 3

Advices and Queries on Meeting for Worship for Business read by Communications 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, Dec 12 (2nd Wednesdays)

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

SUNDAY, Dec 10

Business Meeting 11:50 AM

SUNDAY, Dec 17 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, Dec 24 Christmas Eve. (Committee Sunday after Meeting for Worship?)

Newsletter Deadline for December newsletter@strawberrycreekquakers.org

SUNDAY, Dec 31 New Year's Day

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

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 12/3, 12/4

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)

12th Month Gathering Potluck

Saturday 12/9

Everyone is welcome to the **12 Month Gathering / Holiday Party Potluck** at the Albany Community Center, 1249 Marin Avenue.

Set-up: 4:00

Carol singing: 4:45

Dinner: 5:30

Cleanup: 7:30

The 12 Month Gathering is always a joyous celebration, an opportunity to reconnect and share a meal with f/Friends. For newcomers, the Gathering is a good place to make new friends. Questions? john.mccarthy@comcast.net.

Please bring potluck food as delicious and generous as last year, (but please no soup as it requires bowls and spoons.) If your food needs a sharp knife, please bring one – we don't have any. Please put your name on dishes & serving utensils and bring a bag to take them back dirty to wash at home.

No childcare: There will probably be some shared activities for children, but parents are responsible for their own children at this event.

Parking: There's a small parking behind the building and lots of street parking.

Hope to see you there!

End-of-year Contributions 2017 (and Expense Receipts)

Friends, this is the typical annual pitch for your financial contribution to meet our Meeting's needs. As of the end of November, 2017, we are in the red by about \$18,000. Every year we approach the end of our fiscal year, missing about this much money in order to meet our annual expenses, and every year in the past, you have contributed enough money to pay for those needs.

Please help your Finance committee and your treasurer breathe easier on New Year's Eve, by making your 2017 financial contribution to our Meeting before the last week in December.

Also, if you still have any receipts for Meeting expenses in 2017, please, please give them to our treasurer or place them (with a note explaining the expenses) in the red box, before Dec. 31st.

Thank you for sharing in the upkeep of our Meeting community. For answers to any questions or concerns please contact James Hosley, Clerk of the Finance Committee.

Adult Religious Education 12/17

At rise of Meeting Worship and Ministry will sponsor an session on the topic of "Nourishing the Spirit at the Holidays." Please join us for sharing, listening and worship. If you have any questions, please contact Rachel Findley or Kathy Barnhart.

BFMM Reading Group on 19th Century Quaker

Women Sundays at 7:00 PM The group continues through January 28. Scheduled dates are 12/3, 12/17, 1/21/18, and 1/28/17. To receive readings in PDF format, contact Sue Friday at berkeleymeeting@gmail.com.

YAF Lunch 12/17

The YAF Lunch will be on Sunday, 12/17, 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.

PESW What is Thy witness?

The Peace Earthcare and Social Witness Committee Meeting begins 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. Also, if you would like to see our agenda before the meeting, please ask David to put you on the email list.



A recent witness was Friend Betsy Morris, who works with CoHousing California and Planning for Sustainable Communities. Betsy observed that her calling towards cooperative living

and community began with dissatisfaction with her formal education and the employment opportunities she found. She recognized that she needed systems that resonated with both her inner and her outer life. As she worked to find her calling, and the qualities needed to bring it to fruition, she strengthened her belief in cooperative culture and explored what cooperation and community mean with others, in our economy, and in our lifestyles. One necessary quality was learning to live with grace and gratitude, even when things aren't going well.

Betsy provides consultation services with an eye to creating cooperatives, developing tiny home villages, obtaining cooperative housing loan funding, and promoting affordable living communities for elders. Betsy was influenced by "The Death and Life of Great American Cities," by Jane Jacobs, a book critiquing 1950's urban planning policies as contributing to the decline of cities and neighborhoods. Betsy asks us to consider these questions:

How do we create humane, democratic institutions for everyday life?

How can we share hope?

Nobel Peace Prize Local Connection 12/10

This year, the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN). ICAN has 468 partner organizations, one of which is Tri-Valley CAREs based in Livermore, California. Their website at www.trivalleycares.org has more about the prize. The formal award of the prize will be on Sunday, Dec. 10, in Norway. Locally, there will be a celebratory event at the gate of our local nuclear-weapons laboratory, about 40 miles from B-Tech.. Carl Anderson is going and he can provide more details. 510/654-4983 (best), 510/435-0305 (cell)

Food for Thought

Mary Klein presented this information at the Quaker Center Consultation, October, 2017 Research shows that these are the 5 needs which religious communities provide for their members. WORSHIP, DOCTRINE, HISTORY, SERVICE, and COMMUNITY. She invited participants to consider how much energy, time, and resources were devoted to each in our Monthly Meetings.

Group Subscriptions to Western Friend

It is time again to renew our group subscriptions to Western Friend. Tom Yamaguchi will be working with librarian Clifford Ham to collect the names of those who wish to receive the magazine for one year at a reduced rate. Just 16 Friends can qualify for the largest discount. Paper copies sent by postal mail are \$32 per year. The PDF version sent by email is \$23 per year. You may receive both formats for \$40 per year. Tom will be contacting current subscribers to ask if they would like to continue receiving Western Friend. If you are not a current subscriber, you may contact him to be added to the list. Editor Mary Klein would like to have those subscriptions by December 1. In addition, we may be experimenting with an online subscription process. If you are not familiar with Western Friend magazine, please check out past issues in the meeting library. For more information, contact Clifford Ham or Tom Yamaguchi.

Ben Lomond Quaker Center Year End Appeal

We all have stories to share about the year behind us. Perhaps you have loved Quaker Center in the past, and told stories about its power to support you and others. Perhaps you feel grateful that Ben Lomond Quaker Center exists, that it is here year after year for you, for your community, and for those who will carry its good work forward.

We look forward to a new year, with joy and hope, though we are increasingly aware of how fragile even our most trusted institutions can be in the face of disaster. And we know what love does, to keep our resources vibrant, resilient and financially healthy. Many of you have donated time and treasure to Quaker Center in the past. Ben Lomond Quaker Center is an invaluable resource and we are ready to maximize its potential to make this world a better place. We ask you to join us. Please help us keep Quaker Center strong with your generous support. You can donate on-line at our website.

Kathy and Bob Runyan

Co-Directors, Ben Lomond Quaker Center

www.quakercenter.org

Advices and Queries or the Month of December: Meeting for Worship for Business

Come to Meeting with hearts and minds prepared to be open and faithful to the leadings of the Spirit. Then the conduct of business will lead to truth, unity, and love.

When a matter is before the Meeting for Business, each person present contributes to the corporate search for a decision that accords with the will of God. Inaction is a form of action. Silent worship in the Meeting for Business contributes to the process of achieving unity.

Listen attentively to others' words and use the silence between messages to reflect carefully on what you might contribute. When you are clear, speak simply what is in your heart, without repeating what has already been offered. While making your insights clear, lay aside personal opinions and attend to what God requires.

Do I attend Meeting for Business regularly?

Do I speak in Meeting for Business only when I am led to speak?

Is the Meeting for Business held as a Meeting for Worship in which we seek divine guidance for our actions?

Are we tender and considerate of different views, coming to a decision only when we have found unity?

Do we give prayerful support for our clerks that they may be sensitive to the movement of the Spirit 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?

3rd Sunday Worship-Sharing.

Friend Al Thompson started the regular 3rd Sunday 9:00 a.m. worship-sharing about 3 years ago with the encouragement of Friends Sarah Hawthorne and James Hosley. It is meant to provide a time and place where newcomers to Meeting and to Quakerism can learn what worship sharing is, and also get to know a few Strawberries in a small group. It is a place for people to consider queries in a comfortable setting with others interested in the spiritual testimonies of our faith. Al enjoys preparing most the queries for the Worship-Sharing because he finds a good query to be a good introduction to the roots of Quakerism. There are usually 5-12 people in the circle and the varied responses always generate free-ranging discussion after participants go around the circle with their comments on the query. The coffee and bagels (or sweet rolls) are a nice way to end the Worship-Sharing hospitably. Anyone is welcome.

Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting
Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business
November 12, 2017 Minutes

The Meeting opened at 11:50 am with silent worship. Ralph Murphy clerked the Meeting. Forty-three Friends were present.

Erik Wilson shared responses from the Facilities Committee to the Advices and Queries on Reaching Out. Friends returned to worship for further reflections.

The minutes for the October 8, 2017 Meeting for Business were approved as read.

The agenda was reviewed and there was no correspondence, clerk's or old business.

New Business:

Membership in BOCA (Peace, Earthcare and Social Witness Committee, David Rutschman) David read the Committee's minute: "The PESW committee recommends that SCM join BOCA (Berkeley Organizing Congregations for Action) as a way of becoming more engaged in local issues of social justice and networking with other local congregations. The Committee can fund an initial contribution while we request that an annual contribution to BOCA be built into future Meeting budgets."

There was a handout about BOCA. Financial contribution is a sliding scale of \$200 to \$2,000. David spoke with the Rev. Daniel Buford who noted that South Berkeley is generally underrepresented in Berkeley. Having different congregations work together is like epoxy glue, with two elements mixed to create a stronger bond. Nominating Committee might take up recommending a representative, but for now, David is willing to serve that function. The decision to join as a Meeting will season for a month. Questions may be directed to the PESW Committee. There will be a BOCA party at Spats at 6:30 pm on December 8th.

2018 Budget (Finance Committee, James Hosley) James called attention to the handout that omitted the following explanations for the changes to the budget: Line 7120 Quaker Events increased \$1,000 due to increased support needs; Line 7703 Directory publication costs went down \$100 due to decreased cost in printing; Line 7704 Electronic Resources went up \$150 due to increased webhosting fees; Line 7706 Newsletter decreased \$120 in printing cost; Line 7715 First Day Children's Program \$1,000 decreased childcare costs; Line 7735 Loaves and Fishes \$300 increased supplies cost; PYM/CPQM Assessments increased by \$650. PYM assessment per member is \$113. All of this added to an overall increase of \$1,000 in expenses over this year's budget. Income decreased slightly (\$50) in Line 5410 Investment Interest. In Line 8016 "Vine" was changed to "Berkeley Friends Meeting."

The proposed budget will season for one month. Speak to a member of the Finance Committee with any concerns.

2018 Nominations to the Nominating Committee (Naming Committee, Mary White) Mary reported for the Naming Committee (Mary White, Peter Lin, and Judith Schumacher-Jennings) that Charlie Blanchard (clerk), Margaret Schneider, Patricia Dienstfry, Beth Rodman, Betsy Morris, Josh Gallup, and Nancy Wolf Jackson are nominated to the Nominating Committee. These names will season for a month. See a member of the Naming Committee with any concerns.

Reports:

Ministry of Sally Hindman: Sally Hindman is the founder and director of Youth Spirit Artworks (YSA), a ten-year old program that works with low-income and homeless youth in Berkeley with job-readiness and leadership skills-building for 150 youth a year. She noted that her Anchor Committee (Mary White, Rick Herbert, Kathy Barnhart, and Marla Browning) has been meeting about monthly for four years. She is grateful for the Committee's time with her and its support for her ministry. It took her a while to get the nerve to ask the Meeting for an Anchor Committee, but the Meeting's involvement has been critical to the growth and

success of YSA. Now there is a staff of six, seven youth leaders, interns, senior artists and three project areas: community art, art sales, and studio art. There is a staff team and decisions are by consensus. The Dime-A-Gallon MiniGrants and Carolyn Marks Grant funds have supported YSA. They have done eight murals, built a Tiny House prototype and will build some Tiny Houses on a new site soon. There is a recent *Berkeleyside* article on this movement. They hold art sales at farmers markets. YSA has assumed running Street Spirit, a big enterprise. Kathy Barnhart is helping with a photo project. Three-years from now they should have an Art Gallery and event space up and running.

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

College Park Quarterly Meeting Representative (Tom Yamaguchi) Tom handed out a full report. Due to the fires, attendance was down at the Sierra Friends Center (although the air quality was better there than in the Bay Area). The plenary featured Thistle West, Gordon Bishop and Stephen Matchett about spiritual accompaniment and spirit-led eldering. The Winter Quarter will be held in San Francisco on Saturday, January 20, 2018. There is a need for a registrar, a job which is easier now with online registration: see Tom if interested.

Quaker Center Ben Lomond Consultation Weekend (Barbara Birch and Henri Ducharme)

Barbara handed out a report (see below) and noted that Henri's workshop "Knowing What is True at our Meetings" was well-received and might be considered for an adult education forum here. Representatives from Canada, North Pacific, Pacific, and Intermountain Yearly Meetings were present. Barbara noted that *Western Friend's* website has many resources for how Meetings can deepen the spirituality of meeting for worship. Among other ideas were having a welcoming committee include members of other committees in an meeting, holding more threshing sessions during the year to overcome the perceived "conflict avoidance" around issues, and holding book group/discussion groups using *Western Friend* and Quaker Center Ben Lomond materials. Both Barbara and Henri thanked the Meeting for the opportunity to spend time with other Friends on these enriching and refreshing topics.

Treasurer's Report (Richard Leath) Richard reported that the current deficit of \$19,521.42 is only a bit more than last year's deficit at this time. However, Friends are encouraged to make donations. Finance Committee completed a "friendly financial review" and signed an attestation statement that the 2016 books are in good order.

Care of the Meeting Committee (Rhea Farley and John McCarthy) Rhea reported that the Welcoming Luncheon at the end of October was for new attenders and those who had not been welcomed in the past. 25 people attended. She said that the Welcoming and Inclusion Working Group will hold these events on a more regular basis, with the next one in January 2018. The prepared queries, thanks to Henri Ducharme, were useful in generating deep conversations.

John McCarthy reported that the Twelfth Month event will be held Saturday, December 9th at the Albany Community Center. We need people to organize it: see John. If you bring a dish, please take it home and wash it afterwards.

The Meeting closed at about 1:30 p.m. with silent worship.

Announcement

The next Meeting for Business will be held on December 10, 2017, at 11:50 a.m. at the Berkeley Technology Academy.

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

Quaker Centering Consultation Weekend Report

Henri Ducharme and Barbara Birch attended the Quaker Centering Consultation Weekend at Ben Lomond Quaker Center October 20-22 on behalf of Strawberry Creek Meeting. There were representatives from monthly

meetings throughout the west, including Canadian Yearly Meeting, Intermountain Yearly Meeting, North Pacific Yearly Meeting, and Pacific Yearly Meeting. We made local and regional connections that will enrich the life of our Meeting and the Religious Society of Friends. In particular, we connected with Anne Nesbet of Berkeley Friends Meeting. During worship-sharing, informal small group discussions, and large group workshops, we shared activities we are currently offering in our meetings, obstacles and struggles we face, and ideas for overcoming these obstacles. Henri's presentation called "Knowing What is True at our Meetings" was very well received (and might be considered as a presentation for SCMM.)

1. One major theme from the Consultation Weekend was how important it is to deepen the spirituality of our Meetings for Worship. Other meetings are trying innovative ways to deepen the spiritual core of their community, even using their social hour after Meeting for Worship. For example, at Rise of Meeting, in one meeting people are encouraged to turn to each other and ask, "How was Meeting for Worship? What was your experience?" Another Meeting has an ongoing table during social hour where some people gather to discuss "How was your spiritual life this past week?" There are other types of deepening activities meetings can offer like book groups and discussion groups using Western Friend or Quaker Center materials.

2. It was sobering to see that many meetings are aging and that some smaller and rural meetings are dying out. Only one meeting (Seattle) was described as growing and thriving, with many new families and young people. At least one meeting (Whidbey Island) appears to have given up. However, most meetings are trying to address this issue, and the diversity of their approaches made it clear welcoming new people is more than greeting newcomers. For example, two meetings have specifically addressed issues of transgendered Friends. A few have experimented with spiritual sharing groups which are cross-generational and balanced to meet the needs of newer people. Some meetings have specific committees called Fellowship, Outreach, or Hospitality whose duty is to welcome new people. Other meetings find the task complicated enough to warrant an inclusive Welcoming Committee composed of members from other committees so that a welcoming perspective can spread more quickly throughout the whole meeting. We think this idea deserves our meeting's discernment.

3. Many participants at the Consultation weekend felt that in their meetings what older friends perceived as "good order," younger Friends perceived as "conflict avoidance." Several Friends said they would return home with the suggestion that their meetings increase the number of threshing sessions each year, and others were motivated to raise issues which they know are difficult to talk about at their meetings. There were not many young people at the Consultation, but those who were there resonated very strongly with the idea that meetings need to become more open and honest about conflict. This might go some ways towards encouraging young people to consider becoming Friends, as this is clearly an important value to them.

Both of us are grateful to have had the opportunity to spend time with other Friends at Quaker Center and learn about activities, obstacles and struggles in other Meetings. The experience was at the same time enriching and refreshing.

Prepared by Barbara Birch and Henri Ducharme

I did indeed encounter the tapir standing square across my path. I stopped. We stared at each other. He (?) approached to within a few feet and we stood gazing in each other's eyes for about five minutes during which I whispered a few encouraging words. He returned to the forest. I continued to the hot-tub and was telling my companions about my encounter when the tapir emerged from the trees and came to the hot-tub bringing his face to within an inch or two of mine, and after a respectful pause, finally closing the gap to give me a kiss.

I had taken an opportunity to visit the Amazon as a tourist. I had joined a small party hiking through the forest and we stopped at a rest camp that had not only huts to sleep in but a bar-canteen and a hot-tub. We were encouraged to dump our backpacks in our assigned huts and use the hot-tub before going to eat. We were warned that there was a tapir exploring the camp and not to attempt to touch it should it appear on the path. I duly dumped my backpack, changed with my swimming trunks under my shorts, and made my way to the hot-tub.



Kissed by a Tapir |
by Leonard Joy

STRAWBERRY CREEK MONTHLY MEETING
Box 5065, Berkeley, California 94705
Phone messages: 510/524-9186
<strawberrycreek.quaker.org>

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December 2017 Issue
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