

Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting

May 2017

Of the Religious Society of Friends

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 Meeting, 2151 Vine Street. Contact Peter Lin, 510-917-2013, peterlin [at] speedymail [dot] org

THURSDAYS Mid Week Evening Worship 7:00 PM Berkeley Friends Meeting, 2151 Vine Street.

FRIDAY, May 5-Sunday, May 7 Spring Retreat, Ben Lomond Quaker Center (registration form below)
SUNDAY, May 7

Advices and Queries on Reaching Out read by Nominating Committee during the first 15 minutes of meeting for worship

Young Adult Brunch. 12:00 PM Contact Amy Dewey for details, (510) 628-0826

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

SUNDAY, May 14 Mother's Day

Business Meeting 11:50 AM

Strawberry Creek Annual Board Meeting following meeting for business

WEDNESDAY, May 17

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

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

FRIDAY, May 19-Sunday, May 21 College Park Quarterly Meeting Spring Session, Ben Lomond Quaker Center <http://events.eventzilla.net/e/college-park-quarterly-meeting-spring-2017-2138883745>

SUNDAY, May 21

Worship Sharing 9:00 AM

Berkeley Meeting Movie: The Big Trees 1:00 PM, www.berkeleyfriendsmeeting.org

Celebration of Barbara Graves' 104th Birthday. After Rise of Meeting

SUNDAY, May 28 Committee Sunday

Newsletter Deadline for May newsletter@strawberrycreekquakers.org

SUNDAY, June 4

Advices and Queries on Harmony with Creation read by Worship and Ministry Committee during the first 15 minutes of meeting for worship

Young Adult Brunch. 12:00 PM Contact Amy Dewey for details, (510) 628-0826

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

News and Announcements

Strawberry Creek Meeting Calendar

The meeting's calendar, a Google app, is viewable on the Strawberry Creek web site, <http://strawberrycreek.quaker.org/calendar.php>. Events may be updated on the calendar after publication in the monthly newsletter. Contact the newsletter editor, newsletter@strawberrycreekquakers.org, to get your event listed.

Access to Strawberry Creek's Website

by Tom Yamaguchi

Our meeting website was down for several weeks last month due to an attack on our host's server, quaker.org. The Distributed Denial of Service Attack (DDOS) affected the main quaker.org site, as well as subdomains that include Strawberry Creek and College Park Quarterly Meeting. Communications Committee and Web Coordinator are working to resolve the issue. Stayed tuned to more information.

Quakerly Singing by Clifford Ham

Quakerly Singing, third Wednesday, May 17, 7 to 9 PM, at Lydia Bryans, 1617 Channing Way, Berkeley. Contact Clifford Ham for information: (802) 377-7956.

Barbara Graves' 104th Birthday by Barb Tittle

Barbara Graves' 104th birthday will be celebrated after meeting on May 21.

We have the great privilege of having a longtime Quaker activist and truly inspiring human being in our midst and look forward to taking this opportunity to celebrate her life and work. "Reflections on Life's Journey" is an oral history by Barbara, recorded in 2001-2002 by her friend Clancy Dunnigan. The story spans seven decades of one woman's quest to "try what love may do". Her life's journey interweaves major themes in 20th century history, politics, and spirituality. We will have the opportunity to listen to excerpts of this, as well as share cake, fellowship, and knowing Barbara, laughter. Please plan to join us.

Political Action Worship Group by Laura Boles

The Quaker Political Action Worship Group meets every Monday from 10-11 am at Ian Whitmarshes'

house, 739 Alcatraz Ave., cross street is Shattuck Ave. and the first Sunday of the month, after rise of 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. This group is for anyone who is politically active right now, or anyone who wishes to become more politically active. In our worship sharing, we might explore, for example, the idea of a calling or leading, how nonviolent action works, how Quaker listening works, barriers to a particularly Quaker expression of political activism, or staying grounded and centered in God while facing the constant barrage of news. 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) or Ian Whitmarsh (ianwhitmarsh@gmail.com).

CPQM Spring Session by Tom Yamaguchi

Spring session of College Park Quarterly Meeting will be held May 19-21 at Quaker Center in Ben Lomond. The theme is "An Invitation to the Dance: Learning more about sharing the Quaker way." The registration deadline was May 5, though you may still submit a late registration. Online registration is at <http://events.eventzilla.net/e/college-park-quarterly-meeting-spring-2017-2138883745>. Paper registration is also available at <http://collegepark.quaker.org>. While the CPQM website was down I posted the registration forms at https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0BxEowwA_Fc3pbVdVcU1BUDh6Y3c?usp=sharing and can be downloaded from there if the site goes down again. If you need a ride to Ben Lomond or can offer a ride, contact me at the address cpqmrep@strawberrycreekquakers.org. If you would like to find how to get there by public transit, I can share what I know. That is how I will be getting there. Send any other questions or comments to that email address.

May is Bike Month by Tom Yamaguchi

May is Bike Month, and May 11 is Bike to Work Day. Bike East Bay, our local bicycle advocacy organization will host Energizer Stations throughout the East Bay. For information, go to www.bikeeastbay.org.

You may wish to celebrate the month by riding the new trail across the eastern span of the bay bridge to Treasure Island. That trail is now open weekdays. It was previously open only on weekends and holidays.

Jay Jonah Cash will host Bike and Walk to Meeting events this month. Contact Jay for information and keep an eye on the meeting calendar for updates.

Adult Education with Rev. Buford of BOCA

Rev. Daniel Buford, executive director of Berkeley Organizing Congregations for Action (BOCA), who will be coming to Strawberry Creek for an adult education on June 18 following rise of Meeting for Worship and social hour.

On May 17, from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm, he will be at John's Presbyterian Church, 2727 College Avenue in Berkeley. Reverend Buford will give his "5 Smooth Stones Training" to get us on the same page as far as engagement with policymakers and gatekeepers to enact change in our community. Registration is free, donations suggested at the meeting. For registration, go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/5-smooth-stones-training-with-berkeley-organizing-congregations-for-action-tickets-32943074623>

BOCA is a non-profit, faith based organization of 18 member congregations representing over 10,000 Berkeley families. They are a multi-ethnic, cross-cultural, inter-faith and inter-racial group of ordinary people learning to become leaders in our community by putting our faith into action. BOCA is a proud member of the PICO NATIONAL NETWORK of faith based community organizations with more than 1,000 member institutions, representing over one million families in 150 cities and 17 states, and PICO CALIFORNIA, 19 community based federations representing over 350 congregations and 400,000 families. Their Facebook page can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/BerkeleyBOCA/>.

May Movie at Berkeley Friends Meeting

by Sue Friday

The Berkeley Meeting Library Committee is sponsoring a lengthy Quaker Film Series. Films are aired on third first days (Sundays) of the month, 1pm, and are suitable for all ages. There will not be a film in July due to the scheduling of Pacific Yearly Meeting.

The next three movies (for May, July, August) are Hollywood films which do not provide facts about Quakers, but show us how Quaker characters are treated in commercial films. This is both interesting and important, even though the typical misrepresentations in films are not what we would want. The main character of each of the films is an important male star, i.e., Kirk Douglas, Richard Burton, and Alan Ladd. However, these are "B" movies. Only Alan Ladd plays a Quaker.

The program for May 21st is Quakers as Environmentalists, showing the movie *The Big Trees* (1952). This "B" film, starring Kirk Douglas, is about a guy with an "ax", rather than a gun (as in those westerns) who falls for a beautiful young Quaker woman. What they do get correct is that Quakers have a special relationship with the environment, and do not want wholesale clear-cutting of the beautiful California redwoods. The Douglas' character is a timber baron who becomes infatuated with the daughter of the religious (supposedly Quaker) group's leader. In the end, this is very good for the trees.

All the women wear the exact same dresses, and we might not recognize them as Quakers. But, the Douglas character and his co-star eventually marry, and settle down. And, by agreeing to make this movie, Kirk Douglas was allowed out of his long-term contract with Warner Brothers.

News from Ben Lomond Quaker Center

by Kathy Runyan

Still Point and Moving Edge is a five-day gathering from June 2nd - 9th where we will embrace and explore the tensions of our Quaker faith. We will ask: is our faith determined by where we ground ourselves or by where that grounding leads us? Is it particular specific beliefs or openness to varying faiths? Quakers new and seasoned, involved and estranged, are welcome to join and seek how our lives fit into the Religious Society of Friends and how the Society fits into our lives. Join Dan Rosenson, Diego Navarro, Erin Eichenberger Newman, Jim Anderson and Kathy Runyan to investigate our practices, values, experience, heritage, and future. Young Friends (under age 35) can register at no charge. Please register early at <http://www.quakercenter.org/programs/still-point-and-moving-edge/>.

Register your kids for summer camp! We welcome all campers to join us from June 25th – July 1st; Quaker Camp serves rising 4th - 6th graders, and Service Camp serves 7th - 9th graders. Campers explore community, peace, equality, integrity, simplicity, and stewardship through service, creative projects and other activities in the Santa Cruz mountains and at the beach in Santa Cruz. Find out more and register online at <http://www.quakercenter.org/summer-youth-camps/> or call Kathy Runyan at 831-336-8333.

Discover the best family vacation around. Family Work Camp from August 1 – 6, is only \$50/person for the full week. All ages are welcome! We'll work on improvements to Quaker Center facilities while building community among us. Work crews gather in the morning after breakfast and work until lunch. After lunch we offer opportunities to play, hike, swim, and cook together, or for time alone to enjoy the redwoods. Some work campers choose to keep working. Learn more about this wonderful intergenerational camp and register online at <http://www.quakercenter.org/family-work-camp/>.

Join Vanessa Juley from September 1-3, 2017 to explore Colonialism, Racism and White Supremacy. Have you ever wondered what white supremacy and colonization are? Have you wondered how they affect our lives both individually and institutionally? Over the weekend we will spend time examining colonization, racism and white supremacy and how it impacts the Religious Society of Friends. Learn more and register at <http://www.quakercenter.org/programs/register/>.

2017 FGC Gathering

The 2017 gathering of Friends General Conference will be July 2-8 at Niagara University, Niagara Falls, New York. The gathering theme is Ripples Start Where Spirit Moves. The week includes a fantastic selection of Gathering Workshops: Opening to the Heart of Worship, Migrant Rights through Social Change Ministry, Fighting Ethnic and Racial Divisions, or Chanting: Shelter for the Spirit. There will be field trips to Niagara Falls.

Registration is now available online. For registration and information, go to www.FGCgathering.org. For financial assistance to attend the gathering, contact Care of Meeting Committee. Information on scholarships is at http://strawberrycreek.quaker.org/job-descriptions/CoM_Quaker_Events_Support_Fund_5-6-13_update.

Pacific Yearly Meeting at Walker Creek Ranch

The annual session of Pacific Yearly Meeting will be held at Walker Creek Ranch from Friday, July 14 to Wednesday, July 19. The theme of this year's session is "Awakening to the Presence." The keynote speaker is Zachary Moon, Strawberry Creek member, currently living in Chicago.

From Clerk Diego Navarro's "Call to Annual Session":

"Why have Quakers been in the forefront of social movements? Early Friends developed practices that helped guide us to incrementally understand the Spirit's intentions. These practices help us, both individually and corporately, to notice the unfolding revelations of the Spirit. Individually, we become conscious of concerns and leadings. Corporately we seek the guidance of Spirit and as we surrender to it, we come to unity on a way forward."

"What is Spirit calling us to change in ourselves? What is Spirit calling us to do?"

"Our keynote speaker, Zachary Moon, grew up in our Yearly Meeting. His work in the world grew out of his own personal transformation and discernment of God's will. His leading has taken him to unexpected work in unexpected places. For the past eight years, he has served as a chaplain with military service members, drawing near to the impact of war and accompanying those suffering from it. Zachary will share how his experience of awakening to the Presence informed his leading." For the complete "Call to Annual Session" go to <https://www.pacificyearlymeeting.org/2017/documents/clerks-call-annual-session-2017/>. For scholarship information, see the above article on FGC.

Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting
Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business,
April 9, 2017 Minutes

The Meeting opened at 12:00 p.m. with silent worship. Ralph Murphy clerked the Meeting. Fifty-one Friends were present. Barb Tittle shared responses from the Mutual Care Committee to the Advices and Queries on Personal Relationships (Modified). Friends returned to worship to reflect on these.

The minutes for the March 12, 2017 Meeting for Business were approved with the correct spelling of the last name of Kathy Barnhart.

Correspondence and Clerk's Business:

We received thank you notes from the American Friends Service Committee and Alternatives to Violence-CA for the Meeting's annual support.

The Clerk read a traveling in the ministry minute proposed by the Anchoring Committee (Elaine Emily, Stephen McNeil and Judith Schumacher-Jennings) of Shelley Tanenbaum. While the letter will be used in Shelley's time with South Central Yearly Meeting (Waco, TX), it will accompany her during her other travels. (Copy attached). The Meeting approved the letter as read.

The Clerk reported that he and Nancy Wilkinson met with Roy Allen and others of Berkeley Friends Meeting to explore how the two Meetings might coordinate their efforts better. Nancy will be selecting people to be part of a joint working group to explore this further.

Old Business:

State of the Meeting Report: Rhea Farley read the report for the Writing Committee consisting of Rachel Findley, Peter Lin, and Rhea Farley. Most expressed pleasure with the revisions. A Friend asked that the Process paragraph be dropped. In the Final Notes, not all six supported by anchoring committees are members of Strawberry Creek, so it might read "six individuals." The report will season for a month.

Nominating Committee: Co-clerk Henri Ducharme reported no concerns were expressed with Thomas Yamaguchi being the College Park Quarterly Meeting Representative. The Meeting approved the nomination.

New Business

Nominating Slate for 2017-2018 (Nominating Committee, Henri Ducharme) Henri presented the Slate for the coming term., He noted the 12 vacancies including membership and clerk of the Peace, Earthcare and Social Witness Committee (PESW). The Nominating Committee is still working on filling those positions. Discussion on the nature of the PESW Committee work (fostering a corporate witness, nurturing concerns, providing discernment before action at a business meeting, etc.) ensued. Many Friends spoke in support of continuing the work of the PESW Committee. Should we reorganize how we do this work, which is occurring even now? What is the correct structure where Spirit can speak to us? A Friend recalled the quote "Be not afraid." Your mind may be afraid, but let your heart be not afraid. Let us ask Spirit for strength of heart. A Friend noted that there is space and time to talk about this at the May Retreat.

One Friend stated that she had yet to be called by Nominating Committee and that she would be willing to serve on the PESW Committee. A Friend suggested that there is a difference between asking where one would like to

serve versus what we think they could do. The Clerk said that he had received a letter from Catya de Neegaard, who had to be absent, expressing strong support for continuing the work of the PESW Committee.

The Clerk noted that, as in past, those being proposed at the May business meeting may start their service June 1, subject to their approval at the June meeting. Henri and the Committee were thanked for their work.

Due to the length of discussion, we revised the agenda, postponing the membership reports and decision on hosting “39 Questions for White People” exhibition.

Reports:

Ministry of Carl Magruder : The Clerk called on Carl Magruder to report about his ministry and experiences of being supported by Meeting. He began by singing “We are wading in deep waters trying to get home,” reflecting his ministry as a chaplain to dying patients. He is a cradle Quaker and member of Strawberry Creek whose Anchoring Committee (John McCarthy, Sally Hindman, Elaine Emily, and Rachel Findley) has met with him (most often long-distance as he now resides in Humboldt County) for six years. He has found that the Skype or Zoom technologies do not impede support nor discernment. He has been able to share with them his frustration and burnout due to an increased patient care load and his recent own experiences with the death of his mother, JoAnne Magruder. His initial prophetic ministry was around the Gospel of the Earth. He has found that his current pastoral ministry of death midwifery to be close to work promoting the Gospel of the Earth. He noted that before the Great Turning notion of Joanna Macy, comes the Great Unravelling in which times the possibility of creating a new thing opens up. He benefited from the Anchoring Committee suggestion of having an “elder” (Scott Bell in this case) accompanying him and holding him in worship during his talks and times at last Pacific Yearly Meeting and Friends World Committee for Consultation. He has been humbled to have had four seasoned Friends devote time and worship with him. John McCarthy noted that it has been very much a two-way street for the Anchoring Committee. He suggested that maybe an Anchoring Committee might report on its experience at some point. Friends expressed appreciation for again hearing about the ministries supported by the Meeting.

Treasurer: Richard Leath called attention to the financial report, noting that our current balance is a deficit of \$12,550.58 due in part to paying out the Yearly and Quarterly Meeting contributions.

Facilities Committee (Erik Wilson): Erik reported on Facilities Committee’s recent difficulties with setting up the chairs and with the heat settings for the Meeting for Worship. Procedures are now in place to avoid a cold room in the future. Comments may be directed to him or co-clerk Debra Marks.

Announcements:

- A. Susan Burr announced the April 30 interactive adult education session “Growing Beyond Our Privilege and Cultural Contexts: A Trip to the Grocery Store” put on by the Power, Privilege and Race working group.
- B. Tom Yamaguchi reminded Friends that the College Park Quarterly Meeting is the third weekend in May.

The Meeting closed at 2:00 p.m. with silent worship.

The next Meeting for Business will be held on May 14, 2017 at 11:50 a.m. at the Berkeley Technology Academy.

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

ADVICES and QUERIES for the Fifth Month: Reaching Out

Friends fellowship begins and is nurtured within the home and Meeting. It reaches greater fulfillment as we carry our beliefs into the wider community.

Share your Quaker faith. Take time to learn about other people's experiences of the Light and, as you learn, give freely from what you have gained. Respect the experiences and opinions of others, but do not be afraid to say what you value. Welcome the diversity of culture, language, and expressions of faith in your Monthly Meeting, the Yearly Meeting, and the world community of Friends. Encourage discourse with Friends of pastoral and programmed traditions, and with members of other faiths.

Friends have a long history of involvement in public and private education, sharing our values with the world and nurturing future generations. Be mindful of the needs of children in your community and of avenues for deepening understanding between peoples.

How does my life reflect Friends beliefs and thus encourage others to be interested in the Religious Society of Friends?

Do I respond openly to inquiries about Quaker experience and belief?

What does our Meeting do to make others aware of Friends principles and practices?

What are we doing to help people of various races, cultures, and backgrounds feel at home among us and we among them?

How do we encourage newcomers to return and participate in activities of the Meeting?

In what ways do we participate in the life of the interfaith community and in the wider fellowship of Friends?

We are one human family. All people in the world are children of God and are our brothers and sisters. If someone attacks our blood brother or sister, we would do everything in our power to stop them. This is the way we feel about innocent civilians being killed by drones in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Yemen. David Hartsough, from his sentencing statement for nonviolent protest opposing drones at Beale AFB, born 5/2/1940

I cannot prevent anyone from getting angry, or mad, or frustrated. I can only hope that they'll turn that anger and frustration into something positive, so that two, three, four, five hundred will step forward, so the gay doctors will come out, the gay lawyers, the gay judges, gay bankers, gay architects I hope that every professional gay will say 'enough', come forward and tell everybody, wear a sign, let the world know. Maybe that will help. Harvey Milk, 5/22/1930-11/27/1978

I hope and pray that someone, sometime, will find a memorial mothers day commemorating her for the matchless service she renders to humanity in every field of life. She is entitled to it. Ann Reeves Jarvis, founder of Mother's Day, 5/1/1864-11/24/1948

Friendly Quotations

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

First Class Mail

TO:

May ISSUE 2017
TIME VALUE