

<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

WEDNESDAY, Nov 1

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

SUNDAY, Nov 5

Advices and Queries on Spiritual Life read by Finance 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)

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

SUNDAY, Nov. 12

Business Meeting 11:50 AM

WEDNESDAY, Nov 15

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

SUNDAY, Nov 19

Worship Sharing 9:00 AM

YAF Lunch 12:30 at Dara Thai Restaurant 1549 Shattuck Ave. 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, Nov 26 Committee Sunday after Meeting for Worship

Newsletter Deadline for December newsletter@strawberrycreekquakers.org

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

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 11/5, 11/6

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 is reaching out to Berkeley Meeting and Berkeley Friends Church. Four purposes are emerging for QAWG: 1) worship and moral support for Friends, 2) a team to act quickly but carefully in local events, 3) support group for Friends' personal leadings, 4) potential informal liaison to community/faith groups. The small group that meets on Monday is reading "On Tyranny: 20 lessons from the 20th Century" by Timothy Snyder, who was raised in a Quaker home. This group is also active writing emails and letters on national, state, and local events. For more information, please contact Laura Boles (boles9552@gmail.com)

Transforming Whiteness for Racial Justice: A Restorative Approach 11/4-5

Maryland Friend David Dean works with a local group called Circles for Social Change and will facilitate a workshop on the weekend of Nov 4-5. Join him and other facilitators Julie Shackford-Bradley and Kat Culberg for an intensive weekend workshop designed for white people who seek to challenge racism in society and within ourselves. The approach is unique in that it is grounded in the philosophy and circle-process of restorative justice, a way of responding to harm that goes deeper than reprimands or surface-level education. Instead, they create a supportive environment where participants gain profound insight about themselves, process difficult emotions, and begin to replace feelings of shame, fear, and confusion with a rooted, meaningful anti-racist identity. Visit circlesforsocialchange.org to register for a training and to learn more about us.

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. Also, George Lakey will be at Quaker Center the weekend of Nov 17-19. See more information below at the Ben Lomond Quaker Center News.

CofM: Adult Education 11/19

Friends House Moscow: Current Conditions in Russia and the Work of Friends in the Region. Julie Harlow is traveling among Friends, sharing her perceptions of and experiences in the Soviet Union and Russia from 1984 to the present. Friends House Moscow has worked since 1996 to aid Russian efforts to support orphans and disabled children, work for non-violence and help refugees. Pacific Yearly Meeting has written a travel minute for Julie, supporting her leading to inform Friends about the "unique contribution that Friends are making in the areas of the former Soviet Union."

PESW What is Thy witness? 11/26

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), 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.

Young Adult Friends (YAF) Events:

These are intended for people 35 and younger with some exceptions. In general, contact Henri Ducharme at 510-417-5738 or

hducharme@gmail.com for information.

Older Friends Host Younger Friends 11/5

6:00 PM at the home of Laura Magnani. Four established Friends host a dinner for 6 younger Friends from Strawberry Creek and other Meetings.

Monthly Meeting 11/8

Berkeley Friends Meetinghouse 6:00-9:00 PM, About a dozen YAFs share a meal together, then silent worship or worship sharing and fellowship.

Explorations with Elaine Emily 11/18

10:00 AM to Noon at Berkeley Friends Meeting. Followed by lunch. Elaine is a spiritual director and retreat leader who's been a mentor to a generation of young people. In this exploration, she will lead exercises and discussion about spiritual practices.

Lunch 11/19

The YAF Lunch will be on Sunday, Nov 19, 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.

Oakland Quaker Worship Group

meets at 5 pm on Sunday evenings at the home of Karen and Peter Lin. There are usually around 7 attenders who enjoy a peaceful hour of worship with occasional vocal ministry (usually offered by the Lin's cat), followed by conversation and fellowship. After worship, there is a chance to get to know each other and a monthly potluck. OQWG is under the care of SCMM, which means that a member of the SCMM Worship and Ministry Committee worships with us now and then to see how things are going. For more information, call (510) 530-0479 or visit <http://www.oaklandquakers.org>.

SCMM Welcoming Lunch

The Welcoming Lunch on October 29th was a very successful event, with 26 attenders and very deep spiritual sharing. Of the attenders, there were several long-time members and approximately 17 newcomers or people getting reacquainted with meeting after an absence. Henri lead a revealing icebreaker exercise before Zoe Koehler and Rhea Farley led spiritual worship-sharing sessions, but attenders were also given the option of working individually or in pairs. This may be just the first of several welcoming activities to be organized in the future.

SCMM Fall Retreat Last Month

Our Fall Retreat was held at the beautiful Redwood Gardens Community Room with activities on the theme of "The Beauty in our Difference." 46 Strawberries of all ages joined together for worship sharing, intergenerational fellowship activities, worship, lunch, and artistic expressions (poetry and song) related to the theme: "The Beauty in Our Difference. Please read Leonard Joy's story below.

SCMM Facebook Page

Our Meeting has a Facebook page, which is a public "outward face" where we can post Meeting information and events that we want to be seen by others. The Communications Committee added the page as an outreach or welcoming/inclusion effort. You can see the Facebook page even if you aren't on Facebook at [https:// www.facebook.com/ StrawberryCreekFriends/](https://www.facebook.com/StrawberryCreekFriends/) Contact Barbara Birch (birchcarl@live.com) for information.

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.

(BLQC) Ben Lomond Quaker Center News

Join George Lakey from Nov. 16th - 18th to examine The Quaker Legacy and the Art of Campaigning for Social Justice. George will facilitate the practice of building courage, resilience, and teamwork. Have you ever wondered how to design and carry out nonviolent direct action campaigns? You will learn most by being willing to pray, laugh, cry, step out of your comfort zone, and give and receive support. Bring your joy and sorrow, your confidence and anxiety. Be willing to apply what you learn back home -- this weekend can provide the defining moment for your next decade. We expect this workshop to fill so register early at <http://www.quakercenter.org/the-quaker-legacy-and-the-art-of-campaigning-for-justice/>.

Come for a weekend of celebrating multi-generational community with our Music and Dance Retreat from December 1st - 3rd. Enjoy a variety of different ways to sing, dance and make music together facilitated by participant volunteers who will lead activities they know and love. The one professional leader we'll have is a caller for our family friendly community dance on Saturday night. This is a sliding scale of only \$60-\$100 per person to encourage you to bring your kids and grandkids or just yourselves for a weekend filled with singing and playing interspersed by a few dancing opportunities. See the details and register at <http://www.quakercenter.org/music-and-dance/>.

National Call In Day for Climate Action 11/8

Members of Citizens' Climate Lobby will be going to Washington, DC for the 4th annual Congressional Education Day on November 13 and 14. It is too late to register to go, but you can still be heard. Call your legislators on Wednesday, November 8th to amplify our voices and help move Congress closer to legislation to address climate change. Call friends and family outside the Bay Area and have them call their representatives, too. For more information on CCL and the Carbon Fee and Dividend, go to www.citizensclimatelobby.org.

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.

The **Berkeley Food Pantry** announces **Safeway's 2017 Feed the Need**. The Berkeley Food Pantry will be a recipient of Safeway's 2017 Feed the Need Food Drive which runs until December 26, 2017. Please consider purchasing \$10 hunger bags for the pantry at your local Safeway store. The food pantry needs more reusable bags. Please contact Amy St. George at manager@berkeleyfoodpantry.org if you can help. The food pantry will also need extra volunteers from November 13-December 29 to help the regular volunteers with extra visitors and allow some of them to take time off during the holidays. If you can volunteer in the pantry in November or December, please contact Dharma Galang at director@berkeleyfoodpantry.org

Advices and Queries for the Month of November: Spiritual Life

The life of the spirit gains depth and vigor through devotional practices, prayer, study and meditation. Take time regularly for individual and family worship, discussions, readings from sacred texts, and other spiritual refreshment in order to live a more centered life and to bring a deeper presence to the Meeting for Worship.

Friends believe that the spiritual path is best found in community. Create opportunities in your Meetings for people of all ages to explore and express their evolving relationship with the Divine, their spiritual highs and their doubts. If different metaphors and language interfere with communication, listen more deeply, honoring the Spirit in which the thought and words have their beginnings.

Do I live in thankful awareness of God's constant presence in my life?

Am I sensitive and obedient to the leadings of the Holy Spirit?

When do I take time for contemplation and spiritual refreshment?

What steps am I taking to center my life and to stay open to continuing revelation?

Do we share our spiritual lives with others in the Meeting, seeking to know one another in that which is eternal?

Does the Meeting provide religious education including study of the Bible and Friends' history and practices?

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

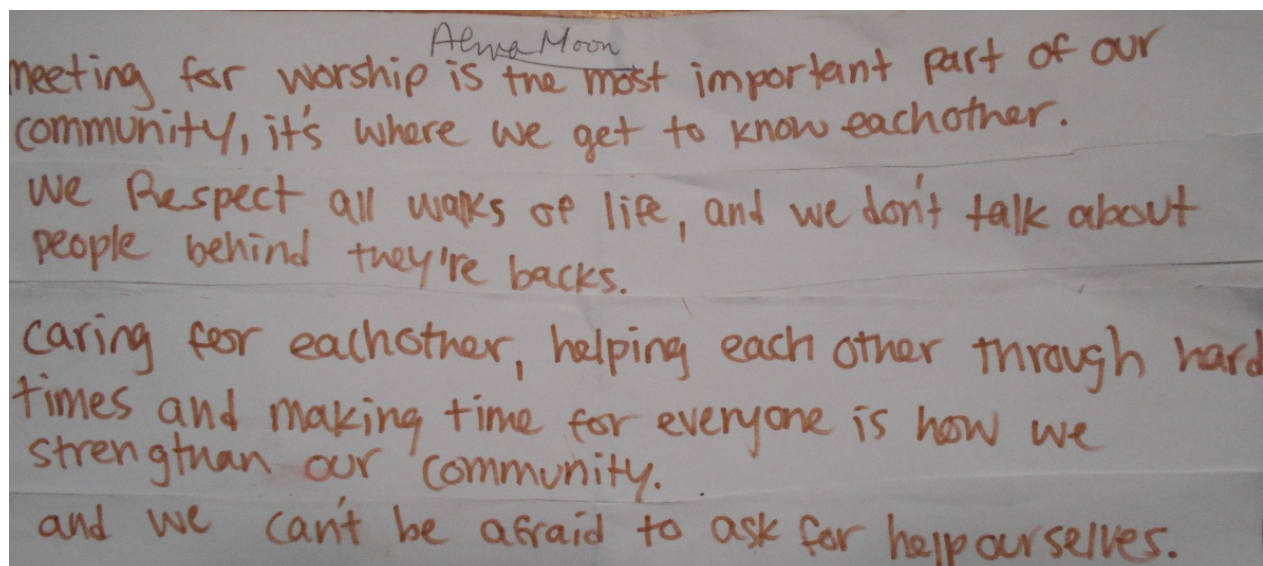
How are love and unity maintained among us?

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?

Advices and Queries: Report on The Meeting Community by First Day School Committee (read by Alma Moon)



Alma Moon
meeting for worship is the most important part of our community, it's where we get to know each other.
We respect all walks of life, and we don't talk about people behind their backs.
caring for each other, helping each other through hard times and making time for everyone is how we strengthen our community.
and we can't be afraid to ask for help ourselves.

Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting
Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business
October 8, 2017 Minutes

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

Alma and Nathan Moon shared responses from the First Day Children's Program Committee to the Advices and Queries on The Meeting Community. The response consisted of a rewriting of the Advices and Queries in simpler language. Friends returned to worship to reflect on these and appreciation was expressed for the rewriting cutting through the Quakerese. We halted the meeting to hold in the Light a lost child who was quickly found.

The minutes for the September 10, 2017 Meeting for Business were approved with the following corrections: under Treasurer's Report, the word "recommended" was struck and replaced with "suggested average;" under Worship and Ministry, the word "message" was replaced with "statements;" in Announcements, the retreat was held at 2951 Derby Street; and this business meeting is being held on October 8th, not 9th.

The agenda was reviewed and the ministry report from Sally Hindman was postponed.

Correspondence and Clerk's Business:

We received thanks for our \$150 donation to the Friends World Committee for Consultation-Section of the Americas (FWCC).

Old Business:

Nominating Committee (Jay Cash) Jay Cash reported that no concerns were raised concerning the nomination of Sarah Hawthorne to the Communications Committee. The Meeting approved the nomination.

Reports:

Peace, Earthcare and Social Witness Committee (David Rutschman) David reported that the Committee is still discussing how best the Meeting might participate in the Berkeley Organizing Congregations for Action (BOCA). The letter-writing project on the first First Day is going well. The Committee heard Shelly Tanenbaum at its last meeting on her ministry. On October 22nd we will hear from Betsy Morris about her concern about housing. Friends are invited for the first ten or so minutes and are free to leave. Anyone interested in speaking to their concern, please contact the Committee to schedule the short talk. Catya de Neergaard will clerk the next Committee meeting as both co-clerks are out of town.

Unity with Nature (UwN) Representative to Pacific Yearly Meeting (PYM) (Catya de Neergaard) Catya de Neergaard reported that besides herself as a Unity with Nature Committee member, Strawberry Creek has strong participation in Pacific Yearly Meeting: Joyce Samati, Rick Herbert, Stephen McNeil, Tom Yamaguchi, Laura Magnani, Deborah Marks, Lisa Hubbell, and Elaine Emily are all active in the Yearly Meeting. There is lots of fun offered for families. The sessions offer an intense convention of Spirit. PYM works to keep the costs down and has recently downsized many committees to cut the costs of supporting Representatives. Membership has declined from 1800 to 1500.

Catya shared some of her experiences as former clerk and current member of PYM Unity with Nature. One concern still being explored is how Monthly Meetings can bring a concern to the whole Yearly Meeting. The

Committee works to assist Friends to bring their Unity with Nature concerns before the Yearly Meeting. It helps constituent Meetings to work together and it fosters corporate witness of the Yearly Meeting. Friends Committee on National Legislation, Quaker Earthcare Witness, FWCC, and Friends Committee on Legislation-California are also working to address the challenge of climate change. There has been some recent movement around divestment from fossil fuels. Catya recommended a book by Paul Hawkins, *Draw Down* that has 100 ways to reduce Co2 by 2050.

The Committee has a mini-grant program that may change to directly funding disadvantaged communities facing environmental challenges. A Friend noted that we may be on the edge of irreversibility and asked if the Committee or Yearly Meeting works with others to amplify the voices to fight climate change. Catya replied that the Yearly Meeting shares epistles with other Yearly Meetings and works to share its environmental concerns through national and international Quaker bodies. Recently the FWCC issued a statement from its Peru gathering on the environmental crisis that was discussed at Yearly Meeting.

Announcements: Rhea Farley announced that the welcoming brunch for “new” people will be held on October 29th at 2550 Dana Street from 12:30 to 4 pm with food donations welcomed. Sign up with either Henri Ducharme or Rhea. Avotcja Jiltonilro expressed thanks for those who have helped out with Puerto Rico relief. She noted that Domenica has also been hit hard. There will be a benefit soon at La Pena for Cuba and Puerto Rico. Laura Magnani reminded Friends to register for the AFSC Centennial event on Saturday October 28th at the First Unitarian Church in Oakland from 10 am to 5pm. There will be a healing circle focusing on the aftermath of the September 3rd Meeting for Worship experience led by AFSC’s Laura Magnani and Fatimah Khan on October 15th after Meeting. David Rutschman reported that Friends House Moscow will do a presentation and crafts fundraising sale after Meeting on December 18th (subsequently rescheduled to November 19th).

The Meeting closed at 1:00 p.m. with silent worship.

The next Meeting for Business will be held on November 12, 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.

What is Thy witness?

In an effort to understand the breadth of the witness of SCM members and attendees, PSW will begin each committee meeting with a 15 minute 'witness sharing' by an invited participant.

Shelley Tanenbaum made a presentation on her witness with Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW) at the September 24th meeting. She is the QEW Executive Secretary. Shelley described the way her work has evolved over the years, from a focus on peace and social justice to earthcare. She has come to see that earth care is inseparable from peace and justice, and that all must be moved forward simultaneously.

For over 25 years, Shelley has been urging Friends to open ourselves to continuing revelation on a right relationship with our natural world. For her, continuing revelation will call forth a transformation in the way that we relate personally to the natural world. The personal relationship she envisions for us is consistent with our testimonies of peace and justice, and stands in sharp contrast to that of the dominant culture. When we Friends perceive our relationship to nature in this new way, we are called to share and act on that new relationship to the natural world in local, state, national, and global settings. This is exactly QEW was formed to do. You can find out more about QEW at <http://www.quakerearthcare.org/>.



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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

First Class Mail

TO:

November 2017 ISSUE
TIME VALUE