

STRAWBERRY CREEK MONTHLY MEETING OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

DECEMBER 2020
NEWSLETTER

10 a.m. every Sunday Meeting for Worship (online), see next page for details.

Berkeley Technology Academy, 2701 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, corner of Derby St., Berkeley

Website: <http://www.strawberrycreekfriends.org>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/StrawberryCreekFriends>

Listserv (for subscribers): strawberrycreek@groups.io To join, contact Web Coordinator.

Calendar: <http://www.strawberrycreekfriends.org/Calendar.html>

To post calendar events or contribute to newsletter, email editor@strawberrycreekfriends.org

To create a Zoom meeting or join our Listserv, contact Web Coordinator amyd@alumnae.mills.edu

Read the current newsletter online <http://www.strawberrycreekfriends.org/pdf/newsletter.pdf>

Distribution Sunday for paper/electronic newsletter is the last Sunday of the month, except August.

Newsletter Deadline is the Monday preceding Distribution Sunday. **Next deadline: December 14**

THE CALENDAR

(all activities listed below happen online via Zoom)

Please note: **ongoing activities (especially after mid-December) may be cancelled due to holidays, so please check with contact person.**

SUNDAYS (Unless otherwise indicated)

Dec 6 — Advices & Queries on Stewardship and Vocation, by Communications (worship hour)

11:45 a.m. Quaker Action Worship Group (QAWG). Contact Betsy Morris or Asa Brown. Details inside.

Dec 12 — 3-5 p.m. Strawberry Creek Twelfth Month Gathering. Details inside.

Dec 13 — 11:50 a.m. Meeting for Worship on the occasion of Business.

Dec 20 — 9 a.m. Worship Sharing based on a query. Contact Bob Langfelder <boblangfelder@aol.com>

11:50 a.m. The Beloved Community (Vocal Ministry) – Worship & Ministry Committee. Details inside.

Dec 25 (Friday) — 11 a.m. Worship and 1 p.m. Fellowship with Berkeley Friends Meeting. For Zoom link/info, contact Margaret Mossman, margmossman@gmail.com. Home (510) 734-7148, cell (510) 235-6245.

Dec 27 — 11:50 a.m. Committee Sunday. Check with your committee clerk for details.

12:45 p.m. Young Adult Friends. Click on YAF tab on Berkeley Friends Meeting website.

THURSDAYS (ongoing)

7 a.m. Mid-Week Morning Worship. For information, call Peter Lin (510) 530-0479.

4 p.m. Twelve-Step Meeting (open to all). Contact facilitator Avotcja Jiltonilro 510-658-7995.
(previously held at Berkeley Fellowship, 1027 University near San Pablo Ave, Berkeley).

FRIDAYS (ongoing)

4 p.m. second & fourth Fridays, Vigil for Democracy at Old City Hall in downtown Berkeley (socially distanced w/masks, and signs if you wish) – Berkeley Friends Meeting (BFM), Berkeley Friends Church, Strawberry Creek Meeting. The group begins with 30 minutes of silent worship. For more information, contact Genie Stowers, BFM, <gstowers835@gmail.com>

Strawberry Creek Sunday Worship (Zoom)

Strawberry Creek Friends Meeting meets for worship at 10pm Sunday mornings via Zoom. The "Virtual Meeting Room" opens earlier at 9:30 a.m. Our worship closes at 11 a.m., followed by holding in the light those in need, announcements, and online social time to informally share.

Berkeley Friends Meeting

The Zoom link for Berkeley Friends Meeting Sunday worship may be found online <http://www.berkeleyfriendsmeeting.org>

Quaker Center Online Worship

Daily online meeting for worship from 7:30-8 a.m. <http://www.quakercenter.org/meeting-for-worship/>

The Beloved Community (Vocal Ministry)

On Sunday December 20, 2020, the Worship & Ministry Committee welcomes all Friends/friends to our gathering on The Beloved Community. When we offer vocal ministry we serve the community. What does that mean? Please join us at 11:50 AM in the Zoom "room" (after Meeting for worship and social time). For more information, contact Rachel Findley or Judith Schumacher-Jennings.

Quaker Action Worship Group

At 11:45am the first Sunday of each month, Quaker Action Worship Group comes together on Zoom. QAWG's mission is "To discern how our Quaker practice and tradition can more strongly and fully inform our political activism. We ask the question: how can we, how should we, live as Quakers right now?"

QAWG draws from Strawberry Creek Friends Meeting, Berkeley Friends Meeting, and Berkeley Friends Church. For more information, please contact Co-Convenors Betsy Morris or Asa Brown.

Twelfth Month Gathering (3pm December 12)

This year's annual 12th Month Gathering is going to be special. About now we usually notice how early it's getting dark, and how chilly even the mid-day sunlight is. We especially value opportunities to savor the warmth generated by fellowship and hot cocoa.

These past months our Meeting has been amazingly resilient in transferring Quaker community from a 3-D to a 2-D flat screen. Our upcoming December festivity promises to continue this deft magician's trick.

We recognize that the holidays mean very different things to each of us, and emotions run the gamut from joy to sadness. **A central theme in the afternoon will be our offering a personal gift of self in some way.** We're asking that each individual take a few minutes (no more than three) to briefly share an item or story that particularly evokes the holiday spirit to them.

What you share need not be "festive" but simply heartfelt: a small toy you've treasured since childhood, a homemade drawing or card, a memory of a favorite dish your parent made, or a poem that especially captures the spirit of winter. Or take advantage of the unique viewing angle of Zoom to give us a quick tour of your garden, your wall hanging, or your recently remodeled bathroom! Maybe you'd like to sing or lead a carol for us. And of course, it's okay to "come as you are" and pass on sharing.

Either way, please join us in celebrating the close of 2020 on a high note at the 12th month Gathering, Saturday, December 12, 3-5 p.m. (Meeting zoom link will be provided closer to the event).

If you already know what you're planning to share, please let Barbara Birch know so she can creatively intermix the sharings to maximize variety. It's also okay to just show up and be spontaneous. Her contact is birchcarl@live.com

Finally, we know how integral food is to celebrating. Since Zoom hasn't yet enabled us to "pass the potatoes please", we're offering the next best thing. If you have a favorite Holiday treat (or any kind of food favorite), send your recipe (pictures are an added plus) to Shelley at sheltenan@att.net. Please send recipes in Word format, if possible, to make it easier to assemble a collection, and send no later than December 6.

Come as You Are Bible Study

One hour *Come As You Are* Bible Study is offered at 9 a.m. Mondays and Thursdays via Zoom. For more information and/or the Zoom links, contact Jay Cash [<jonahcash@gmail.com>](mailto:jonahcash@gmail.com)

Visit Pendle Hill (online)

Many of us have heard for years about how special Pendle Hill is, but we haven't been able to manage the trip to Pennsylvania. Pendle Hill <https://pendlehill.org> is offering its rich array of programs online:

- Dec 4-6 Opening to the Heart of Worship
- Dec 7 Healing Ancestral Trauma: What is Epigenetics and Why Does it Matter?
- Dec 9 Pendle Hill's Reading Group (*Nonviolent Direct Action as a Spiritual Path*, PHP #424)
- Dec 28-30 What Love Requires: Heart-Opening Practices for Mindful Awareness, Peace, and Compassionate Action (registration deadline 12/20/20)
- Dec 28-30 The Creative World of Beethoven (registration deadline 12/20/20)
- Jan 5-26, 2021 Painting Ourselves in God's Love

Friends Peace Teams (international webinars)

On December 4 (6 p.m. Pacific) and December 5th (6:30 a.m. Pacific), the Friends Peace Teams is offering *The Power of Goodness/Equality of Humanity: Bridging Divides*, a collection of true stories from around the world of how people reacted peacefully and nonviolently to people who had threatened or hurt them.

On December 6 (2 p.m. Pacific) Friends Peace Teams offers *Roots of Injustice, Seeds of Change: Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples*.

Friends Peace Teams is a Spirit-led organization working to develop long-term relationships with communities in conflict around the world to create programs for peace building, healing and reconciliation. After witnessing the suffering in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in 1993 Quakers from several North American Yearly Meetings wanted to make every Friends Meeting and Church a center of peace and reach out to people suffering from war and violence everywhere. Learn more <https://friendspeacetteams.org>

Quaker Voluntary Service – Young Adults

Quaker Voluntary Service (QVS) is a year-long Fellowship program in which young adults (age 21-30) build intentional community, work full time at social service and social change agencies, and explore themes of spiritual and personal growth with local Quakers. Fellows are placed in Atlanta, Boston, Minneapolis/St. Paul, Philadelphia, or Portland, Oregon. QVS Fellows receive housing, health insurance, \$125/month stipend, and other benefits. The program year runs from late August through the end of July.

Priority for applications received by March 15, 2021. Learn more <https://quakervoluntaryservice.org/apply>

Richard Marple – beekeeper and Friend



Richard H. Marple attended Strawberry Creek Meeting for many years. Born in 1929 in Macomb, Illinois, he passed here in Berkeley during August 2020.

Richard's devotion to bees was well known, and to honor his life's work, the Marple Beekeeping Trust has been established

(MarpleBeekeepingTrust@sonic.net).

His bee collection, including beekeeping antiques, is scheduled to go to Patrick Ranch Museum is located in the heart of almond country and has a 100-plus year collection of antiques. All told, the Marple collection included 275 separate pieces from around the world. Marple took care to write notes on each piece of history. Learn more <https://www.patrickranchmuseum.org/>

College Park Quarterly Meeting

The College Park Quarterly Meeting website (collegeparkquarterlymeeting.org) archives Quarterly minutes and posts lots of other key CPQM documents. On October 16-18, 2020, CPQM met and "Quick Notes" were taken by CPQM Clerk Barbara Babin. These notes have been reviewed for accuracy by our own Strawberry Creek Meeting CPQM representative Carl Magruder (who attended) and are printed below. Carl adds that the next (winter) CPQM is January 16, 2021 (Saturday) "at" Berkeley Meeting (via Zoom).

Fall 2020 CPQM "Quick Notes"

The theme for the fall gathering of College Park Quarterly Meeting was "Walking Together In The Light." The October 16-18 session was held via Zoom, giving participants the opportunity to join in for as many of the weekend activities as they wished to. It was noted that, in addition to flexibility, virtual gatherings offer the advantage of accessibility for those who can no longer travel long distances. It was also noted that the lack of hugs, group singing, and informal conversations over delicious meals were sorely missed.

At this quarterly meeting, 106 people attended, including 4 children. We regret that because the teens are required to spend so much time online for school programs, a virtual gathering has little appeal for them. We also regret that there were no attenders from Fresno, Mendocino, Napa, Redding and Visalia.

Worship and worship-sharing gave us multiple opportunities to engage with Spirit and one another. Friday evening began with a programmed meeting for worship in which the song "Inch By Inch" was followed by a story, *The Curious Garden*, by Peter Brown. Children were invited to respond to the queries first. After saying goodnight to the children, adults went into breakout rooms to hold worship-sharing on the same queries. Saturday afternoon held another rich worship-

sharing session for adults. Saturday and Sunday morning worship sessions were well attended.

There were two children's sessions, one on Saturday afternoon and one on Sunday morning. The children heard the Noah's Ark story, shared singing and dancing, and made a recipe.

As we began Saturday morning plenary, we were greeted by Shelly Covert, from the Nisenan Tribe, who were the original inhabitants of the land around Sierra Friends Center. For several years now, a relationship has been building between Sierra Friends Center and the Nisenan Tribe. Shelly told us of the revival of the Nisenan language, the weight of responsibility placed on her as a spokesperson, the need to walk with integrity and morals, and the hard work of living in alignment with Spirit and earth. She closed by sharing a sacred song.

At various points during the weekend, we heard updates from all three corporations under our care: an extensive report, film sequence, and interest group from College Park Friends Educational Association (CPFEA), the body that guides Sierra Friends Center; a slide show update from Ben Lomond Quaker Center; and a short report from Friends Association of Services for the Elderly, the body that guides Friends House. All three of these organizations were affected by fires during August/September.

CPFEA has had a very difficult year because of the need to respond constantly to crises...from the closures required by COVID-19 to the recent fire. There had been hopes for a modified summer camp program, but those plans had to be canceled. Camp staff was used, instead, to do maintenance on campus. Some financial recovery was possible through a PPP loan, which will be converted to a grant, as well as some very generous donations.

As nearly half of the structures were burned, the fire interrupted plans to sell the property to a friendly buyer, who might lease the property back to CPFEA for its educational programs. They are waiting for assistance from FEMA to clean up burned building sites and are organizing to clean up the land and do the necessary (and urgent) erosion control before the winter rains. Fortunately, there is good insurance. Volunteers, donations, and additional board members would be most helpful. Weekend work projects can accommodate 12 volunteers due to COVID restrictions.

The question was raised as to whether CPFEA might consider partnering with the Nisenan tribe in some way or donating land to them. In their report and interest group, board clerk Sandra Schwartz (SF), and director Marty Coleman-Hunt expressed willingness to engage in conversations on these ideas. One Friend who worked at Woolman for a number of years spoke, wondering whether the ground has anything to say and what would John Woolman do? Individual Friends and monthly meetings should contact the board with any suggestions as to how CPFEA might move forward.

Although CPQM supports boards of the organizations we care for, their boards are autonomous. The quarter (and individual Quakers and meetings) can advise and influence the boards, but the quarter does not control their decisions. A document explaining these relationships is at collegeparkquarterlymeeting.org

Ben Lomond Quaker Center was evacuated because of the CZU Lightning Fires, and, though acreage burned, no major structures were lost. The one blessing of the COVID shut down is that the maintenance manager was able to clear brush around the perimeter of the areas where the buildings are, which probably helped. In addition, the Ben Lomond Fire Department did a great job defending the Center and the adjacent Sequoia Center. Quaker Center lost a woodshed and about two-years worth of firewood, and sustained damage to about 1800 feet of water lines, so they are using well water. Quaker Center programs are currently being held virtually, and they are closed to onsite group reservations, but will be open for personal retreats beginning November 1. There has been a serious reduction of income because of the pandemic and fire...donations are greatly appreciated.

Friends House did evacuate for about 8 days because of the Glass fire, but did not suffer any damage. The evacuation process was well planned, and both the evacuation and the return went smoothly. Residents returned home to clean refrigerators, which staff had emptied for them because of a power outage.

Five interest groups were held in two time slots: Meeting for Healing; Religious Education for the 21st Century: Teaching What Friends are Now; Responding to Injustice through Public Policy (FCLCA); Rising from the Ashes: Sierra Friends Center and CPFEA; and What is Our Quaker Witness in These Troubled Times?

We did have a virtual Family Night on Saturday night, and heard some intriguing stories, lovely songs, and also saw some gorgeous photographs and delightful art work.

We had little time for announcements this year, so experimented with using the Western Friend's discussion group. To see additional information about Sierra Friends Center, as well as resources from the interest group on What Is Our Quaker Witness in These Troubled Times, and other CPQM announcements click on this link <https://westernfriend.discussion.community/> and scroll down to College Park Quarterly Meeting.

For minutes, reports, or more information about this gathering and other work of the Quarter, please go to our Quarterly Meeting website (collegeparkquarterlymeeting.org).

Faithfully yours,

Barbara Babin, Clerk, College Park Quarterly Meeting

Spotlight

(someone in our community)

MARY BAYARD WHITE

*I believe in the magical power of the creative process,
the creative art flux that can bring diverse people together to work and learn from each other and nature.
It is the power that can bring forth the best in each individual ...*

curiosity, collaboration, hope, humor, appreciation, affection, some of my favorite states of being.

— Mary White's Artist Statement <http://marywhiteglass.com>

If I could tell you what it meant, there would be no point in dancing it.

— Isadora Duncan

Roots

Mary grew up as a Quaker. The father of Mary White is Gilbert White, a convinced Quaker and water resources expert, who has been referred to as “the most renowned geographer internationally of the twentieth century.”

While still in the process of completing his doctorate at the University of Chicago, in 1934 her father moved to Washington D.C. to assist in solving the national problem of flooding. He was a pioneer in warning about the inherent risks in attempting to bend nature to serve human structures and development. As advisor to President Franklin D. Roosevelt, he cautioned that – instead of moving water away from people, people should move away from water: “Floods are acts of God, but flood losses are largely acts of man.”

When World War II broke out in 1942, Mary's father wanted to contribute in a manner consistent with his beliefs as a convinced pacifist. After eight years in Washington D.C., he quit to go overseas to do relief work in Vichy, France, where he worked in coordination with Quakers to help those fleeing the Nazis. He was caught by the Germans Nazis and interned in Baden Baden until the end of the war.

Mary's mother Anne White, grew up in Washington, DC, attended the exclusive private girls Miss Madeira Boarding School followed by a “coming out” party and Vassar (New York). She had strong women models close at hand; her female relatives were suffragettes. Despite her suffragette aunts, Her Episcopalian family were surprised when she started attending Washington DC Florida Friends Meeting and met and married Gilbert White, a mid-westerner of modest means, who was also a convinced Quaker.

From 1946 to 1955 Mary's father Gilbert White was President of Haverford College, Pennsylvania. Sharing his pacifist convictions and his visions as a geologist, Mary's mother tirelessly devoted much of her life to supporting his professional goals and managing their



busy social life, what with colleagues and college students frequently gravitating to their house. The story is told that in 1955 Margaret Mead came to dinner and said “Gilbert, now that you are a school administrator, you will never go back to science”. That night he talked to Mary's mother Anne, saying he knew he must go back into water resources research, as the work was too important not to pursue. Shortly thereafter he refocused his attention on water resource policy by joining the University of Chicago, where he became Chair of the Geography Department.

One time in a heart to heart talk with her mother Anne White (during a Gloria Steinham phase of Mary's life), Mary asked her mother if she ever felt she had had to sacrifice her own dreams in order to further her husband's career. Mary's mother responded “I'm doing what I want to do and it brings me joy.” As her husband's partner and teammate, Anne White co-authored with her husband the book *Drawers of Water: Domestic Water Use in East Africa*, (1958). She had many of her own interests – in Boulder, Colorado the Anne White Trail is named after her.

Her father's values again precipitated a significant professional transition when, during the Vietnam War, he sided with University students, which put him at odds with the administration and prompted his departure. Well-known Quaker economist Kenneth Boulding and wife Elise urged him to come to Colorado, and with his encouragement, Gilbert found job as head of the University of Colorado Institute for Behavioral Sciences and her parents moved full time to Colorado.

Looking back, Mary notes that she learned from her father the importance of work as an expression of core values, even when it meant compromising professional achievement. It was also true that, while being the daughter of such a highly esteemed famous scientist was an incredible blessing, Mary was determined to establish her own independence and identity.

To learn more about Mary's father, check out his biography *Living with Nature's Extremes, the Life of Gilbert Fowler White* (2006) by Robert Hinshaw. Also check out the description of the Gilbert White Flood Memorial (an 18-foot high cast glass sculpture) in Boulder, Colorado, which his daughter Mary White designed and constructed [<https://directory.weadartists.org/colorado-marking-floods>].

Learning & Teaching

Mary was born in Haverford, Pennsylvania and grew up on the South Side of Chicago. As a little girl, she says



she was drawn to materials and motion. During her childhood Mary acquired an abiding love of nature and strong commitment to care for the earth. Her early memories include many hours exploring the Haverford College campus – from the nearby duck pond and cricket field – and many car trips to trudge

around as her father sought to identify where the soil was vulnerable to water erosion/flood.

During her high school Scattergood Boarding School years, she helped with the farm, biked and hiked everywhere, and expressed herself in a variety of art mediums, from ceramic mugs, to enameled earrings, to chicken drawings. She has an especially fond memory of her father's determination that his children work on a ranch. He found a ranch near Boulder, Co where they started going every summer after they moved to Chicago, (till her parents moved to Colorado.). Within 24 hours of arriving, she recalls (at age eight) being put on a horse and sent off on a cattle drive! To this day Mary is drawn to the stimulus of new places, diverse people, travel, and a love of maps.

In 1965 she studied Humanities at Earlham College, Richmond, Indiana, followed by the Summer Program in Art History & Ceramics at the University of Colorado in Boulder (1965) and the University of Chicago, Illinois (1966).

In 1967 she continued her studies in Oakland at the California College of the Arts (CCAC), formerly, California College of Arts & Crafts. There she earned her Bachelors in Fine Arts (BFA) in Spatial Arts and Ceramics, which included a year (1968-1969) studying ceramics in CCAC's El Molino/CCAC Mexican Program, Erongaricuaru, Michoacan, Mexico.

For the next eight years, she taught half time screen printing, graphic design, drawing, and painting at Oakland High School and started her own hot glass blowing studio. She then returned to CCAC to earn her Masters in Fine Arts (MFA) in Glass and Painting.

This masters degree prepared her to run the Glass Area in the School of Art and Design at San Jose State University (SJSU), which she did for nineteen years until

retiring in 2005. Even after retiring from SJSU, she continued until 2012 to develop and co-head the glass studio at the Crucible in Oakland.

Since "rewiring" (Mary's word for retiring), Mary remains actively engaged in art and mentoring. She currently serves as Board member of the Women Eco Art Dialogue (WEADartists.org) and helps create exhibitions and events related to Eco art. She believes that combining art making and environmental study is a healing magical process and potion that guides people to new mutual understanding and helps them to find their true spirit.

Throughout her life she has intentionally chosen not to be a full-time glass artist. Explaining her decision to always be teaching students at least part-time, Mary said "I've never done art work as a solo venture. Teaching art to students is how I impact the world, and opening up students up to values, culture, and community." She sees teaching as not just about imparting a skill, but helping students become a whole person, which is key to the world becoming a better place. She comments that she does not regret being fully devoted to the development of her own art, although it has limited the extent to which she has been recognized in the art world.

The Artist

Mary White first came to Strawberry Creek Friends Meeting in the 1980's. Her success in our Children's Program was no surprise given her creativity and strong commitment to art as a door to becoming a whole person.



This is her description of the qualities that drew her to sculptural forms, and the medium of glass: " Glass holds metaphors for living in balance: The abilities and characteristics of glass: polarities and dichotomies: interior edges, reflections, transparency, magnification, brittle and molten, sharp and dull, smooth and rough, opaque and clear, rapid transformation to many forms."

Mary consciously integrates her values into her artistic projects in sourcing her materials. For example, she only uses recycled glass, e.g., a Richmond nursery was

scheduled for demolition not long ago and she has eagerly salvaged the greenhouse sheets of glass. For years she has collected scrap metal – current projects include using these scraps to make urban bird baths to accommodate wild birds.

In addition to art projects mentioned elsewhere, these are samples of her work (for more, go to her website <http://marywhiteglass.com>):

- In 2009 she lectured at The Studio, Corning Museum of Glass, Corning, New York, and that same year was appointed a Fulbright Scholar to teach at the National College of Art and Design in Dublin, Ireland, where for nine months she taught ceramics, glass and metals students an experimental critical thinking seminar.
- From 2013-2015 at St. Mary's College, Mary taught the January Term "Art in the Garden" class, making environmental art in the permaculture garden, including designing and building a nature trail with 28 ceramic mosaic markers.
- In 2018 she and a collaborator constructed three 18 ft. high outdoor metal/glass sculptures in the form of diodes and transistors, installed on the site of the historic Shockley Lab on San Antonio Road in Mountain View, in commemoration of the Silicon Valley birthplace.
- In 2019, she completed a large collaborative project involving ten stained glass windows commissioned by the Akataka Tribe in the Grand Bayou, Louisiana (south of New Orleans) for their church, which was finally reconstructed by Mennonite volunteers after having been destroyed by the Katrina hurricane. Mary worked with teenagers in the tribe, so the beautiful windows in the church were truly a community contribution.
- Currently, two of her photo collages related to nuclear warfare are being shown in the Women Eco Art Dialogue Iranian/U.S. exhibit *Emotional Numbness: The impact of war on the human psyche and ecosystems*.

Ghosts

Mary's connection with Ghost Ranch, New Mexico, completes a circle. When she was growing up, her father annually took the family to Ghost Ranch for family reunions and organized the Ghost Ranch sessions at Rocky Mountain Yearly Meeting. A few years ago Ghost Ranch (home of Georgia O'Keefe) invited her to teach a

glass-making class. However, shortly before she was to start, on July 7, 2015, a large storm triggered a flash flood. The glass shop was one of several facilities swept away at the Ghost Ranch art education and retreat center. For the next few years, Mary helped redesign a new glass studio, and when it was ready to occupy, she asked a native American glass-blower to partner with her in order to honor cultural traditions.

Unfortunately, Mary was only able to teach at Ghost Ranch one year. Suddenly, nature intervened again and the glass-making classes again had to be cancelled, this time due to the global pandemic corona virus.

Even so, the most significant event this year occurred May 27, 2020, when Jerry Michelin Sears her longtime partner of 32 years, died peacefully in their home, which he built with Mary. As background, at age seventeen Jerry joined the Navy and in 1957 witnessed at close range 22 atomic bomb tests near Enewetak Islands (his proximity led to radiation-related illnesses that ultimately caused his death). Following Navy duty, Jerry became a machinist, building satellite parts including intricate hinges. After the moon landing, the aerospace contracts ended, and Jerry was asked to make gun parts. He said



he would not build weapons. He was fired and blacklisted in the industry. (A follower of Gurdeiff, Jerry held deep core values that occasionally sparked work conflicts in his work life, reminiscent of Mary's father). Later Jerry moved to northern California (where he met Mary), and found work as a carpenter, saw filer, and fine furniture maker (Jerry built the large cabinet used at B-Tech for our Meeting's First Day supplies). In memory of Jerry, Mary and friends made a short film about Jerry as an "atomic vet" in 2014 and an egg shell installation in 2020. Donations in honor of Jerry may be sent to www.veteransforpeace.org

So right now is a time of transition and reflection. During this last year, besides Jerry, three other close family members have passed (her brother, her sister's spouse, and her male cousin).

Nevertheless, there is also a bright new energy in her home – her new boarder is a nineteen-year old mechanical engineering student from Beijing, and she enjoys his youthful spirit and good cooking.

Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting
Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business
November 8, 2020 Minutes*

** These are draft minutes, pending corrections/approval at December business meeting.*

Meeting for Business opened at 11:50 a.m. with silent worship and was conducted via Zoom. Elizabeth Moses Strain clerked the meeting. 46 Friends were present. Phyllis Malandra shared the reflections of the Loaves and Fishes Committee on the advices and queries on Social and Civic Responsibility. The Clerk reviewed the agenda, which had been posted by the recording clerk to groups.io on November 6.

The Recording Clerk read the minutes for the October 11th, 2020 meeting for business. The minutes were approved with the following changes:

- A typo in the paragraph about the Community Sharing Fund (under new business) was corrected.
- Announcement: The discussion of reparations was sponsored by Care of the Meeting, Peace, Earthcare, and Social Witness, and Power, Privilege and Race. (After the meeting for business, Quaker Action Worship Group was added as an additional sponsor.)

Correspondence and Clerk's Business

At the request of the clerk, per instructions from the meeting, the following committees brought forward members for an ad hoc committee to refine the plan for a Community Sharing Fund. The members will be Susan Burr (for Power, Privilege and Race), Stephen McNeil (for Care of the Meeting), Lari Keeler (for Mutual Care), Lee Douglas (for Finance), Nancy Wilkinson, as needed (Treasurer), and Larry Strain (for Peace, Earthcare and Social Witness.) Lari and Larry will co-convene the committee.

Old Business

Nominating (James Hosley) Carl Magruder was approved as SCMM's representative to College Park Quarterly Meeting.

Communications (Ragni Larsen-Orta) Based on suggestions from the Meeting and its own deliberations, the committee presented a revised job description, with two changes. First, the following sentence was added to the section on the Committee's purpose: *The guidelines, and all of the committee's contributions to the community, are intended to increase love and justice, and inclusion of unspoken voices taking care to be sensitive to personally and culturally different ways of being and communicating.* Second, the description of the newsletter editor's tasks was made gender neutral.

New Business

Worship and Ministry (Judith Schumacher-Jennings) The committee posted their proposed job description on groups.io on November 7. As she read through it, there were several comments. It was suggested that outreach be broadened to include publications such as UC Berkeley student paper (the Daily Californian), as well as the Oakland Post (which serves an African American readership.). The Committee will consider this suggestion and bring a new version for approval in December. Members with concerns should share them with the committee.

Nominating (James Hosley) Nancy Wilkinson and Philippa Barron were proposed as SCMM's representative and observer to Pacific Yearly Meeting, respectively. These names will be seasoned. Questions and concerns should be brought to the nominating committee.

Finance Committee (Richard Leath) The Committee presented a proposed budget for 2021, with alternate expense columns representing a continuing COVID lockdown and a return to in-person meetings. Since we expect to return to in-person meetings at some point in 2021, we anticipate that the real expenditures will fall between those two scenarios.

In response to questions about when we would return to in-person meetings, Judith Schumacher Jennings spoke on behalf of the Worship and Ministry Committee. Because we are an older community, we want to exert the utmost caution. There is a lot of vacillation in health guidelines, and we don't want to return to in-person meeting until we are sure that it is safe, and we are confident that the lockdown will not be reimposed.

Naming committee (Jay Cash) The following names were proposed for the 2021 Nominating Committee:

Continuing from 2020

- James Hosley (additional 2 years), co-clerk
- Ralph Murphy (additional 1 year), co-clerk

New for 2021

- Patricia Dienstfrey (2 years)
- Josh Gallup (2 years)
- Laura Miller (2 years)
- Margaret Schneider (2 years)
- Mary White (1 year)
- Diane Wolcott (1 year)

These names will be seasoned until the December meeting for business. Friends who have concerns should speak with a member of the naming committee (Jay Cash, Rhea Farley, and Cindy Trueblood)

Reports

Mutual Care Committee (Charlie Blanchard): Much of the committee's work is confidential. It considers concerns about individual members raised by committee members or by other Friends, and follows up with people who we haven't seen for a while. It also maintains a list of ready volunteers for such tasks as sending cards, driving, shopping, delivering meals. The list has not been updated since the end of 2019; you may be hearing from the Committee about your availability. The Committee recently reviewed its job description, and found no need for changes in function. They added language to explicitly reflect a perspective that had previously been implicit, which recognizes that our Meeting is not an isolated entity. Meeting is part of a larger world, not separated from it by a firm boundary. Meeting concerns may extend beyond the Meeting itself. Friends have sent Charlie helpful suggestions related to the new additions to the job description, which was circulated by groups.io on November 5th. Charlie will these suggestions to the committee for its consideration.

Events committee (Shelley Tannenbaum) The committee (Rhea Farley, and Shelley) with help from Barbara Birch, is planning a Twelfth Month gathering on zoom. It will take place December 12, 3:00 to 5:00. Look for more details on groups.io and in the newsletter.

Announcements

- Next Meeting for Business will be December 13, 2020 at 11:50 a.m.
- Ragni Larsen-Orta will be communicating regarding Western Friend subscriptions via Groups.io.
- A discussion will be hosted by Power, Privilege, and Race after worship, at 11:50 a.m. Sunday, November 15. The topic will be "Deepening our awareness of That of God in everyone after the election."

Meeting closed with silent worship at 1:35.

Respectfully submitted, Elizabeth Moses-Strain, presiding clerk
Beth Wrightson, alternate clerk, and Paul Jolly, recording clerk

STRAWBERRY CREEK MONTHLY MEETING

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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December 2020 ISSUE
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