

STRAWBERRY CREEK MONTHLY MEETING  
OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

FEBRUARY 2021  
NEWSLETTER

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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](mailto:strawberrycreek@groups.io)  
Calendar <http://www.strawberrycreekfriends.org/Calendar.html>

Current Newsletter <http://www.strawberrycreekfriends.org/pdf/newsletter.pdf>  
Distribution Sunday for paper/electronic newsletter is the last Sunday of the month  
Newsletter Deadline is the Monday preceding Distribution Sunday. **Next deadline: Feb 22**

Web Coordinator Amy Dewey [amyd@alumnae.mills.edu](mailto:amyd@alumnae.mills.edu) (to join our Listserv or create a Zoom meeting)  
Newsletter Editor & Calendar Postings Sarah Hawthorne [editor@strawberrycreekfriends.org](mailto:editor@strawberrycreekfriends.org)

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THE CALENDAR  
(activities below via Zoom)

**SUNDAYS**

**10 a.m. Meeting for Worship (every Sunday)** See next page for details.

Feb 7 Advices & Queries on Harmony with Creation – Mutual Care (worship hour)  
11:45 a.m. Quaker Action Worship Group (QAWG). Contact Betsy Morris or Asa Brown.

Feb 14 11:50 a.m. Meeting for Worship on the occasion of Business

Feb 21 9:00 a.m. Worship Sharing based on a query. Contact Bob Langfelder [boblangfelder@aol.com](mailto:boblangfelder@aol.com)  
11:50 a.m. State of the Meeting Listening Meeting

Feb 28 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 Avoteja 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 (signs if you wish). Begins with 30 minutes of silent worship.  
Berkeley Friends Meeting (BFM), Berkeley Friends Church, Strawberry Creek Meeting.  
For more information, contact Genie Stowers, BFM, [gstowers835@gmail.com](mailto:gstowers835@gmail.com)

### **Strawberry Creek Sunday Worship (Zoom)**

Strawberry Creek Friends Meeting meets for worship at 10am Sunday mornings via Zoom. The "Virtual Meeting Room" opens earlier at 9:30am. Our worship closes at 11am, followed by holding in the light those in need, announcements, and social time to share. Strawberry Creek Friends Meeting is part of a larger network of Quakers. Below are other Quaker groups and programs.

### **Berkeley Friends Meeting**

The Zoom link for Berkeley Friends Meeting Sunday worship may be found online.

<http://www.berkeleyfriendsmeeting.org>

### **Quaker Center**

Daily online meeting for worship from 7:30 - 8am.

<http://www.quakercenter.org/meeting-for-worship/>

### **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." QAWG draws from Strawberry Creek Friends Meeting, Berkeley Friends Meeting, and Berkeley Friends Church. For more information, please contact Co-Conveners Betsey Morris or Asa Brown.

### **More Quaker Worship & Programs**

The Zoom links for many online Quaker worship and programs are posted by Western Friend at <https://westernfriend.org/quaker-worship-and-fellowship-online>

### **Community Sharing Fund Working Group**

On January 31 a Listening Meeting was held to support the Meeting in its desire to establish a Community Sharing Fund through which the Meeting can contribute to the needs of those outside our Meeting. If you would like to share further ideas, contact Co-Conveners Lari Keeler (Mutual Care) or Larry Strain (Finance), or any of the other working group members: Susan Burr (PPR. Care of Meeting), Lee Douglas (Welcoming, Finance), Stephen McNeil (Care of Meeting), and Nancy Wilkinson (Treasurer).

### **PacYM Representative Committee (all invited)**

Everyone in Pacific Yearly Meeting (PacYM) is invited to this year's gathering of the PacYM Representative Committee (RepCom). This gathering is not limited to Monthly Meeting representatives. Exception: there will be a meeting of (only) Monthly Meeting Representatives on Friday evening, February 26.

PacYM will meet on two successive Saturdays:

February 27 and March 6. On both days there will be a 90-minute session in the morning and two 90-minute sessions in the afternoon. The deadline to file reports to this RepCom is Monday February 8.

Important Note: any business that committees, officers, or outside representatives intend to bring to the summer Annual Session must first be brought for a first reading to a RepCom meeting.

The theme of summer 2021 Annual Session will be "*The Power at Work Within Us: connection with the power of Spirit working within and among us.*" Proposals for Interest Groups at Annual Session are due by midnight on Sunday, March 7.

### **Integrity Investment (Western Friend)**

In this month's Western Friend (Jan/Feb 2021) issue, Strawberries Shelley Tanenbaum, Kathy Barnhart, and Rick Herbert tell their stories of participating in the movement to successfully persuade the University of California, Berkeley, to divest from fossil fuels and switch to investing in more eco-friendly alternative energy sources. See <https://westernfriend.org/article/integrity-investment>

### **Right Relationship with Native Peoples**

On Sunday Feb 7, 2-4 p.m. (Pacific Time), Friend Paula Parker (Friends Peace Teams) is offering a workshop entitled "*Roots of Injustice, Seeds of Change: Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples*". After hearing the story of colonization in the words of indigenous and Euro-American leaders, participants explore steps that we can take to build relationships with Native peoples based on truth, respect, and justice. To register, go to <https://friendspeaceteams.org/trr-2021-03-13-workshop/>

## Earthcare Testimony 10th Anniversary

Strawberry Creek Friends Meeting has had a strong interest in care of the earth for at least 30 years. To celebrate the Meeting's longstanding commitment, those interested met for two Monday evenings (January 11 and 25) to explore, ten years later, how well we are living the Meeting's Earthcare Testimony, and how this relates to the Meeting's Minute on Engagement to Uproot and Dismantle Racism.

Shelley Tanenbaum recounted a short history of our Meeting's earth-related activities. Thirty years ago there was an unofficial FUN (Friends in Unity with Nature) group who spent time together outdoors. Eventually some SCMM folks drafted and submitted to Pacific Yearly Meeting (PacYM), the document *Towards a Testimony on Unity with Nature*, which was added to the text of PacYM's Faith & Practice 2001.

When PacYM declined to consider the adoption of an Earthcare Testimony, in 2010 SCMM developed its own draft Earthcare Testimony to reflect its experience that our Meeting was already living and witnessing in the world in alignment with ecological integrity and environmental justice. To read the SCMM Earthcare Testimony, see [http://strawberrycreekfriends.org/testimony\\_earthcare.html](http://strawberrycreekfriends.org/testimony_earthcare.html)

In December 2010, Western Friend published an article on the writing process for SCMM Earthcare Testimony, and our Meeting became nationally known not only for our Nominating Process, but for our Earthcare Testimony.

Some of the many activities our Meeting has done to implement the Earthcare Testimony are its Dime a Gallon Project (with its coin-swallowing Dime-a-saur), its educational displays, its monthly Friday night video-discussions, its regional and national interest groups at Quaker Gatherings. A *Holding Earth in the Light Retreat* was held with keynote speaker Keith Helmuth. Also, the name of the Meeting's Peace and Social Witness committee was expanded to explicitly include Earthcare, now Peace, Earthcare, and Social Witness Committee. Note: This summary does not include the January 25 meeting, which occurred too late for publication.

## FCNL Priorities for New 117th Congress

Friends Committee on National Legislation has just published the following priorities for the new incoming Congress. For more information, see <https://www.fcnl.org/about/world-we-see/legislative-priorities>

- \* Promote peacebuilding by emphasizing diplomacy and honoring treaties and by working towards peaceful prevention and resolution of violent conflict, especially in the Middle East.
- \* Confront the paradigm of global militarism, demilitarize space, reduce military spending, limit the spread of conventional weapons, prevent armed interventions, repeal the Authorizations for Use of Military Force (AUMFs), and reassert Congress' oversight role.
- \* Promote nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.
- \* Advocate for a justice system that is just and equitable, eliminates mass incarceration and police brutality, and establishes law-enforcement that is community-oriented and demilitarized.
- \* Ensure that the U.S. immigration system promotes and respects the rights, safety, humanity, and dignity of all immigrants, refugees and migrants.
- \* Support equitable access for all to participate in open, secure, and transparent political and electoral processes, protect the integrity of our democratic institutions and processes, and work to ensure honesty and accountability of elected and appointed officials.
- \* End gun violence by supporting policies that are informed by public health best practices.
- \* Witness and advocate for American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian rights and concerns. Honor the treaties and promises.
- \* Address structural economic inequality through measures such as a fair and progressive tax system, a living wage for all, and an adequate social safety net.
- \* Prioritize programs that meet basic needs including universal access to quality affordable healthcare, a necessity magnified by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- \* Strengthen environmental protections and advance environmental justice, while recognizing the finite capacity of the earth and the need to protect human, animal and plant diversity.
- \* Promote sustainable, science-based solutions to the climate crisis and prioritize international cooperation to achieve global sustainability goals and protect vulnerable populations

## Spotlight Joshua Gallup



### **Family Heritage**

All his life, Joshua Gallup (Josh) has been a Quaker. In the mid seventeenth century, his Quaker ancestors on his mother's side sailed to Pennsylvania from England on the *Friendship*. They settled in Pennsylvania. His mother's parents, who were considered 'elders' in their Meeting, and his cousins, aunts and uncles, all addressed other family members with "thee" and "thy."

His father's ancestors also came to America from England about the same time. They were professional soldiers who settled in Connecticut. Josh's paternal grandfather was a Presbyterian minister and an artist who did landscape paintings. Coincidentally, both his mother and father each had an ancestor who signed the Declaration of Independence. And both were named William (William Floyd & William Williams)!

Josh's father, Howard, and his mother, Kris, met at a college dance. A friend of Howard's dared him to ask the pretty woman across the room to dance. Howard accepted the challenge. He and Kris began to date, and were married in 1949. Influenced by the Quaker values that Howard found in Kris's family, he became a Friend around the time they were married. The two were married for 70 years, until his parents both passed away in 2020.

Josh, his younger sister (now deceased), and brother, were raised in Easton, Pennsylvania, a mid-sized conservative town. His father a professor of experimental psychology at Lafayette College, Josh remembers feeding lab rats. His parents were "good liberals", who were anti-war activists and strong supporters of civil rights. During the Vietnam War, his father became a draft counselor.

Since his father was faculty, Josh had the chance to play children's roles in college stage productions. When the children were old enough for school, his mother worked part time at Easton Senior Center. For many years, she was a volunteer with Head Start. She was also very active in the life of the Lehigh Valley Friends Meeting.

During his childhood, Josh went to Meeting for Worship every Sunday with his family. As was the custom in many Pennsylvania Friends Meetings, the young people sat in Meeting for Worship for the first 20 minutes, then went to the First Day School. Note: Josh and his wife, Josie, have been attending Strawberry Creek Friends Meeting for 15 years.

### **The Iron Man**

Josh's father, Howard, was fiercely independent in many ways. Refusing to wear a suit and tie when teaching, he insisted his students call him by his first name, despite the college administration's repeated efforts to get him to conform. He taught himself to play the piano as a teenager. Only after the children were grown did he take formal piano lessons. After Howard and Kris had moved to a retirement community, Howard gave classical music concerts to a full audience of residents there, playing Chopin, Schumann, and Beethoven among other composers.

His father rode his ten speed bicycle all over Easton and out into the surrounding countryside. He was extremely proud when his bike odometer hit 85,000 miles. After he retired from teaching, he worked at a bike store, leading 100 mile community rides and

One of Josh's cousins nicknamed his father 'the Iron Man,' because, though he had been hospitalized several times, he "bounced back" as strong as ever from these medical events. Josh credits his father's longevity—he lived to be 93—to his lifelong commitment to fitness, his strong life spirit, his tenaciousness, his perseverance and his determination.

Josh, too, draws on his own determination and his ability to persevere in the face of having Parkinson's. His father's independent thinking and willingness to stand up for principles are also qualities Josh finds he can draw on in himself. But his father's drive to fulfill his own goals and passions often meant he was not sensitive to the emotional needs of those around him; these are traits Josh has worked hard not to repeat.

### **Rebel with a Cause**

As the son of progressive parents, Josh found he fit in politically less and less at Easton Junior High School. His teachers were not sympathetic to the values he began expressing against the War in Vietnam. One day, during his first month in seventh grade, Josh refused to stand up to say the pledge of allegiance to the American flag. He was kicked out of class and sent to the principal's office. He was allowed back into class only after his parents had met with the principal and backed up his right to express himself. As a consequence of their support, the principal agreed to make a deal with Josh. Josh would stand up with the other children during the pledge, though he would not be required to say it.

Josh started playing the guitar when he was fourteen. When he discovered the Beatles, he began to grow his hair long to look like George on the cover of *Rubber Soul*. Boys on the school bus and at school teased him for his long hair, calling him a 'hippy.' Outspoken against the War, Josh also wore his 'Ban the Bomb' and other anti-war buttons. In support of the growing civil rights movement at the time, he engaged in fiery discussions with everyone at school. He was regularly bullied for his values. This only increased once the other boys discovered that Josh would not fight back because of his deeply held belief in non-violence.

When Josh was fifteen, he attended George School, a Quaker boarding school in Newtown, Pennsylvania, for one year. The next year he attended a new experimental boarding school. Neither school fit his needs at the time. Although he appreciated the fact that at boarding school he wasn't bullied, Josh found he was not engaged in the academic nature of school. He says he has recently heard there is a hypothesis that early Parkinson disease traits manifest themselves in poor attention, restlessness, and inability to sit still for long periods of time. These are all traits that probably contributed to his challenges in an academic setting.

As a result of his school experiences, Josh began to realize that he was not suited to long periods of sitting at a desk. In his late teen's he explored a number of non-academic jobs that entailed physical labor. He tried his hand at a number of factory jobs, working at a textile mill in Vermont for six months, a steel mill in Pennsylvania for a week, an outboard motor factory in Maine for another six months, and a janitorial position at the Easton YWCA.

### **A Lifelong Passion for Art, Music, and Drama**

Josh muses on the many ways his mother nurtured his artistic enthusiasm from an early age. It was his mother who signed Josh and his sister up for private oil painting classes. His mother did not even object when he confiscated (!) her folk guitar and began learning to play rock and roll on it. His mother and he shared a love of folk singers as well—Harry Belafonte, the Kingston Trio, and Pete Seeger. He is

also grateful for the fact that his mother saved some of his childhood art work, gifting this treasure trove to him as an adult. He notes that in his earliest drawings, unlike most children's drawings, he was intent on using the entire paper, extending the colors even into the corners. He was an artist, even at three years old!

Though he did not take any formal acting lessons until ten years ago, Josh always enjoyed sharing himself with an audience through his dramatic writing and performing. In sixth grade, Josh wrote a play about the Walking Purchase, which was an alleged agreement between the William Penn family and the indigenous Lenape, or Delaware tribe. Josh notes that this is the only example he knows of indigenous people in North America receiving actual payment for their land. Also while Josh was in sixth grade, his teacher asked him to be the artist in charge of a class mural depicting Pennsylvania history that covered the walls of the classroom.

In junior high, Josh and his friend created a book with detailed descriptions and elaborate illustrations of a fantasy world they had invented. This world included an intentionally diverse population of people and animals like the blue people, who were called the Kaloifkens, and the Spizdoodles, who were the color of white paint. Josh's social studies projects included political cartoons as well.

In his mid-20's, Josh's passion for art surfaced again, inspiring him to attend the San Francisco Art Institute (SFAI). He majored in painting, finally able to focus deeply on his art, with ample space to make large (6'x 8') paintings. Best of all, Josh met his partner Josie when both were SFAI students.

During his years as a graduate student at the SFAI, he re-oriented his approach to art. In re-examining what art meant to him, Josh shifted from large abstract paintings to smaller, more intimate work. The inspiration for the emotional content of Josh's art often depicts isolation and draws on images of the American cowboy. The humor in his art comes out in his use of rabbits, wolves, and cows with human traits.

### **Freewheeling**

During his years as a student at the Art Institute, Josh made ends meet by working at a bicycle store, so it was a logical conclusion for him to open his own bicycle store when it was time to go to work full-time. At the bike store, Josh relied on his own skills and experience as a bike salesperson and mechanic. The bike store constituted his work life for the next fifteen years.

However, in 1995, Josh began to notice that he had slight a tremor and increasingly rigid muscles in his left arm. He realized that, no matter how hard he tried, he no longer had the manual dexterity to fit the screwdriver into the slot of a screw on a bike he was repairing. He was faced with the brutal realization

that his neurological coordination was undeniably deteriorating. This began a period of medical diagnostics.

In 1997, Josh was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease. He saw the transitory nature of life, and the inevitability of death as real, not a vague event in the distant future. This sharp realization made him quite intentional about how he was going to use his time. He had the epiphany that owning a bicycle store was not all he aspired to do, not what he wanted to do with his time and his life. He let go of the bike shop, even though he would sorely miss working with his young employees.

He turned his attention to discovering what was next, asking himself not just "what do I have the ability to do, but what is important to me?" The answer to those questions led him to the unexpected decision to re-enter the academic world from which he had previously drifted away.

### **Teaching**

To help him transition to the next stage of his life, Josh enrolled in several classes at Berkeley City College. With the support of a wonderful history teacher, Michael Mills, Josh rekindled his love for history. Josh realized if he trained as a teacher, he could join his love of history with his enjoyment of working with young people.

He soon headed back to school at the University of San Francisco, this time armed with clarity about his purpose for being there – to get a Masters Degree in Education with a teaching certificate specializing in American history. Josh noted that he has always found history so interesting because it is the telling of stories about real people. Stories, he thinks, like art and music, convey meaning. They have a strong educational and emotional impact on children. He was eager to portray history in a way that really engaged the students. In teaching history, Josh wanted to feature historical figures as whole people, with their full range of ideals and emotions.

The prospect of becoming a teacher offered an exciting opportunity to begin a new chapter in his life, one that was more compatible with the changes he anticipated Parkinson's might bring in the coming years. While getting his Masters and his teaching credential, Josh had the chance to work with children from elementary through high school. He pinpointed fourth and fifth graders (9-11 year olds) as the age group he wanted to focus on. Children of this age are "still receptive to adults, and they are interested in exploring the world." He realized he was interested in affecting children's development; elementary school teaching afforded him this opportunity.

After graduating, he began teaching at Aurora Elementary School, a small private school in Oakland. One advantage of teaching in a small school is he could design his own curriculum. During his ten

years of teaching at Aurora, he created a new history musical every year. These musical plays followed the California curriculum for fourth and fifth grades: alternating between the gold rush and California history one year, and Early American History, including the American revolution, the next. He used these plays as a pedagogical tool to teach the students as they acted parts and sang songs, thereby memorizing the historical content.

When teaching fourth and fifth graders, behavior is a central issue. In addition to using plays to teach history, Josh created short skits as an essential tool for modeling age appropriate behavior, as well as developing collaborative and respectful resolutions to problems similar to those encountered by the students in the classroom and on the school yard. Both adults and students had fun engaging. It is important to Josh that children be held accountable for their behavior; he credits his Quaker upbringing for enabling him to learn good impulse control.

Even though Josh is no longer teaching children in the classroom, there is no shortage of children in his life. Together for forty-three years, Josie and Josh have a blended family of four grown boys (all happily paired) with a total of five grandchildren.

Josh has continued to keep his hand in the world of education since he retired. He mentors one younger teacher, who has sought Josh out the last nine years for his deep understanding of how to use music and drama to enliven the elementary school history curriculum. Similarly, when the East Bay School for Boys (EBSB) first started, the head of the school asked Josh to assist him in adding music to Shakespeare's Julius Caesar, to help make the play come alive for the sixth grade boys.

### **The Lone Cowboy**

Josh's early crayon drawings and paintings often focused on super heroes (good) and threatening wolves (bad). Most of his childhood heroes were cowboys. He still has a photograph of himself at age three dressed in a complete cowboy outfit. Josh loves reading. He has gravitated toward biographies, especially stories of heroism, in which the hero overcomes challenges in order to prevail.

Josh is currently reviewing the childhood art his mother saved for him, in order to revisit themes and images he used then, incorporating them into his recent sculptures and paintings. He's once again returning to the theme of the lone cowboy. He doesn't plan his art work ahead, but instead spontaneously painting and sculpting in the moment, describing his technique as "conscious but not intentional."

His images are representational, but they arise from an emotional place rather than aiming to look like what they represent. That is, an image of his father does not necessarily look like his father looked in real life. As he's grown older Josh has been increasingly

aware of the similarities between himself and his father. He appreciates the tenacity his father had for life and his vigilance in taking care of himself. There are so many blessings that Josh feels he has had that perhaps his father did not, and these blessings enable Josh to be generous and sensitive to others, able to reach out and to listen. Through his art, Josh has been able to work on his feelings. In the weeks following his father's death on December 18, 2020, Josh has done many paintings, upwards of 25!

In his later years Josh has spent time reflecting on what it means to be masculine in our culture and what models our society holds up for young boys to emulate. The pervasive presence of violence in our society disturbs Josh deeply. He thinks the principles of non-violence are so essential, yet so unappreciated by our culture. Josh explains, "We lean too heavily on aggression, to get what we want. It's not just the physical violence, but what causes it. The roots of violence stem from many causes; in our culture, both men and women are pushed into stereotyped roles. The silent cowboy epitomizes this stereotyping. The cowboy is the strong silent type who expresses no feelings. He doesn't want help from anyone. Part of the solution is to look more carefully at how we treat our brothers and sisters." He has investigated this image of the lone cowboy even in childhood, who showed up in every picture he crayoned or painted as a child. "Being locked into that image is unhealthy."

Lately, Josh has done quite a few paintings of cowboys, attempting to portray the characteristics of how our culture defines a "real man." These last six months there's been an interesting twist. Many of his cowboy paintings include a cow, some have even left out the cowboy and only depict a cow!

### **New Frontiers (Parkinson's)**

It's been almost 25 years since Josh was diagnosed with Parkinson's. After a long period in which Josh did not have many symptoms, about five years ago, Josh's Parkinson's intensified, which, among other symptoms, made it harder for him to walk.

The increasing challenges of Parkinson's have triggered contemplation about life and death, and instilled a sense of urgency to discern what is most important. Degenerative diseases, such as Parkinson's, limit, but do not stop one's ability to express one's self, although "a change in the medium" may be required.

Thus, Josh still plays guitar and other stringed instruments, but nowadays, when playing guitar, he intentionally avoids the most awkward finger fret positions for his left hand. He makes sure he doesn't play too long at one sitting, limiting his playing time to no more than a half hour at a time. In addition, he's taking piano lessons, which doesn't require the same finger precision or pressure as string instruments do nor does piano require him to torque his left hand.

Playing piano challenges his brain to learn new skills, and stimulates the creative juices as he develops new music. Finally, he's realized with appreciation his own voice is an instrument that doesn't call for any manual dexterity!

Performing is very satisfying for Josh. Four years ago, Josh gave his first benefit performance for the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research. Each year since then he has written a script with new songs describing the most intimate aspects of what it is like to live with Parkinson's. These performances allow him to give back by raising funds for the Foundation. As he hears others, especially Parkinson's patients, share that they find his shows helpful, validating, and even moving, Josh has been more and more inspired to continue this annual tradition. Josh is especially grateful to the Strawberry Creek community, who have unfailingly come to the show and contributed generously. To date he has raised \$24,000.

Josh is also greatly relieved Parkinson's does not prevent him from painting. He recently bought forty new portrait-sized canvases, and has found water-soluble oil paint that does not produce fumes, allowing him to safely paint at home, which is full to the brim with his art work. Although he does not sell his art for money, he encourages recipients of his work to donate to Michael J. Fox Foundation.

A major factor impact on Josh's life has been his participation in cutting-edge research at UC San Francisco (UCSF). A few years ago, Josh became a pioneer as one of the first fifteen people in the world to undergo brain surgery for experimental gene therapy. This therapy has allowed him to maintain medications without increasing their dosages, a first for Parkinson's patients, who tend to need increased amounts of L-dopa through time.

In August of 2019, Josh had another brain surgery at UCSF to implant electrodes deep in the sub-thalamic nucleus of his brain. He also has a rechargeable battery implanted in his chest. This combination of electrodes and a battery implant send out electrical signals that stimulate his brain continuously. Although it is not yet understood why, this therapy has a remarkable capacity to reduce Parkinson's symptoms. The electrodes can be programmed for each patient's needs. Josh, himself, has some control over adjusting the stimulation, and modifying the intensity of the electrical impulse. When Josh notices he is having trouble talking or he's getting too tired, he has the option to make adjustments. This medical device has been in use for 20 years, there have been over 85,000 recipients. Josh's response has been very positive to date.

**Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting  
Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business  
January 10, 2021 Minutes\***

*\* These are draft minutes, for review at the February Meeting for Business.*

Meeting for Business opened at 11:50 a.m. with silent worship and was conducted via Zoom. Elizabeth Moses Strain clerked the meeting. 43 Friends were present. Kathy Barnhart shared the reflections of the Care of the Meeting Committee on the Advices and Queries on Integrity and Personal Conduct.

The Clerk reviewed the agenda, which had been posted by the recording clerk to groups.io on January 8th. It was noted that after it was circulated, the report from our Pacific Yearly Meeting Rep was added to the agenda.

The Recording Clerk read the minutes for the December 2020 meeting for business. The minutes were approved with the following changes to the section on the Yearly Report from the Power, Privilege and Race subcommittee:

- The Meeting “approved” as opposed to “passed” the Minute on Uprooting and Dismantling Racism
- The full title of that minute was inserted: Minute on Uprooting and Dismantling Racism at Strawberry Creek Meeting
- The report itself was included in the minutes

### **Correspondence and Clerk’s Business**

The State of the Meeting Report Writing Committee is comprised of: Barbara Birch from the Meeting at large, Roberta Schutz from Worship and Ministry, and Rick Herbert from Care of the Meeting Committee. A listening meeting has been scheduled on February 21st at 11:50 a.m. The clerk thanked the committee members for stepping forward.

The clerk read a message from the Peace and Social Order Committee for PacYM stating that: It was approved at the 2020 Annual Session of PacYM, that the Peace and Social Order Committee would distribute approved minutes from Monthly Meetings so that we can be more aware of how Spirit is moving within the Yearly Meeting. She then read aloud two minutes which had been shared in this manner by the Davis Meeting titled *Addressing Racism*. They were circulated via groups.io January 9th. Friends asked that the Minutes that Strawberry Creek has approved on Uprooting and Dismantling Racism in Strawberry Creek Meeting (February, 2020) and on The prohibition of nuclear disarmament (October, 2020) be forwarded to Pac YM.

Ragni Larson-Orta wrote to request transfer of membership from Visalia Meeting to Strawberry Creek. The request was forwarded to Care of the Meeting Committee.

### **Old Business**

The Community Sharing Fund working group (Larry Strain) reported that the working group recognizes that more work needs to be done to envision and develop the Fund. They have scheduled a listening meeting for January 31<sup>st</sup> and welcome input from the Meeting in preparation for it.

### **New Business**

There was no new business.



## Reports

Friends Committee on National Legislation annual meeting (Stephen McNeil) The gathered representatives adopted a statement on reparations and set the agenda for FCNL's lobbying in the coming year. Presentations, reports, and discussions are all available on FCNL's website.

Treasurer (Nancy Wilkinson) After the books for 2020 are closed, we will receive a full picture. In the meantime, here is the snapshot: Our usual annual expenses are \$50-55,000; this year our expenses were only 33,000. This year donations totaled \$46,000. The surplus will be carried forward to 2021. \$1,600 was donated to the Mutual Care Sharing fund, and \$2,200 went into the General Fund, earmarked for the Community Sharing Fund, if and when it is created.

Pac YM (Nancy Wilkinson) Now that we are in a zoom landscape, Representative Committee is convening more often, so business is being conducted in a sequential as opposed to "bunched" way. Pac YM is considering creating a half-time administrative position to assist the clerk, and youth coordinator, and (perhaps) yearly meeting's treasurer. The clerk of Pac YM strongly encourages Friends to join a threshing session considering this proposal on Saturday, Feb 6<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 to 4:30. When it becomes available, Nancy will circulate the zoom link for the session. It was noted that the new position will likely result in increased Pac YM fees.

Representative committee will be meeting the last Saturday in February, and the first Saturday in March. All are welcome.

Because we are now part of Friends General Conference (FGC), PacYM is being asked for FGC priorities. Don Cumin is collecting thoughts from Friends. Michelle Bellows is our representative to FGC.

The Western Friend website is increasingly serving a coordinating function for Pac YM. Friends are encouraged to explore its resources.

Worship and Ministry (Laura Magnani) posted to groups io. January 9<sup>th</sup> a revision of the "blue pamphlet" on spoken ministry. When we are meeting in person again, copies will be on our chairs. A friend suggested translating the brochure into Spanish.

Laura closed by reading a poem by Avotja Jiltoniro called "I know we can!" from the book Civil Liberties United: Diverse Voices from the San Francisco Bay Area.

## Announcements

- SCMM Earthcare Testimony discussion sessions, Mondays, January 11 and 25, 7:30 p.m.
- Threshing session February 6th: 3:00 - 4:30 to discuss Pac YM proposed paid administrative position
- Listening meeting for Community Sharing Fund January 31st, 11:50 a.m.
- Betsy Morris announced a phone-in January 10th for Black and Brown voices on what equity would look like in Berkeley housing policy
- The current edition of Western Friend has an article by three Strawberries (Kathy Barnhart, Shelley Tannenbaum, and Rick Herbert) on divestment from fossil fuels
- Next Meeting for Business, February 14, 2021 at 11:50 a.m.

Meeting closed with silent worship at 1:05.

Respectfully submitted,  
Elizabeth Moses Strain, Presiding Clerk  
Beth Wrightson, Alternate Clerk  
Paul Jolly, Recording Clerk

**STRAWBERRY CREEK MONTHLY MEETING**

Box 5065, Berkeley, California 94705

Phone messages: 510/524-9186

<[www.strawberrycreekfriends.org](http://www.strawberrycreekfriends.org)>

**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**

TO:

**FEBRUARY 2021 ISSUE**