

STRAWBERRY CREEK MONTHLY MEETING
OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

MARCH 2021
NEWSLETTER

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
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: March 22**

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

THE CALENDAR
(activities below via Zoom)

SUNDAYS

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

March 7 Advices & Queries on Spiritual Life – Peace, Earthcare, & Social Witness (worship hour)
11:45 a.m. Quaker Action Worship Group (QAWG). Contact Betsy Morris or Asa Brown.

March 14 **Daylight Savings!**
11:50 a.m. Meeting for Worship on the occasion of Business

March 21 9:00 a.m. Worship Sharing based on a query. Contact Bob Langfelder boblangfelder@aol.com
11:50 a.m. Power, Privilege, and Race (PPR) session

March 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.

WEDNESDAYS (ongoing)

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

THURSDAYS (ongoing)

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).

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 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.

PacYM Annual Session - Summer 2021

Pacific Yearly Meeting's summer 2021 theme 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. Any business that committees, officers, or outside representatives intend to bring then, must be brought for a first reading to a RepCom meeting. Note: the second half of PacYM Representative Committee (RepCom) is Saturday March 6, with a 90-minute session in the morning and two 90-minute sessions in the afternoon. Everyone invited.

FGC Annual Gathering June 27 - July 3, 2021

Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Concerns will gather virtually at the 2021 FGC Gathering. All are welcome. FLGBTQC is a North American Quaker faith community that affirms that of God in all people. Believing that radical inclusion and radical love bring further light to Quaker testimony and life, they draw sustenance from each other and from the Spirit for their work and life in the world. See

<https://flgbtqc.herokuapp.com>

Let's Stay In Touch! Friendly Phone Calls

By mid-March Mutual Care anticipates pairing interested folks in our Meeting for purposes of calling each other twice during the month. The following month participants will be paired with a different person. Its suggested calls be about half hour. Topics might include how and/or what you're doing during the pandemic, or your experiences with Quaker Meeting. The intent is to learn about one another in a new way, different from committee work or worship sharing. Intrigued? To participate please email Beth Wrightson by February 28.

Ixcanul film – Friends Accompaniment Team

At 7pm Friday, March 12 (via Zoom), you are invited to view and discuss the film *Ixcanul* (2015), which tells the story (in the Mayan language of Kaqchikel) of an indigenous family in the highlands of Guatemala. Berkeley Friends Immigration Accompaniment Team, including some Strawberries, recently hosted for six months, a young Salvadoran seeking asylum. For questions, contact David Rutschman (PESW).

Quaker Conflict Resolution – Tom Rothschild

Early Thursday April 1, Strawberry Tom Rothschild is presenting on *Finding the Highest Common Denominator: Organizational Decision Making and Conflict Resolution—A Quaker-Inspired Approach*. The online New York-based Dispute Resolution Roundtable is free, with pre-registration required. Email tomr@tnrmediate.com

CROP Hunger Walk 2021

This annual community walk raises money for Church World Service (CWS), an ecumenical organization that supports communities around the globe facing poverty, hunger, and/or the aftermath of natural disaster. For many years, Strawberry Creek has joined with other local Quakers. As with last year during the pandemic, the 2021 walk will not be the usual one day event, but instead lasts the week May 2-8, during which participating faith groups design their own walking protocols to maintain proper social distancing. Fund-raising will rely on CWS website (<https://cwsglobal.org>) and Facebook. Email the Walk's 2021 Treasurer: Tom Yamaguchi, tomyamaguchi@mac.com

Tom Yamaguchi on carbon pricing (recording)

If you missed Tom's Fall 2020 presentation, go to <http://www.berkeleyfriendsmeeting.org/climatechange>

Community Sharing Fund Minute (proposed)

Meeting is now seasoning a draft Community Sharing Fund (CSF) Minute by the CSF Working Group, who are Co-Convenors Lari Keeler (Mutual Care) and Larry Strain (Finance), plus Susan Burr (PPR. Care of Meeting), Lee Douglas (Welcoming, Finance), Stephen McNeil (Care of Meeting), and Nancy Wilkinson (Treasurer).

Minute to establish a Community Sharing Fund *Community Sharing Fund Working Group*

In response to Covid 19 and the current pandemic, Spirit is calling us to bring our Quaker values into the community in more real and tangible ways. The working group recommends that Strawberry Creek Meeting establish a Community Sharing Fund to begin in 2021.

Purpose:

The purpose of the Community Sharing Fund (CSF) is to support organizations in our East Bay community that are responding to the impacts of Covid 19 and the Pandemic with a particular focus on addressing the disproportionate impacts on communities of color.

Criteria for selecting organizations:

- *Organizations located in and serving the East Bay
- *Organizations and Individuals (as allowed by IRS) responding to the impacts of the Pandemic
- *Organizations serving communities of color
- *Organizations led by people of color (at least 50% to go to these organizations)

Proposed workings of the CSF

- *The CSF is a one year experiment, to be evaluated at the end of this year.
- *The proposed amount of CSF to be at least \$10,000.
- *Funds for this year are proposed to come from a one-time donation of \$4,000 from the Sharing Fund (Mutual Care), the Meeting's existing reserves, and individual donations. [The proposed Fund has received \$2,200 to date in individual donations].
- *Donations by Friends to the CSF should be above and beyond the customary contributions of Friends to support the meeting.
- *Grants will be disbursed within the year, with no strings attached, and no report back requirements.
- *Grants from the CSF can be disbursed to organizations the Meeting already supports.
- *The CSF seeks recommendations for organizations from the Strawberry Creek Meeting community.
- *The Meeting seeks to establish a personal connection with the organizations we support to as a way of reaching out to, and being part of our community.
- *The Meeting shall establish a committee to evaluate opportunities/organizations and to disburse grants on behalf of the Meeting.

College Park Winter Quarterly "Quick Notes"

Below are excerpts from CPQM notes taken by Jan Turner. For complete minutes go to <https://www.collegeparkquarterlymeeting.org>

The Quarterly is exploring whether something other than land acknowledgements might bring us into more authentic relationship with native people...

Thistle West moderated a panel on leadings. Lari Keeler spoke of their struggles in embracing their transgender identity, and their leading to become a chaplain doing Home Health and Hospice work. Melissa Lovett-Adair spoke about her work with native people on Quaker Oaks Farm. Sally Hindman told us about the Youth Spirit Art Works Tiny House Empowerment Project she started.

Lari shared that they found their way to healing work through Lari's struggles with gender identity, and the compassion it gave them for others. Today, when someone calls Lari "them," they hear "I love you." Melissa observed that people will make mistakes working in an interracial context. She has found the courage to accept correction, knowing that she will still be loved. Sally talked about the enduring support for her leading she has received many years from an anchor committee.

Quarterly Meeting discussed a name change for the Ministry and Oversight committee. Some have expressed concern that the word "Oversight" in the name is offensive to Black people due to historical connotations with overseers during slavery...

Two Black Friends indicated in the chat an opposition to the change, raising questions about how widespread the concern is. The matter was tabled, and referred back to M & O...

Mico Sorrel, the co-Clerk of the Board of the Friends Association of Services for the Elderly (FASE) ... talked about the resiliency of Friends House and its residents when faced both with a return of fires to the vicinity, as well as COVID-19. In November, the board filed the paperwork for Friends House to merge with Covia... which shares many core values of the Friends House community, and... has the financial stability to provide for Friends House in the long term...

The teen committee expressed an interest in restarting a summer Peace Action Camp for teens.

Spotlight



Jay Cash

Dutch Soil, Michigan Roots

Family Lore (The Rocking Chair)

Many families have stories passed down through generations that serve as touchstones. At the beginning of World War II, German occupation of the Netherlands involved conscription of young men for labor to support the military (not to be confused with German internment of Jews into concentration camps).

The family of Jay Cash tells of the time the Germans came to the house of his great grandmother. As she sat in her rocking chair, rocking back and forth, the Germans inspected the premises, looking for working age men. The Germans decided not to ask the older woman to rise from her chair, and so remained unaware that her two sons were hidden beneath the floor boards atop which she was rocking! And thus the family was able to escape intact.

Soon after arriving in the United States (Iowa), Jay's paternal grandfather met his wife. Together they moved to Grand Rapids, Michigan, to join an enclave of other recent Dutch immigrants. One day at a roller skate rink, their son (Jay's father) captured the eye and heart of a young woman who admired his skating skills. Soon married, they raised a daughter and four sons (including Jay) in a small town near Grand Rapids, Michigan. Much younger than all his other siblings, Jay describes his childhood as similar to that of an only child.

Jay feels life is an adventure we come here to experience. He likens it to a cruise ship for which, before we're born, we've chosen our destinations and itinerary for the trip, but unlike destiny, we can make changes during our lifetime (nothing is locked in with finality). However, deviating from the schedule is a momentous decision, and in general, it's best to go with the planned itinerary.

Jay believes we are all children of God, and each person is equal and unique. While our actions can be judged, our souls are divine and beyond human judgment. God does not want us to be servants and God does not need us to be his employees. God helps us to mature, and simply wants us to become both God's adult children and God's adult friends.

Jay's father worked in a refrigerator factory (high quality meat lockers are popular in hunting country), and his mother worked at a local grocery. Michigan manufacturing of all types declined along with the auto-industry. Workers fought back. Jay's father went on strike several times. He eventually lost his union job, and ended up in a lower paying non-union factory. Most of Jay's relatives in Michigan still work for the automobile industry, which is now mostly non-union.

Jay describes himself growing up as a "fat kid" who was frequently bullied when younger. But by high school he'd lost weight, and began to apply himself. Classmates even voted him most likely to succeed! Jay is the first member of his extended family to graduate from a university (his father completed eighth grade). At Michigan State, Jay double majored in journalism and political science. During his second year there, Jay's father died at 62.

On the Road (in the Fast Lane)

Jay remembers watching television when he was only seven years old, and seeing a Hart to Hart episode (1979-1984 crime mystery series) where the characters are driving through Napa Valley. Jay felt a sense of destiny, turned to his mother right then, and said "That's where I'm going to live." From that day forward, this intention stayed in the back of his mind.

Jay is one of only a few of his relatives to ever leave Michigan to live somewhere else. After college graduation, Jay moved to Chicago, where he was highly successful as a computer technology salesman. He had an opportunity to hang out with those living lives of luxury “in the fast lane.” But he soon realized this was “just not his thing.”

Seven years after college graduation, Jay realized it was time to move to Northern California. He naturally headed for San Francisco, where he already had friends (in fact, one time at a Christmas party he looked around the room and counted 13 people whom he had known in Michigan!).

Making a Difference (San Francisco’s Homeless)

For six years Jay worked for the San Francisco nonprofit Religious Witness (RW) with Homeless People, whose founder/Executive Director was Sister Bernie Galvin. Funded by churches and wealthy individuals, RW’s Board included prominent Jewish Temple and Catholic officials. Jay saw first hand that effective legislative change can happen when religious groups strategize, collaborate, and advocate (complicated laws restrict religious organizations’ activism).

Religious Witness achieved its goals through a diversity of dramatic public events, educational programs, and innovative strategies, including nonviolent civil disobedience. Police often issued citations to those on the street for “loitering.” Having an unpaid ticket was the basis for an outstanding bench warrant, allowing police to arrest an individual upon sight. In effect, police became an occupying force in the neighborhood; terrorizing those with outstanding warrants. Getting “quality of life” tickets dismissed was deeply satisfying for Jay

The Homeless Memorial Wall was another RW project in which Jay was involved. Few of those who die homeless ever have their life marked by a memorial service or obituary. Set up in 2005 in San Francisco Civic Center Plaza, the 94-foot-long white wooden wall bore the names of 2,000 people who died homeless in San Francisco since 1987.

In 2008 Jay left Religious Witness. Years later (after entering 15 prior city-sponsored lotteries), Jay finally won the right to occupy an affordable housing unit - coincidentally in a complex named after RW’s founder, Sister Bernie Galvin!

On the Road Again (Campaign Trail)

Next Jay joined Obama’s first campaign for President, and also founded Travel for Change, which sent hundreds of Obama volunteers around the country, locating lodging and collecting donated frequent flier miles. The final week of the campaign he was based in Colorado with several hundred people. One day as he looked around the Denver office he realized about two thirds of the volunteers there were from Northern California and he was personally responsible for bringing most of them into the campaign (many continued working on in other political campaigns). At such times Jay feels affirmed that his work, however insignificant it may feel in the moment, is making a difference.

On the eve of the 2008 election Jay was heading back to California on a plane filled with San Luis Obispo students. On board Jay was recognized, and many plane passengers expressed their gratitude for his key role in the Colorado campaign. The news broke over the plane loudspeaker that Obama had won, and the plane erupted in cheers. For Jay this moment remains a powerful memory in validating the value and impact of his hard work.

This memory is also bittersweet. Only minutes later, upon landing in California, Jay learned the devastating and unexpected news that California voters had passed Proposition 8 outlawing gay marriage. Together the passengers shared the painful experience that life is full of hard choices, as many volunteers had opted to campaign full-time for the Obama campaign in Colorado believing that “there was no way” that Proposition 8 would pass.

Jay worked on other campaigns as well, such as the grassroots effort to achieve marriage equality in Maine. Through his organization Drive for Change, Jay led volunteers throughout the east coast, from Boston and New York, to Portland, Maine. Their work paid off. Two years later (2012), Maine, Maryland, and Washington became the first states to legalize same-sex marriage by popular vote.

Through his earlier activism and the intensity involved in managing large numbers of people, complex schedules, and multiple moving parts, Jay has acquired skills and expertise that prepared him to later be a consultant to other political advocates, as well as providing a strong foundation for his current work as an events manager.

Interior Landscapes

Rocking His (Dutch Reformed) Cradle Faith

As a child Jay attended church with his parents. Like Jay's grandfather, Jay's father belonged to the Dutch Reformed Church, serving the church as a deacon and elder for over four decades. As a young man, three days a week Jay participated in church services and group activities, serving in youth choir and the Boys Brigade (similar to Boy Scouts). At age 84, his mother is still active in Dutch Reformed Church, as a Sunday school teacher and leader.

Once he left home, Jay did not stay active in the Dutch Reformed Church. Yet its basic tenets continued to influence him directly (through his parents) and indirectly (in his life philosophy).

Jay describes his parents' religious beliefs as "live and let live" with respect to others, although they strictly adhered to an upright life for themselves. They did not believe it was their job to judge or change anyone. They saw judgment as God's job. If a neighbor mowed his lawn on Sunday, that was between the neighbor and God. Given their respect for privacy, not surprisingly his parents were reticent to talk about sensitive personal matters.

During college Jay wrestled with one of the most difficult questions in his life: whether he was going to live an open and honest life as a gay man.

He decided he would always be himself. Since that day he has never looked back or felt ashamed about who he is. Jay believes both his parents knew he was gay. However, due to the stoicism and "don't talk about it" culture of the Dutch Reformed Church, his parents seldom spoke of his being gay, despite his bringing boyfriends home on holidays.

Jay appreciates that his family has supported his religious and spiritual life, even though his is different from theirs. They feel that God has led him to the right place and are very happy about his active commitment in his faith. Since Jay finds he achieves most in situations that demand he focus and require him to perform, Jay notes in some ways his parents' tolerance may have worked to his disadvantage in that he was not pushed to perform at his highest level of achievement.

"92% Quaker"

While living in Chicago, Jay discovered Buddhist meditation, but felt something lacking, especially in regard to the Buddhist concept of Karma. One day Jay took an online quiz which indicated that he was "92-percent Quaker." After reading a description provided by Britain Yearly Meeting, Jay realized that he really *was* a Quaker.

This moment of realization – that he is a Quaker – was one of the most powerful, delightful and absolutely clear moments in his lifetime so far. In fact, Jay does not consider himself to be a "convinced" Quaker. Instead, he believes he has been a Quaker "from the day he was born." He believes many people in the world are already Quakers in their hearts, but simply not aware of it yet. Therefore, practicing Quakers need to increase awareness of the Religious Society of Friends.

Quaker Sunday Meeting for Worship hour is important to Jay, who seeks to bring balance into his life through the silence. He tends not to speak during the worship hour as he considers this a time to learn through listening. When his mind wanders during worship, Jay sometimes looks around the room, noticing that "everyone is divine." Drawing on Christian imagery as a lens, he may envision each person as an angel.

Finding a Quaker Home

Jay began attending the Evanston Friends Meeting weekly while in Chicago. When Jay moved to the Bay Area, he first tried attending San Francisco Friends Meeting, but did not feel a spiritual connection there and began attending less and less.

Years later in 2006, Jay attended New Year's Retreat at Ben Lomond Quaker Center. This experience reinvigorated his interest in joining a Quaker community. He returned to San Francisco Meeting, and also visited a few other Meetings.

Upon his very first visit to Strawberry Creek Friends Meeting, Jay's spirit felt "joyfully at home." Jay feels that one important reason he is comfortable at Strawberry Creek Meeting is that it is a large Meeting, as opposed to a smaller Quaker Meeting. He began attending Strawberry Creek regularly. As Jay still lived in San Francisco, the logistics of commuting posed a barrier to his service on Strawberry Creek committees and his

otherwise actively participating in the life of our Meeting. He again explored San Francisco Meeting.

At the end of two years at the San Francisco Meeting, Jay met with a clearness committee there about whether to become a member, but concluded membership there was not the right fit for him. He returned to Strawberry Creek as his discovery of bicycling tremendously simplified the commute between San Francisco and East Bay.

In 2016 Jay became a member of Strawberry Creek Meeting. He accepts that membership includes regular attendance at business meeting and making financial contributions to the best of one's ability. Jay has served several times on Communications Committee, which has greatly benefited from his internet technology expertise. Although he has rarely been led to do vocal ministry during the worship hour, he is very comfortable making announcements after the rise of meeting and conversing during the social hour.

Quaker Center “Super Volunteer”

Jay has been involved in Quaker Center for many years (two years ago he joined its Board). He's now the Quaker Center Clerk of Development (\$100,000 has been raised this year to counter the losses caused by the cancellation of scheduled retreats due to the pandemic). Looking at his personal calendar showing Quaker Center service, Jay laughingly calls himself a “super-volunteer”.

Jay is thrilled that, due to donations and its online programs, Quaker Center has continued to be self-supporting, without debt, and able to retain its three full-time staff including co-Director husband/wife team Susan Wilson and Bob Fisher. For five and a half months the staff, not needed for retreats, were put to work clearing brush, including controlled burns in 82 acres not ordinarily accessed.

Jay is especially proud of the fact that a direct result of Quaker Center proactively investing its staff hours in fire prevention during the pandemic, when the CZU fire came Quaker Center was better prepared. Due to its top-of-the-hill position and 30k gallon reserve water tank, Quaker Center and its neighbor Sequoia Retreat Center was where fire fighters “drew the line and took a stand.” Their success in holding the line there probably was a

major factor in preventing the CZU fire from sweeping over the ridge and swooping down into the small town of Ben Lomond below. Quaker Center has currently resumed renting out its facilities to individuals and families. Jay has purchased his own yearly pass to Ben Lomond Quaker Center and hopes others will take advantage of our Meeting's annual pass.

Rear View Mirror Reflections

Jay reflects aloud that he cannot imagine who he would be if he had not discovered that he is a Quaker. He also cannot imagine who he would be without the connection and active involvement in Friends community. Being actively engaged and taking on leadership responsibilities comes naturally to Jay. He has discovered he is much more at ease on stage than in the audience, and in large groups rather than in small groups. When he has an assigned role, he's freed from being awkward, shy and self-conscious.

Over the last 25 years Jay has struggled with depression off and on. These periods of depression often follow times of intense, high energy engagements, such as political campaigns or major events. But for these struggles, Jay muses he might have gone into a more traditional profession, such as law or academics, which would probably mean that today he would enjoy greater financial security. He sometimes regrets those factors that limited his ability to pursue financial and professional success.

On the other hand, Jay appreciates his current fluid life style offers him great flexibility. In 2020 Jay's mother had a stroke, and he returned to Grand Rapids, Michigan, to live with her for four months. His time there made a real difference. She was persuaded to take long walks, participate in physical therapy, and explore the internet. Applying his technology skills to the challenge, by the time Jay left Michigan, his mother was on Facebook!!

As Jay grows older, he is giving himself more permission to “be happy” independent of whether he is “achieving.” He likes books, particularly audio-book format, especially Michael Pollan, mystery novels, short essays, and non-fiction. Jay really enjoys decorating for holidays, and often sends out a couple hundred Christmas cards!

Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting
Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business
February 14, 2021 Minutes*

** These are draft minutes, for review at the March 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. 46 Friends were present. Deborah Marks shared the reflections of the Mutual Care Committee on the Advices and Queries on Harmony with Creation. Friends expressed their appreciation for the depth of the reflections and requested that they be shared via the groups.io list serv. It was suggested that the State of the Meeting report writing group consider them as well.

The Clerk reviewed the agenda, which was posted by the recording clerk to groups.io on February 13th.

The Recording Clerk read the minutes for the January 10, 2021 meeting for business. The minutes were approved with the following changes:

- The announcement about the Earthcare Testimony in Review meetings was corrected to reflect the right dates.
- In the FCNL report, the word “reparations” was replaced with the term “redress for slavery and genocide.” An email describing the distinction was posted on groups.io February 14th.
- The PacYM report was clarified to reflect that Michelle Bellows represents PacYM, not Strawberry Creek, at Friends General Conference.
- In the PacYM report, the word “fees” was corrected to “costs.”

Correspondence and Clerk’s Business

PacYM sent a survey to clerks on how Meetings are faring through the pandemic, with a particular focus on meeting virtually. The clerk expressed relief and gratitude that the yearly meeting is supporting Meetings to look collectively at how things are going. She also appreciates the support in considering what the future might look like as we are able to gather in person again. The clerk observed that our Meeting may need a listening meeting to consider what the role of Zoom will be when we transition out of the pandemic. One Friend urged that we take these considerations up soon.

We received a letter from the Quaker Institute for the Future, which the clerk summarized, acknowledging our contribution and detailing their current projects.

At one of the two Earthcare Testimony in Review meetings in January, a Friend mentioned that Strawberry Creek’s Testimony on Earthcare includes a poem that Avotcja Jiltoniro composed, without crediting her. The meeting approved adding that attribution to the testimony, with appreciation for Avotcja’s faithfulness.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

Community Sharing Fund working group (Larry Strain) The working group brought a Minute to establish a Community Sharing Fund, which is being seasoned. The Minute asked the Meeting to establish a new group to evaluate potential recipients and disburse the funds.

Because the need is urgent, to avoid an additional month of seasoning names, the current working group was also asked to serve as a naming committee for the new evaluation and fund distribution group. Names will be posted on groups.io the week prior to business meeting, allowing for any concerns to be raised.

The Working group was also asked to propose under which committee's care this new group should reside. Friends are welcome to continue suggesting organizations that might receive these grants to the working group (Larry Strain, Lari Keeler, Susan Burr, Stephen McNeil, Lee Douglas).

Reports

Ben Lomond Quaker Center (Jay Cash) BLQM entered 2020 anticipating financial difficulties due to the pandemic. Because of significant cost cutting, and generous support from Friends, Quaker Center was able to end 2020 with a positive balance of \$1,000. Jay thanks Friends for their financial support of BLQM through this extremely challenging period.

College Park Quarterly Meeting (Carl Magruder) The Winter session of Quarterly Meeting took place January 16th. The most significant announcement was the termination of Friends House as an independent organization. It will merge into Covia, an organization with compatible values, as of March 31st due to the financial challenges of managing a small continuing care facility. We paused for a moment to hold Friends House and its special history in the light.

Worship and Ministry (Laura Magnani) A Spanish translation of the newly revised brochure on spoken ministry has been completed. The translation will be circulated on groups.io with the hope that bilingual friends will review it and offer corrections if needed.

Treasurer's report (Nancy Wilkinson) The treasurer's report on fiscal year 2020 was circulated via groups.io on February 13th. There were a few modest cost overruns and significant savings. We ended the year with a net surplus of \$13,000.

Announcements

State of the Meeting Listening Meeting February 21 at 11:50 a.m. All are encouraged to attend.

Viewing and discussion of a PBS video on the Reconstruction era, sponsored by Power Privilege and Race Subcommittee February 20, 7:30 p.m. The zoom link was posted on groups.io. (The zoom link is also on the Meeting calendar.)

Next Meeting for Business March 14, 2021 at 11:50 a.m.

The meeting closed with worship at 2:15 p.m.

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

STRAWBERRY CREEK MONTHLY MEETING

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<www.strawberrycreekfriends.org>

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

TO:

MARCH 2021 ISSUE