

**STRAWBERRY CREEK MONTHLY MEETING
OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS NEWSLETTER**

APRIL 2018

<http://strawberrycreek.quaker.org>

This newsletter can be accessed by email or at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/StrawberryCreek>

REGULAR EVENTS & CALENDAR

SUNDAYS

Meeting for Worship 10:00 AM. Held at the Berkeley Technology Academy, 2701 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, corner of Derby St., Berkeley. Religious Education (Sept–June) and childcare (year-round) provided 9:45 AM. to end of Meeting for Worship. Please arrive with children before 10:00 AM; no guaranteed childcare after 10:15 AM. After announcements, all are welcome to stay for refreshments. Please bring your own reusable cup and utensils.

Oakland Worship Group 5 PM. At the home of Karen and Peter Lin, 296 Rishell Drive. For more information, call (510) 530-0479 or visit <http://www.oaklandquakers.org>

WEDNESDAYS Mid Week Morning Worship 7:00 AM Berkeley Friends Meetinghouse, 2151 Vine Street.

THURSDAYS Mid Week Evening Worship 7:00 PM in the parlor at Berkeley Friends Meetinghouse.

SUNDAY, Apr 1

Advices and Queries on Personal Relationships read by Worship and Ministry Committee during the first 15 minutes of meeting for worship

Twelve Step Meeting. 12:00 PM. Anyone in any 12 step group is invited. Contact Darcy Stanley at (415) 595-2348 or darcy393@gmail.com

Quaker Political Action Worship Group 11:45 AM and Mondays at 10:00 AM. Contact Laura Boles (boles9552@gmail.com)

WEDNESDAY, Apr 11 (2nd Wednesdays) 6:00-8:30 YAF (Young Adult Friends) Monthly Meeting at Berkeley Friends Meeting. Contact Cat Schmidt at hi@cath.land for information.

SUNDAY, Apr 8

Business Meeting 11:50 AM

SUNDAY, Apr 15 Worship Sharing 9:00 AM

YAF Lunch 12:30. To RSVP or get information email Cat Schmidt, hi@cath.land.

Quaker Film Series 1:00 2151 Vine St. Berkeley, CA. See below for more information.

SUNDAY, Apr 22 Committee Sunday

SUNDAY, Apr 29 Newsletter Deadline for May newsletter@strawberrycreekquakers.org

SUNDAY, May 6 Advices and Queries on Harmony with Creation read by Nominating Committee during the first 15 minutes of meeting for worship

Twelve Step Meeting 12:00 PM. Anyone in any 12 step group is invited. Contact Darcy Stanley at (415) 595-2348 or darcy393@gmail.com

Quaker Political Action Worship Group 11:45 AM and Mondays at 10:00 AM. Contact Laura Boles (boles9552@gmail.com)

News and Announcements

Strawberry Creek Meeting Calendar

Contact the newsletter editor at newsletter@strawberrycreekquakers.org, to get your event listed on the calendar. The calendar can be found on the Strawberry Creek web site, <http://strawberrycreek.quaker.org/calendar.php>, on our Facebook Page and in the Facebook Friends Group.

SCMM Friendly 7s

The first round of Friendly 7s dinners has already started, but watch your email for an announcement for a second round. Friendly 7s are small potluck dinners where seven (or so) Friends (one host and guests) collaborate on a meal/social gathering on a weekend night in the host's home. In the next round, the groups may be organized in a different way because of feedback, so stay tuned for announcements about that.

FCLCA Fundraiser Apr 1

Join in a community exchange to benefit FCLCA (fclca.org). Bring your household treasures for a 'silent auction' to benefit our Quaker voice in Sacramento. Nice clothes, jewelry, art work, toys (no stuffed animals), small appliances, housewares in good condition, food, plus services will be accepted. Direct your questions to Shelley at sheltanen@att.net, 510-926-2728.

SCMM Group Photo Apr 8

Al Thompson will take our group photo, so don't forget to wear colorful clothing.

Worship-Sharing Queries* Apr 15 9:00 a.m.

1. Reflect on an especially valuable meeting for worship that you attended; what happened during that meeting? What made it such an important experience for you?

2. What does "gathered meeting" mean to you? Have you experienced a gathered meeting? If so, describe.

*Adapted from *The Gathered Meeting*, by Steven Davison, PHP 444, 2017.

Adult Education Apr 15 Noon Harvesting Your Life's Wisdom

Friend Janet Piggins will lead a discussion and exercises based on the book *From Age-ing To Sage-ing: A Profound New Vision of Growing Older* by Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi.

"I have come to find that a more appropriate metaphor for aging is a staircase — the upward ascension of the human spirit, bringing us into wisdom, wholeness and authenticity. Age not as pathology; age as potential." -Jane Fonda



Quaker Films Series BFM Apr 15

20th Century Quaker Documentaries II looks at various Quaker organizations, including the Friends Committee on Legislation of California.

Quaker Action Worship Group (QAWG) Booth at the March for Science Oakland Apr 14, 11-4.

Location: Lake Merritt Amphitheater, between 12th Street and 1st Ave., Lake Merritt Blvd. QAWG will be sponsoring a booth with brochures about Quaker environmental activism on caring for the earth. All three Quaker meetings/church in the East Bay will be participating. The March for Science is non-partisan, and dedicated to the concept that facts do matter. These are crucial to the health and safety of all life on our planet: research, STEM education, public access to data, data-driven decision-making, and diversity in scientific leadership. See more at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/march-for-science-bay-area-tickets-43422911096>. For more information about the booth and other QAWG activities, email Laura Boles at boles9552@gmail.com.

Memorial Meeting, Micki Graham Apr 15, 2:00 Berkeley Friends Meetinghouse.

For information please contact Elizabeth Moses Strain, 510.529.1213 or emstrain@pacbell.net

Friends and the Indian Boarding Schools: Truth, Reconciliation, and Healing Apr 16, 7:00, BFM

Native Americans continue to suffer the consequences of forced assimilation by means of Indian boarding schools in the 19th and 20th centuries. They are asking the churches that actively collaborated with the federal government's racist policies to contribute toward healing processes by doing research on their roles during the Indian boarding school era. Truth-telling is a first essential step in the truth, reconciliation, and healing process that they envision.

Paula Palmer, under the care of Boulder Meeting, has been doing research on Quaker-run Indian boarding schools, and will present her findings this evening, so that Friends can reflect on the consequences for Native American communities and the meaning of this history for the Religious Society of Friends today. What role will Friends today play in the movement for truth, reconciliation, and healing? Financial support for her ministry needed: checks can be made out to "Boulder Friends Meeting" under whose care her ministry falls. Checks are being collected by Stephen McNeil (415-350-9305). For more information: <https://www.boulderfriendsmeeting.org/ipc-boarding-school-research/#> and Friends Journal, October 2016

Memorial for Joan W Bazar Apr 21, 2:30

There will be a celebration of life of Joan W. Bazar, journalist, psychologist, mother, and activist. Joan Bazar was a former attender of Berkeley Meeting and mother of Strawberry Creek Meet attender, Julia Bazar. Location: First Unitarian Church of San Jose Hattie Porter Hall, 160 North Third Street, San Jose, CA 95112. See our Google calendar for more details.

SCMM Spring Retreat May 4, 4:00-May 6, mid-day at Quaker Center in Ben Lomond, CA.

Everyone is welcome, but newcomers to SCMM are especially encouraged to attend. There are sliding scale fees, so anyone can participate. Contact Zoe Koehler (zkoehler@gmail.com) for details and to register by 4/22.

SCMM Electronic Resources for Information or Connection

Strawberries have two ways to get information from the internet:

1. Our website is an outward-facing, mostly static, informational online site intended to let people know about who we are, what we do, and how to find us. You can see it at this web address: <http://strawberrycreekfriends.org>
2. Our Google calendar is a frequently updated resource for Strawberries to find out what is happening daily, weekly, monthly, or yearly in the Meeting. See below for more information.

Strawberries have two ways to communicate and connect with each other online:

1. The email group (aka Yahoo group or listserv) is for making announcements and sharing about upcoming events pertinent to the life of the Meeting. This tool is not meant to generate back and forth discussion as those who have joined this email group usually expect a limited number of emails tailored to provide only essential information. You must belong to the group to see the emails. Anyone who belongs to the email group can send an email to strawberrycreek@yahoo.com and the email will be delivered to those in the email group, although at times there are delays. If you forward something to the group, identify yourself as the sender, especially if your email address doesn't match your name. Please tell anyone in the Meeting who wants to be added to the email group to contact Jay Cash at jonahcash@gmail.com
2. The Facebook group (Strawberry Creek Friends Group) is a way for those on Facebook to discuss topics of interest, develop conversations or chat, or post pictures of Meeting events. Anyone already on Facebook can search for the group by name and send a request to join. Talk to Barbara Birch (birchcarl@live.com) for information.

FAQs about our Meeting Calendar

How can I find out what events are happening in our Meeting? You can find information about Meeting events on our calendar.

1. There is a link to the calendar on our website at <http://strawberrycreekfriends.org>. Just click on the tab that says "Calendar" at the top.
2. You can also find a link to the calendar on our Facebook Page at <https://www.facebook.com/StrawberryCreekFriends/>

3. You can also go directly the calendar on Google if you type in this long address: https://calendar.google.com/calendar/embed?src=ld7re3b3t8hqem22t6soqohpus%40group.calendar.google.com&ctz=America/Los_Angeles

Once you get to the calendar site, you can bookmark it so that all the information is yours at a single click.

How can I get something added to the Meeting calendar? Events on the calendar must be directly related to the life of the Meeting community.

1. If you want to add an event to the calendar, first go to the calendar to make sure it is not already listed there.
2. If the event is listed there, check to make sure the information is correct.
3. If the information is incorrect or incomplete, send an email with changes to your Newsletter Editor at newsletter@strawberrycreekquakers.org.
4. If your event is not listed on the calendar already, send the information about who, what, when, where, and why to your Newsletter Editor at newsletter@strawberrycreekquakers.org. Make sure to add your contact information for questions.

Quaker Center News

We welcome all kids entering 5th - 9th grades for Quaker Service and Art Camp, June 23-30, 2018. Join Camp Co-directors, Julian Garrett and Nate Secrest, camp staff and seasoned Friends to experience a multi-generational community through fun activities, explore Quaker practices through town meetings, experiential learning, inter-generational kitchen and cleaning crews, games and music. Learn more and register your child by June 1st at <http://www.quakercenter.org/youth-camp/>.

Take steps Toward Right Relationships with Native Peoples from April 13 to 15th with Paula Palmer. What can we learn from Quaker history? From some good examples? From Native people themselves? Beginning with an historical overview of genocide and colonization, to the role Quakers played in this history, to examples of positive processes for peacemaking, truth and reconciliation and restorative justice. Register early at <http://www.quakercenter.org/toward-right-relationships-with-native-peoples/>.

BEN LOMOND QUAKER CENTER (CA) is accepting applications for two full-time Co-Director positions beginning spring 2019 to provide spiritual leadership to West Coast Friends. Seeking applications from couples or two individuals. LGBTQ & persons of color encouraged to apply. See the Quaker Center website to review the job description. <http://www.quakercenter.org/about-us/employment-opportunities/>

Affiliation with Friends General Conference (FGC)

At Pacific Yearly Meeting Annual Session in 2017, Ministry and Oversight Committee (M&O) brought forward the question of FGC affiliation, and prepared materials to aid in our discernment at the 2018 Annual Session. M&O is asking monthly meetings to reflect on these queries:

- What could Pacific Yearly Meeting and your monthly meeting gain by affiliating with FGC?
- What undesirable consequences might result from affiliating with FGC?
- What additional information would be helpful to members of your meeting in considering the pros and cons of affiliation?

PYM wants meetings to season this matter in order to help them prepare for a deep, well-grounded discernment at the 2018 Annual Session.

Meeting clerks are asked to send a summary of the reflections arising from the seasoning process to M&O member Shan Cretin by April 30, 2018.

This is a link to find out more about this topic, including Frequently Asked Questions.

<https://www.pacificyearlymeeting.org/2018/documents/pym-committee-reports/ministry-and-oversight-committee-docs/additional-information-about-fgc-affiliation-and-a-request-for-monthly-meetings-to-season/> If you have questions, please see Lari Keeler, larissa.keeler@gmail.com.

Can Quakerism Survive?

An excerpt From February's *Friends Journal* by David McCormick

How can we speak truth to ourselves if we deny its existence? I worry that we are in denial about a truth that threatens Quakerism's survival. Membership in many of our yearly meetings has been shrinking for decades. There are relatively few young members and attenders, and many (if not most) of our meetings are primarily made up of aging baby boomers. When they are gone, there will likely be a sudden decrease in overall membership—maybe even a collapse—because there won't be younger people to replace them. If membership continues to decrease, Quakerism in the United States will eventually die out.

The urgency of this problem struck me this past summer, when I attended Pacific Yearly Meeting for the first time. Although it was fulfilling and I was glad that I went, I expected to see at least some time devoted to the problem of dwindling membership. None was. I also have seen little about it in Quaker magazines, books, and pamphlets. This is what leads me to suspect that we avoid speaking truth to ourselves about our future—that we don't want to face it. Acknowledging and dealing with the real threat to our existence may be so anxiety provoking that we ignore it and instead focus inward on less threatening topics....

<https://www.friendsjournal.org/can-quakerism-survive/> (retrieved 3/15/2018)

Advices and Queries for the Month of February: Social and Civic Responsibility

It would go a long way to caution and direct people in their use of the world, that they were better studied and knowing in the Creation of it. For how could [they] find the confidence to abuse it, while they should see the Great Creator stare them in the face, in all and every part thereof?

William Penn, Some Fruits Of Solitude, 1693

God is revealed in all Creation. We humans belong to the whole interdependent community of life on earth. Rejoice in the beauty, complexity, and mystery of creation, with gratitude to be part of its unfolding. Take time to learn how this community of life is organized and how it interacts. Live according to principles of right relationship and right action within this larger whole.

Be aware of the influence humans have on the health and viability of life on earth. Call attention to what fosters or harms earth's exquisite beauty, balances and interdependencies. Guided by Spirit, work to translate this understanding into ways of living that reflect our responsibility to one another, to the greater community of life, and to future generations.

In what ways do I express gratitude for the wondrous expressions of life on Earth?

Do I consider the damage I might do to the Earth's vulnerable systems in choices I make of what I do, what I buy, and how I spend my time?

In our witness for the global environment, are we careful to consider justice and the well-being of the world's poorest people?

Does our way of life threaten the viability of life on Earth?

Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting
Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business
March 11, 2018 Minutes

The Meeting opened at 11:55 with silent worship. Ralph Murphy clerked the Meeting. Thirty-six Friends were present.

David Rutschman shared responses from the Peace, Earthcare, and Social Witness Committee to the Advices and Queries on Stewardship and Vocation. Friends returned to worship for further reflections.

The minutes for the February 11, 2018 Meeting for Business were approved with the following corrections in New Business C. Nominations, “position now vacant due to the inability of the 2017 Observer to serve as the 2018 Representative.; in D. Memorial Minute for Barbara Graves, “The Meeting approved the minute. It thanked Barb Tittle, Joyce Samati, Laura Magnani, Deborah Marks, and Mary White for their service on the memorial.” and in Announcements, deleted the one about Betsy Morris as it had already appeared in the January minutes.

The agenda was reviewed. Correspondence consisted of a thank you from Friends Journal for our \$150 donation. The Western Region Christian Friends Conference is meeting March 17th at Berkeley Friends Church.

Old Business:

Nomination (Nominating Committee, Charlie Blanchard) Charlie Blanchard reported that the Nominating Committee had heard no concerns on the nomination of Lari Keeler as Pacific Yearly Meeting (PYM) Representative for 2018. A nomination for the 2018 Observer is forthcoming. The Meeting approved the nomination of Lari Keeler as PYM Representative for 2018.

New Business:

State of the Meeting Report (Rick Herbert, Kathy Barnhart and Phillipa Baron, writing group) Rick Herbert read the third iteration of the draft. The Clerk asked that edits be sent via email to the writing group so that Business Meeting consideration can be shortened. Two concerns were raised: one about the Meeting’s ability to accept differences in the description of the challenge of an “attender who spoke out in support of the President and racial divisions.” More exposition seemed to be needed in the concluding sentence. The report will come back to the April meeting for business.

Friends Committee on National Legislation Priorities (Stephen McNeil, Peace, Earthcare and Social Witness Committee) Stephen McNeil called attention to the draft priorities statement. These came out of the PESW Committee meeting on February 25th which had a dozen in attendance. Friends will have another chance to contribute on the adult education forum on March 18. After discernment, up to seven suggested priorities will be brought to the April meeting for business.

Membership Request of Janet Piggins (Care of the Meeting Committee, Rhea Farley) Rhea Farley read the membership committee report recommending membership. Rhea Farley, convener, Jed Appelman, Phillipa Baron, and Lari Keeler served on the membership committee. The recommendation will season for one month, with any concerns to be brought to the Care of the Meeting Committee.

Reports:

Shelley Tanenbaum on Her Ministry: Shelley Tanenbaum noted that she had resisted the idea of having an Anchoring Committee for years. She now feels that having one is a valuable base of support in the Meeting. She thanked her committee comprised of Elaine Emily, Judith Schumacher-Jennings and Stephen McNeil. They meet approximately every six weeks. She reported her current vocation as General Secretary of Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW) stemmed from her time on the PYM Board of the magazine Earthlight, an ecospiritual publication. She became an environmental scientist through an interdisciplinary program at UC Berkeley (during which she also met her husband). But the origins of her ministry really sprang from her experiences in

nature -- through sailing, camping and hiking in the West. Just being in nature and appreciating it as a lived experience formed the basis of her leading. Even as a teenager in Los Angeles 10 miles from the Pacific Ocean, her heart opened to that larger and deeper reality which nature brought to her. As head of QEW, a network of Friends for eco-integrity and environmental justice, it is the awakening to the spiritual basis of that of God in everyone and everything that sustains her. Her focus is on environmental justice, on lifting up the voices of those most negatively impacted by environmental injustice. She also had been supported through her decade with the Quaker Institute for the Future where projects in the summer are worked upon in worship sharing time. She is currently bringing environmental concerns to the Friends Committee on Legislation-CA as a new Board member and as a General Committee member of the Friends Committee on National Legislation. She expressed appreciation to the Meeting which has afforded her, as a shy person, roles that have led her to increase her skills in clerking and speaking. She said she is fortunate to be able to work on her life's passion. Friends expressed appreciation and also a challenge that racism pure and simple, not "environmental racism" must be addressed. The Meeting thanked Shelley for sharing her ministry which we held in the Light.

Nominating Committee (Charlie Blanchard) Charlie Blanchard reported that the slate for 2018/19 will be presented. The Committee sometimes sees gifts in you that you do not see, so do consider the asks for service. If you haven't been called or called back, now is the time to connect with the Nominating Committee.

PYM Representative Committee Report (PYM Representative, Lari Keeler) Lari Keeler attended "RepCom" at Orange Grove Meeting last weekend. The PYM theme is "Faithfulness: A Call to Practice Radical Vulnerability and Love," with the session running Friday July 13 to Wednesday July 18. One question the Meeting is asked to ponder (not come to any consensus) is should PYM join the Friends General Conference. This would increase the annual contribution per individual by \$2.42. The Clerk is invited to send in a reply to this question by April 30th. The Clerk noted that Care of the Meeting Committee has been considering this question. If you have some input, please send to the Clerk (Ralph Murphy) or the Clerk of Care of the Meeting Committee (John McCarthy). Several sections of the revised Faith & Practice will soon be posted on the yearly meeting website and we are invited to respond to those drafts. And go to Yearly Meeting! Registration will soon be open.

Finance Committee (James Hosley) James Hosley reported that if the Meeting supports an organization, someone in the Meeting needs to be connected to that organization. The Friends World Committee on Consultation – Section of the Americas no longer has someone connected to us. Paul McCold volunteered to take on that relationship. The Meeting thanked Paul.

Announcements:

Tom Yamaguchi reported that the Spring meeting of the College Park Quarter is at Quaker Center Ben Lomond (QCBL) May 18-20. The CROP Walk is on April 29th.

Elizabeth Moses Strain noted that on April 14th at 2 pm at the Berkeley Friends Meeting, Janet Piggins will hold a session on "From Aging to Saging."

Susan Burr announced that on Monday April 16 at 7 pm at Berkeley Friends Church (?) Paula Palmer will present a slideshow and talk on Quaker Indian Boarding Schools.

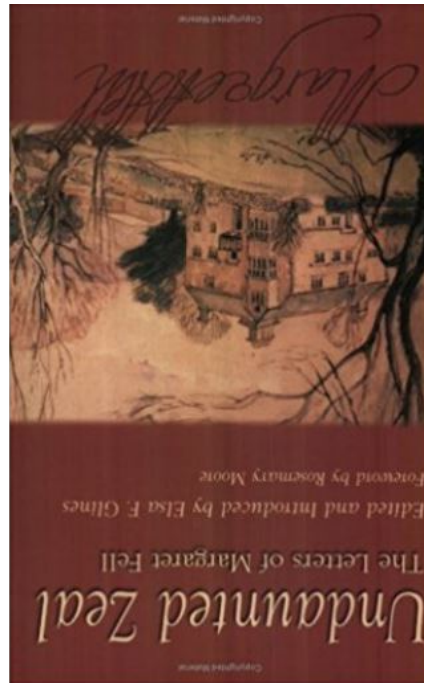
Cindy Trueblood asked if anyone was going to QCBL on March 19-24 who might take Matthew?

Avotja Jiltonilro again thanked all for the Caribbean relief efforts.

The Meeting closed at about 1:50 p.m. with silent worship

The next Meeting for Business will be held on April 8, 2018, at 11:50 a.m. at the Berkeley Technology Academy.

Submitted by: Ralph Murphy, Clerk, Leonard Joy, Acting Alternate Clerk, and Stephen McNeil, Recording Clerk.



STRAWBERRY CREEK MONTHLY MEETING

Box 5065, Berkeley, California 94705

Phone messages: 510/524-9186

<strawberrycreek.quaker.org>

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

FIRST CLASS MAIL

TO:

April 2018 ISSUE

TIME VALUE