

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

DECEMBER 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. Berkeley Technology Academy, 2701 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, corner of Derby St., Berkeley. Religious Education provided 9:45 AM to end of Meeting for Worship. Please arrive with children before 10:00 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>

MONDAYS Quaker Action Worship Group (QAWG) 10:00 a.m. For location, contact Laura Boles ([boles9552@gmail.com](mailto:boles9552@gmail.com)).

WEDNESDAYS Mid-week Morning Worship 7:00 AM Berkeley Friends Meeting, 2151 Vine Street.

THURSDAYS Mid-week Evening Worship 7:00 PM Berkeley Friends Meeting, 2151 Vine Street. Contact Fred Gey for information at [fgey@comcast.net](mailto:fgey@comcast.net).

### SUNDAY, Dec 2

Advices and Queries on Simplicity read by Communications Committee during Meeting for Worship  
Quaker Political Action Worship Group 11:45 AM (See below.) Contact Laura Boles ([boles9552@gmail.com](mailto:boles9552@gmail.com))

SUNDAY, Dec 9 Business Meeting 11:50 AM

SUNDAY, Dec 16 Worship Sharing 9:00 AM

Adult Education Session (See description below.)

Quaker Film Series 1:00 2151 Vine St. Berkeley, CA (Check Berkeley Mtg calendar.)

Newsletter Deadline for January [newsletter@strawberrycreekquakers.org](mailto:newsletter@strawberrycreekquakers.org)

SUNDAY Dec 23 Committee Sunday after Meeting for Worship

Paper copy and electronic newsletter distribution.

### SUNDAY, Jan 6

Advices and Queries on Social and Civic Responsibility read by Care of Meeting Committee during Meeting for Worship

Quaker Political Action Worship Group 11:45 AM Contact Laura Boles ([boles9552@gmail.com](mailto:boles9552@gmail.com))

## News and Announcements

### Strawberry Creek Meeting Calendar

Contact the newsletter editor at [newsletter@strawberrycreekquakers.org](mailto:newsletter@strawberrycreekquakers.org), to list your event on the calendar. The calendar is on the Strawberry Creek website (<http://www.strawberrycreekfriends.org/Calendar.html>), on our Facebook Page and in the Facebook Friends Group. Please bookmark it so you can check it easily!

### George Lakey Presentation Nov 30, 7:15 PM

Friend Lakey's new book called HOW WE WIN: A Guide to Nonviolent Direct Action Campaigning will be released in Nov 2018. It can be purchased at <https://www.mhpbooks.com/books/how-we-win/>. Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting will be hosting at Berkeley Meetinghouse. The title of the talk is "The Quaker Legacy of Action Campaigning."

Contact Shelley Tanenbaum with questions ([sheltanen@att.net](mailto:sheltanen@att.net))

### **QAWG Worship Sharing Dec 2, 12:00**

After rise of Meeting, the Quaker Action Worship Group invites Strawberries to a worship sharing on the experience of male privilege, as part of an ongoing effort



to address the hurt and pain expressed in Meeting a while back in response to the

Kavanaugh hearings. Old wounds were opened, and Love and Light are great healers. The query is still being discerned, but it will be along the lines of: how has male privilege affected your spirit? No query can encompass ALL the complexities of patriarchy; all we can do is create space and silence for Spirit to speak, and slowly begin to excavate.

### **12th Month Gathering Dec 8. 5:00-8:00**

All are invited to our annual 12th month Gathering, at the Albany Community Center, located on the northwest corner of Marin and Masonic in Albany. (music from 5-6, potluck from 6-8). Bring musical instruments, songs to share, and a dish for the Potluck. A volunteer is needed to organize the musical portion. Contact Shelley to volunteer. ([sheltanen@att.net](mailto:sheltanen@att.net)). There are ovens available to keep food warm (full commercial kitchen). Please label your potluck offering.

### **Worship and Ministry Adult Ed Session Dec.16**

Topic: JESUS, or how do we in Strawberry Creek Meeting weave Jesus into our spiritual lives, if we do at all? Come to a panel of Strawberries with different spiritual experiences of Jesus. We'll share our own experiences, which have been shaped by the past, in many cases. We welcome a range of perspectives. The session will be after meeting for worship and social hour.

### **College Park Winter Quarterly Meeting Jan 16**

will be held at Redwood Forest Friends Meeting in Santa Rosa with guest speaker Brent Bill, Quaker author and minister. He has written and co-written many books on topics of interest to Quaker spirituality as well as than 100 short stories and non-fiction articles. If you are interested in leading an Interest Group, please communicate with Janet Leslie, Assistant to the Clerk. <[janles@iqc.org](mailto:janles@iqc.org)>

### **Young Adult Friends Group**

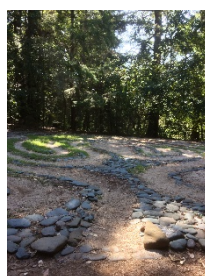
Berkeley Friends Meeting has a Young Adult Friends group which meets twice a month for people between the ages of about 18 to 40 to get together. For information, contact Jessie Mitchell at [jessicarosemitchell527@gmail.com](mailto:jessicarosemitchell527@gmail.com) or (845) 464-3911, or Keenan (530) 204-8939. If you are interested in being a Strawberry Creek contact person for the Young Adult Friends, please let someone at the Welcome Table know.

### **SCMM responds to #Metoo**

On the first Sunday of November, QAWG held a worship-sharing session with the query: How has your spirit been affected by masculinity? The initial group divided into a male group and a female group, and then came together for a joint "harvesting" session at the end. QAWG, along with the clerks of Care of Meeting, Worship and Ministry and Mutual Care are considering next steps together.

### **Welcoming and Inclusion Working Group News**

The Welcoming and Inclusion Working Group is working on a couple of things of interest this coming year. First, as a result of feedback from a number of Friends, the working group is looking into ways to make our indoor eating situation more inclusive, especially for people in wheelchairs. The working group is experimenting with



several options. First, the chairs for Meeting for Worship are being set out as close as possible to the North side of the room, leaving more space around the door. Second, the library table with the folders is placed against the wall on the North side and the other table is placed in front of the storage cupboard. This leaves more space for the Loaves and Fishes tables in the

center of the room. A Friend from Loaves and Fishes has the duty to remind Friends to take their food and move away from the table to continue conversations if they can't remember on their own. Due to the bad air quality, these options were put into effect on a trial basis rather spontaneously in November. Most Strawberries seemed to find the new arrangement more spacious, but feedback or suggestions are always welcome.

The Welcoming and Inclusion Working Group is also looking into a different banner for the outside. This banner will be waterproof, two-sided, and easy to move around and store in the cupboard. The message on the banner is likely to be something simple like Strawberry Creek Friends Meeting (Quaker) Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m. The old banner will be retired, although we are hoping to find a way to keep using it. Susan Strong is working on a history of the handmade banner and if you wish to help her, please contact her. Please contact someone from the Welcome Table if you have any feedback or suggestions.

### **Fall Retreat Report**

Everyone had a fun and meaningful time at the SCMM Fall Retreat on November 10th, with about 40 participants. A huge thank you to Peni for hosting the retreat in her beautiful community building at Redwood Gardens. There was a Worship Sharing session in the morning and an opportunity to connect one-on-one in the afternoon in an activity called Concentric Circles. In the morning, Strawberries enjoyed bagels, with coffee made by Phyllis and in the afternoon, they had the delicious lunch of paella made by Victoria. Thank you everyone for helping make this gathering possible.

## News from Ben Lomond Quaker Center

Quaker Center is looking for new Co-Directors, to begin in March of 2019. Check out the job description at <http://www.quakercenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/2018-Director-Team-Job-Description.pdf>. Applications are being accepted until Dec 7, 2018. Qualified individuals and couples may apply.

## PESW: What is thy Witness?

Friend Dick Strong shared his witness, an outgrowth of a life spent in the fields, and focused on food and farming. From the age of 3, he had the idea of becoming a cowboy. He got experience with cattle, hay, poultry and grain on California farms, ranches, pack stations, but it was helping Nevada ranchers with salt, drainage, and erosion in the Soil Conservation Service where he got involved in soil health as a worthy cause. At the age of 31, he served as the manager for Deep Springs College. He studied at various colleges, worked for a number of government agencies, the cattle association. He has always been an advocate for justice, equality, and conservation.

In 1970 he worked at the California Farm Bureau, an ultra-conservative farm organization representing real estate, agri-business, and chemical interests. Dick campaigned for integrated pest management, soil health, marketing cooperation, fair pricing, food safety, conservation and land use justice. He wrote a monthly rice newsletter that dealt with the world rice situation,

economics, and farm management. Dick was fired from the Farm Bureau when his activities as an organizer for a land conference were "outed." After that, he did some freelancing on salmon fishing, food safety, and environmentally sustainable farming techniques.

In the 1980s, Dick worked with Jan Hartsough, a pioneer in food activism, at AFSC. Their first project had to do with farmers markets and organic farming, opening the first market at United Nations Plaza in San Francisco. By the late 80s, Jan and Dick switched to working with a low-income food buying club called Self Health and Recourse Exchange (SHARE), which was a nationwide organization. The chapter they organized went up to 18,000 members from Fresno to Redding in 5 years. Dick taught courses on the American Food Chain at Stanford and Cal. Since 1994, Dick has had a company called Voice of the Soil, which he began while working on a salt problem in Peru. His company also works with community gardens and schools.

In 1971, Dick began to attend Berkeley Friends Meeting. Since 2001, Dick and Susan have been with Strawberry Creek Friends Meeting. He represented SCMM in the East Bay Sanctuary Covenant as the secretary of the board. Currently, Dick is writing. He wrote a paper on World Food, which he presented at the Quaker Institute for the Future. Now he is working on a paper on pastoralism in arid areas of the world.

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

In the words of William Penn, *"True godliness don't draw men out of the world, but enables them to live better in it and excites their endeavors to mend it."* Elsewhere he commented: *"It is a reproach to religion and government to suffer so much poverty and excess."*

Poverty within a wealthy society is unjust, cruel, and often linked to skin color, gender, and language. We must examine our own privilege and role in the economic order that deepens this disparity. Friends should be alert to oppression and injustice, and persistent in working against them.

We value our part in shaping the laws of our country. Our task is to see that laws serve God's purposes and build a just social order. Our first allegiance should be to God, and if this conflicts with any compulsion of the state, we serve our country best by remaining true to our higher loyalty.

If, by divine leading, our attention is focused on a law that is contrary to God's law, we must proceed with care. Before acting, Friends should pray for further guidance and speak with the Meeting, family members, and all those who might be affected by the decision. If a decision involves disobedience to the law, we should make the grounds of our action clear to all concerned and be prepared to suffer any penalties without evasion. As a community, we must care for those who suffer for conscience's sake.

- *What am I doing to carry my share of responsibility for the government of our community, nation, and world?*
- *Am I persistent in my efforts to promote constructive change?*
- *How do we attend to the suffering of others in our local community, in our state and nation, and in the world community?*
- *Do we try to understand the causes of suffering, and do we address them as a Meeting?*
- *How do we, individually and as a Meeting, support the organizations that work to bring the testimonies of Friends into reality in our society?*

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

The meeting opened at 11:50 am with silent worship. Ralph Murphy clerked the meeting. 42 Friends were present. Phyllis Malandra gave the response of Loaves and Fishes Committee to the Advices and Queries on The Meeting Community. Friends offered their responses out of the silence.

The Clerk introduced Nancy Wilkinson, who is substituting as Alternate Clerk for today's business meeting.

The Recording Clerk read the minutes for the October 14, 2018 Meeting for Business. The minutes were approved with no corrections.

### **Correspondence and Clerk's Business**

The Berkeley Food Pantry is asking for volunteers. Interested Friends may speak to Tom Yamaguchi.

The Clerk announced that in the next few months, the meeting will be drafting its State of the Meeting Report. Members of the writing committee will consist of one member of the Care of the Meeting Committee, one member of Worship and Ministry Committee, and one member or attender selected from the meeting at large. He asked that members of those two committees speak to their clerks about joining the writing committee. Others may speak with the clerk about becoming the third member.

### **Old Business**

**Proposed Revisions to Faith and Practice** (Worship and Ministry Committee Elizabeth Strain, and the Ad Hoc Committee on the Revisions to the Section on Reaching Out, Leonard Joy)

The Clerk reminded us of the December 1 deadline for responding to the *Faith and Practice* Revision Committee. If we do not reach unity at this meeting, he said, we can still send the committee the reports we have already approved. He reminded us that we are not approving language at this meeting, only making suggestions to the Revision Committee.

Elizabeth Strain presented the report for Worship and Ministry Committee which is attached. The revised report addresses the issue of defining the terms elder and eldering. "We talked about the difference between our understanding of 'Elder,' which seems to be someone who would be looked to as a figure of authority, and of 'Weighty Friend,' which connotes someone who might have weight/knowledge/wisdom in one area but possibly not another."

"The section on Leadings should be clearer that the establishment of elders and eldering is not intended to reestablish all the old practices and responsibilities of the historical position of elders."

The meeting approved the updated report.

Leonard Joy reported for the ad hoc committee responding to the proposed revisions to the advices and queries on Reaching Out. That report is attached.

The ad hoc committee suggests adding advices and queries directly related to the testimony of equality, as well as addressing the use of "we." They suggest using the word "practices" instead of "faith", which may be construed to mean "creed." They suggest substituting a quote from George Fox, as the Lloyd Lee Wilson quote is "without sufficient context to be useful in relating to the advices."

Concerns were raised regarding the use of the word "race" which is not biologically correct. Others argued that the word addresses cultural reality. After discussion, we agreed to place the word "race" in quotation marks.

Some Friends did not understand what the committee meant by acculturation. That sentence was revised to "This calls for each meeting to find opportunities to understand and strengthen practice within the meeting."

The following query is being added to the report. "Are our meeting places and houses accessible?"

The meeting approved the report with those changes. The clerk will forward the approved reports to the Faith and Practice Revision Committee.

## **New Business**

### **Nominations to the Nominating Committee** (Naming Committee, Nancy Wilkinson)

The following Friends are being nominated to the Nominating Committee. Charles Blanchard (clerk), Patricia Dienstfry, Nancy Wolf Jackson, and Margaret Schneider are currently on the committee. New members nominated are Kat Stenstedt, Laura Boles, Dusty Sykes, and Tom Rothschild. Those nominations will season for one month.

### **Minute on Terms for Positions in the Meeting** (Naming Committee, Nancy Wilkinson)

Naming Committee drafted a minute to increase the terms of committee service from one year to two. That minute is attached. It has been an informal practice to ask Friends to make a two year commitment of committee service. Naming Committee is concerned about the work load of Nominating in contacting everyone in the meeting for committee service.

Charles Blanchard, clerk of Nominating Committee, expressed concerns that the change could make the work of Nominating more difficult. Friends have balked at being asked for a one year commitment and said they would be available for shorter periods of time. In addition, what if a person is not working out on a committee? It would be easier to remove that person after only one year.

On the second concern, another Friend said that the yearly meeting terms are for three years. This is a problem when a person is not working out on a committee and refuses to leave.

One Friend asked if the Meeting should consider term limits. The minute will season for one month. Those with questions and concerns may speak to Nancy Wilkinson.

### **Librarian Nomination** (Nominating, Charles Blanchard)

Raven Moon is being nominated as the meeting librarian. That nomination will season for one month.

### **2019 Budget** (Finance Committee, Richard Leath)

Treasurer Richard Leath introduced the proposed 2019 budget. The Quaker Events Support Fund is being reduced by \$500. A new category, Special Activities, has been created to fund irregular expenses. There has been an increase in the PYM assessment to \$122 per member. Richard noted that assessment is based on the number of meeting members, including those who have not been active in the meeting for a long time. The Budget will season for one month.

## **Reports**

### **Treasurer** (Richard Leath)

The treasurer provided the report for January to October 2018. It shows a \$26,091.92 deficit, which the worst he's ever seen. Finance Committee will be making weekly announcements to encourage donations. A Friend asked if we can create an easy method to make electronic donations. A number of Friends have authorized their banks to send checks automatically. Each bank has its own procedures and may charge for the service. A decision would have to be made by Finance Committee.

### **Peace, Earthcare, and Social Witness Committee** (Susan Black)

The committee will be bringing a minute to next month's business meeting.

At the suggestion of the Clerk, the committee will be conducting a survey of members starting next week on their individual leadings and what types of organizations they support.

At the next committee meeting, Charles Blanchard will be speaking on his personal leadings.

Strawberry Creek meeting is sponsoring a talk by George Lakey on social change strategies. It will be held at Berkeley Meetinghouse on November 30 at 7:15 pm.

Strawberry Creek will be joining Berkeley Friends Meeting and Berkeley Friends Church on January 20 to raise bond money for people detained by ICE. The fundraiser will be held at Berkeley Friends Church.

A representative from FCL CA will be coming to Strawberry Creek on March 3.

A threshing meeting on the Dime-A-Gallon Fund that was scheduled for November 18 is being postponed. In its place, there will be a meeting to provide the American Friends Service Committee with input on its strategic plan for the next year.

#### **Worship and Ministry Committee (Elizabeth Strain)**

Worship and Ministry Committee is considering not admitting attenders during the last 15 minutes of the meeting for worship. This is in addition to the current practice of not admitting attenders from 10:00 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. Those arriving after 10:45 a.m. would have to wait until after the time when everyone says their names. Worship and Ministry is also considering having the Greeter wait outside after 10:15 a.m. and bring late arrivals in as small groups. The committee may start testing the practice in December. Friends expressed concern for forcing people to wait outside during the winter when the weather is cold and rainy. Friends also expressed concern for the Greeter who would be prevented from joining the meeting for worship for much of the hour. One Friend asked if people could be allowed to enter the meeting room at any time, as long as no one is giving vocal ministry. Another Friend suggested that seats by the door be reserved for latecomers. Friends with concerns and questions may speak to Elizabeth Strain.

#### **Communications Committee (Amy Dewey)**

Communications Clerk Amy Dewey reported the committee lost half of its members in September, including the Librarian when Clifford Ham moved to the East Coast. The newsletter deadline moved up one week to the third Sunday of the month. The newsletter is distributed on the fourth week of the month. The committee is in the process of moving the meeting's web group from Yahoo to Google. The committee is investigating whether Friends will need a Google account to participate in the group.

Improvements continue to be made on the meeting's web site.

#### **College Park Quarterly Meeting Representative (Tom Yamaguchi)**

CPQM Representative Tom Yamaguchi reported on the fall quarterly session at Sierra Friends Center. His report is attached. One plenary was dedicated to an examination of the issues and challenges far-flung Friends in our quarter face as we hold our gatherings. CPQM has been considering replacing future Winter sessions with smaller, regional gatherings. The 2019 winter quarter session will be on Saturday, January 19, 2019 in Santa Rosa. The speaker will be the author J. Brent Bill whose most recent book is "Life Lessons from a Bad Quaker."

#### **Fall Retreat (Shelley Tanenbaum)**

About 30 to 35 people attended yesterday's fall retreat held at the Redwood Gardens Community Room. Friends expressed appreciation for the event that Shelley described as a mix of worship sharing and AVP Light and Livelies. Friends were asked "What do you appreciate about Strawberry Creek in one sentence?" A common response was the meeting is a sanctuary, a place to go deep, and yet a place where Friends are challenged and empowered.

#### **Announcements**

The next Meeting for Business will be held December 9, 2018 at 11:50 a.m. at Berkeley Technology Academy.

The Twelfth Month Gathering will be at Albany Community Center, December 8, 5:00 p.m.

Quaker Heritage Day at Berkeley Friends Church will be on Saturday, February 23. Jon Kershner, PhD will be presenting "The Prophetic Voice of John Woolman."

Susan Burr invited Friends to attend the Wednesday evening showing of the film "The Hate U Give," followed by a discussion at a nearby café.

Avotcja Jiltoniro asked for donations of money and toys for Puerto Rico during the Season of Giving. The meeting closed with silent worship at 1:53 pm.

Submitted by: Ralph Murphy, Clerk, Nancy Wilkinson, Acting Alternate Clerk, and Tom Yamaguchi, Recording Clerk.

### **Loaves and Fishes Response to the Advices and Queries on the Meeting Community**

On inclusivity: One Friend finds difficulty in feeling inclusive and engaging socially; Meeting is very helpful for her spiritually. One Friend felt they were noticing "forced inclusiveness" but is not expecting that to work well. Another Friend wonders if she has to relate on the same depth with each member and attender. Another Friend said that, in large groups, they are not drawn to everybody equally.

Reputation: We don't go into people's personal lives, but we may comment on perceived misbehavior.

Forgiveness is difficult work; one Friend finds he holds grudges: it's hard to follow the Golden Rule when feeling snubbed or exploited. Forgiveness takes time and distance; there is a need to withdraw and seek the good side.

On love and unity: "Meetings for Worship and Business are the center of the Meeting Community" resonates for one Friend who feels that love, unity, mutual respect and care, forgiveness and inclusion all flow from the deep connections that are felt and nurtured as we worship together. Some other activities that build connection include holding people in the light after Meeting and getting together for retreats and Friendly Sevens.

On listening: We need to listen both to words and to the unspoken background of emotion.

On personal need and difficulties: Our Mutual Care Committee is helpful. Not everybody wants to share their difficulties publicly. One Friend found it difficult to deal with younger people, finding a self-perceived authoritarian stance.

On visiting and keeping in touch: In a smaller Meeting we might be able to follow a village model, in which all can interact cooperatively and listen constructively to each other; since we are a large Meeting we depend on our committees to accomplish work and communication.

Loaves and Fishes finds the Meeting Community in good health, but many of us have deep and important work to continue, in order to live up to the Advices and Queries.



**STRAWBERRY CREEK MONTHLY MEETING**

Box 5065, Berkeley, California 94705

Phone messages: 510/524-9186

<[strawberrycreek.quaker.org](http://strawberrycreek.quaker.org)>

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December 2018 ISSUE

**TIME VALUE**