UPCOMING EVENTS & DEADLINES
SUNDAY Mar 1 Advices and Queries on Harmony with Creation read by Peace, Earthcare, & Social Witness Committee
SUNDAY Mar 8 Meeting for Business at 11:50 a.m.
SUNDAY Mar 15 Worship Sharing 9:00 a.m.
  Poetry Presentation with Paul Jolly after social hour. (See below.)
  Carbon Pricing Presentation at Berkeley Friends Meeting 1:00 p.m. (See below.)
  Newsletter Deadline for April newsletter@strawberrycreekquakers.org.
  Quaker Film Series 1:00 p.m. 2151 Vine St. Berkeley, CA. (Check BFM calendar.)
SUNDAY Mar 22 Committee Sunday. Check with your committee clerk for details.
  Paper copy and electronic newsletter distribution.
TUESDAY 3/24–SUNDAY 3/29 Quaker Center program on Practicing Faithfulness. (See below.)
SATURDAY Mar 28 Quaker Heritage Day. (See below.)
SUNDAY Mar 29 CROP Hunger Walk 3/29 1:30 p.m. (See below.)
SUNDAY Apr 5 Advices and Queries on Spiritual Life read by Worship and Ministry.

RECURRING EVENTS
SUNDAYS
  Meeting for Worship 10:00 a.m. Berkeley Technology Academy, 2701 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, corner of Derby St., Berkeley. Religious Education for children provided 9:45 a.m. to end of Meeting for Worship. Please arrive with children before 10:00 a.m. After announcements, all are welcome to stay for refreshments. Please bring your own reusable cup and utensils.
  Oakland Worship Group 5:00 p.m. 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 a.m. Berkeley Friends Meeting, 2151 Vine Street.
THURSDAYS Open 12-step Meeting facilitated by Avotcja Jiltonilro 4 p.m. at the Berkeley Fellowship, 1027 University near San Pablo.
  Mid-Week Evening Worship 7:00 p.m. Berkeley Friends Meeting, 2151 Vine Street. Contact Fred Gey for information at fgey@comcast.net.
News and Announcements

Strawberry Creek Meeting Calendar
Contact the newsletter editor at 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!

Poetry Presentation 3/15
Paul Jolly will share some poetry, answer any questions people might have, and bring suggestions for fanning the flames of creativity. "When people ask what my poetry is about, my standard answer is: my muse is an 11 year old boy who has just discovered the delights of sarcasm. When people ask if my poetry is Quaker, I have no idea what to say. If you have an answer to that question at the end of the second hour, I hope you will share it with me."

Carbon Pricing Presentation Mar 15, 1 p.m.
Tom Yamaguchi will be making a presentation at Berkeley Friends Meeting (2151 Vine Street on carbon pricing. The presentation is sponsored by Berkeley Meeting’s Social and Environmental Action Committee. Tom has been a volunteer with Citizens’ Climate Lobby for several years and has tabled for CCL at community events. There are currently a half dozen bills in congress to tax carbon emissions. Tom Yamaguchi will review those bills, including H.R. 763, which is supported by CCL. How are these bills similar? How are they different? How is a carbon tax different from Cap and Trade, which is being used by the State of California to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that are fueling the climate crisis?

Quaker Heritage Day 3/28
Quaker Heritage Day is an annual event sponsored by Berkeley Friends Church that focuses on some aspect of Quaker faith, spirituality, and/or history. The scheduled speaker is Jennifer Buck on the topic “Friends and Global Feminist Theology.” Jennifer Buck teaches practical theology at Azusa Pacific University. Her recent book, Reframing the House: Constructive Feminist Global Ecclesiology for the Western Evangelical Church, was reviewed favorably in Quaker Religious Thought in issue #132 (March 2019). Further information and online registration will be available at http://www.berkeleyfriendschurch.org/ghd/

CROP Hunger Walk 3/29 1:30 p.m.
The Berkeley Quakers Team will be walking the course that begins and ends at St. Mary Magdalene Church in North Berkeley with a route along Berkeley’s Gourmet Ghetto and South UC Campus areas. The Berkeley Quakers are led by Miriam Berg of Berkeley Meeting, Dharma Galang of Berkeley Friends Church, and Tom Yamaguchi of Strawberry Creek. Money raised by the CROP Walk goes to the international relief work of Church World Service and to three local agencies: Berkeley Food Pantry, Dorothy Day House, and Youth Spirit Art Works. If you would like to walk with us on 3/29, contact Tom at 510-548-5294. You may also contribute with a check made out to CWS/CROP. Contribute online at https://www.crophungerwalk.org/berkeleyca/BerkeleyQuakers. For information on Church World Service, go to https://cwsglobal.org.

Quaker Center Program 3/24–3/29
Practices for Supporting Faithfulness
Marcelle Martin is the author of ‘Our Life is Love: The Quaker Spiritual Journey’. In this 5-day retreat we will help each other pay attention to the divine presence within and explore what blocks our whole-hearted response. There will be individual reflection, time in pairs and small groups, and exploration of practices such as evoking questions, mirroring, extended worship, expressive movement, and the Faithfulness Groups format. This program is suitable for adults of all ages who seek a deeper grounding in the life of the Spirit.

SCMM Spring Retreat 5/1–3
The retreat will be held at Ben Lomond Quaker Center. If people have questions about registration, please contact Carolyn Edwards at c-bird@pacbell.net. If people have thoughts or questions about what will happen during the retreat, please contact Francie P. Nurkse, fpnurkse@gmail.com or (831) 227-9531, or Shelley Tanenbaum at sheltanen@att.net. More information about the retreat, including how to register, will follow. For now please put the dates on your calendar.

FGC Workshop by Tom Rothschild
FGC’s 2020 Gathering will be at Radford University, in Radford, VA, 6/28–7/4. Workshops meet each morning, Monday through Friday. Early online registration begins 4/1. For more information, please go to https://www.fgcquaker.org/connect/gathering.

Tom Rothschild will be leading workshop #20, Listening Meetings and Organizations into Wholeness. Tom has been attending Strawberry Creek since moving here two years ago, and has an Anchor Committee from our meeting supporting his ministry of helping organizations find their direction and resolve issues and conflicts. Tom has developed an approach, grounded in Quaker spirituality and understanding of conflict and conflict resolution, which is equally applicable to groups and organizations from other spiritual traditions, as well as non-profit and business organizations. “As a group, we will build skills that help Meetings, committees and groups within and beyond the Society of Friends resolve issues and conflicts, strengthen unity of understanding.
In worship, we’ll study practices including brainstorming, forgiveness and listening deeply, both to what is spoken and to what is unspoken.”

Financial Consultant w/ Quaker Values
Dennis LeFevre is a Financial Consultant with Everence Financial, a faith-based financial services firm affiliated with the Mennonite Church and working with Friends and Quakers. He used to be associated with Friends General Conference before they laid down their financial planning. Susan Black has been working with him for a number of years. She said that she balked at talking to a financial consultant until she met him when he was working with FGC. She was looking for a financial consultant with Quaker values, and Dennis has them. He is down to earth, honest and kind. He has made Susan unafraid of looking at her future.

Dennis will be in the area in the future and will be available for questions and consultations around socially responsible investments, retirement, charitable gifting and estate planning. You can connect by e-mail at dennis.lefevre@everence.com or cell phone at 620-217-1034 to schedule a time to connect. Contact Susan Black for more information.

Nominating Committee Update
The Committee has completed making calls to people now serving in positions, and is trying to contact as many others as possible by March 1st. If you have not been contacted and would like to serve the Meeting in some capacity, beginning in June, please email or call either of the co-clerks: James Hosley (bluejkh@sonic.net) and Ralph Murphy (ralphmurphy94705@gmail.com).

The Committee is particularly interested in hearing from folks who would like to help with providing refreshments at the coffee hour (Loaves and Fishes Committee) or setting up our Meeting room for worship (Facilities Committee) or helping the Meeting be made aware of opportunities for peace, earthcare and social witness (Witness Committee), or helping plan for Meeting retreats and gatherings (Events Committee). All committee job descriptions are offered on our website: http://strawberrycreekfriends.org/Committees.html.

Quaker Center Annual Pass
SCMM has an Annual Pass to the Quaker Center in Ben Lomond. For each 2-Day, 5-Day or 7-Day Quaker Center program, a person from our Meeting may attend for free. See more information on each program at http://www.quakercenter.org/.

3/24–29 Practicing Faithfulness
4/17–19 Choosing & Building Peace
6/20–27 Youth Art & Service Camp
7/31–8/5 All Ages Volunteer Camp
9/4–6 Living into the Promise
10/2–4 Silent Retreat
10/30–11/1 Couples Enrichment
11/20–22 A Convincing Translation
12/4–6 Annual Music & Dance Retreat
12/27–1/1 Annual Year End Retreat

You will enrich your spiritual life and enrich our community by attending a program. Please contact Jay Cash at jonahcash@gmail.com or 415-305-6011 to reserve, or with any questions.

Membership Transfer Report: Paul Jolly
The Membership Committee consisted of Rhea Farley, convener, David Rutschman, and Laura Magnani, note-taker.

Paul grew up in Berkeley Meeting and joined Strawberry Creek in his teens, “as small act of rebellion.” He describes himself as a Christian Quaker, then subsequently found himself determining that the Spirit that we think of as “continuing revelation” is the same Spirit that animated the Gospels. His first job was at Scattergood Friends School, followed by Pendle Hill. He married Blair Gardner there, and they had a son, Travis. For ten years following his departure from Pendle Hill, he stayed away from Friends and explored a variety of Protestant churches. He found that having a pastor solves some problems, and creates others. Eventually he found Adelphi Meeting in Maryland. What had felt like a schism between Christo-centric Friends and Universalist oriented Friends no longer seemed relevant. His theology expanded and he felt liberated. He served on many Meeting committees and eventually became Clerk of the Meeting. He had a support committee for that role and found that it changed his relationship to the Meeting. “There was the Spirit, the Meeting and Me and we were all participating in a process together.”

While single parenting and establishing his own career as a non-profit fund-raiser and life coach, he took a 25-year break from writing poetry, but eventually found his way back to writing. The need to feel responsible for the whole world was lifting and he began taking himself less seriously. He was also becoming conscious of what it means to be white, and recognizing the significance of economic privilege as well.

Growing up he felt he was standing on the shoulders of giants: World War II Conscientious Objectors; the people who sailed the Golden Rule into Bikini Islands to stop nuclear testing; and war tax resisters. He states that, “Now we are more understanding of our complicity on some issues, and less sure of ourselves.”
We asked how Strawberry Creek looks to him, coming back to it now? Mostly, he feels, what has changed for him is the role he now plays, including going from being the Clerk of a Meeting to being on the periphery. He says, “Quakerism is different now. We didn’t realize that we were such a white community 40 years ago.” Also, he is surprised there aren’t more young people in the Meeting.

“Quakers have so much to offer, why aren’t we growing?” He has appreciated the freedom Meetings have given him to grow and change. “It’s one of the real advantages of unprogrammed meetings. We tend to accept each others’ differences.” Care of Meeting Committee recommends to Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting the acceptance of the transfer of Paul Jolly to this Meeting.

A poem by Paul Jolly:

Please don’t howl

Human howling causes stress to wolves.

—Sign in the Oakland zoo

The howl sound does not offend. The wolves’ distress
Is rude human brutes mangle language.
Holler catcalls at an ancient male in the mode
That signals a pubescent female. Address their majesties
In informal tense. Discuss a carcass dropped
In the trough in the fanciful subjunct, as if meat
Was a thought about a question. Conjugate adjectives. Batch
The five genders. Torture local dialects—
Begin a phrase in Siberian, end in Yukon.

The brutes watch a Nat Geo special
And assume mastery. They don’t know every pup is lifted
From mama’s belly curl, mild first hibernation,
And carried to the patient teacher’s cave.
Study begins with every vowel’s etymology, and covers
Twenty thousand years of cards lupus
to history, metapysics, rhetoric, grammar, alchemy,
Lineage. If humans knew the full contour
Of a single guttural is a life’s prayerful study,
They would walk in stunned modesty past the wolf enclosure.

It hurts because culture compels a wolf to imbrue
Every sound with hoped-for meaning. The first half
Phrase a human howl sounds like a bracing
Lilt of surreal novel brilliance. When the noise
devolves to simple shock, a wolf feels
Cheated. Wants to bite something hot.

Responses to the Advices and Queries on Integrity 1/26/20 by Mutual Care Committee

Personal integrity is always a work in progress. We talked about places large and small where we confront issues of integrity.

A Friend said they are still processing the death of their mom 7 years ago and pondering the relationship of integrity to end of life issues. “We should be supportive of people who choose to not use so many resources during their final years. Using lots of resources at end-of-life doesn’t seem appropriate, but should I be judging people who try to postpone death at all costs.”

Another Friend noted: The thing that was missing for me (from the Queries) was joy. Joy is really important to me. I had trouble with the word Truth. I’m not so sure there is a Truth. Truth tends to compress all the facts out. For the word truth I would substitute “what is so” or “consistent with”.

Several Friends talked about language and lying as it relates to integrity. One friend stopped using the language of war as a form of plain speech: “the war on drugs”, “the war on poverty” seems a different way of not being truthful and risks diminishing the actual horror that is war by fostering a casual familiarity with the idea of war. Another Friend cited the hypothetical situation of hiding Jews during WWII and whether to be truthful if a Nazi came to your door. In the name of preventing a greater crime, this Friend feels there are really, really moral times to lie. But another Friend stated clearly “to lie in my Catholic days I would say is to sin.”

One friend spoke of telling a story that wasn’t true early in their marriage, embellishing something insignificant instead of telling what had actually happened. “I could see clearly that, without thinking, I was doing what my family of origin had modeled. I so cherished my new marriage, that I saw that my habit of not telling the truth was not healthy for it. I resolved to tell the truth to my husband. I think I have that practice now, but it was a hard transition.”

Not directly related to integrity, but infused with the concept is to say what you mean and to mean what you say. Once we have made a commitment or a promise, integrity asks us to live up to that commitment, to mean what we say.

Then we have integrity in actions:

A Friend spoke of the integrity of seeking the greater good of the Meeting rather than reacting from personal feelings when conflict arises.

A number of Friends spoke about various addictions — to alcohol, sweets, screen time, other substances and habits. While these behaviors may be used to “take the edge off” and to signify down time, it’s hard to have integrity when you are blurry or “checked out”. We noted that the focus on alcohol in the Advices and Queries can inadvertently take other problematic behaviors off the hook.
The meeting opened at 11:55 am with silent worship. Elizabeth Moses Strain clerked the meeting. 32 Friends were present. Michelle Bellows read the responses of Mutual Care Committee to the advices and queries on Integrity and Personal Conduct. The Clerk invited Friends to provide more responses out of the silence.

The Recording Clerk read the minutes for the January 12, 2020 meeting for business. A Friend said that the exhibit at the DeYoung museum is not about the Black Panther Party, although the exhibit does include them. The Recording Clerk replied that he recorded what he had thought had been announced and later discovered a more comprehensive description at the museum’s web page. He asked if Friends would approve of simply removing the reference to the Black Panther Party and just listing the name of the exhibit. The minutes were approved with that revision.

**Correspondence and Clerk’s Business**
The Clerk received a letter from the PYM Clerk and PYM Ministry and Oversight Committee requesting steps to be taken in the preparation for 2020 annual session on the topic of Radical Inclusivity. The Clerk has posted the letter to the meeting’s web group and can send it by email to Friends by request.

**Old Business**
*Nomination of Lee Douglas to serve on Nominating Committee, Naming Committee (Peter Lin)*
The nomination of Lee Douglas to serve on Nominating Committee has been seasoning for one month. Peter Lin reported that the Naming Committee has heard no concerns with the nomination. The Meeting approved the nomination. The work of the Naming Committee is now completed.

*Nomination of Nancy Wilkinson for PYM Representative and Philippa Barron for PYM Observer, Nominating Committee (James Hosley)*
James Hosley reported that Nominating Committee has heard no concerns on the nominations of Nancy Wilkinson as PYM Representative and Philippa Barron as PYM Observer. Those nominations have seasoned for one month. The Meeting approved both nominations.

*Paul Jolly Transfer of Membership, Care of Meeting (Rhea Farley)*
Rhea Farley reported no concerns have been raised on Paul Jolly’s request to transfer his membership to Strawberry Creek. The Meeting approved the transfer request. The following Friends agreed to be on the welcoming committee for Paul: Amy Dewey, Shelley Tanenbaum, and Barbara Birch (convener).

*Minute on Engagement to Uproot and Dismantle Racism in Strawberry Creek Friends Meeting, Power, Privilege and Race subcommittee (Susan Burr)*
Susan Burr gave a brief history of the drafting and seasoning process for the minute on uprooting and dismantling racism. She read the revised draft of the minute.

Friends made suggestions to improve the clarity of the text. The Meeting approved the minute with the suggested changes. The approved minute is as follows:

Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends acknowledges the centrality, depth, and pervasiveness of systemic racism in the United States. Continuing revelations of history, experience, and conscience challenge Friends to live up to the Light, increasing awareness of how we,
our communities, and our institutions perpetuate the structure of racism. We must help one another discern what Spirit calls us to do individually and corporately.

We utterly reject the racial status quo. People are suffering and dying daily as a result of systemic racial bias within and across institutions and economic structures, which reproduces inequity and discrimination for “people of color” and unearned advantage for “others”. We call upon ourselves as Friends to illuminate, uproot, and dismantle white privilege because it is used to maintain white dominance.

Systemic racism creates a barrier to living fully into our deepest Quaker values as reflected in all of our testimonies. We seek to bring about a truly inclusive, compassionate, diverse Religious Society of Friends through which our individual lives speak to our collective belonging to one another and Creation. We commit to the work of healing and transforming to make foundational change in our Meeting. We commit equally to the work of dismantling the political and economic structures of racism and opening to acceptance of real beauty in human difference.

In response to concerns expressed by Friends, PPR will be looking at the next steps on implementing the minute, including sharing with the quarterly and yearly meetings. One Friend asked that we not just approve the minute and send it off to the archives.

A Friend suggested Strawberry Creek adopt a query that has been used by Friends General Conference to test their business decisions in order to support its work to become an anti-racist organization. A modified version for Strawberry Creek would be “How does this decision support Strawberry Creek Meeting in becoming an actively anti-racist community?”

New Business
There was no new business.

Reports
Communications (Amy Dewey)
The Communications Committee has written new guidelines for posting to the meeting’s web group. The guidelines are printed in the February meeting newsletter. Amy asked Friends who forward messages to the IO group to include an explanation of how the message speaks to you and why you chose to send it to the group. Friends who get a daily digest of emails will not see the contents of the forwarded message. Including a brief description of the forwarded message will help them find the archived message on the group webpage. Amy asked that Friends include their names in their posts.

Treasurer (Richard Leath)
Richard Leath gave the report for the end of 2019. The meeting is in the black for $906.48. Friends thanked Richard for his dedication as treasurer.

College Park Quarterly Meeting Winter Session, CPQM Representative (Tom Yamaguchi)
Tom read his report on the CPQM winter session in Palo Alto, which is attached. Two minutes on climate change were drafted by an ad hoc committee created at the fall session. The first minute titled “Minute of Climate Witness” is being held off until the spring session at Ben Lomond Quaker Center to allow monthly meetings to provide feedback. The second minute titled “Call for Reflection and Engagement on Environmental Crises” was approved. It invites the monthly meetings in the quarter to reflect and engage on the issue outlined in the following topics: Earth Restored Testimonies, Ecological Integrity, and Earthcare Witness. The second minute includes four queries to be considered by the monthly meetings.

Nominating Committee (James Hosley)
James Hosley reported that everyone in the meeting should have been contacted by Nominating Committee by now. Friends who have not received a call are asked to contact Nominating on their ability to serve. Unfilled jobs are currently newsletter editor and members on the following
committees: Loaves and Fishes, Mutual Care, and Peace, Earthcare and Social Witness. Friends interested in those jobs may speak to members of Nominating Committee.

*Peace, Earthcare, and Social Witness* (David Rutschman)
The committee has decided to use Dime-a-Gallon funds for installing solar panels on individual homes. Alice La Pierre of Rebuilding Together will be at the next committee meeting on February 23 to discuss solar projects.

The rest of February 23 committee meeting will be focused on providing FCNL with feedback on its legislative priorities for the next congress.

The committee is also considering a grant for solar panels on the Berkeley Friends Meetinghouse.

David Rutschman and Leonard Joy are planning to convene monthly meetings on how our community may cope with climate disruption.

**Announcements**
- Next Meeting for Business, March 8 at 11:50 a.m. Berkeley Technology Academy
- Listening Meeting for State of the Meeting Report, February 16 at 11:50 a.m. Berkeley Technology Academy
- PPR Field Trip to de Young Museum for “Soul of a Nation: Art in the Age of Black Power 1963–1983, February 22
- Quaker Heritage Day, March 28, Berkeley Friends Church
- CROP Hunger Walk, March 29 at 1:00 p.m., Saint Mary Magdalen Church
- Tom Yamaguchi will give a presentation on carbon pricing at Berkeley Meeting on March 15 at 1:00 p.m.

The meeting closed with silent worship at 1:45 p.m.

Submitted by: Elizabeth Moses Strain, Clerk, Charlie Blanchard, Alternate Clerk, and Tom Yamaguchi, Recording Clerk

**Advices and Queries on Spiritual Life**
The life of the spirit gains depth and vigor through devotional practices, prayer, study and meditation. Take time regularly for individual and family worship, discussions, readings from sacred texts, and other spiritual refreshment in order to live a more centered life and to bring a deeper presence to the Meeting for Worship.

Friends believe that the spiritual path is best found in community. Create opportunities in your Meetings for people of all ages to explore and express their evolving relationship with the Divine, their spiritual highs and their doubts. If different metaphors and language interfere with communication, listen more deeply, honoring the Spirit in which the thought and words have their beginnings.

Do I live in thankful awareness of God’s constant presence in my life?

Am I sensitive and obedient to the leadings of the Holy Spirit?

When do I take time for contemplation and spiritual refreshment?

What steps am I taking to center my life and to stay open to continuing revelation?