

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

SEPTEMBER 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 (Sept–June) and childcare (year-round) 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>

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.

SUNDAY, Sept 2

Advices and Queries on Peace read by Facilities Committee during 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)

SUNDAY, Sept 9 Business Meeting 11:50 AM

SUNDAY, Sept 16 Worship Sharing 9:00 AM

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

SUNDAY, Sept 23 Committee Sunday after Meeting for Worship

Young Adult Friends 12:45 PM To RSVP or get information email hi@cath.land

SUNDAY, Sept 30 Newsletter Deadline for October newsletter@strawberrycreekquakers.org

Newsletter Deadline for February newsletter@strawberrycreekquakers.org

SUNDAY, Oct 7

Advices and Queries on Reaching Out read by First Day Committee during 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 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!

SCMM Newsletter Guidelines

The newsletter is meant to be about our community and members of our community. The rule of thumb for including items in the newsletter is that they should be directly relevant to the life of SCMM or related to Berkeley Friends Meeting, Friends Church, College Park, Quaker Center, PYM, FCLCA, AFSC, etc. Occasionally a local event where Quaker presence might be important can be included.

March Rise for Climate, Jobs and Justice 9/8

The Bay Area and California interfaith communities are rising for climate, jobs, and justice on Sept 8 in San Francisco. Strawberry Friends will gather with Quakers and the Faith contingent. The interfaith community will be joining with tens of thousands of people from around the globe to show our leaders that we expect them to deliver. This March precedes the Global Climate Action Summit, 9/12-14.

Location: Embarcadero Plaza | San Francisco, CA

When: Saturday, September 8, 2018

Schedule:

- 9:15 a.m. Interfaith service
- 10:00 a.m. Line up, music, celebration, and choral flashmob; or Shabbat services
- 11:00 a.m. March to Civic Center Plaza
- 12:00 noon Resource fair and street mural painting (we'll be breaking the world record for the largest street mural!)

More information will be on our yahoo group list-serve and in after-meeting announcements about where to meet up with our Quaker group. Strawberry contacts are Shelley Tanenbaum (sheltanen@att.net) and Tom Yamaguchi (tom.yamaguchi@strawberrycreekquakers.org)

Hospitality Needed for Climate, Jobs, and Justice March 9/8

If you can provide an overnight and meal for an out-of-town Friend (or two) on Friday Sept 7, please email Carolyn Edwards at c-bird@pacbell.net.

Spiritual Transformation Workshop 9/11 11:30

Affiliated with the Global Climate Action Summit, Strawberries Shelley Tanenbaum and Sara Wolcott are facilitating a workshop on 'Spiritual Transformation' at Grace Cathedral on Thursday, September 13, 11:30-1PM to explore how a newfound kinship with the Earth can lead to a deeper relationship and more

sustainable alignment with our natural world. How we understand ourselves as part of, not separate from, our environment can lead to lasting, transformative change. For a full list of workshops at Grace Cathedral and to sign up for any of them, follow this link: <http://diocal.org/global-climate-action-summit-faith-rooted-affiliated-workshops>.

New SCMM Interest Group 9/15 10:00 AM

The first meeting of older folks to talk about support for each other will occur on Sept 15th at 10 AM at 2550 Dana St. Community room. All are welcome! Contact Susan Black (sblack71@gmail.com) for more information

Open House at Berkeley Friends Mtg. 9/16 12:45

The long-awaited post-renovation Open House will take place on Sunday, Sept 16 from 12:45 to 3:30 PM. There will be a large reception, music, a before-and-after photo display, and tours for people who want them. There will also be worship sharing at 3:30. Come help us celebrate the accessibility of our newly renovated Meetinghouse! For more information, please contact Judy Tate at jeliz.tate@gmail.com.

Benefit for Berkeley Food Pantry 9/16 5:30

Sanctuary Bistro will hold a benefit dinner for the Berkeley Food Pantry on Sunday, September 16th. Dinner service will be from 5:30-9:00 p.m. Sanctuary Bistro will donate 30% of its profits from the dinner to the Berkeley Food Pantry. If you are interested, please call Sanctuary Bistro at (510) 558-3381 to make reservations. Sanctuary Bistro is a family-run vegan restaurant located at 1019 Camelia St., Berkeley, CA 94710. Berkeley Food Pantry (510) 525-2280.

Clerks Gathering 10/6 9:30-12:30

All committee clerks, representatives and officers are invited to attend a gathering for discussion and reflection. Brunch will be provided, Saturday October 6, 2018 at Berkeley Meetinghouse community room 9:30-12:30. This is organized by the Care of Meeting Committee clerks Stephen McNeil and Shelley Tanenbaum.

New Worship Group in San Mateo, CA

The new San Mateo worship group will hold a meeting for worship outside in Bay Tree Park, 150 W. 5th Ave. on 9/9 starting at 10 am. Meet at the two facing benches in the center of the park. Attenders may wish to bring folding or other portable chairs to supplement the available seating. The worship group will soon announce the location of inside meetings, which will start on 9/23, and will meet every 2nd and 4th First Day of the month thereafter. The meetings will be unprogrammed, and all are welcome to attend. For more information contact Jerry McBride (650-384-9817; jlmcbridemail@yahoo.com).

Friendly 7s starting up again in September.

Zoe Koehler and Barbara Birch are organizing another Friendly 7s round to give Strawberries an opportunity for informal fellowship and worship sharing with others in their homes. Friendly 7s are small potluck dinners where people collaborate to put together a meal/social gathering on a Friday or Saturday evening. Each group will meet once, at one of the dates/times below.

It helps if people follow instructions, so please read carefully. We are organizing by dates this time. There are a lot of dates available.

- 1) Please pick a date that you are sure will work for you. Write an email to birchcarl@live.com and put your one preferred date IN THE SUBJECT LINE. (Please do this as soon as you can.)
- 2) In the body of your email, please say if you are willing to be a host, a convener, or a guest, list any additional guests, and provide any food preferences or needs. The host provides a simple vegetarian main dish. The convener coordinates the planning for the potluck dinner with the guests by phone or email; sending follow-up reminders may also be necessary. The guests commit to responding to the convener's invitation, attending the dinner, and bringing a side dish or whatever else is decided.

We are requesting that Friends sign up by email, not verbally. We will accept verbal sign-ups from those attenders of our Meeting who do not have an email address. Lastly, unlike last time, these dinners will be sans alcohol.



POSSIBLE DATES: Friday Sept 14, Saturday Sept 15, Friday Sept 21, Saturday Sept 22, Friday Sept 28, Saturday Sept 29, Friday Oct 5, Saturday Oct 6.

Send any questions to both Barbara and Zoe (zbkoehler@gmail.com).

Worship-Sharing: The Integrity Testimony

A recent query for the Worship Sharing group (9:00 AM Third Sunday) was about integrity. Is the Quaker testimony on integrity helpful in your daily life? Do you have other concepts that guide your life? Background: Integrity is a demanding discipline. Living with integrity requires living a life of reflection, living in consistency with our beliefs and testimonies, and doing so regardless of personal consequences.

A practice of Integrity requires me to participate in honest assessment of all areas of life consistent with our practice of worship and understanding of what God calls us to. This consistency is about having the inside and outside line up. I do not believe that we should use integrity as a claim upon another human being if I am

not in constant practice of investigating my own life under the same searching light. To do otherwise would itself lack integrity. Integrity is about truthfulness. It is something we constantly strive for and yet never fully arrive at. Thus, I believe that to strive for wholeness is to be vulnerable; there is a confessional quality to integrity. I claim my own integrity with great trepidation as I recognize that there is often a gap between my reality and that which I strive for but if I undertake it within a caring community, I can trust that together we shall be under this work of love together.

Excerpts from the Nominating Committee report to Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting, 8/2018

The Meeting has a high participation rate, with nearly 70 people serving in nominated positions on committees, as officers, and as representatives. Many of these 70 people also serve on short-term or ad hoc committees, such as clearness committees, arrangement committees, and the organizing committees for retreats and the twelfth-month gathering. In addition, some people have made long-term commitments to serving on anchoring committees or working groups. Some Friends prefer to support the work of the Meeting by serving only on anchoring committees or working groups.

The Meeting has resources to help committees work effectively: the Care of Meeting buddy, the clerks' meeting that is organized by Care of Meeting Committee, and organized education sessions on clerking. Nominating Committee observed that an education session on being a constructive member of a committee could be just as useful as a session on clerking.

To many people, the way in which the Meeting is organized into committees is mysterious. Two simple suggestions occurred to the Nominating Committee. The first is to expand the committee rosters that are listed in the beginning of the directory to include at least some of the working groups and possibly to include a composite list of people serving on anchoring committees without identifying each individual anchoring committee. Our second simple suggestion is to post the expanded committee roster on the Meeting bulletin board. An occasional announcement would help remind Friends to look at the roster to find out who to talk to about a question.

PYM Report by Lari Keeler



I entered the Annual Session of Pacific Yearly Meeting as the Strawberry Creek Representative with some apprehension. Part of my responsibility as your Representative was to convey to the larger body of the Yearly Meeting what has been moving in our Meeting. One question that was asked to all of the Representatives at the beginning of the session was: "What does your Meeting need from

Pacific Yearly Meeting?" Although I wish I really could speak for the many truths expressed in our Meeting, my answers were based in my experience of our Meeting in this past year. The answer to this question that arose for me was another question: how can we embrace difference?

The question of embracing difference has been on my mind and heart a lot in this past year. The systems of oppression around difference are perhaps stronger than they've ever been in our current political climate. Issues around race, class, immigration, gender, sexuality are so inflamed. Black people continue to be killed for no reason, immigrant families continue to be separated, transgender kids continue to commit suicide...the suffering is big and I know that this suffering weighs heavily on so many of our hearts.

The theme of the gathering was "Faithfulness: A Call to Practice Radical Vulnerability and Love." The Clerk asked us "how do we witness to a troubled world?" I felt relieved as I talked to the larger Quaker community that so many of us are struggling with the same issues and concerns. How do we respond to these troubled times?

I drove up to Walker Creek Ranch with my dear Friend Nancy Wilkinson, who was our Observer this year. When we got out of the car, I took a deep breath in of the beauty around us. Walker Creek is a stunning place and I felt grateful for the way the earth and creatures held us. Throughout the gathering I catalogued the animals and birds that I saw as I felt their presence blessing us. There were jack rabbits, grey foxes, deer and fawns, barn swallows, quails, scrub jays and goldfinches. One of the greatest highlights was seeing a giant barn owl 3 different times. Seeing the barn owl silently soaring through the foggy evening I felt like an angel passed by.

The keynote speakers for the gathering were Elena Anderson-Williams and Karin Anderson. Their ministry was deeply moving and inspiring. Elena reflected on her calling to work with mothers and children in Belfast. She yearned for God's guidance and prayed for how to be of service in the world. The message I received from her ministry was that the work she was called to do brought her to her knees; it broke her open and brought her to a place of needing the Light to carry her.

The second keynote speaker, Karin Anderson, urged the Quaker community to "get uncomfortable." She asked the community to consider, how can we re-imagine a world where we don't depend on the suffering of others for our comfort and sustenance? Karin has worked all over the world, especially in South America, for social and economic justice. Despite growing up within the Pacific Yearly Meeting, Karin hadn't attended Annual Session for the past 13 years because she was so frustrated that her ministry and message was not getting through to the Quaker community in that she did not see people actually changing. Karin's talk was a call to action. A call to make changes in our own lives.

In the days following the ministry from the keynote speakers I began witnessing ways that Quakers were making positive changes with redistribution of resources. During a plenary session, Claremont Meeting gave a presentation about how their community has responded to those who do not have housing. They open up their Meetinghouse 6.5 days a week/7 to host 10 guests who otherwise would be unhoused. Members of the Claremont Meeting rotate who welcomes the guests. I was moved by this example of how some Friends are using their resources to help those in need and the way in which Claremont Meeting showed respect to their guests as equally treasured individuals.

I left the gathering with deep gratitude and with my spiritual cup overflowing. The day after the session, I was struggling to be back at work and back in "the real world." I put on a playlist of some of my favorite spiritual songs and the first song that came on was "Wade in the Water" by Sweet Honey in the Rock. The song begins, "And when there is a promise of a storm, if you want change in your life walk into it. If you get on the other side you will be different. And if you want change if your life and you're avoiding the trouble, you can forget it." Life is so much about how we respond to the troubles and difficulties in our lives and in our world. Thus I invite us as individuals and as a beloved Quaker community to summon the courage to wade on in to the troubled waters with faith that positive change will come through our collective efforts.

FCLCA News

Thanks to your support, this year FCLCA co-sponsored four bills and played an important role in Senate Bill 100, a landmark environmental bill to move California to 100% renewable energy by 2045. We also worked hard on two key state budget provisions to address our state's alarming poverty rate: increasing aid to families on CalWORKs assistance so that no child has to live in deep poverty and expanding the California Earned Income Tax Credit (CalEITC) to include groups previously excluded. In fact, one of our co-sponsored bills, Senate Bill 982 – is not moving forward this year, but for a very positive reason. Its goal of increasing CalWORKs aid to a level above deep poverty (defined as 50% of the federal poverty level) was incorporated into the 2018-19 budget! The new budget also expanded the CalEITC to adults under 25 and over 65. Again, your support helps FCLCA advocate every year for a budget that respects the dignity of each person.

Two of our other co-sponsored bills are moving forward: SB 1393, to restore a judge's discretion whether or not to impose a 5-year sentencing enhancement for a previous felony conviction (right now it's mandatory), and AB 3131, to regulate the acquisition of military equipment by local law enforcement. Your support last year enabled FCLCA to organize in support of Senate Bill 54, the "sanctuary state" bill to limit state and local law enforcement collaboration with Immigration and

Customs Enforcement (ICE). September 30 will be the last day for the governor to sign or veto bills.

News from Quaker Center

The 2019 Quaker Center program schedule is now available to download as a PDF file with brief program descriptions by clicking on http://www.quakercenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/2019-Program-Schedule.pdf?utm_source=2019+Program+Calendar&utm_campaign=2018+Program+Calendar&utm_medium=email

Join the mother and son team of Betsey and Darren Kenworthy from September 7 – 9, 2018 for *Wherever Two (Kids) Are Gathered: Quaker Community and Spiritual Growth with Youth*. Find out more and register early at: <http://www.quakercenter.org/wherever-two-kids-are-gathered-quaker-community-and-spiritual-growth-with-youth/>.

Join Brian Drayton from October 5 – 7, 2018 for A Weekend with Isaac Pennington. Through meditative reading of a selection of his works, we will reflect upon and examine our own inward conditions, spiritual practices, life in our meetings, and outward witness. Find out more and register early at: <http://www.quakercenter.org/isaac-pennington/>.

Rise Up and Sing! Renew Your Spirit with Song from October 26 – 28, 2018. Annie Patterson and Peter Blood, will teach and lead songs out of their songbooks, Rise Up Singing and Rise Again. Everyone – and we mean everyone – is encouraged to come to this program. If you think you can't sing, surprise yourself! Last time Quaker Center hosted Peter and Annie, their workshop sold out, so register early at <http://www.quakercenter.org/Rise-Up-And-Sing/>.

Advices and Queries for Tenth Month on Reaching Out

Friends fellowship begins and is nurtured within the home and Meeting. It reaches greater fulfillment as we carry our beliefs into the wider community.

Share your Quaker faith. Take time to learn about other people's experiences of the Light and, as you learn, give freely from what you have gained. Respect the experiences and opinions of others, but do not be afraid to say what you value. Welcome the diversity of culture, language, and expressions of faith in your Monthly Meeting, the Yearly Meeting, and the world community of Friends. Encourage discourse with Friends of pastoral and programmed traditions, and with members of other faiths.

Friends have a long history of involvement in public and private education, sharing our values with the world and nurturing future generations. Be mindful of the needs of children in your community and of avenues for deepening understanding between peoples.

- *How does my life reflect Friends beliefs and thus encourage others to be interested in the Religious Society of Friends?*
- *Do I respond openly to inquiries about Quaker experience and belief?*
- *What does our Meeting do to make others aware of Friends principles and practices?*
- *What are we doing to help people of various races, cultures, and backgrounds feel at home among us and we among them?*
- *How do we encourage newcomers to return and participate in activities of the Meeting?*
- *In what ways do we participate in the life of the interfaith community and in the wider fellowship of Friends?*



Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting
Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business
August 12, 2018 Minutes

The meeting opened at 11:55 am with silent worship. Ralph Murphy clerked the meeting. 33 Friends were present. There is no report on responses to Advices and Queries this month. At the invitation of the Clerk, the Meeting returned to silent worship and held the Meeting in the Light.

June 2018 Minutes and Agenda Review

Tom Rothschild asked to submit a minute in support for Susan Black's leading on homelessness. The Clerk added the item to new business.

The Recording Clerk read the minutes for the June 10, 2018 Meeting for Business. The minutes were approved as written.

Correspondence and Clerk's Business

The Clerk received thank you letters from Friends Committee on National Legislation and Friends Committee on Legislation of California for our annual contributions.

The Clerk received the travel minute for Shelley Tanenbaum with the endorsement of Lucinda Antrim, clerk of New York Yearly Meeting. The travel minute is attached to these minutes.

The Clerk announced the following nominations to the Naming Committee: Elaine Emily (convener), Elsa Glines, and Nancy Wilkinson. The names will season for one month.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

Request for Release from Membership of Melinda Glines (Care of the Meeting Committee, Shelley Tanenbaum) Shelley read Melinda's letter requesting release from membership. The Committee recommends that the request be accepted. The meeting accepted Melinda's request with sadness and love.

Request for \$300 increase in Care of the Meeting Committee Budget (Care of the Meeting Committee, Shelley Tanenbaum)

The Welcoming and Inclusion Working Group bought supplies used for the welcoming table from their own pockets. Care of the Meeting Committee asks for an increase in its budget to reimburse these costs and others which may occur in this year. This request will season for one month. Friends with questions and concerns may speak to Shelley. The Finance Committee was requested to review this request, if possible, before the next business meeting.

Travel Minute for Elaine Emily (Worship and Ministry Committee, Beth Wrightson).

Beth read the travel minute for Elaine Emily. Elaine had an anchoring committee on her ministry that had been laid down. Elaine recently requested a clearness committee, and that committee was created with Mica Estrada, Sally Hindman, and Beth Wrightson. That committee agreed to write the travel minute and create a new anchoring committee. Mica and Sally are on the new anchoring committee, and a third person is being sought.

The Clerk asked if the minute could be approved without seasoning. The travel minute was approved and is attached to these minutes.

Minute of support for Susan Black (Tom Rothschild)

Susan spoke during worship on the eviction of a homeless encampment in West Berkeley. She has been asked to document that eviction process that is scheduled for tomorrow. Tom wrote a minute in support of Susan Black's leading and asked that we approve it at this business meeting. The following minute was approved:

Minute-Homeless Eviction

Regarding the eviction of homeless persons from their encampment beneath the freeway underpass at University Avenue and Fourth Street, which the city of Berkeley has scheduled for 8/13/18, Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting:

- Supports our member Susan Black in following her leading to support those living with homelessness in that encampment and other places by photographing and documenting this eviction as it occurs
- Calls on the police and others charged with carrying out this directive to do so with empathy, restraint, and respect for those impacted by it.

The Clerk will send the minute via email to the Berkeley mayor, police chief, and city manager.

Further action is being referred to the Peace, Earthcare, and Social Witness Committee.

Reports

Report on Climate Change (Shelley Tanenbaum)

Shelley gave a brief presentation on climate change. Her presentation was originally made at New York Yearly Meeting's annual gathering. Shelley also held a workshop during that gathering.

Shelley thanked the meeting for its support, saying, "Knowing that your meeting is holding you up in your leading is so important." She added that, whatever we think about climate change, it is worse than we think. While not wanting to be an alarmist, she acknowledged that what she has to say is alarming. Great progress is being made by engineers busy working on solutions, but technology is not going to save us. We need spiritual transformation. Not enough of us in Quaker circles are working on it. Shelley asked us to find organizations to work with. We can't do it alone. We need to work together. She recommended the book *Drawdown* by Paul Hawken. Shelley has handouts of selections from the book.

One friend expressed concern for the lack of participation by people of color. Shelley replied that participation is growing, given that people of color are suffering the greatest impact of climate change.

Avotcja Jiltonilro has videos on climate change and offered the meeting use of them.

Nominating Committee (Charlie Blanchard)

Copies of the printed report were provided at the business meeting and posted to the meeting's Yahoo Group. Nominating has also given feedback to individual committees. Charlie thanked the meeting for our participation, including anchoring committees and other non-nominated committees. Nominating Committee is asking for three actions it believes would help the meeting:

- Provide education on how to be a constructive committee member.
- Have the directory include members of ad hoc committees, non-nominated committees, and working groups.
- Print a complete list of committees and working groups for the bulletin board.

Friends may contact Charlie with questions.

Announcements

The next meeting for business will be held on September 9, 2018 at 11:50 a.m. at Berkeley Technology Academy.

Shelley Tanenbaum made the following announcements:

- On September 12, an interfaith service on climate change will be held at Grace Cathedral. Shelley will have more details later.
- From September 11 to September 13, Grace Cathedral and Interfaith Power and Light are sponsoring a number of faith related workshops on climate change. Shelley will facilitate one of them.
- Care of the Meeting Committee will have a Clerks' Brunch at Berkeley Meeting on October 6.
- A one-day retreat is being planned for November 10 (tentative).
- The Twelfth Month Gathering will be on December 8 at Albany Community Center.

Susan Burr announced a third discussion on the book *Set Free* will be Sunday, August 19, after the meeting for worship.

Avotcja Jiltonilro thanked those who helped raise money for Puerto Rico at her birthday party. She said that reports that all Puerto Ricans want statehood are not true and invited us to learn more about the situation in Puerto Rico.

The meeting closed with silent worship at 1:15 pm.

Submitted by: Ralph Murphy, Clerk, Rachel Findley, Alternate Clerk, and Tom Yamaguchi, Recording Clerk.

