UPCOMING EVENTS & DEADLINES

SUNDAY Apr 5 Advices and Queries on Spiritual Life read by Worship and Ministry Committee possibly at a Zoom Meeting. (See below.)
SUNDAY Apr 12 Meeting for Business at 11:50 a.m.
FRIDAY April 17-SUNDAY April 19 Quaker Center Program. Choosing & Building Peace.
SUNDAY Apr 19 Worship Sharing 9:00 a.m.
    PPR Adult Education. (See below.)
    Newsletter Deadline for May newsletter@strawberrycreekquakers.org.
    Quaker Film Series 1:00 p.m. 2151 Vine St. Berkeley, CA. (Check BFM calendar.)
SUNDAY Apr 26 Committee Sunday. Check with your committee clerk for details.
    Paper copy and electronic newsletter distribution.
SUNDAY May 3 Advices and Queries on Meeting for Worship read by Nominating Committee.

RECURRING EVENTS

SUNDAYS
    Meeting for Worship (Please see related items in News and Announcements below.) 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‡ (Please see item “Berkeley Friends Meeting” in News and Announcements below.) 7:00 p.m. Berkeley Friends Meeting, 2151 Vine Street. Contact Fred Gey for information at fgey@comcast.net.

* Cancelled until further notice. For information, call Peter Lin (510) 530-0479.
‡ Cancelled until further notice. For information, email Fred Gey fgey@comcast.net.
Tom Rothschild helped us get started using Zoom before 10 a.m., and we held silent worship for an hour, which included several vocal ministry messages. Charlie Blanchard closed the meeting, including holding people in the Light and self-introductions. We had very few announcements since most events have been cancelled. Friends then shared thoughts that had arisen during worship and gave feedback on the technical process. Many Friends expressed appreciation for the people and technology that enabled us to worship together while self-isolating to slow spreading of the Corona virus. Several Friends who are not usually able to attend Meeting for Worship in person were particularly grateful and said it helped them feel more connected to our community.

There were some minor wrinkles that occurred, including some connections that broke up, some individuals who didn’t get recognized, and other issues. It has also been suggested that Friends who have difficulty with Zoom on computers may find it works better for them on smart phones computers.

Since the CDC has recommended against events with over 50 people for at least the next 8 weeks, Zoom is an alternative that many Meetings like ours have turned to.

Thanks to John McCarthy and Tom Rothschild for helping us set this up. We want to stay connected with each other and are grateful for this technology and the people who know about it. We welcome feedback on how Meeting for Worship works for you using Zoom – either via email or telephone to me, John, or Tom.

From Kathy Barnhart, co-clerk of Worship and Ministry.

On Sundays we will start our Zoom worship at 10:00 a.m., but the "Virtual Meeting Room" will be open beginning at 9:30 a.m. We will end worship at 11 a.m. followed by a time for Friends to name those they wish the Meeting to hold in the Light and then have announcements as usual. If you have rarely or never used Zoom, please join us at 9:30 a.m. to make sure everything is working so we all can center down before we begin our worship at 10 a.m.

About using Zoom to join Meeting for Worship

Until April 12, it is likely that Meeting for Worship will be conducted “virtually.” Specific instructions on what information is needed to join the meeting may change. People who wish to be notified of changes should send their email addresses to Peter Lin, unless they already list their current email address in the directory, or are part of the SCMM listserv. People may also find current and helpful information at Strawberry Creek’s web page: http://strawberrycreekfriends.org.

Here are some tips on using Zoom:

There are several ways to join.
1) Via computer or smartphone tap the link below or type into your browser (you may be prompted to install the Zoom app but you can decline and still join the meeting through your web browser):

https://zoom.us/j/552974663

2) From a “smart” mobile phone, tap either of these number strings (you will join the meeting but without video):

+16699006833,,552974663# US (San Jose)
+14086380968,,552974663# US (San Jose)

Press # when prompted for a user ID. To mute and unmute, type *6.

3) From a “feature”-type mobile phone or a traditional desk phone dial-in at (you will not have video):

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
+1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose)

and use Meeting ID 552 974 663. To mute and unmute, type *6.

All microphones will be automatically muted to begin with. An open mic picks up lots of ambient sounds, so please leave your microphone muted at all times except when you are speaking.

When you start Zoom via the Zoom app, select the "Participants" icon at the bottom of the screen (top for iPads and smartphones). This will open a panel to the right with the names of all participants. At the bottom of this panel is a "Raise Hand" icon. Please "raise your hand" and allow our "Zoom clerk" (Tom Rothschild) to call on you and unmute your microphone. This applies at all times except during time at the end of worship for naming those we want to hold in the Light.

When you speak, whether during worship or announcements, please state your name first. Some Friends will be joining by telephone and will not be able to see who is speaking.

Comment on the Zoom Experience from a SCMM Friend: "There were 40 people, more or less, and there were tiny moments of awkwardness with the tech but aside from that it was a rich, unique, and gathered meeting. I’ll be back next First Day for sure."

Berkeley Friends Meeting
As of Friday, March 13th, all meetings, classes, and other events held in the Berkeley Friends Meetinghouse are cancelled. Meeting for Worship will be held via Zoom. Email bfm.clerk@gmail.com to get on the list for the Zoom link.

Healing of the Nations Witness 4/10
Year after year, Friend Carl Anderson has gone to Livermore Lab's gate on Good Friday with maybe 100 others. This year's witness has the theme: "For the Healing of the Nations." We picked our theme long before people focused much on the current pandemic. (Pandemics, of course, are a lesser danger than nuclear war.)

The standard time and place is in Livermore, at the corner of Vasco Road and Patterson Pass Road, at 6:45 am for opening music; 7 am program; about 8 or 8:30, procession about 1/2 mile to the gate of the lab; then more event including nonviolent acts of witness. This may need to be adjusted given the current guidelines for gatherings. For updates, the website to check will be: www.epicalc.org

PPR Adult Education 4/19
The Power Privilege and Race Subcommittee of Worship and Ministry is moving ahead with plans for an Adult Education session on the topic of "Unpacking Quaker Culture." We will examine many of our spoken and unspoken practices and how they may inhibit Spirit, or enhance Spirit as we work to create a more multi-cultural Friends Meeting. Given the current health situation we find ourselves in, we are exploring ways to offer this session electronically, if necessary, including use of videos, queries, and group discussion.

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 shelfanen@att.net. More information about the retreat, including how to register, will follow. For now please put the dates on your calendar.

PESW Adult Education 5/17
The Berkeley Zen Center has been organizing 'Engaged Buddhist Election Retreats' during election years since 2004. Participants select a swing state and a swing district, travel there and campaign to get out the vote with the help of the local candidate's infrastructure, while maintaining independence from it, on a schedule of meditation and canvassing. PESW has invited Susan Moon, a member of the organizing committee, will tell us about this on May 17, during the Adult Ed time slot (thanks to Patricia Dienstfrey). Following her presentation we will have questions and answers, and a discussion about how we could do something similar.

FCLCA Silent Auction 5/31
It is time for a long-past community event that benefits the work of Friends Committee on Legislation in California. About every year or so we have a 'silent' auction – really, it is an exchange of items and services in our community, with a donation going to FCLCA.
Mark your calendars, plan to be there, save your items to donate.

Friends Committee on Legislation in California has been lobbying for criminal justice, social justice and environmental justice for over 65 years in Sacramento. They are well-known and respected in the State capitol, and help guide us when it comes time to consider statewide propositions. You can see more about them at fclca.org, and sign up for their action alerts.

Our auction is a great place to offer items that are in good shape but no longer needed in your household, services that you want to share, and homemade crafts/art.

How it works: You bring your item on Sunday a little before Meeting for Worship. We will be there, setting up. You will fill out a bid sheet that we will provide – include a description of your item, an estimate of the value or original cost, and a preferred minimum bid. Please be available to retrieve your items, if no one bids on them – we don’t have any place for good storage. Closer to the date of the auction, I will send out bid sheets if you want to fill them out in advance. Everyone is invited to join the auction and bid – you take home something wonderful, or sign up for a fabulous service provided by a Strawberry Creek Friend, and FCLCA receives some support. We take cash, checks and credit cards. Send Shelley Tanenbaum an email with questions.

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/. 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.

Quaker Center Program 4/17–19, 2020
Choosing peace: nurturing ourselves as peacebuilders in a divided world, with Bridget Moix. How do we sustain our witness as peacebuilders amid such deep division, violence, and fear today? How do we turn our own anger and dismay into positive change in the world? How do we practice hope?

This workshop will help us reconnect and renew ourselves as peacebuilders. Together we will learn from the examples of people building peace around the world, take time to reflect on our own leadings, soak in nature, and share practical ways we can help heal our country and communities. We will worship and work, walk and play, write and reflect. This program will be active and interactive. Participants are encouraged to bring a special object that signifies what peace means to them.

DRAFT FCNL Priorities Report
PESW Committee had a called meeting on 2/23, 2020 to discern legislative priorities to recommend to FCNL. Beginning with 12 attending and closing with fewer as the time progressed, the following are suggested for consideration at Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business. One Friend was grateful that FCNL is not a single issue organization and also trusted that as legislative opportunities presented themselves over the next two years, FCNL should follow its own history and leadings.

We were asked to submit no more than seven priorities.

• The centrality of racism and the adverse impact of slavery in the US calls for strong action: in the FCNL Statement of Legislative Policy, it states “explore reparations.” We suggest FCNL call for reparations.

• Ending “Mass incarceration” is just the tip of the iceberg of State control over people of color: parole and probation control many more lives of people of color.

• Climate change remains a primary concern of the Meeting and we suggest more FCNL resources be allocated to it and that all FCNL programs can find ways to incorporate climate change aspects to their work, noting the peace and planet are one

• Nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation work

• Witness and advocate on Native American concerns. Honor the treaties.

• Peacebuilding, diplomacy and the peaceful prevention and resolution of violent conflict.

• Economic justice, especially measures to narrow the gap between rich and poor.

• Promote housing and ending homelessness measures.
The meeting opened at noon with silent worship. Elizabeth Moses Strain clerked the meeting. 29 Friends were present. Susan Black read the responses of Peace, Earthcare, and Social Witness Committee to the advices and queries on Harmony with Creation. Friends provided more responses out of the silence.

The Recording Clerk read the minutes for the February 9, 2020 meeting for business. The minutes were approved with the following corrections. The minute on uprooting racism will include the full title of the minute along with the text. Peace, Earthcare, and Social Witness reported it is considering using Dime-a-Gallon funds for installing solar panels on individual homes. No final decision has been made.

**Correspondence and Clerk’s Business**
The Clerk said she has no correspondence or business for this month.

**Old Business**
There was no old business.

**New Business**

*FCNL Legislative Priorities (Stephen McNeil)*

Stephen McNeil presented the draft of Strawberry Creek’s suggestions for FCNL’s legislative priorities for the 117th Congress. FCNL wants to receive our suggested priorities before the next business meeting, which leaves no time for seasoning.

One Friend raised a concern about the fourth listed priority: “Witness and advocate on Native American concerns. Honor the treaties.” Since the treaties have been violated by the taking of Native American land, he said “honoring treaties” is a “feel good” statement that lacks integrity. Another Friend who worked on Native American issues at New York Yearly Meeting offered a clarification: Honoring treaties does not mean taking away land from current owners to return to Native Americans. Stephen agreed and said that honoring treaties means carrying out the spirit and intention of the treaties. It is a way to address past grievances of native peoples.

The meeting approved the list of seven legislative priorities.

*State of the Meeting Report (Stephen McNeil)*

Stephen read the draft of the State of the Meeting report. The Clerk asked that Friends give general responses now and save more specific comments to give to the writing committee later. The writing committee is Janet Piggins, Stephen McNeil, and Kat Stenstedt.

One Friend expressed concern with the first sentence: “We live in troubled times.” It implies that previous times have not been troubling. Alternative phrasing was suggested that we are more aware of the troubles of these times.

There was discussion about making the anti-racism minute more prominent in the report and it was suggested that the section that reads “We call upon ourselves as Friends to illuminate, uproot, and dismantle white privilege because it is used to maintain white dominance” could be in boldface type. It was also suggested that the report show the links between racism and other issues, such as climate change.

The report mentions the recent practice by some Friends of sharing their personal pronouns when saying their names at the close of meeting. Some have expressed concern for the practice. While the
intent is to express solidarity with people who identify as nonbinary, some may find the practice offensive. Stephen agreed that the meeting should give that issue more attention.

The report mentions the Site Contingency Fund, but it does not provide information about the fund for Friends who are not familiar with its history. A brief description of the fund should be included.

CPQM’s Ministry and Oversight Committee has requested that they receive our report before the end of April. The writing committee will bring the revised document back to the April meeting for business.

Reports
Nominating Committee (James Hosley)
James Hosley reported that the committee has communicated with most members and attenders in the meeting. They are still looking for members for two committees, Loaves and Fishes and Facilities.

Spring Retreat, Events Committee (Francie Nurkse)
Francie Nurske reported plans for the spring retreat are going forward for the weekend of May 1 to May 3 at Ben Lomond Quaker Center. She is being assisted by Shelley Tanenbaum and Carolyn Edwards. With current concerns for the spreading of COVID-19, there is a possibility that the retreat might be canceled or that Friends might decide not to attend. Francie is hopeful that the retreat will go forward as scheduled.

Recent retreats have had no theme. Events Committee is looking for suggestions and is offering that this retreat be considered an exercise in community building. She expects worship sharing in the morning and interest groups in the afternoon.

Francie asked for suggestions on fees for the retreat. Last year’s retreat brought in $4375 with $7827 in expenses. With $2,300 budgeted from the general fund for any shortfall, the total shortfall was $972. Francie asked if the meeting wanted to increase the fees above last year’s $170 per adult, and expressed concern that the increase cost could reduce attendance. The meeting agreed to continue to use the “Pay as Led” model with a suggested fee of $170 per adult. Those who can afford it are asked to pay more. Children are free, and the cost includes meals.

Care of the Meeting Committee Report (Shelley Tanenbaum and Stephen McNeill)
Stephen McNeil reported that the committee has updated its job description. Changes include coordination with Communications Committee and the Recorder on maintaining the meeting’s archives. It includes the recently formed Welcoming and Inclusion Working Group and the Bridging the Gap Committee. It drops the committee’s events function which has been transferred to the Events Committee. It provides for specific liaisons for Berkeley Friends Meeting and B-Tech, including holding keys for the Berkeley Meetinghouse.

The committee is providing $500 to Alma Moon to attend a service trip to El Salvador this summer. Alma is also using money from the Bob Vogel Fund and is raising money from other sources.

Shelley Tanenbaum announced the updating guidelines on membership, the first update in 15 years. The original document was mostly taken from Central Philadelphia Monthly Meeting. The new version uses more of our language, Shelley said. She will post the full document to the meeting’s web group.

Announcements (Note: many events have been postponed, moved online, or canceled. Check our calendar.)
• Next Meeting for Business, April 12 at 11:50 a.m. Berkeley Technology Academy
• Quaker Heritage Day, March 28, Berkeley Friends Church
• CROP Hunger Walk, March 29 at 1:00 pm, Saint Mary Magdalen Church
• Spring Retreat, May 1-3, Ben Lomond Quaker Center
• David Rutschman announced that he and Leonard Joy will be discussing “Global Warming and Global Society” on April 5, 9:00 am at B-Tech. He hopes to have the program continue on every first Sunday of the month after that.

• Shelley Tanenbaum announced the Silent Auction benefiting FCLCA will be on March 29 at the rise of meeting. Postponed to May 31.

The meeting closed with silent worship at 1:55 p.m.

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