

STRAWBERRY CREEK MONTHLY MEETING OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

MAY 2018 NEWSLETTER

<http://strawberrycreek.quaker.org>

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

REGULAR EVENTS & CALENDAR

SUNDAYS

Meeting for Worship 10:00 AM. Held at the Berkeley Technology Academy, 2701 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, corner of Derby St., Berkeley. Religious Education (Sept–June) and childcare (year-round) provided 9:45 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 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 AM Berkeley Friends Meetinghouse, 2151 Vine Street.

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

SUNDAY, May 6

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

Twelve Step Meeting. 12:00 p.m. 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 a.m. and Mondays at 10:00 a.m. Contact Laura Boles (boles9552@gmail.com)

WEDNESDAY, May 9 (2nd Wednesdays) 6:00-8:30 p.m. YAF (Young Adult Friends) Monthly Meeting at Berkeley Friends Meeting. Contact Cat Schmidt at hi@cath.land for information.

SUNDAY, May 13

Business Meeting 11:50 AM

SUNDAY, May 20 Worship Sharing 9:00 AM

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

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

SUNDAY, May 27

Committee Sunday

Newsletter Deadline for June, please send items to newsletter@strawberrycreekquakers.org

SUNDAY, June 3

Advices and Queries on Spiritual Life read by Finance Committee during the first 15 minutes of meeting for worship

Twelve Step Meeting 12:00 p.m. 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 a.m. and Mondays at 10:00 a.m. 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!

SCMM Spring Retreat 5/4, 4:00 to 5/6, mid-day, at Quaker Center in Ben Lomond, CA.

Everyone is welcome, but newcomers to SCMM are especially encouraged to attend. There are sliding scale fees, so anyone can participate. Contact Zoe Koehler (zbkoehler@gmail.com) for details.

Worship & Ministry Committee: Gathering the Meeting--each of us is important

Gathering the meeting is the mysterious process at the heart of our experience as Friends. The phrase is a short way of saying "gathering one another in the spirit." We release ourselves to the care of God, opening our hearts to that of God in one another and to the spirit moving among us. Friends speak of the Meeting as "gathered" when we reach a shared experience of spiritual communion. This can be a delicate and even daunting process, especially when we are new to the Society of Friends. Because each person's contribution is necessary for the meeting to gather, it becomes a sacred and joyful duty for each of us to be present and settled in the silence by 10am when meeting begins.

Of course there will be exceptional occasions when any one of us is prevented from arriving at meeting promptly. The 10:15 seating is intended for those rare exceptions: it is not merely an alternative arrival time. Two or three people can slip in quietly at 10:15, but when one third of the meeting arrives at that time, the gathered worship can be difficult to maintain. While everyone is welcomed, whenever they arrive, Ministry and Worship urges everyone to arrive before, rather than after, 10. Those who habitually arrive several minutes early have found it a great delight to begin the gathering of the meeting and by their presence invite others to join them.

Here is a query for reflection: How does my arrival and participation at Meeting for Worship affect the beloved community and the quality of our worship together?

Communications Committee: Yahoo Update

The Yahoo Group email list has become unreliable of late. Some announcements have been delayed and some have not appeared at all. The Communications Committee is exploring the issue of migrating our email list to another site, possibly Google Groups. Any change will take place slowly and there may be some overlap as we move from one platform to another. Contact Jay Cash at jonahcash@gmail.com for questions and concerns.

Quaker Film Series BFM 5/20, 1:00

Quaker Post-World War II Documentaries. Topics include Quaker Work camps, conscientious objection, and anti-war and anti-nuclear war protests.

College Park Quarterly Meeting Spring Session Friday evening 5/18 to Sunday 5/20

Come and worship, learn, and have fun with Friends in northern CA and NV. This session's theme is "Quaker Revival; What is the way? What is in the way?" Please register by 5/10 online at collegeparkquarterlymeeting.org. No one will be turned away for lack of funds. Please see this document for how to apply for assistance from your meeting and the Quarterly Meeting: <http://collegeparkquarterlymeeting.org/content/CPQM%20Tuition%20Assistance.pdf>

This is the preliminary schedule:

Friday Evening

4 pm Sign-in and room assignments

6 pm Simple supper, followed by Worship, fellowship and singing

Saturday

Morning: Breakfast; Family Worship, Welcome, Plenary, Worship Sharing

Afternoon: Lunch; Interest groups, Large group activity, Evening: Dinner; inter-generational family night; singing, dancing, etc.

Sunday

Morning: Simple Breakfast; Plenary, Meeting for Worship, Clean up

Afternoon: Lunch, Final Clean up

Goodbyes at 2pm

Tom Yamaguchi is our quarterly representative; please contact him with any questions about CPQM, the spring session, or ride-sharing and offering. He will be taking public transit and can provide information on that option also. tomyamaguchi@mac.com 510-548-5294

SCMM Friendly 7s

The first round of Friendly 7s dinners has run its course and most feedback has been positive. The Friendly 7s, as organized this time, was intended to be one-time-only social gathering in a host's home. The idea was for Strawberries, including new attenders, to become acquainted with each other. The main complication seemed to be for groups to decide on a date for the dinner, so other ways of organizing groups could be explored in the future. Friendly 7s will resume after the usual summer hiatus.

New Member



Amelia Victoria Mederos-Streetz came to the U.S. from Cuba as a 13-year-old. She grew up in a seriously Roman Catholic family and was schooled in the Sacred Heart tradition, derived from the Jesuit model of questioning and challenging. As a young child, she had faith in the church's teaching, but as she grew and was taught to question and consider, she lost this faith. She still has deep respect for those who do have religious faith, and she feels that

the common good we share as people is a powerful force to bring us together.

While she grew up privileged and educated, she also discovered early that not all were so blessed. She found her heart for those less fortunate and spent her professional and personal life trying to rectify the injustices. While living in the Boston area in the 1970s and 80s, she worked extensively to promote social progress and racial understanding.

Victoria came to our meeting by way of her wife, Pamela, whose father John Streetz attended our meeting for a time. When John died recently, she helped coordinate four different Quaker memorials where she deepened her understanding of Quaker practice.

Using Quaker silence seems natural for Victoria. She has been surprised by how personally motivated she has been to regularly attend meeting for worship, and she has also given assistance to Fishes and Loaves. She is looking forward to using her life experience to further enrich Strawberry Creek. We believe that Victoria has found her spiritual home with SCMM and are eager to welcome her as a member. Berkeley Organizing Congregations for Action

BOCA is urging us to participate in the Project Peace East Bay's 6/3 half day "sweat equity work camp," working shoulder to shoulder with members of other congregations (9am-12pm). There are 16 sites to choose from: cleaning, painting, gardening, etc for community organizations (schools, shelters, etc). Information at <https://www.projectpeaceeastbay.org>

Space Coordinator for BFM

Rhea Farley is the one to contact if you want to use the Berkeley Meetinghouse for a Strawberry Creek function. She will also be the one keeping track of who has keys to the meetinghouse. She will contact the House Residents at the meetinghouse to see if the time and date are available and to make a reservation. Contact Rhea at jrf8@humboldt.edu

PESW What is thy witness?



Friend Nathan Moon shared his witness and advocacy for those in his neighborhood who are homeless. When the Moon family bought their house on 85th Street in Oakland, located near one of the East Bay's largest homeless encampments, the area was also a 'hot zone' for illegal dumping. Nathan began by cleaning the street around their new home, to teach the lesson of cleanliness. "I began with all the wrong motives," he acknowledged, "but I kept cleaning, and I got closer to the people." While his advocacy is now bringing tangible results, Nate reflected that the experience taught him more about himself than about homelessness.

Nate described his fear of reaching out to encampment residents in the beginning, aware of his privilege, until he realized that it's important to be aware of who you are, and leverage whatever privilege you have. As a first step, he learned people's names and learned to listen between the lines to find out what people need. He learned the encampment is known for its high percentage of people with serious mental health issues. Many also have trauma from living outside in unsafe conditions with freeway sounds day and night. He described it as like being in a war zone, a stressful life.

As Nate began to know his neighbors, myths fell away, including the myth that a majority of encampment residents come from other places to get free services. Most in the Northgate homeless community have lived in the neighborhood all their lives. Like us, they have their memories and relationships here. "The homeless," Nate says, "are you and me."

As the Outreach and Communications director for Northgate Neighbors, his neighborhood association, Nate has learned how to work with city and county representatives. His strategy is not to get angry; keep communicating instead. After years of community advocacy, groundbreaking will soon begin for Northgate Community Cabins, to house the encampment's 50 people in modified tuff sheds. The plan provides for restrooms, garbage pickup, and a safe perimeter, freeing residents from tasks of daily survival so they can begin to access other services and opportunities.

A few residents will not be ready for the new community design, or will be unable to participate due to mental health barriers. The cabins are a transition step to intentional designs which can support more people in the future. While he advocates for those long range plans, Nate reminds us that radical acceptance and love can be practiced anywhere.

PPR Save the dates! 6/17, 7/8, and 8/19

The Power, Privilege and Race working group is planning 3 sessions at rise of meeting over the summer to discuss the book *Set Free: A Journey Toward Solidarity Against Racism* by Iris de Leon-Hartshorn, Tobin Miller Shearer, and Regina Shands Stoltzfus. More details will be forthcoming. Contact Susan Burr at susanburr45@gmail.com.

FCLCA Lobby Day 2018 5/21 in Sacramento.

We'll start the day by meeting together, discussing the bills we'll lobby on and do some training on how to do legislative visits. Then we'll head over the Capitol to meet with our legislators or their staff on several important bills. Because of your generous support, we are able to again co-sponsor bills and advocate for key programs in California's budget in this legislative session. Thank you!

We are co-sponsoring three bills this session, each authored by Sen. Holly Mitchell (D- Culver City).

SB 1392 would remove a sentencing enhancement that adds an additional year of incarceration for each prior prison term or felony county jail term.

SB 1393 restores the court's discretion, in the interest of justice and at the time of sentencing, to strike sentence enhancements for prior serious felony convictions, when a person is currently charged with a serious felony.

SB 982 endeavors to end childhood deep poverty in the CalWORKs program by setting a floor for grants at 50% of the federal poverty line. FCLCA has joined two coalitions that are strongly advocating for measures in the 2018-19 state budget to help low-income Californians. The first measure would expand eligibility for the CA Earned Income Tax Credit – one of the most effective ways to reduce poverty- to more seniors, young adults and immigrants. The second would address childhood deep poverty by increasing CalWORKs grants to at least 50% of the federal poverty level. Children are 80% of CalWORKs recipients. We're working both through the budget process and through a bill, SB 982, to help kids from the lowest- income families.

See the invitation, register and read more at <https://cqrceengage.com/fclca/home?1>

Quaker Center News

We welcome all kids entering 5th-9th grades for Quaker Service and Art Camp, June 23-30, 2018. Join Camp Co-directors, Julian Garrett and Nate Secrest, camp

staff and seasoned Friends to experience a multi-generational community through fun activities, explore Quaker practices through town meetings, experiential learning, inter-generational kitchen and cleaning crews, games and music. Learn more and register your child by June 1st at <http://www.quakercenter.org/youth-camp/>.

Remixing Faith: Seeds of Renewal in the Quaker Tradition for the 21st Century with Wess Daniels 6/1-3 We will consider a "convergent" framework for how Friends can address these changes in ways that honor the importance of tradition, while also allowing space for creation and innovation. If you are a Friend who is open to change, and want new ways of looking at Quakerism and our engagement with culture, we hope you will join us. Young Friends are particularly encouraged to take part. Register online at <http://www.quakercenter.org/programs/remixing-faith/>.



Family Work Camp 7/30-8/4. Only \$50/person covers all for 5 days. Individuals and families of all ages are welcome! Quaker Center staff will co-facilitate work camp crews to improve Quaker Center facilities while everyone co-creates the Quaker community. Crews gather in the

morning after breakfast and work until lunch. After lunch there will be opportunities to play, hike, swim, and cook together, or for time alone to enjoy the redwoods. Some work campers choose to keep working. Learn more about this intergenerational camp and register online at <http://www.quakercenter.org/family-work-camp/>.

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

Quaker Action Worship Group

QAWG sponsored a booth at the March for Science Rally 4/14, from 9 am to 3 pm, in Oakland, outside the Kaiser Auditorium. The rally was about promoting evidence-based decision making in Washington DC, especially in regards to climate change. Brochures from Quaker Earthcare Witness and AFSC were handed out. Questions and can be directed to Laura Boles, boles9552@gmail.com.

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

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?

Do we share our spiritual lives with others in the Meeting, seeking to know one another in that which is eternal?

Does the Meeting provide religious education including study of the Bible and Friends' history and practices?

Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting
Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business
April 8, 2018 Minutes

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

Beth Wrightson shared responses from the Worship & Ministry Committee to the Advices and Queries (Modified) on Personal Relationships. Friends returned to worship for further reflections. It was suggested that these be shared in the newsletter and forwarded to the Pacific Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice revision working group.

The agenda was reviewed.

The minutes for the March 11, 2018 Meeting for Business were approved with the following corrections in Old Business A. Nomination, the first sentence was struck; in Reports C. Carl Magruder, not Lari Keeler, attended the Representative Committee meeting, and the question of joining the Friends General Conference will be considered by Care of the Meeting Committee; in Announcements, the memorial meeting for Micki Graham is at 2 pm on April 14 at Berkeley Friends Meeting and Janet Piggins' session on "From Aging to Saging" is on April 15 after Meeting; and Paula Palmer's talk on Quaker Indian Boarding Schools is at Berkeley Friends Meeting.

Correspondence consisted of thank you notes for our annual donation from the Berkeley Food Pantry and The Alternatives to Violence Project. Friends Committee on Legislation-California sent a thank you for our holding the April 1 Silent Auction fundraiser. The Clerk read a letter from Washington "Wattie" Taylor requesting membership which was forwarded to the Care of the Meeting Committee.

Old Business:

State of the Meeting Report (Rick Herbert, Kathy Barnhart and Phillipa Baron, writing group) Kathy Barnhart read the current draft. The Clerk had asked that edits be sent via email to the writing group so that Business Meeting consideration can be shortened. One concern was raised and accepted: the words Light, Truth, Spirit, and Divine were all to be capitalized. Some other wording suggestions will be acted upon by the writing group. The Meeting accepted the report with much gratitude for the work of all.

Friends Committee on National Legislation Priorities (Stephen McNeil, Peace, Earthcare and Social Witness Committee) Stephen McNeil read the suggested Meeting priorities statement. These came out of the PESW Committee meeting on February 25th presented to the March meeting for business, and an adult education forum on March 18. After discernment, we came up with eight not seven suggested priorities. The Meeting approved submitting these eight priorities to FCNL:

1. We feel compelled to hold up as a priority within the priorities, climate change and global warming. These existential threats need more robust responses from both Congress and the Administration. More time and resources should be provided by FCNL than currently allocated.

A sense of urgency seems to be missing in the current wording related to this priority.

The following priorities are not listed in any order of priority:

2. Reduce military spending and armed interventions
3. Promote nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation
4. Pursue policies that promote and respect the rights, safety, and dignity of all immigrants, refugees, asylum seekers, and migrants
5. Promote equitable access for all citizens to participation in the political process, countering voter suppression efforts

6. Witness and advocate on Native American concerns
7. Address wealth inequality through tax reform, universal health care, housing, food support, and a guaranteed income
8. Advance equitable criminal justice systems that eliminate mass incarceration and support law-enforcement that is community-oriented and demilitarized.

Membership Request of Janet Piggins (Care of the Meeting Committee, Rhea Farley) Rhea Farley reported no concerns were raised regarding the membership request. The Meeting accepted Janet Piggins into membership of the Meeting and of the Religious Society of Friends. The welcoming committee will be convened by Margaret Moses Strain joined by Al Thompson and Catya de Neergaard.

New Business:

Membership Request of Pamela Ashton Mederos-Streetz (Care of the Meeting Committee, Lee Douglas) Lee Douglas called attention to a personal statement from Pamela Ashton Mederos-Streetz and read the membership committee (Lee Douglas, Beth Wrightson, Nathan Moon, and Susan Burr) report recommending membership. The Care of the Meeting Committee joined in the recommendation. The recommendation will season for one month, with any concerns to be brought to the Care of the Meeting Committee.

Nomination Slate for 2018/2019 (Nominating Committee, Margaret Schneider) Margaret Schneider circulated the proposed slate of nominees, 65 at present, the number serving being up from last year. The Nominating Committee consists of Charlie Blanchard, Pat Dienstfry, Josh Gallup, Nancy Wolf Jackson, Betsy Morris, Margaret Schneider, and Beth Rodman. More nominees will be brought forward as these season for the month. Any concerns should be brought to the Nominating Committee. The Meeting thanked the Committee for its work.

Minute Supporting Protection of the West Berkeley Shellmound Site (Susan Burr) Susan Burr on behalf of herself and Tom Rothschild read the proposed minute. Time did not permit this minute to go through a committee process but Susan and Tom were thanked for moving this forward. Some suggestions were made and accepted and the final minute reads as follows:

Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting of Friends (Quakers) supports the efforts of Indian People Organizing for Change (IPOC) to preserve and protect the West Berkeley Shellmound Site at 1900 Fourth Street, and to allow Ohlone people to protect the current use and future for this oldest sacred site in the Bay Area, recognizing it as a place of burial and sacred ceremony used by their ancestors for thousands of years.

We oppose the pending application of private developers who are invoking the recent "fast-track" housing legislation (SB35) to bypass full local environmental review processes and requirements of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) to construct an apartment complex, retail space, and community center.

Reports:

Treasurer's Report (Richard Leath) Richard Leath distributed the March 31 report, noting that we are now, as expected, \$17,000 behind in income. It was noted that Vine Street should read Berkeley Friends Meeting in Line 16. The Meeting thanked Richard for the fine work.

Announcements:

Ralph Murphy noted that the Meeting's Spring Retreat is May 4-6 at Quaker Center Ben Lomond QCBL).

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

Elizabeth Moses Strain noted that on April 14th at 2 pm at the Berkeley Friends Meeting, Micki Graham's memorial will be held. Volunteers should contact her.

Susan Burr announced that Paula Palmer of Boulder Friends Meeting will present “Quaker Indian Boarding Schools: Facing Our History and Ourselves” at 7 pm on Monday April 16 at the Berkeley Friends Meeting. Financial contribution checks to support Paula’s ministry and research may be made out to “Boulder Friends Meeting.”

The Meeting closed at about 1:40 p.m. with silent worship

The next Meeting for Business will be held on May 13, 2018, at 11:50 a.m. at the Berkeley Technology Academy.

Submitted by: Ralph Murphy, Clerk, Rachel Findley, Alternate Clerk, and Stephen McNeil, Recording Clerk.

Worship & Ministry
Responses to Advices and Queries on Personal Relationships
April 2018

Members of the Worship and Ministry Committee sat down together to consider the Advices and Queries on Personal Relationships, as modified by Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting. The original set of queries from Faith and Practice directly addresses sexual exploitation, which our Meeting has opted to cut from our set because of concern that children will hear them and also because of requests from those adults who found these direct references to trigger their own trauma. This set of queries has been provoking deep and emotional discussion for many years. As we began our discussion, the tendency was to want to edit and change the wording of the piece, rather than to respond to the queries, and this tug-of-war is reflected somewhat in our report.

Central to our discussion, and first mentioned, was the query: What barriers keep me from responding openly and lovingly to each person? One person answered this with a similar question: How do I respond openly and lovingly to myself when I am overcommitted? We agreed that tending to ourselves is a basic skill--our relationship to ourselves leads to our relationships to others. We also felt that trust and forgiveness have a big place in this discussion. Trust is the groundwork for relationship. Forgiveness is a difficult practice and an important part of ongoing relationships, as is asking others for their forgiveness. We spoke about dealing with anger and conflict as part of these practices.

It felt to some Friends that there was an emphasis on family and corporate living, and some of us live alone. We decided that the queries could pertain to people living singly with some extra introspection: are we reaching out to others? Do we go beyond our comfort zones? Are we willing to reach out to others? Is our home welcoming? We still make community even if we don’t live in community. Friendship is not a named central theme here but is central to our faith and practice.

We liked the term “individual genius” and a friend reminded us that this referred to each person’s uniqueness. Another member noted that long-lasting relationships can calcify; we can objectify each other, if we are not careful. It is our responsibility to look beyond the familiar and tap back into that of God in each other.

We also noted that we can’t talk about personal relationships without talking about community, and we can’t talk about community without talking about personal relationships. Do we try to extend ourselves to others beyond our usual patterns? Are we willing to reach out? This led to thoughts about the Meeting’s being open to its members needs. Do we provide an environment where people can ask for help? How has the Meeting been responsive?

PPR was one example of the Meeting responding to both individual and corporate needs to change our ways of relating to each other.

As a result, we now are asking ourselves and each other: Am I sensitive to power imbalances in my relationships? Do I make way for new ideas of relationships? And also, Do I avoid being submissive? Do I stand up for myself?

The query that might best speak to these questions is: Are my behaviors toward others consistent with my spiritual beliefs and free of manipulation and exploitation? One member noted that we don't look at this question and see ourselves, we want to think it is written for someone else.

The committee also spent some time on the thoughts around our relationships with children, specifically: "Special care must be given to resolving problems between adults and children in a manner that gives equal weight to the feelings and needs of both children and adults." and "Do we open our thoughts, beliefs, and deep understandings to our children and others who share our lives and our hospitality?"

One member noted that this is a beautiful ideal. It is a big challenge in our busy world to do this. Tender parenting is so key to our Quaker values. At the same time, adults have the responsibilities of care, getting children fed, to school etc., and logistics often become dominant in daily doings. Children's feelings and needs are mentioned but not their plans and their "wants." Sometimes the correct parenting choice involves overriding a child's specific wishes at the time for a more important result. It is hard to communicate our beliefs to our children and community with words, even when we are living our beliefs. A member commented that "the casing of this query is easier to deal with than the heart of it."

Someone offered the observation that: "As a child I wanted simple concrete values and things to believe in." "these were imposed from the outside until I wanted to express them."

When we talk about creating a safe and loving home for children, we want to help them with their self-determination. For example, making a child hug someone they don't want to hug shows them that they can't say no.

Our conversation about children led to some talk about seeing that of god in elders. Elders, though not named here, should have our special care as well as children. Our commercial culture is not paying attention to middle and older adults, though there is an increase in this age group.

Perhaps the complicated history our meeting has had with these advices and queries speaks to how deeply we believe that our personal relationships are key to the expression of our faith. We do not look to a single pastor to help us find our way, we look into ourselves and to our beloved community to seek spirit. Our relationships with one another IS our relationship to the divine and it offers up access to spirit as we move through life.

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to the newsletter editor.



STRAWBERRY CREEK MONTHLY MEETING

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Phone messages: 510/524-9186

<strawberrycreek.quaker.org>

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

FIRST CLASS MAIL

TO:

May 2018 ISSUE

TIME VALUE