

Berkeley Technology Academy, 2701 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, corner of Derby St., Berkeley

Website <http://www.strawberrycreekfriends.org> (with Zoom link for Worship Hour)

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/StrawberryCreekFriends>

Listserv (for subscribers) strawberrycreek@groups.io

Calendar <http://www.strawberrycreekfriends.org/Calendar.html>

Current Newsletter <http://www.strawberrycreekfriends.org/pdf/newsletter.pdf>

Distribution Sunday for paper/electronic newsletter is the last Sunday of the each month

Newsletter Deadline is Sunday prior to Distribution Sunday. **Deadline: October 24** (for November issue)

Web Coordinator Amy Dewey amyd@alumnae.mills.edu (to join our Listserv or create a Zoom meeting)

Newsletter Editor & Calendar Postings Sarah Hawthorne editor@strawberrycreekfriends.org

THE CALENDAR (activities below via Zoom)

SUNDAYS (unless otherwise noted)

10 a.m. Meeting for Worship (every Sunday) See next page for details.

Oct 3 Advices & Queries on Social & Civic Responsibility – read aloud by First Day Committee
11:45 a.m. Quaker Action Worship Group (QAWG). Contact Betsy Morris or Asa Brown.

Oct 10 Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business

Oct 14 (1979) A Preparative Meeting's request to become Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting was APPROVED! (see inside for the history!)

Oct 17 9:00 a.m. Worship Sharing based on a query. Contact Bob Langfelder boblangfelder@aol.com
11:50am "Listening in Tongues" by Tom Rothschild (rescheduled from 9/17/21)

Oct 23 10 a.m. (Saturday) Clerks' Gathering

Oct 24 11:50 a.m. Committee Sunday. Check with your committee clerk for details.
12:45 p.m. Young Adult Friends. Click on YAF tab on Berkeley Friends Meeting website.

Oct 31 11:50 a.m. Power, Privilege, and Race (PPR) program (tentatively planned).

WEDNESDAYS (ongoing)

7 a.m. Mid-Week Morning Worship. For information, call Peter Lin 510-530-0479.

THURSDAYS (ongoing)

4 p.m. Twelve-Step Meeting (open to all). Contact facilitator Avotcja Jiltonilro 510-658-7995.
(previously held at Berkeley Fellowship, 1027 University near San Pablo Ave, Berkeley.)

Strawberry Creek Sunday Worship (Zoom)

We meet for worship at 10am Sunday mornings via Zoom; link posted on SCMM home webpage <http://www.strawberrycreekfriends.org>

The "Virtual Meeting Room" opens earlier at 9:30am. Our worship closes at 11am, followed by holding in the light those in need, announcements, and social time to share. Newcomers are invited to sign the Guest Book on our website homepage.

Berkeley Friends Meeting (BFM)

The Zoom link for Sunday worship may be found online. <http://www.berkeleyfriendsmeeting.org>

Correction: In the September newsletter John Maurer was erroneously identified as a member of Berkeley Friends Meeting when in fact he belonged to Berkeley Friends Church. (John Maurer, died July 29, 2021, and his Memorial Meeting was held August 29, at Berkeley Friends Church.)

Quaker Action Worship Group

At 11:45am the first Sunday of each month, Quaker Action Worship Group comes together on Zoom. QAWG's mission is "To discern how our Quaker practice and tradition can more strongly and fully inform our political activism." QAWG draws from Strawberry Creek Friends Meeting, Berkeley Friends Meeting, and Berkeley Friends Church. For more information, please contact Co-Conveners Betsey Morris or Asa Brown.

Tiny House Empowerment Village

Did you know Strawberry Creek Meeting sponsored a tiny house?



photo by Janet Piggins

PacYM Fall Family Fellowship

Pacific Yearly Meeting is having an in-person, socially distanced youth gathering at Sierra Friends Center/Woolman October 9-10, 2021, the week before College Park Quarterly Meeting. This event is only open to families, youth, and youth workers. Both days there will be a morning Quarterly Meeting teen program.

Children's Program will start at 10am on Saturday Oct 9th with a tour of the campus, and then a hike to Mel's pond. On Sunday Oct 10, we will have Meeting for Worship outdoors and then lunch. The event is pay as led, thanks to a generous grant from the Youth Programs Coordinating Committee of Pacific Yearly Meeting.

All participants are asked to share their vaccination status and abide by precautionary COVID 19 measures. A-frames are available, camping is not allowed for this event. Meals are catered (not served in dining hall). Reserve your spot today!

For more information call Keenan, the youth programs coordinator at 530-563-6369 or email him youthprogramscoordinator@pacificyearlymeeting.org

Tiny House Trip on Saturday Oct 9th

There's an encore opportunity to visit Youth Spirit Artworks' Tiny House Empowerment Village, for those who missed the prior visit in July. We will meet there at 2 pm and get a tour to see an amazing, colorful community for homeless youth. The visit will last approximately an hour. If you need a ride for the Oct 9 visit, please contact Kathy Barnhart or Janet Piggins. Or feel free to ask for directions.

Sally Hindman, a member of Strawberry Creek and the founder/director of Youth Spirit Artworks, will be there, as well as some of the residents and also volunteers working on various aspects of the village. Located near the Oakland Coliseum, this village is an inspiring response to homelessness.

Tiny House Empowerment Village is featured on the American Institute of Architects 2021 East Bay Home Tour! According to Kerstin Hellmann, Tiny House Empowerment Village was the Committee's favorite entry! Note: USF Architecture Professor Seth Wachtel has actively worked to make the Village architecturally wonderful.

QUAKER 'ZINES

Because Strawberry Creek Friends Meeting is so large, sometimes we are insular and unaware of the wider network of Quakers. This page brings you up to speed on happenings at two major Quaker publications: Western Friend (regional) and Friends Journal (national). Both offer awesome resources, most for free!

FRIENDS JOURNAL

The mission of *Friends Journal* is "to communicate Quaker experience in order to connect and deepen spiritual lives." *Friends Journal* is a nationally distributed monthly magazine that combines first-person narrative, reporting, poetry, and news. Independently published by Friends Publishing Inc, Philadelphia, PA. *Friends Journal* was originally two earlier publications, *The Friend* (Orthodox, 1827-1955) and *The Friends Intelligencer* (Hicksite, 1844-1955). In 1955 the two magazines merged at the same time the Hicksites and Orthodox Friends in Philadelphia reconciled.

Friends Journal wants you to write about Quaker heroes – **deadline is October 18!!**

<https://www.friendsjournal.org/writing-opp-quaker-heroes>

Free Stuff: On the Friends Journal website you can check out QuakerSpeak, a bi-weekly Quaker video project <https://quakerspeak.com> A new video is released every other Thursday. FJ offers these videos, as well as a newsletter, free! Also free online are older archived issues of Friends Journal.

Got money? Spring for an FJ subscription. Only \$26/year (11 issues plus recent past issues).

<https://www.friendsjournal.org/card18/>



Western Friend

Quaker Plain Speech and Spirit in the West

WESTERN FRIEND

Western Friend lists the worship hour Zoom link for most Meetings in the PacYM region, so it's easy to be a "traveling Quaker" during the pandemic: <https://westernfriend.org/quaker-worship-and-fellowship-online>

This is the time of year that Western Friend publication asks that folks notify them through the Meeting's WF Rep (Sarah Hawthorne) if they'll be subscribing to Western Friend in 2022. Luckily, our Meeting qualifies for the group discount rate of \$32 for print, \$26 for electronic, \$46 for both formats.

To add your name to the list of WF subscribers, notify Sarah editor@strawberrycreekfriends.org

If you're a current subscriber (or already told Sarah you want to subscribe in 2022), no need to do more. In a month or so you'll be asked to send payment to Treasurer Nancy Wilkinson for your subscription.

Originally founded in 1929 by Howard and Anna Brinton, Western Friend was known as Friends Bulletin for the better part of 80 years. At the time, Pacific Yearly Meeting stretched from eastern Colorado and New Mexico, west to Hawaii and north to Washington and Montana. Even after Intermountain Yearly Meeting (CO, NM, AZ and UT) and North Pacific Yearly Meeting (WA, OR, ID, MT) split off from PYM in the mid-1970's, Friends in the West continued to place a premium on maintaining their connections with one another.

Over the decades, Western Bulletin grew from a single-sheet, black-and-white broadside focused on announcements of births, deaths, and upcoming events, to the full-fledged color magazine featuring articles by and about Friends in the West, known since 2008 as Western Friend. Copies of these very old bulletins are posted online - scroll down to Deep Archive <https://westernfriend.org/magazine>

Adjacent is a description of the featured topic for future Western Friend issues – consider writing a WF article – several Strawberries have already been published in the Western Friend!

The excerpt below is drawn from Rachel Findley's April 13, 2007, paper for an Earlham College class and is the second installment in the series ...

Strawberry Creek Friends History

Berkeley Monthly Meeting

The Berkeley Monthly Meeting meeting house was (and still is) a typical Berkeley brown shingle building, which sits in a busy part of Berkeley not too far from the University of California at Berkeley... After World War II, Berkeley Monthly Meeting, (on Vine Street across from the popular Peet's coffee house) attracted a number of veterans—war veterans turned pacifist through their war experience, veterans of Civilian Public Service Camps and Japanese internment camps, veterans of AFSC's postwar relief work in Europe, veterans of Quaker work camps around the world. Some were second, third, and fourth generation West Coast Quakers; some were transplants from various Meetings on the East Coast; some, as always, were new to Quakerism. As these veterans settled into the Berkeley Meeting community, they created a network of strong social connections...

The 1960's & 1970's in Berkeley were a time of radical social, cultural, and political turmoil. The Cuban missile crisis, the civil rights movement, campus' Free Speech movement, women's liberation, homemade and tie-died clothing, hair, communal living, new ways of looking at sexual responsibility (and irresponsibility), advocacy of left-wing revolutionary violence—all were fermenting in Berkeley, where the possibility of a “world turned upside down” seemed very real.

People calling themselves “Diggers” cultivated and planted crops in vacant lots. The once-preppy shopping streets were now full of long-haired hippies in homemade and tie-dyed clothing. Draft cards were burned. Students sat in and were arrested on campus. Students “sat-in” and were arrested on campus. Violence and drug use began to appear in Berkeley's public schools. Guns were fired (by police) during nonviolent demonstrations in 1969 – one person was killed, one blinded, and the town was blanketed with tear gas.

In this atmosphere, Quakers maintained a witness for peace, justice, and equality. Their steadfast quiet witness and open doors drew a steady stream of

visitors, some of whom regarded the un-programmed silence of Quaker worship, interpreted this as an opportunity to speak, with passion and at length, about political issues as well as personal concerns. “Berkeley meeting was a very public meeting; the doors were always open, and anybody and everybody walked in. Some people thought it was a ‘Hyde Park’ for orators. Sometimes schizophrenics wandered in. Fortunately, there were grounded Friends who could *hold* a Meeting for Worship, large and strong enough to absorb the disturbances, the tired, the poor, the disenfranchised.”

Yet with all the coming and going, much of it transient, it became increasingly difficult for new and younger people to become known and familiar in the community. In 1974, Berkeley Meeting began to encourage people with the same postal ZIP codes to come together in neighborhood groups for a more intimate, deeper connection.

South Campus Worship Group

The “94705” neighborhood (South Campus Worship Group) began to meet once a month for worship. The 94705 zip code included student housing areas near the University campus, as well as single-family houses a bit farther from campus. The people who met were mostly young couples, some with children; there were also a good number of graduate students (and people of that age), and a few older families with houses big enough to host a meeting of twenty people, which was the average size of their gatherings. They found that they really enjoyed each other, and they enjoyed their quiet, centered worship.

...In February 1975, Berkeley Meeting approved holding Meeting for Worship for South Berkeley and Oakland, to be held under the care of Berkeley Meeting. The worship group began meeting twice a month. Later in 1975 they decided to meet weekly. One of their first activities was a group retreat, at Ben Lomond Quaker Center in the Santa Cruz mountains.

In March 1976 at Quaker Center, the group held its first Meeting for Business with minutes that have survived. That month the group named a childcare coordinator, transportation coordinator, recording clerk, “correspondent,” assistant correspondent, and an Inquiry Committee to study their situation.

Children as a Priority

A thriving First Day School is often mentioned as a source of joy to the Meeting. Large numbers of adults have volunteered to work with the children, but from the beginning difficulty in finding enough adults to staff all the classes is sometimes mentioned. During September 1976, the worship group decided to hire someone to take care of the youngest children in the nursery, as children were not comfortable with a shifting array of volunteers.

Hiring a nursery coordinator to provide a stable, reassuring presence for the children, and forming a First Day School Committee, were the first organizational activities of the Strawberry Creek Worship Group. Moreover, the First Day School Committee was the first committee formed.

Strawberry Creek's children have usually been given a high priority in the life of the Meeting. Children participate in waiting worship, sometimes with the adults and sometimes in their classes. Numbers are not always reported, and often are not reported consistently, but it seems that the adult to child ratio in the Meeting has hovered around four adults to one child.

Becoming a Meeting

Later in the fall of 1976, application by the Worship Group was made to become a Preparative Meeting under care of Berkeley Meeting, and the request was granted.

In May of 1977, the Preparative Meeting made its first State of the Meeting report to College Park Quarterly Meeting. The report highlighted the central concern that brought the Meeting together, and set a theme for all the later years of Strawberry Creek Meeting's existence: concern for the quality of worship.

We are essentially an inward-turned gathering. We need and appreciate the spiritual strength and refreshment which comes to us through our deeply centered worship. The desire for centered worship brought us together two years ago....

State of the Meeting, 1977

The next year's minutes reported lengthy discussion about the relationship between membership and the need to serve on a committee, with some tension around the question of whether Faith and Practice recommendations should be regarded as authoritative. The Meeting decided to have a Committee of the Whole for Worship and Ministry, thus sidestepping requirements for committee membership. "Ad Hoc Helping Groups" were organized to care for individual needs. No Oversight Committee was named.

There is some concern... that Meeting as a whole has not undertaken any social action or witness... Meeting for Worship continues to be deep and focused, with an intensity and energy that sustains and renews us.

State of the Meeting, 1978

In the next year, the Preparative Meeting took its first steps toward social engagement. "Two special Meetings for Worship were held, one during the time of Peoples Temple and the deaths of Harvey Milk and George Moscone, a second on Easter at sunrise." The Meeting appointed a Peace and Social Order Coordinator, and issued a statement opposing Proposition 6, which would ban gays and lesbians teaching in public schools.

On October 14, 1979, the Preparative Meeting's request to become Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting was approved.



Speaking of births, Mica Estrada says Lisa Hubbell is a grandmother! On Sept 15th Thistle & Ben had baby Emmylou Mira Hofvendahl, 8 lbs 3 oz.

Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting
Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business
September 12, 2021 draft minutes
For review and approval at October Business Meeting

Meeting for Business opened at 11:50 a.m. with silent worship and was conducted via Zoom. Elizabeth Moses Strain clerked the meeting. 33 Friends were present.

Eric Wilson shared the reflections of Facilities Committee on Advices and Queries on Simplicity. *[see below]*

The Clerk reviewed the agenda, which had been posted by the Recording Clerk to groups.io on September 10.

The Recording Clerk read the minutes for the August, 2021, Meeting for Business. The minutes were approved with the following modifications, both regarding Clerk's Business:

- The Bridging the Gap Committee includes Berkeley Friends Church, in addition to Berkeley and Strawberry Creek Friends Meetings.
- The reference to Berkeley Friends Meeting's Minute on racism was changed. The word "passed" was replaced with "approved." The reference to Strawberry Creek's Minute on racism as a source was replaced with the verbatim text from the Berkeley Friends Meeting Minute: "This Minute gratefully adapted from the *Minute on Engagement to Uproot and Dismantle Racism* adopted by Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting."

Query

The clerk read the query, as approved in our August business meeting: "*We are reminded to consider how our work and decisions today support SCMM in becoming an actively anti-racist faith community.*"

Correspondence and Clerk's Business

The clerk's proposed Naming Committee (David Rutschman, convenor, Andrea English, and Paul Jolly) to populate the 2022-23 Nominating Committee was approved.

Chris Hogness, SCMM member from 1984 to 1995, has moved to a place with no local meeting, and would like to explore renewing his Strawberry Creek Meeting membership. His request has been forwarded to the Care of the Meeting Committee for deliberation. The committee was encouraged to consider all of the ramifications of membership at a geographic distance.

Old Business

Care of the Meeting Committee (Carl Anderson) recommended laying down Heather Alden's membership, at her request. It was noted that we might be opening the opportunity for membership for distant friends. Concern was expressed that the committee's report did not describe how Heather's spiritual needs are being met. The committee was asked to reach out to her again.

New Business

There was no new business.

Reports

Worship and Ministry (Ralph Murphy) reported that, based on Laura Miller's medical opinion about the COVID Delta variant, plans for reopening in person are on hold for the time being. The clerk invited a moment of reflection to hold the Meeting in the Light.

Care of the Meeting Committee (Stephen McNeil) reported that the Yearly Meeting Communications Committee is asking for membership information from its constituent Monthly Meetings. Stephen shared the details on groups.io September 12th, including ways Friends can share all, some, or none of the information that is captured in the SCMM directory.

Mutual Care (Margaret Schneider) reported that, after three rounds, Friendly phone calls will be laid down for the time being.

Treasurer (Nancy Wilkinson) reported that we are \$1,900 in the black for the year, as of the end of August. Trends suggest we may end the year with a positive balance if Friends continue giving generously.

PacYM Annual Session Representative (Nancy Wilkinson) reported on the 2021 Annual Session for Pacific Yearly Meeting, which was once again held on Zoom. 333 Friends, including 21 children, attended, with 26 Friends participating in the pre-session retreat for Friends of Color. The theme for the session was *Love and Justice: Heeding the Spirit's power within and among us*. Keynote speakers Avotcja Jiltonilro and Gabriella Alvarado brought Spirit's power to us through poetry. Concerns for racial justice and care for the Earth were knit into the rhythms and activities throughout our time together. We worked with the tools of "ouch, oops, and whoa" to help identify racial mis-steps. Eldering skills and support for those carrying ministry continued to grow. There was a clear sense of Spirit among us. 50 Friends were remembered during the Meeting for Memorials, significantly more than usual. *[full report below]*

Query

The Clerk invited us to contemplate the query: *"How did our work today support us in becoming an actively anti-racist faith community?"* One friend appreciated the explanation of the value of collecting racial demographics. Another said she was gratified that Friends continue to contribute to the Community Sharing Fund. Appreciation was expressed for Avotcja Jiltonilro's and Gabriella Alvarez's poetry at PacYM. A friend asked what it would look like if our work supported us in becoming an anti-racist faith community.

Announcements

- Next Meeting for Business October 10th, 2021 at 11:50 a.m.
- Clerks' and Representatives' Gathering, Saturday October 23rd, 10:00 a.m. to Noon (on Zoom)
Stephen McNeil, Care of the Meeting Committee
- Avotcja Jiltonilro spoke of the need in Puerto Rico during this hurricane season. In addition to cash, solar equipment is needed. Friends who wish to help are invited to send contributions to her.

The Meeting closed with worship at 1:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Moses Strain, Presiding Clerk
Beth Wrightson, Alternate Clerk
Paul Jolly, Recording Clerk



Reflections on Advices and Queries for
Simplicity by Facilities Committee

Life is meant to be lived from a Center, a divine Center... a life of unhurried peace and power. It is simple. It is serene. It takes no time, but it occupies all our time.

Thomas r. Kelly, testament of devotion, 1941

A life centered in God will be directed toward keeping communication with God open and unencumbered. Simplicity is best achieved through a right ordering of priorities, maintaining humility of spirit, avoiding self-indulgence, resisting the accumulation of unnecessary possessions, and avoiding over-busy lives.

Elise Boulding writes in *My Part in the Quaker Adventure*, “Simplicity, beauty, and happiness go together if they are a byproduct of a concern for something more important than ourselves.”

Do I center my life in an awareness of God’s presence so that all things take their rightful place?

Do I live simply, and promote the right sharing of the world’s bounty?

Do I keep my life uncluttered with things and activities, avoiding commitments beyond my strength and light?

How do I maintain simplicity, moderation, and honesty in my speech, my manner of living, and my daily work?

Do I recognize when I have enough?

Is the life of our Meeting so ordered that it helps us to simplify our lives?

We admitted that striving for simplicity is difficult in our complicated world. The pandemic has further forced many of us into relying on Zoom and other remote technologies which makes simplicity even more elusive.

Several of us noted that we would like to simplify our lives to make life easier for those who have to contend with our possessions and our finances after we are gone. We might make a statement of final affairs with the Meeting to make life easier for others in the future. Some of the many things we have acquired in our overly affluent society may have no use for anyone else even though we make think that they are valuable. One of us is currently engaged in building a backyard shed to store more stuff that might be gotten rid of instead. Also, sometimes we try to add a veneer of simplicity by adding new and ever more complicated software or organize our lives.

Even our Meeting affairs fall into this trap as we frequently add new tasks that we think are important without eliminating old tasks. Currently we are considering adding a new person to deal with new technology that we want to use to reopen as a hybrid Meeting after the pandemic. We burn ourselves out by taking on new tasks beyond our light and strength even though we admit that many complications may still serve clear and good purposes.

Another member noted that simplicity has a long history of value in reducing our burden on our planet and reducing climate change and that we may need to find simplicity if our species is to continue on our planet. We are children of nature and our overdeveloped lives are an affront both to Quaker simplicity and to the environment.

EPISTLE

PacYM Annual Session July 23-28, 2021

To All Friends Everywhere:

We are called to both love and justice. Led by our Racial Justice Subcommittee, we began the process of creating a sacred space in which healing and transformation can occur. The initial step is to learn to recognize and express when one is hurt by bias or micro-aggression (“Ouch”) or has caused hurt (“Oops”) or has witnessed another’s being hurt (“Whoa”). Vocal ministry during meeting for worship included expressions of “Ouch” or “I’m sorry” or “Whoa.” The subcommittee held a time each evening for debriefing our sacred space process, and Ministry Committee listened to people’s reports of hurt.

We were deeply moved by the poetry and stories of the keynote speakers, Gabriela Portillo Alvarado and Avotcja (Avacha) Jiltonilro. Both of them wrote of the multi-generational trauma of being nonwhite in the United States. Gabriela recounted their pain experienced while researching the human skulls of nonwhite persons, including Native Americans from the early 19th century, in a collection at the University of Pennsylvania. These remains have not been repatriated, and Gabriela’s poem “Worship on a Mass Grave” spoke of the day they sat in worship above the storage room.

Avotcja described herself as a believer in perpetual revelation and as one to whom the Creator usually speaks in poetry and music. She wrote and distributed a love poem, “Street Children of the Night,” to children outside at night near her home, and was later amazed when a small girl hugged her on the BART subway system and recited the poem verbatim, expressing gratitude because, as she said, “nobody ever talks to us.” From the poem that Avotcja wrote in response to the 2016 presidential election, she led us repeatedly in a chorus of everyone’s voices declaring, “I know we can!”

We were excited to see the faces of Quakers from California, Nevada, Hawai‘i, Mexico, and beyond. This was our second annual session held online via Zoom, and this year has brought other changes as well. We grieved the loss of 50 Friends at an extended memorial meeting. Our total membership is 1,173, down 36 from last year, and our Nominating Committee encouraged committees to set goals of a size appropriate to the strength and light of current members, because no big influx of new people is occurring. In this age of more digital

communications, the administrative work required has expanded even as the available volunteer energy has declined, and we approved hiring a half-time administrative assistant. Simultaneously, the Ministry Committee will be listening widely and deeply to discern the Spirit’s call to the yearly meeting -- and the structures that would support our heeding that call.

Discussions about love and justice continued throughout our time together. Most people when they spoke included in their introductions an acknowledgment of the indigenous people of their region. In Bible study, we were reminded that the instruction in Micah 6:8 is “to do justice” -- not just to talk or to read about it or to expect someone else to do it. How are we doing justice? We heard Quakers’ stories of advocating for racial justice, housing equity, farmworker rights, and environmental justice, as well as providing financial support of undocumented students.

The life of our Quaker communities can be nurtured by eldering, and the process can be one more tool in creating sacred space. The Eldering Subcommittee of the Ministry Committee created a schedule of elders for holding the space of each meeting for worship or plenary. For each keynote speaker, the presiding clerk, and some other individuals exercising their gifts of ministry for our community, an elder provides prayerful and sometimes practical support. At an interest group, the subcommittee encouraged participants to practice this holding of space while a group worships or an individual presents or ministers. Doing so helps grow the good in our meetings.

Eldering can contribute to the work of decolonization, in that the elder sets aside their own ego and their needs in order to be in service of the spiritual growth of another.

We know that we join many other Quakers in wrestling with issues of racial justice. We encourage Friends everywhere to give up the expectation of comfort: in conversations about race, discomfort is natural--it means that we are growing.

Let us create ways to help each other be brave. Let us take time to connect with the indwelling Spirit that connects us to one another and to all of creation. Let us break the bonds of racism by continuing to learn, and continuing to tell the truth, and becoming willing to make repairs. We can then take the next steps into sacred space together. We know we can!

STRAWBERRY CREEK MONTHLY MEETING

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

TO:

OCTOBER 2021 ISSUE