

STRAWBERRY CREEK MONTHLY MEETING
OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

JUNE 2021
NEWSLETTER

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

Website <http://www.strawberrycreekfriends.org>
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 the Sunday prior to Distribution Sunday. **Deadline: June 20** (for July/August 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.

June 6 Advices & Queries on Personal Relationships – Finance Committee (read aloud in worship hour)
11:45 a.m. Quaker Action Worship Group (QAWG). Contact Betsy Morris or Asa Brown.

June 13 11:50 a.m. Meeting for Worship on the occasion of Business

June 20 9:00 a.m. Worship Sharing based on a query. Contact Bob Langfelder boblangfelder@aol.com
11:50 a.m. Braiding Sweetgrass - PPR book reading group. See inside.

June 27 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.

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).

The JUNE newsletter features 11 books to kickstart your summer reading. Can you find them all?



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 Zoom Guest Book in the Chat Function.

Berkeley Friends Meeting

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

PacYM Annual Session July 23 - 28, 2021

Pacific Yearly Meeting's online 2021 theme is "*The Power at Work Within Us: connection with the power of Spirit working within and among us.*" Avotcja and Gabriela Portillo Alvarado will be co-keynote speakers, sharing poetry and dialogue. Fees are pay-as-led (\$30 suggested, \$10 if under 18). See <https://www.pacificyearlymeeting.org>

FGC Annual Gathering June 27 - July 3, 2021

Way Will Open is this year's FGC Gathering theme (Zoom), with pay-as-led sliding scale pricing <https://www.fgcquaker.org/connect/gathering>



Financial Aid to Attend Quaker Programs

Quaker Events Support Fund, administered by Care of Meeting (CoM), makes modest financial aid available to help SCMM members, and regular attenders, participate in College Park Quarterly or Pacific Yearly Meetings, Friends General Conference Annual Gathering, and Quaker board or committee meetings. **Guidelines for financial assistance in attending Quaker programs are set out elsewhere in this newsletter**, and you may also contact Care of Meeting Clerk Stephen McNeil.

Lynne's passing...

Lynne D'Angelo passed Friday, May 21, 2021. A memorial will be held for Lynne when the Meeting can meet together again (not on Zoom). Cards, emails, telephone calls all are welcome.

PPR Announces Summer Book Series

*Focusing on Healing from White Supremacy and Colonization with **Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants***

Power, Privilege, and Race subcommittee (PPR) announces the SCMM 2021 summer book discussion series on *Braiding Sweetgrass* scheduled for consecutive third Sundays in the months of June, July, and August. The first of three sessions on **June 20th** will cover the beginning of the book **through page 140**, ending with the chapter on The Three Sisters. Author Robin Wall Kimmerer is a mother, scientist, decorated professor, enrolled member in the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, and much-loved poet.

As the SCMM Newsletter goes to press, PPR is wrapping up a four-part series on the book *Caste: The Origins of our Discontents* by Isabel Wilkerson, gatherings presented collaboratively with our sister anti-racism committee at Berkeley Friends Meeting. BFM Friends expressed appreciation for SCMM's Minute on Engagement to Uproot and Dismantle Racism in Strawberry Creek Friends Meeting, which helped guide them in developing their own Minute. We chose to follow *Caste* with *Braiding Sweetgrass* to build on the importance of belonging in the larger sense, the power of not exercising dominion over others. PPR focused on this spiritual sensibility in our March 21, 2021 adult ed session through sharing the work of John A. Powell and the Othering and Belonging Institute at UC Berkeley.

Friends throughout Pacific Yearly Meeting are reading or re-reading *Braiding Sweetgrass* because it engages our energy to end white supremacy and decolonize our faith community. These twin efforts provide a roadmap for the transformation of SCMM and beyond. Such transformation offers a healing path for us as well as our planet.

Please contact Susan Burr, Deborah Marks, Laura Magnani, or Ragni Larsen-Orta for more information. We have already placed the group order of *Braiding Sweetgrass* through Marcus Books, the first independent Black-owned bookstore in the nation. You can still purchase your copy off the shelf at their store at 3900 Martin Luther King Jr. Way in Oakland, near 40th St.

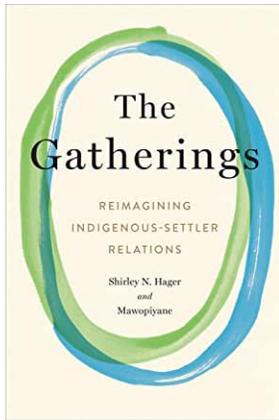
Also reading *Braiding Sweetgrass*...

PacYM Worship Group (first Mondays)

At 7pm the first Monday of each month, Pacific Yearly Meeting's Unity with Nature Committee, Indigenous Concerns Sub-Committee, and the Youth Programs Coordinating Committee invite you to the Bi-Monthly Braiding Sweetgrass Worship Group. See PacYM website ([click here](#)).

When an Atheist says Bless You...

Recording Clerk Paul Jolly has just published his second book of poems, entitled *When an atheist says bless you* through Fernwood Press. The book may be order either directly from the publisher, or through Amazon or an independent bookstore.



SCMM Library – New Book Acquisition

The Gatherings: Reimagining Indigenous-Settler Relations, Quaker Friend Shirley Hager and Mawopiyane (April 6, 2021). The book describes long-weekend gatherings, in a Wabanaki-led traditional Council format, when assumptions were challenged, perspectives upended, and stereotypes shattered. Alliances and friendships were formed that endure to this day. Contact Ragni Larsen-Orta.

Seeking Clerk(s) for Events Committee

If you've enjoyed our Spring Retreat and the December 12th month Gathering, you know how important the Events Committee is! Rhea Farley and Laura Miller are already serving on Events Committee, but a third/fourth person(s) are needed to Clerk/Co-Clerk. If interested, please contact Nominating Clerks James Hosley or Ralph Murphy.

Youth Spirits Artwork seeks Board member

YSA is currently seeking new board members with expertise in business, including finance, accounting and business planning. For more about YSA board membership, email info@youthspiritartworks.org



2/2-30/30 Friendly Phonecalls Encore!

Mutual Care is offering its popular program again (repeaters welcome!) Folks are paired in two's to call each other twice (30 minute calls in 30 days). Michelle Bellows michelle.L.bellows@gmail.com needs to know by June 10th you want to participate

Community Sharing Fund (first dispersal)

On March 14, 2021, in response to Covid 19 and the current pandemic, the Meeting approved the Minute to Establish a Community Sharing Fund (CSF), to bring our Quaker values into the community in more real and tangible ways.

The criteria for selecting organizations are located in/serving the East Bay, responding to the impacts of the pandemic. serving communities of color, led by people of color (at least 50% to go to these orgs)

The Community Sharing Fund Working Group was asked to identify appropriate organizations to which the Meeting might donate funds. At Meeting for Business May 9, 2021, the working group recommended donating a total of \$12,500 to five organizations (read more in M4B minutes, below).

[Oakland LGBTQ Community Center](#), [Homies Empowerment](#), [Street Level Health](#), [Intertribal Friendship House](#), and [Compassion in Oakland](#).

History of John Woolman School (book project)

Cathy Lenox, a Woolman alum and Lisa Frankel, a long-time neighbor of Woolman, are writing a book on both the four-year school and the Woolman Semester. In Spring 2021 a Go-Fund-Me kickstarter (103 backers) raised \$25,475 in pledges to help bring this project to life. Contact Paul Jolly.

Sierra Friends Center after the Jones Fire

Sierra Friends Center facilities/grounds were devastated by fire in August, 2020. *Living with Fire Restoration Workshops* are being offered to help with land restoration (June 5, September 11, November 13, 2021). These workshops teach about fire impacts and measures to assist nature as it recovers, including tree planting! 4,000 seedlings are in a nursery right now, ready to go in the ground after the first rains. Register on the Sierra Friends Center homepage <https://woolman.org> or email info@woolman.org

Berkeley Friends Meeting Minute on Engagement to Uproot and Dismantle Racism

This minute is gratefully adapted from the Minute on Engagement to Uproot and Dismantle Racism adopted by Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting.

Berkeley Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends acknowledges the centrality, depth, and pervasiveness of systemic racism in the United States. Continuing revelations of history, experience, and conscience challenge Friends to live up to the Light, increasing awareness of how we, our communities, and our institutions perpetuate the structure of racism.

We must help one another discern what Spirit calls us to do individually and collectively. We must work towards “a positive peace which is the presence of justice”, as Martin Luther King Jr. said in his “Letter from a Birmingham Jail”.

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

Systemic racism creates a barrier to living fully into our deepest Quaker values as reflected in all of our testimonies.

We seek to bring about a truly inclusive, compassionate, welcoming Religious Society of Friends through which our individual lives speak to our collective belonging to one another and the world.

We commit to the anti-racist work of healing and transforming to make foundational change in ourselves, our Meeting and the world. We commit equally to the work of dismantling the political and economic structures of racism and to valuing the real beauty in human difference.

Approved 4/11/2021 Berkeley, California
Posted online:

<https://westernfriend.org/minute-dismantling-racism>

PacYM Racism Dialogue Workshops

Pacific Yearly Meeting's Racial Justice Subcommittee is holding more Racism Dialogue Workshops, one per month over the next few months. The workshop is similar to the pilot that was held in February in conjunction with Santa Cruz, Palo Alto and Redwood Forest Meetings.

The workshop design is the same for all workshops and each workshop has a limit of 30 (so please register for only one workshop). There is no fee for the workshops. The next is 2-5pm Friday June 4.

Below, please find the dates and the links to register. You need to register for the events using the link below in order to receive the information.

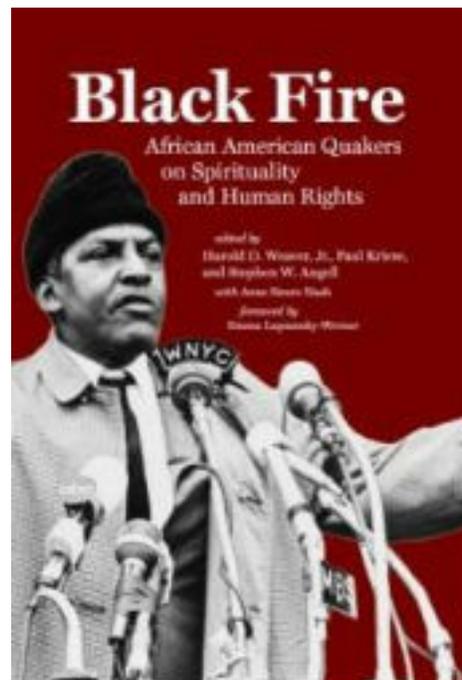
[Register now](#) for 2pm Friday, June 4 workshop. The Zoom link is sent two days before the event.

* * * *

As recommended by Carl Magruder

Black Fire: African American Quakers on Spirituality and Human Rights (2011)

Edited by Harold D. Weaver Jr., Kries & Angell
On sale now at Pendle Hill bookstore



Meeting Funds to Assist Individuals

From the Clerk of Care of Meeting...

This is a resource page to assist individuals within the Strawberry Creek Friends Meeting in identifying the appropriate committee to which to submit their requests for financial assistance.

Sharing Fund -Mutual Care

The Sharing Fund is sometimes available to help people out during a personal crisis. The fund is used only on an occasional basis where Friends need assistance to tide them over for an emergency. In general, the Mutual Care Committee does not extend funds to meet ongoing needs.

Traveling Ministries -Worship & Ministry

Ministries funded are typically Quaker-related ministries, and when appropriate, ministries that reach beyond Quakers to further values related to our testimonies. Services funded are typically for expenses for Friends serving on boards of Quaker organizations, organizations that have significant Quaker participation, and organizations that are supported by Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting.

Process: Apply to Worship and Ministry in writing, giving a background of the ministry or service, its evolution, overall financial needs and other sources of support, the ministry's contribution to SCMM, the larger Quaker community and the world, etc.

Funds will not typically exceed half of the anticipated expenses of the ministry or service, including transportation, housing, and other needs. In most cases the funding will \$300 or less. Friends applying typically have a recommendation from their anchoring or clearness committee. It is ideal if Worship and Ministry has about three months to consider a request for funding.

Quaker Events Support Fund -Care of Meeting

Modest financial aid is available to help SCMM members and regular attenders seeking to develop their capacity for service or to enhance a spiritual leading by participation in College Park Quarterly or Pacific Yearly Meetings, Friends General Conference Annual Gathering, and Quaker board or committee meetings. Care of Meeting Committee (COMC) accepts written requests for aid; the committee can provide a set of specific guidelines.

Quaker Center Annual Pass -Care of Meeting

One SCMM member/attender per month can participate in Quaker Center programs (including summer youth camps) for free by using the meeting Annual Pass. The pass is available to different people for each program, particularly individuals who might not otherwise participate. To apply, make written request to Care of Meeting Comm.

Retreat Fund -Care of Meeting

The Retreat Expense Account is intended to make up the difference each year between Retreat Expenses and Retreat Income. Recommended retreat fees are suggested to participants (both Spring and Fall Retreats), but no one is turned away due to lack of funds. Some participants are able to give more than the suggested fee. Many can't afford the full amount. The amount budgeted for the Retreat Expense Account is set based on the shortfall for the previous few years. For 2017 and 2018 the amount is \$2300.

Dime A Gallon Fund –Witness Committee

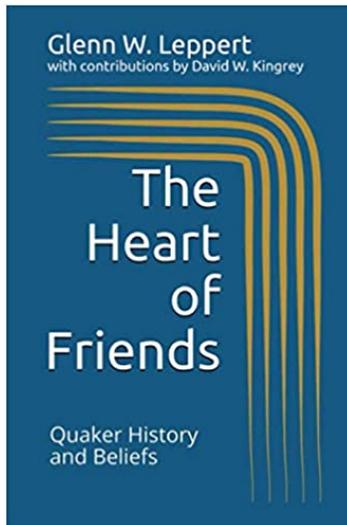
The dime-a-gallon fund was started by SCM in 2004 for the purpose of educating our Meeting and others about the need to reduce our fossil fuel use and to enable action to that end. For years the fund provided mini-grants (up to \$500) to local projects that directly reduced the use of fossil fuels, supported sustainability education or supported the healthy interdependence of people with nature. In 2017 Peace, Earthcare & Social Witness Committee decided to suspend the mini-grant program and engage the Meeting in further dialogue about the future of the fund while allowing the fund to grow.

Representatives Reimbursement –Care of Mtg

PYM Rep/Observer: reimbursement available for travel expenses, registration fees, meals, lodging.
Reps for FCLCA, FCL & CPQM: reimbursement available for travel expenses and meals.

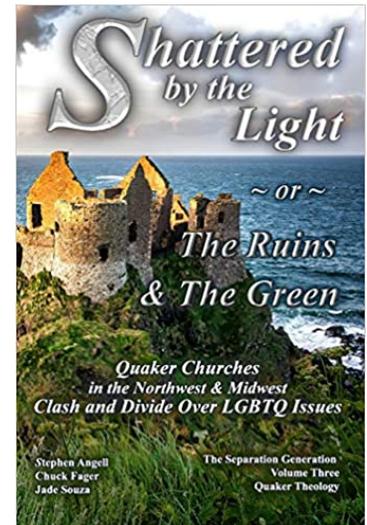
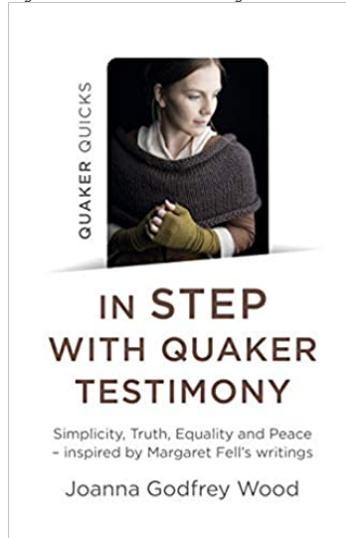
Process: Recipient (who must be the Rep or the PYM Observer) submits to the Treasurer, a request for reimbursement for expenses incurred to attend the meeting/function. The request should be written (paper or email), and include a receipt. The Treasurer will write a check for expenses.

New Books about Quakers (not yet read by editor)

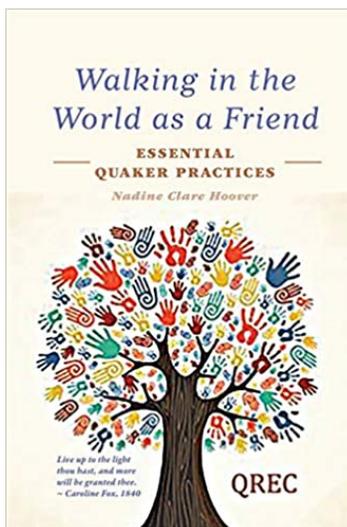


The Heart of Friends: Quaker History and Beliefs
(July 31, 2020)
by Glenn W Leppert, and David W Kingrey

Quaker Quicks - In Step with Quaker Testimony: Simplicity, Truth, Equality And Peace - Inspired By Margaret Fell's Writings
(May 1, 2021)
by Joanna Godfrey Wood

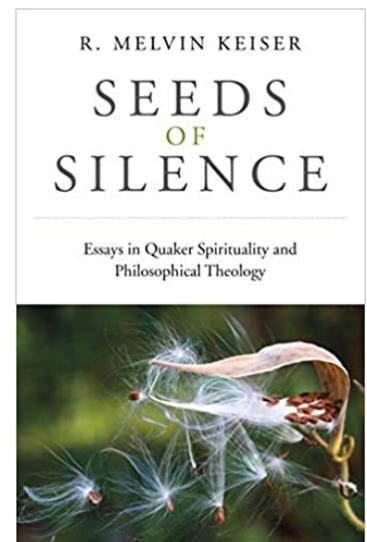
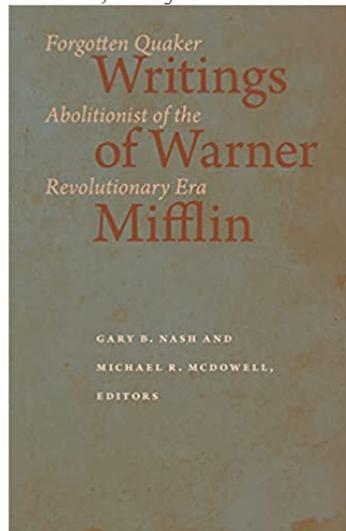


Shattered by The Light or The Ruins & The Green: Quaker Churches in the Northwest & Midwest Clash and Divide over LGBTQ Issues
(March 29, 2021)
by Stephen Angell, Chuck Fager, Jade Souza



Walking in the World as a Friend: Essential Quaker Practices
(September 1, 2020)

Writings of Warner Mifflin: Forgotten Quaker Abolitionist of the Revolutionary Era
(June 21, 2021) by Warner Mifflin, Gary B. Nash



Seeds of Silence: Essays in Quaker Spirituality and Philosophical Theology
(December 1, 2021)
by R. Melvin Keiser

Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting
Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business
May 9, 2021 draft minutes
For review and approval at June 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. 31 Friends were present. Josh Gallup shared the reflections of the Nominating Committee on the Advices and Queries on Peace.

The Clerk reviewed the agenda, which had been posted by the acting recording clerk to groups.io on May 8th.

The acting recording clerk read the minutes for the April 11, 2021 meeting for business. The minutes were approved with the following clarifications: the thanks expressed at the end of the minute on the State of the Meeting Report was to the writing group and the correct name of the friend that Avotcja Jiltonilro asked the Meeting to hold in the Light was Richard Sanderell.

Correspondence and Clerk's Business

The Clerk thanked the Retreat Committee (Shelley Tanenbaum and Rhea Farley) as well as the Retreat presenters. The Future of Worship workshop held this weekend, sponsored by *Western Friend* and Ben Lomond Quaker Center with Jay Cash's assistance, had ten Strawberries in attendance for portions as they are able. Friends from the East and West Coasts attended. It was quite rich. The Clerk said it is time to create an ad hoc committee with participation from Worship & Ministry, Care of the Meeting, Communications, and Facilities Committees with the addition of an At-Large member. They can consider what steps to take in order for us to gather in person again. A Friend said that this is a real opportunity to widen the context of what it means to come back together (not just considering safety issues). Where is Spirit within this process as we move forward? The At-Large member should be a medical person or at least such should be in consultation with the group. A Friend expressed concern that the ad hoc group ensure that people with visible and invisible disabilities will be served by this new configuration. We thanked Jay Cash for his contributions to this effort. Excitement was expressed that we are moving forward.

Old Business

Nominating Committee (co-clerk, James Hosley) reported that a couple of concerns had been addressed: Shelley Tanenbaum asked that her name be removed from the Events Committee. Loren McIntyre's Youth Spirit Artworks Representative nomination will be delayed until the June Meeting for Business. The Clerk requested that the slate, with the above two exceptions, be approved as presented in April. The Meeting approved the slate. A Friend asked how are these nominations reflecting the impact of our Minute on Dismantling Racism? Both the Nominating Committee and Power, Privilege and Race Subcommittee will refine this concern and take up responses.

New Business: None.

Reports

Community Sharing Fund Subcommittee (Larry Strain). Larry read the purpose and criteria of the Community Sharing Fund (CSF) and noted we had had \$12,500 in the Fund. The Subcommittee, with input from advisors, selected five organizations for support: Intertribal Friendship House, Homies Empowerment, Oakland LGBT Community Center, Street Level Health, and Compassion in Oakland. The first four received \$3,000 each and the last, with fewer expenses, received \$500. Larry read the cover letter signed by the Clerk. The letter stated "if there are other ways we may be of help to your organization, please feel free to reach out to us. It is not necessary to report back regarding your use of funds, but we would be pleased at anytime to hear more about your work and accomplishments." The CSF report, websites for the five groups, and the cover letter

will be posted to groups.io. All groups are in Oakland and are led by and serve people of color impacted by the pandemic. The Subcommittee, in conjunction with the Finance Committee, is exploring how giving might continue and how in future Meeting budgets we might continue the Fund. Meeting expressed its appreciation for the relatively quick work (in Quaker context) and decisions of the Subcommittee.

Treasurer (Nancy Wilkinson) The Treasurer's Report was shared on the screen. Under Annual Budget, it is noted in the header that this is a COVID budget. Should we return to the physical space, the Meeting will see a hybrid budget presentation. We are currently a little bit behind, as usual, in income. The largest "expenses" items, Yearly Meeting and Quarterly Meeting assessments (Line 8813), were paid at the beginning of our fiscal year. Looking at the balance sheet, the Community Sharing Fund received \$4,000 from Mutual Care Committee's Sharing Fund Reserve, \$6,000 from the Available for General Activities Fund, and \$2,500 from restricted gifts from individuals. After the distribution of the \$12,500, there remains \$1,008 in the Community Sharing Fund.

After discussion, the five CSF groups' websites will also be posted on the Meeting's website. Currently the 19 groups to whom we give \$150 annual support are listed there to encourage others to give individual support. A Friend asked if the budgeted \$3,000 in the Meeting Retreat Fund should go to an additional gift to Ben Lomond Quaker Center. Lee Douglas, Finance Committee, noted that our actual budget has never been met by our actual contributions. It is only because our spending has not been fully expended, that we meet our budget each year. Just because we don't spend a line item, doesn't mean we can spend it elsewhere. This is one reason the Finance Committee and the Community Sharing Fund Subcommittee are going to meet to discuss how the CSF might continue. The Treasurer also noted that in the Meeting's COVID budget, there was nothing budgeted for the Retreat this year.

Worship and Ministry (Laura Magnani) Laura reported that the Committee changed the name of the Ministries and Travel Fund it oversees to the Ministries and Service Fund (Line 7115 in the budget). It also tweaked the description of the Fund. A Friend pointed out that there is a document (Funds for Individuals) which Ministry and Worship should update. It is on the Meeting's website (under Care of the Meeting at <http://www.strawberrycreekfriends.org/Committees.html>). It details available financial support for Meeting individuals. Laura announced two upcoming Adult Education sessions: a session with Berkeley Friends Meeting on May 16 at 12:15 with Carl Magruder "Mysticism and Magic: Decolonizing Quakerism and Living Into That of God in Everyone" and a fifth First Day Listening Meeting (May 29) on the Future of Meeting for Worship as we think of opening up. It will include a report back from this Ben Lomond Quaker Center/*Western Friend's* weekend sessions attended by over 100 Friends.

Power, Privilege, and Race Subcommittee (Susan Burr) PPR makes periodic reports to Meeting for Business. Work since the last report made on December 13, 2020 includes: Reconstruction video/discussion series, Henry Louis Gates' series: "Reconstruction: America After the Civil War." Begun during Black History Month, 2021. Four Saturday evenings.

SCMM and Berkeley Friends Meeting folks are jointly participating in a four-part book discussion series reading *Caste: the Origins of our Discontents* by Isabel Wilkerson. Discussions began May 4, 2021. Will conclude June 1, 2021. Organizers: Ragni Larsen-Orta (SCMM) and Sarah Tyrrell (BFM). Forty (40) Friends are on the group list. Some breakout discussions and some large group discussions were held.

SCMM three-part summer book group will be reading *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants*. Group ordering from Marcus Books will again be offered. Contact Susan Burr. PacYM worship sharing opportunity in addition to and supported by SCMM discussions. Our SCMM discussions will be on the 3rd Sundays in June, July, and August from 11:50-1:30.

FGC Institutional Assessment on Racism – item referred from April Meeting for Business to PPR

PPR is considering a concern forwarded from April 2021 Meeting for business to the subcommittee regarding FGC's Institutional Assessment on Racism and further steps toward SCMM's building on steps we have taken to date in "becoming an actively anti-racist faith community." PacYM may recommend a similar process for our Yearly Meeting.

A Friend noted that Berkeley Friends Meeting has approved a minute on dismantling racism, giving credit to our February 2020 minute.

Announcements

Next Meeting for Business June 12 at 11:50 a.m. The clerk closed the Meeting at 1:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Elizabeth Moses Strain, Presiding Clerk Beth Wrightson,
Alternate Clerk Stephen McNeil, Acting Recording Clerk



Reflections Advices & Queries on Peace

from Nominating Committee

Read by Josh Gallup at May Meeting for Business

One friend noted that this is a moral teaching that also gives us a sense of who and what is Spirit. If Spirit is kindness and compassion, then with whom can we go to war with outward weapons?

Another noted that the query moves inward -- from wars, taxes and borders to personal relationships. We appreciated that destruction of the planet is included as an act of violence. However, this query does not seem to specifically call out the systemic violence that we have become so painfully aware of in the past years.

A Friend appreciated that interpersonal violence is noted, and another recognized that being an instrument of peace is challenging -- how do we do that? They noted that there is peace in the development of one's spiritual life. This is not an easy testimony to uphold -- would we defend our dear children with guns? Perhaps we would.

This is a daunting testimony, as one Friend reflected. The charge to remove the causes of destruction of the planet and bring about lasting peace is a very tall order indeed. We can all find it hard to overcome the emotions that lie at the root of violence and to nurture instead a spirit of reconciliation and love.

One Friend noted that the Serenity Prayer is at the root for her -- "God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the difference." One cannot be peaceful with others unless you have looked at the roots of your own angers.

Men in the group reflected on being physically bullied and intimidated in their elementary and middle school years, and the struggle to reconcile the desire to fight back with their Quaker tenets. Some of the women said that bullying when they were girls did not take physical form, but rather manifested in words and acts of exclusion, leaving inward scars.

The task of peace is daunting indeed. But sustained by faith and God's love, we continue to pursue peace, in all of the many areas where it is needed -- among nations, and within our society, our families, and our own hearts.

STRAWBERRY CREEK MONTHLY MEETING

Box 5065, Berkeley, California 94705

Phone messages: 510/524-9186

<www.strawberrycreekfriends.org>

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

TO:

JUNE 2021 ISSUE