

<http://strawberrycreek.quaker.org>

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

### **UPCOMING EVENTS AND DEADLINES**

SUNDAY Sept 29 – BFM Picnic Noon Live Oak Park, Spot 1 (accessible) (See below.)

SUNDAY Oct 6 - Quaker Action Worship Group 11:45 AM discernment session. (See below.)

Advices and Queries on Meeting for Business read by First Day School Committee.

SATURDAY Oct 12 College Park Quarterly Meeting registration deadline.

SUNDAY Oct 13 Meeting for Business at 11:50 AM.

FRIDAY Oct 18-SUNDAY Oct 20 College Park Quarterly Meeting (See below)

SUNDAY Oct 20 Worship Sharing 9:00 AM

Worship and Ministry Adult Ed on Worship and Silence 11:45 AM

Newsletter Deadline for Nov [newsletter@strawberrycreekquakers.org](mailto:newsletter@strawberrycreekquakers.org)

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

FRIDAY Oct 25-27 Quaker Center Program The Pursuit of Wisdom (See below)

SUNDAY 27 Committee Sunday (Check with your committee clerk for details.)

Young Adult Friends. Contact Jessie at [jessicarosemitchell527@gmail.com](mailto:jessicarosemitchell527@gmail.com) or (845)-464-3911

Paper copy and electronic newsletter distribution.

SUNDAY, Nov 3 Quaker Action Worship Group 11:45 AM

Advices and Queries on Simplicity read by Loaves and Fishes Committee

### **RECURRING EVENTS**

#### **SUNDAYS**

Meeting for Worship 10:00 AM. Berkeley Technology Academy, 2701 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, corner of Derby St., Berkeley. Religious Education for children provided 9:45 AM to end of Meeting for Worship. Please arrive with children before 10:00 AM. After announcements, all are welcome to stay for refreshments. Please bring your own reusable cup and utensils.

Oakland Worship Group 5 PM. At the home of Karen and Peter Lin, 296 Rishell Drive. For more information, call (510) 530-0479 or visit <http://www.oaklandquakers.org>

WEDNESDAYS Mid-Week Morning Worship 7:00 AM Berkeley Friends Meeting, 2151 Vine Street.

THURSDAYS Open 12-step Meeting facilitated by Avotcja Jiltonilro 4 PM at the Berkeley Fellowship, 1027 University near San Pablo.

Mid-Week Evening Worship 7:00 PM Berkeley Friends Meeting, 2151 Vine Street. Contact Fred Gey for information at [fgey@comcast.net](mailto:fgey@comcast.net).

#### **News and Announcements**

##### **Strawberry Creek Meeting Calendar**

Contact the newsletter editor at [newsletter@strawberrycreekquakers.org](mailto:newsletter@strawberrycreekquakers.org), to list your event on the calendar. The calendar is on the Strawberry Creek website (<http://www.strawberrycreekfriends.org/Calendar.html>) Please bookmark it so you can check it easily!

##### **Berkeley Friends Meeting Picnic Sept 29 Noon.**

Strawberries are invited to the annual picnic. Please bring a dish you would like to share. Labelling of ingredients is appreciated. For more information, contact Bryan Uhlenbrock 510-910-1738 or Theresa Cox 510-410-4699.

##### **QAWG Discernment Session Oct 6 11:45**

After taking a vacation from regular meetings this summer, the Quaker Action Worship Group

(QAWG) will meet the first Sunday in October at 11:45. While Laura Boles is no longer able to take on the leadership responsibilities, a number of Strawberries have found the group to be supportive and meaningful to their spiritual lives. At this meeting QAWG will discern the way forward perhaps deciding to continue meeting on the first Sunday of the month. The mission statement is to discern how Quaker practice and tradition can more strongly and fully inform our political activism. "We ask the question: how can we, how should we live as Quakers right now?" Everyone is invited. For more information, see Lynne D'Angelo or Betsy Morris

### **College Park Quarterly Meeting Fall Session**

**Oct 18-20** at Sierra Friends Center. The theme is Living Together on This Earth. Our Advices and Queries on Harmony with Creation ask Quakers to consider how we are living within the interconnectedness of all species, in interdependence with all life on earth. We are invited to reflect on how our actions cause damage already felt by vulnerable systems and populations. Join us to hear from Friends who are called to address this multi-faceted concern through different approaches with plenary talks, interest groups, and worship sharing to help you discern how you might be called to respond. The schedule includes family worship, singing, worship sharing, interest groups, family night, and concurrent children's and teens programs. Please register by October 12 online at [collegeparkquarterlymeeting.org](http://collegeparkquarterlymeeting.org). For email or phone registration, contact the Registrar, [eesabelman@gmail.com](mailto:eesabelman@gmail.com) or 650-322-2455. Parents of children and teens, please fill out Medical Consent and Permission forms found on the website. If you can't attend in person, CPQM is experimenting with live streaming part of a Saturday plenary session. Individuals and small groups who want to attend remotely should contact the Registrar at [eesabelman@gmail.com](mailto:eesabelman@gmail.com) or 650-322-2455. Tom Yamaguchi will be working with Sarah Tyrrell, CPQM Representative for Berkeley Meeting, on rides to fall quarter. If you need a ride or can offer one, let contact Tom Yamaguchi, CPQM Representative, 510-548-5294.

**Need Financial Aid to Attend Quarterly Meeting?** Contact Care of the Meeting Committee after determining how much you can pay three weeks before the Quarterly Meeting and register by October 12 for the upcoming meeting: register at <http://collegeparkquarterlymeeting.org/register/>, informing the CPQM Registrar the amount you are requesting from CPQM.

### **Quaker Center Program The Pursuit of Wisdom**

**Oct 25-27** Where is wisdom? How shall we live? In this workshop we will seek wisdom for the inward life from the Epistle of James, the ancient Christian monastics, and Quaker mystic and social reformer John Woolman. Michael Birkel is presenter. Strawberry Creek Meeting has a pass that Strawberries can use for one program. Contact Lydia Bryans for details about the pass. [lbryans@outlook.com](mailto:lbryans@outlook.com)

### **AVP Workshop Oct 12, 19, & 26.**

Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) dates are October 12, 19, and 26. If you are interested in becoming a Conflict Resolution Facilitator, this Basic Workshop is required, along with an Advanced Workshop and a Training For Facilitator Training Workshop. Advanced Registration is required - \$35 - \$100 donation requested. No one turned away for lack of funds. Morning snack and lunch included.

Basic Workshop Oct 12, 19, & 26 from 9:30 am to 3:30 PM at Berkeley Friends Church  
To register: Email [avpbaybridge@gmail.com](mailto:avpbaybridge@gmail.com) or call Amy at (510) 394-2622.

### **Save the Date for 12<sup>th</sup> Month Gathering**

Sat. Dec 14 at the Albany Community Center, 1249 Marin Ave, Albany 94706. More information to follow. Please contact Francie Nurkse ([fpnurkse@gmail.com](mailto:fpnurkse@gmail.com)) for information.

### **Opportunities**

#### **Seeking Strawberry to be Point Person for a Bay Area Regional Gathering. (See Minutes.)**

College Park Quarterly meets twice a year and the Yearly Meeting once a year (twice a year with Representative Committee). The Quarter has been experimenting with Regional Gatherings in order to

foster fellowship. Three Regional Gatherings have happened with 34 to 52 Friends attending. Strawberry Creek Meeting needs someone to take on this Bay Area Gathering, probably in the Spring. Contact [mneilstephen2@gmail.com](mailto:mneilstephen2@gmail.com) for more information.

### **Peace Earthcare and Social Witness**

For the last two years, the PESW Committee has invited individual members or attenders to share stories of their lives and their witness for about 20 minutes at the beginning of our committee meeting. We have learned much from and about the Friends who have spoken, and have been inspired to act in response.

PESW would like to remind Friends that we want to hear from as many members and attenders as possible - and that our meetings are open to all, so please come, if you are able to, to hear the witness of Friends (and not feel that you have to stay for the rest of the meeting). We are asking Friends to volunteer to speak, or suggest to others to volunteer. We will keep a list of willing Friends, and schedule you when available. Please contact David Rutschman [dhrutschman@gmail.com](mailto:dhrutschman@gmail.com) or Susan Black [sblack71@gmail.com](mailto:sblack71@gmail.com).

### **A Pathology of Monotheism**

by  
Dick Strong

I came into the world outside of Christianity. My parents were quietly atheist. In my youth I was curious about religion. I cast about attending services or groups: Buddhism, Muslim, Hinduism, Animism, and Judea-Christianism. When I was drafted to fight in the Korean War, I was given dog tags to mark my body should I get killed. They were coded for burial purposes by religion. I was questioned and given the letter Y signifying "believer".

In the early seventies, I began to attend the Berkeley Quaker Meeting. I was the only person in my extended family to be a church goer. In 2006 Susan and I became members of Strawberry Creek.

Christian scriptures say that man has dominion over nature. That has not worked very well. With literacy, "people of the book" can follow texts fixed in time. From my outside position, it appears that many single-god religions stake out a monopoly on heaven and exact loyalty to qualify at the gate.

My argument about monotheism is centered around the exclusivity and exceptionalism inherent in restrictions of an exclusive god. For many religions, these restrictions serve as an answer to death and the puzzle of the after-life. It may be a recruiting factor when a more advanced culture is subjugating a more primitive one. This can cause unintended enmity against non-believers of one's faith.

## **Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business September 8, 2019 Minutes**

The meeting opened at 11:55 am with silent worship. Elizabeth Strain clerked the meeting. Nancy Wilkinson was Acting Alternate Clerk, substituting for Charlie Blanchard. 33 Friends were present. Erik Wilson read the responses by Facilities Committee to the advices and queries on Reaching Out. Friends reflected further on the advices and queries out of the silence.

A Treasurer's Report was added to the meeting agenda.

The Recording Clerk read the minutes for the August 11, 2019 Meeting for Business. The minutes were approved with the following correction: the study session on the Green New Deal by Peace, Earthcare, and Social Witness Committee was only on Sunday, September 1. Co clerk David Rutschman said the committee is open to having more study sessions in the future.

### **Correspondence and Clerk's Business**

The meeting has received a card from East Bay Sanctuary Covenant announcing its Annual Dinner on Saturday, October 19, from 4:30 pm to 8:00 pm at St. John's Presbyterian Church in Berkeley. For information call 510-540-5296, ext. 133. The Clerk will post the card on the bulletin board.

### **Bridging the Gap Committee membership** (Elizabeth Strain)

The Clerk gave the background on the committee that is working to improve communications between the Berkeley Friends congregations. In addition to Berkeley and Strawberry Creek monthly meetings, Berkeley Friends Church is now represented. The Clerk announced that Lee Douglas from Worship and Ministry, Leonard Joy, and Carl Anderson will be the members of the committee representing Strawberry Creek.

### **Old Business**

#### **Naming Committee** (Elizabeth Strain)

The Clerk read the names for the Naming Committee that have been seasoning for one month: Peter Lin, Philippa Barron, and Margaret Schneider. Those names were approved.

#### **Kat Stenstedt Membership Committee Report** (Rhea Farley)

The membership clearness committee for Kat Stenstedt was Carl Anderson, Beth Rodman, and Rhea Farley, convener. Rhea read the report for the clearness committee. Care of the Meeting Committee recommends Kat's membership be approved. The recommendation will season for one month. Concerns and questions can be brought to Care of the Meeting Committee.

#### **Nominations (Elizabeth Strain)**

Nominations have been seasoning for Michelle Bellows to become a member of Mutual Care, Richard Leath continuing as Treasurer, and Larry Strain as Clerk of Finance. By taking the treasurer position, Richard would no longer co-clerk Finance Committee with Larry. No concerns were raised regarding the nominations. Those nominations were approved.

### **New Business**

#### **Regional Gathering Request** (Stephen McNeil)

Care of the Meeting Committee received a request from College Park Quarterly Meeting to have a regional gathering with other Bay Area meetings and worship groups. CPQM has been exploring how smaller regional meetings, apart from the three yearly quarterly sessions, may help monthly meetings find greater fellowship between them. Only a fraction of CPQM's membership attends the winter, spring, and fall sessions. There were three regional meetings held last spring. CPQM suggests a regional gathering could perhaps address a particular topic or interest and could include Berkeley and San Francisco meetings and worship groups. Two committees at Berkeley Meeting are currently considering CPQM's request. A Friend suggested including Napa Meeting. Stephen said a regional gathering might include Berkeley Friends Church. If Friends are interested in and willing to organize a regional gathering, they may speak to Stephen or CPQM Representative Tom Yamaguchi. Tom has served on the ad hoc committee of CPQM Ministry and Oversight Committee that was tasked to explore and help organize regional gatherings.

#### **Request for the Meeting to sign a letter to Congress sponsored by the Poor People's Campaign** (David Rutschman) (See attached.)

David Rutschman, co clerk of Peace, Earthcare, and Social Witness Committee read the Pastoral letter being circulated by the Poor People's Campaign. It is addressed to the President, members of Congress, and candidates for President in the 2020 election. It condemns the "President's racist attacks on immigrants" and white nationalism that has "fueled the violence of indigenous genocide, slavery, lynching and Jim Crow." It calls the President "a symptom of our decaying moral fabric." The letter is attached to these minutes.

David had posted the letter to the meeting's Yahoo Group and suggested that the meeting sign on to it. He said he has signed the letter as an individual, and Peace, Earthcare, and Social Witness came to unity to sign the letter, as well. He asked Strawberry Creek Meeting to sign the pastoral letter. One Friend expressed concern for the wording of the letter, which she felt was engaging in name calling. "In a way we are playing his game," she said, regarding the use of name calling by the President of his opponents. She said she didn't want to be emotionally manipulated by the "us vs. them" aspect of the letter. Several Friends responded to this concern. One Friend noted that because this is not our letter, we do not have the "luxury of wordsmithing." Signing the letter is somewhat time sensitive because it is intended to be delivered early in the coming session of Congress. Several Friends defended the blunt language of the letter. "We need to speak the truth in words that can be heard," one said. "We need to call out the moral decay." Another Friend found the anger expressed to be appropriate. "You don't have to agree with it," she said. "It is a response to Trump's anger." Another Friend said that Friends "tend to be allergic to anger." She added, "We need to be outraged. Sending a letter is just a tiny piece. We need to stand up." The meeting approved signing the pastoral letter with one Friend standing aside. David said that we can sign the letter as individuals, as he has done.

## **Reports**

### **Peace, Earthcare, and Social Witness (David Rutschman)**

David also recommended individuals sign letters to Governor Newsom, asking him to sign AB 32 "to end the state's support for companies that earn financial profit from the incarceration and detention of thousands of Californians." Peace, Earthcare, and Social Witness Committee is not bringing the letter for endorsement by the meeting. David said he brought copies so that individuals can sign them and send them to the governor.

The committee is sponsoring an education session on the third Sunday in November on local actions being taken on environmental concerns. Leonard Joy will speak at that session, and David asked Friends to suggest activist groups who might make presentations.

### **Finance Committee (Larry Strain)**

The committee has completed its Friendly Financial Review.

The committee is selling one the CDs for the Site Contingency Fund to pay individuals requesting a refund.

The committee is still looking for a new treasurer. Richard is willing to train anyone who wishes to serve the Meeting in this capacity.

### **Treasurer (Richard Leath)**

Richard presented the report for the year through August. He noted that the \$400 spent in the Other category of the Special Activities Account was for BOCA and for an invited speaker for an education session on gender identity.

Richard expressed concern over the increased cost of the meeting's storage space and will be speaking with Peter Lin, who oversees this rental, to explain the increased cost.

Richard noted that the meeting's current deficit of around \$18,000 is no greater than in past years.

### **Pacific Year Meeting Annual Session (Nancy Wilkinson)**

Nancy Wilkinson presented her report as PYM Representative on the annual session at Walker Creek Ranch, July 12 to 17. That report is attached.

After five years of discernment, PYM has agreed to request affiliation with Friends General Conference. Nancy said she was impressed by the clerking process in reaching unity, that included a threshing

session and a “further threshing at a second meeting, after some friends had expressed concern about the queries posed for the first threshing session.”

The keynote address was delivered by David Johnson from Australia Yearly Meeting on the topic of “the offices of Christ” as described in Paul.

Two interest groups concerned the reviving of PYM’s Unity with Nature Committee, which has been having difficulties in recent years.

The current assessment structure is remaining unchanged at \$122 per member.

PYM is considering a “Pay as Led” registration fee for future session attendance.

The next annual session will return to Walker Creek Ranch, Friday, July 10, 2020 to Wednesday, July 15.

### **Power, Privilege, and Race Subcommittee (Susan Burr)**

Power, Privilege, and Race Subcommittee has received positive feedback on its summer reading group on the book *Mindful of Race*. Susan reported that 40 Friends attended all or part of the sessions, with at least 20 in attendance at each. She said the trust level between participants increased throughout the sessions, which included mindful meditation sessions and suggestions on specific practices to stay centered. The subcommittee will be working on suggestions that arose from the reading groups, including a group healing plan and bystander intervention.

The subcommittee is taking a fresh look at and redrafting the minute on uprooting racism. They are reviewing a North Pacific Yearly Meeting minute that was approved after a two-year process.

Susan recommended Friends register for the Friends General Conference eRetreat titled “Understanding and Healing White Supremacy,” beginning September 22. Information and registration can be found at [fgcquaker.org](http://fgcquaker.org).

### **Announcements**

Next Meeting for Business, October 13, 2019 at 11:50 a.m. at Berkeley Technology Academy  
College Park Quarterly Meeting Fall Session, October 18-20, 2019 at Sierra Friends Center, Nevada City, CA

Stephen McNeil announced that a Clerk’s Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, November 2, at Berkeley Friends Meeting. Meeting representatives are invited to attend, as well. The start time for the meeting has not been set yet and will be announced.

Tom Yamaguchi announced that he used the meeting’s annual pass to attend last weekend’s clerking workshop at Ben Lomond Quaker Center. He will be posting his report on the workshop online and will have an announcement in the newsletter.

The meeting closed with silent worship at 1:45 pm.

Submitted by: Elizabeth Strain, Clerk, Nancy Wilkinson, Acting Alternate Clerk, and Tom Yamaguchi, Recording Clerk

### **Responses to the Advices and Queries on REACHING OUT by the Facilities Committee**

We found this to be a difficult query without easy answers. Several mentioned that they do find opportunities to talk to people about Friends. A few of those contacted have come to Meeting but very few have stayed over the long term.

We seem to have difficulty reaching out to people of other backgrounds. We do not have singing or formal bible study so do not get as much attention from people who grew up in that setting. We have neither a promised paradise or an angry god who disapproves if one does not attend. Most of the new people who do come to Meeting seem to have had other Quaker connections in the past. Also some of us live at a distance and it is harder to bring people in from far away.

One committee member used to sit at the literature table and talk to newcomers. We appreciate that the welcoming committee does that now and that is helpful. It was noted that our new banner is clearer and more informative. In the past we have taken banners and literature to other locations.

Most of the attendees at Strawberry Creek are older even though we are in a college town. Younger people get information through different channels than in the past. Quakers value simplicity in an increasingly complicated world. We noted that we do not have a Quaker App (that we know of) although there is a Quaker Youtube channel. Perhaps it is OK that we make the attempt to reach out without necessarily expecting a response.

We need to think more about finding opportunities to show what we are. We are more comfortable and more proficient with being examples than with being evangelists. We are often introverted even as we try to see god in others.

### **Power Privilege and Race (PPR) Updates (from Susan Burr)**

Summer Book Discussion Series — June, July, August 2019. 40 Strawberries came to all or part of the three gatherings addressing Ruth King's book, *Mindful of Race: Transforming Racism from the Inside Out*. Many participants described the book in positive terms, describing ways the ideas and practices have been helpful. Appreciation was expressed for King's emphases on healing and compassion for self and others as we grapple with racism. Some of my favorite takeaways from King's work that I'm internalizing over time are:

—“Life is not personal, permanent or perfect”

—Using the RAIN practice in working with racial distress (Recognize, Allow, Investigate, Nurture)

—Talking about what disturbs you — guidelines in Chapter 14

—“Enjoy your problems!”

—Responding more wisely to racial injustice is “Messy at Best”!

In the first two sessions we: a) learned about and experienced guided mindfulness meditation practice, b) participated in small and large group experience/worship sharing, c) did an experiential exercise (Stars and Constellations) to help reveal patterns/systems of racial harm.

In the third session we worked with information/guidelines from AFSC (not from the book) on Bystander Intervention to use as we intervene in racial incidents we see in public. We heard several examples of how people had intervened and discussed possible alternatives. Then we had some time to write down on a Personal Healing Plan chart (also not from the book) actions we individually plan to take in regard to racial healing now, in 1 month and in 3 months in the categories of “Self”, “Your Relationships”, “Systems Change” and “Your Meeting”. Ideas people had for Strawberry Creek Meeting were listed on a board. Here are a few samples: a) Practice/role play more using the bystander intervention guidelines. Grow awareness of opportunities to act; b) Keep working on the “Draft Minute to Uproot and Outgrow Racism in Strawberry Creek Meeting”; c) Become a community where nudging each other is OK. (Welcome and support cultural nudging. May I nudge you about what you just said? It's messy at best!)

Draft Minute on Uprooting and Outgrowing Racism in SCM. PPR is taking a fresh look at the Draft Minute presented to Meeting for Business in April 2019. Work is underway on a second draft. Committee members continue to welcome opportunities to worship and be in conversation individually with Strawberries on the draft minute.

## Poor People's Campaign Pastoral Letter

"If you really change your ways and your actions and deal with each other justly, if you do not oppress the foreigner, the fatherless or the widow and do not shed innocent blood in this place, and if you do not follow other gods to your own harm, then I will let you live in this place, in the land I gave your ancestors for ever and ever. But look, you are trusting in deceptive words that are worthless." — Jeremiah 7:5-8

Posted August 8, 2019 - One week ago, we were in El Paso at the invitation of the Border Network for Human Rights to highlight the violence that their community has been suffering. We heard stories of families separated, asylum seekers turned away and refugees detained like prisoners of war. We heard how their community has been militarized and how poor border communities have been especially targeted. We promised that we would do everything in our power to compel the nation to see this violence. Just a few days later, a terrorist opened fire in El Paso. And then another attack occurred in Dayton.

In reflecting on these outbreaks of violence, our hearts are broken. This moment demands a moral reckoning with who we are and who we want to become as a nation.

The truth is that, while every generation has worked to push us toward becoming a more perfect union, we have also tolerated lies that beget violence. America's founding fathers spoke of liberty, while drafting documents that called Native Americans savages, accepted the enslavement of Africans, and ignored the voices of women. This hypocrisy created space for slaveholder religion to bless white supremacy, pseudo-science to justify eugenics, a sick sociology to pit people against one another, and predatory policies to scapegoat non-white immigrants and blame poverty on the poor.

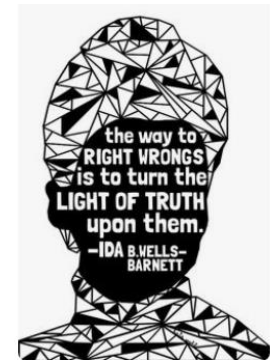
Politicians who try to denounce the racism of an individual, but do not denounce racist policies refuse to deal with the depths of the problems we face. We cannot address the violence of white nationalism without stopping the policies of white nationalism and the lies that are told to justify them. In 1963, George Wallace began to spew racist rhetoric from the governor's office in Alabama. By the end of that year, Medgar Evers was dead, four girls in a church were dead, and a President was dead because these words and these policies were a breeding ground for violence. It always has been that way. Whenever we've had these words and policies, they have also unleashed this kind of violence.

For this reason, we call on President Trump, Members of Congress and Presidential Candidates, our people on the ground in movements and communities of struggle, people who have embraced the lies of white nationalism, and our religious leaders and people of faith and conscience to revive the heart and soul of this country.

### Why is this important?

Mr. President, we recognize that you are a symptom of our decaying moral fabric and you have ignited a modern day wildfire. The coals of white nationalism are always smoldering in our common life, and they have fueled the violence of indigenous genocide, slavery, lynching and Jim Crow. Stop stoking the fires of violence with racist words and policies. Mr. President, you must repent in word and deed if your leadership is to bring us together, rather than tearing us apart.

To Members of Congress and our elected representatives, we ask you to ensure our domestic tranquility. You can take immediate action to stop the President's racist attacks on immigrants. You can act to ensure voting rights, pass gun reform to keep weapons of war out of our communities, end federal programs that send military equipment to our local and state police departments, pass immigration



Katie Wohl  
Ida B. Wells-Barnett - BLACK LIVES MATTER - SERIES...



reform that allows us all to thrive and build up the country, ensure good jobs and living wages and relief from our debts, and guarantee health care and social programs that meet our needs. The lies of white nationalism have prevented action on all of these issues, and those who have enabled the President or remained silent are culpable.

As you return to Washington D.C, we call on Congress to honor the August 28 anniversary of the March on Washington and the murder of Emmett Till by passing an Omnibus Bill that offers a comprehensive response to the systemic racism that connects the issues facing 140 million poor and low-wealth people in this country.

To all candidates running for President in 2020, we call on you to address both the violence of racism and the policies of racism and white nationalism in the public debates. We ask you to connect these policies of systemic racism to poverty, ecological devastation, the war economy, militarism and a distorted moral narrative that accepts, justifies and perpetuates systemic violence.

To our movements and organizations on the ground, do not go back to your silos; instead we must build a moral fusion movement. We have been organizing in separate streams, often along lines of race, issue area or geography, but we need much more than our own fights can win. This is not the time to become entrenched in those divisions. We need to come together across race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, issue, geography and other lines of division to make a fight for everything we need and make sure we are all in – nobody is out.

To those who have embraced the lies of white nationalism and racism, we humbly recognize the power of fear. We live in a time when many people do not know if they will have work today or health care tomorrow. Many families do not know what agency is coming for them or their children. We do not know who to trust and have been left to fend for ourselves and whoever we believe to be on our side. Let us find strength in our pain, mourn our losses, and remember that we are all part of a common human family. Let us reject every attempt by politicians and corporate interests to pit us against one another. Let us confess that white nationalism is a myth that has not served most people, even those it claims to protect. Let us fight for each other and for a world where everyone can thrive.

To our religious leaders and people of faith, we call on you to offer moral leadership in the public square. If you have condoned the lies of white nationalism or remained silent, you have failed to keep your sacred vows. We ask you to recall the struggles of our ancestors so we can work together to build up a more perfect union in our common life.

We call on all people of faith and conscience to sign on to this letter and share it throughout your networks. Let us prevent this violence from defining who we are as a nation and people.

Forward together, not one step back.

Rev. Dr. William Barber, II, President, Repairers of the Breach and Co-Chair of the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival

Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis, Director, Kairos Center for Religions, Rights and Social Justice and Co-Chair of the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival

Rev. Teresa Hord Owens, General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Rabbi Rick Jacobs, President, Union of Reform Judaism

Minister Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove, Red Letter Christians



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

TO:

**First Class Mail**