

STRAWBERRY CREEK MONTHLY MEETING OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

JANUARY 2021
NEWSLETTER

10 a.m. every Sunday Meeting for Worship (online), see next page for details.

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 To join, contact Web Coordinator.

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

To post calendar events or contribute to newsletter, email editor@strawberrycreekfriends.org

To create a Zoom meeting or join our Listserv, contact Web Coordinator amyd@alumnae.mills.edu

Read the current newsletter online <http://www.strawberrycreekfriends.org/pdf/newsletter.pdf>

Distribution Sunday for paper/electronic newsletter is the last Sunday of the month, except August.

Newsletter Deadline is the Monday preceding Distribution Sunday. **Next deadline: January 25.**

THE CALENDAR

(all activities listed below happen online via Zoom)

SUNDAYS (Unless otherwise indicated)

Jan 3 Advices & Queries on Integrity & Personal Conduct, by Care of Meeting (worship hour)

11:45 a.m. Quaker Action Worship Group (QAWG). Contact Betsy Morris or Asa Brown. Details inside.

Jan 10 - 11:50 a.m. Meeting for Worship on the occasion of Business.

Jan 17 - 9 a.m. Worship Sharing based on a query. Contact Bob Langfelder <boblangfelder@aol.com>

12:45 p.m. Young Adult Friends. Click on YAF tab on Berkeley Friends Meeting website.

Feb 21 - 11:50 a.m. State of the Meeting Listening Meeting.

THURSDAYS (ongoing)

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

4 p.m. Twelve-Step Meeting (open to all). Contact facilitator Avotcja Jiltoniro 510-658-7995.

(previously held at Berkeley Fellowship, 1027 University near San Pablo Ave, Berkeley).

FRIDAYS (ongoing)

4 p.m. second & fourth Fridays, Vigil for Democracy at Old City Hall in downtown Berkeley (socially distanced w/masks, and signs if you wish) – Berkeley Friends Meeting (BFM), Berkeley Friends Church, Strawberry Creek Meeting. The group begins with 30 minutes of silent worship. For more information, contact Genie Stowers, BFM, <gstowers835@gmail.com>

Strawberry Creek Sunday Worship (Zoom)

Strawberry Creek Friends Meeting meets for worship at 10 a.m. Sunday mornings via Zoom. The "Virtual Meeting Room" opens earlier at 9:30 a.m. Our worship closes at 11 a.m., followed by holding in the light those in need, announcements, and online social time to informally share.

Berkeley Friends Meeting

The Zoom link for Berkeley Friends Meeting Sunday worship may be found online:

<http://www.berkeleyfriendsmeeting.org>

Quaker Center Online Worship

Daily online meeting for worship from 7:30-8 a.m.:

<http://www.quakercenter.org/meeting-for-worship/>

Visit Pendle Hill (online)

Many of us have heard for years about how special Pendle Hill is, but we haven't been able to manage the trip to Pennsylvania. Pendle Hill offers online programs:

<https://pendlehill.org/learn/workshops-courses-events/>

Quaker Action Worship Group

At 11:45 a.m. 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-Convenors Betsy Morris or Asa Brown.

Come as You Are Bible Study

One hour *Come As You Are* Bible Study is offered at 9 a.m. Mondays and Thursdays via Zoom. The Zoom links for these (and other online programs) are posted by Western Friend at <https://westernfriend.org/quaker-worship-and-fellowship-online>

If you have technical difficulties, on Mondays contact Jeff Richman (Live Oak Friends) jefficient@gmail.com or (831) 540-7493. On Thursdays contact Barbara Babin (Redwood Forest Friends) b_babin@yahoo.com

Community Sharing Fund Working Group

At the December Meeting for Business, the Meeting Clerk announced that a working group has been gathered to support the Meeting in its desire to establish a Community Sharing Fund through which the Meeting can contribute to the needs of those outside our Meeting. Larry Strain (Finance) and Lari Keeler (Mutual Care) will serve as Co-Conveners, with Susan Burr (PPR. Care of Meeting), Lee Douglas (Welcoming, Finance), Stephen McNeil (Care of Meeting), and Nancy Wilkinson (Treasurer).

College Park Quarterly January 16

On January 16, College Park Quarterly Meeting will be held via Zoom. Quarterly Meeting is a part of the wider community of Friends in which we make new friends of all ages, are exposed to a variety of theological perspectives, labor together over concerns that arise from our faith, learn from other Monthly Meetings, as well as share our own Meetings' journeys and successes. Perhaps most importantly, we deepen our own faith through worship, worship-sharing, and listening to inspiring speakers

For updates, the CPQM website is:

<http://collegeparkquarterlymeeting.org>.

If you would like to offer an interest group, please contact Jan Turner yellowgateroad@gmail.com.

Breathing Safely by Kathy Barnhart

Kathy Barnhart wrote a beautiful article recently (December 1, 2020) published in *Friends Journal*, titled *Breathing Safely*, in which she affirms that "Spirit wants all of us to breathe." In her article (illustrated with photographs she took herself), she weaves together many strands important to us as Quakers: "We cannot separate clean air, clean water, toxic waste, and so many other issues from White supremacy when People of Color, both at home and around the world, suffer disproportionately."

Even if you do not subscribe to *Friends Journal*, the article is posted online for the public to read:

<https://www.friendsjournal.org/breathing-safely>.

PacYM Seeks Youth Programs Coordinator

Pacific Yearly Meeting is now accepting applications to fill the full-time salaried position of Youth Programs Coordinator. The role of the Youth Programs Coordinator is to enhance the spiritual development and nurture of youth and intergenerational community within the Yearly Meeting. The job description and application process are posted online:

<https://www.pacificyearlymeeting.org>.

The position will remain open until filled, however priority will be given to applications received by January 20, 2021. For more information, please contact Melissa at mlovetadair@gmail.com.

Writer Coach Connection (tutoring youth)

If one of your New Year's resolutions is to get involved helping youth, Laura Magnani has offered a great tip. One way to get involved with middle and high school students is through the Writer Coach Connection. You can choose the specific school, the age group, and what times work best for you. The program even trains you on how to use Zoom for this purpose. Go to www.writercoachconnection.org and click on the link "getting involved."

Spotlight
(on someone in Strawberry Creek Friends community)

MARIAN YU

They've all come to look for America
All come to look for America
All come to look for America
— Paul Simon (*Bookends* album 1968)

Childhood in Hong Kong

Born in Hong Kong, Marian Yu was the youngest of five brothers and two sisters, with Cantonese the home language. (Marian's father had moved to Hong Kong, after having attended missionary school in Beijing, China.) In the daytime her father taught English at a high school in Hong Kong, then worked late into the night as an English/Chinese language translator for a local newspaper.

Parents in Hong Kong had to pay for their children's education. Like other girls, Marian wore a school uniform, consisting of a white shirt year round, and a seasonal pinafore/skirt of light blue in summer and dark blue heavy material in the winters. The older girls' uniforms included the same tie worn by the boys, so she acquired expertise in tying the type of ties usually worn by men (a skill, Marian notes, that many women never have occasion to learn). In Hong Kong students stayed together in the same room throughout the day, while the teachers rotated in and out of the same room to teach their various subjects.

In 1967 Marian recalls bombs exploding in the street, including a bomb placed under the car of a popular radio personality who died in the explosion. Marian remembers teachers at her school being disturbed by the unrest. Once an upperclassman invited Marian to attend an underground group that was critical of the school and government, and she went, unaware of the group's political views.

[Editor's note (from Wikipedia): The 1967 Hong Kong riots between the Hong Kong government and pro-Communists took place against the backdrop of the Cultural Revolution in China. A labor dispute in Hong Kong escalated into large scale demonstrations against British colonial rule of Hong Kong. The colonial government banned Communist publications and closed Communist schools (alleged to be bomb-making factories). Several pro-Beijing protesters were beaten to death by police, and some members of the press, who voiced their opposition to the demonstrators' cause, were murdered. This turbulent environment led some Hong Kong residents, not necessarily partisan to either side, to move abroad.]



Coming to America

In Marian's experience, most of those in Hong Kong had strong pro-western idealism, with the view that "everything is cleaner and better" in the West. In a time of turbulence, the United States was seen as safer with greater economic opportunities. For example, public education was free and good colleges were available. (Marian commented that had the family stayed in Hong Kong, her brothers might well have been bus drivers, but today two of her

brothers are electrical engineers in Boston and San Jose.)

The death of her grandfather in Hong Kong meant in 1968 the family had the flexibility to leave the country. When Marian was thirteen, an uncle in San Francisco sponsored her family's move to the United States.

Marian's family first settled in San Francisco's Sunset District. There Marian's family members temporarily split up among different households until the family could find a place to hold all of them together. Fortunately, after a few weeks the family found a 2-bedroom apartment on Ninth Avenue.

Her father initially worked as a hospital janitor at Mt. Zion Hospital. The physical labor was very hard and Marian comments her father felt inept at this new line of work. Marian remembers his appreciation for how "reasonable and kind" his supervisor was. After a couple of months, her father secured a job translating news at the Chinese Times newspaper, a San Francisco-based paper still in business today.

At the same time her mother worked as a seamstress at a so-called "sweat shop" in Chinatown. She worked long hours on piece work, and was especially grateful when the pieces assigned were easier and faster to sew, such as pants. Marian helped out by turning over ties, taking out stitches that resulted from mistakes, sewing buttons with a machine, and cutting loose threads.

Navigating the System

When she moved to the United States, Marian already had "some English" (Hong Kong schools start teaching English language to children when they are young).

Upon arriving in San Francisco, Marian enrolled in eighth grade at Herbert Hoover Junior High. Asked what differences she noticed between the two cultures, Marian remembers being surprised at the holiday of Valentine's Day, when children asked for candy from their teachers! Also, school uniforms were not required in the public schools.

She enjoyed most all of her academic subjects, finding each subject had certain advantages. Math had the benefit of being focused on numbers with less need for the English language, whereas her English literature course offered an opportunity to improve her English vocabulary. She recalls she liked playing the harmonica.

Later the family moved from the Sunset District to North Beach/Chinatown, where she attended Galileo High School near Fisherman's Wharf. In North Beach/Chinatown schools, Chinese students (American-born and new immigrants) were in the majority, plus a "sprinkling" of white, Filipino, Italian, Black, and "military kids." There Marian tried not to be identified as a new immigrant. It was difficult finding any group with whom she felt accepted and comfortable, so usually she spent lunch time in the school library. There she loved to delve into the adventures and mysteries of Harriet the Spy, Nancy Drew, and the Hardy boys. She recalls friendly librarians teasing her as "the absent-minded professor" if her library books were late.

Five years after arriving in the United States, at age eighteen Marian applied for, and was granted, U.S. citizenship. Passing the citizenship exam was "easy" for her as civics class had been required at her high school. In fact, all her family members became naturalized citizens, although her mother's citizenship was delayed for some time until finally the United States offered waivers of the English language proficiency requirement. Marian said she felt becoming a U.S. citizen was "the right thing to do." It also gave her additional rights, such as voting and eligibility for civil service jobs (Marian commented the only time she worked in a civil service job was one time in the post office during the Christmas season.)

Finding a Fit

Following in the steps of her older brothers (whose SAT study books she used), after high school Marian went to the University of California, Berkeley (UCB), where she had a scholarship. She didn't enjoy the University, and quit after her first year. For the next few years she worked as a personal/home attendant for a quadriplegic UCB undergraduate student.

She also participated in a program to learn exterior house painting. Carrying the ladders was challenging; one time the top of a two section ladder fell on her arm. In the program, both fellow workers and supervisors engaged in ethnic and sexist jokes. She quit the program, moved back home, and enrolled in San Francisco City College, where she was successful in becoming a registered nurse.

Her first job as a nurse was at Highland Hospital in Oakland. Later she worked at the French Hospital in San Francisco [Editor's note: the French Hospital has an interesting history as the first private hospital in San Francisco (1851). In 1963 it was relocated/renamed the "French Campus" of Kaiser Permanente Medical Center]. For some time Marian worked as a per diem nurse, traveling among hospitals, substituting for others as needed. Being a nurse was mentally and physically demanding with a high number of patients. Moving/turning heavy patients was especially difficult.

In her forties, Marian decided to resume her academic studies at UC Berkeley, where she successfully earned her degree in natural resources. She realized that many jobs in the field would probably require a graduate degree, which she chose not to pursue.

Marian next began working as a special education assistant (teacher's aide) at Berkeley USD, where she stayed for 20 years (there she met Strawberry Ellen Levin, also a teacher's aide). She found she really enjoyed playing with kids, ages 3-5. Marian observes that changing diapers for three year olds is much easier than changing diapers for adult patients!

Living One's Values

Zen Buddhist practice has been an important part of Marian's life. She learned from meditation that quieting down allows her to realize a connection between herself and others. She lived for four years (until 2015) at the Berkeley Zen Center, where fellow Strawberry Jed Appelman was a long time member. For the last ten years she has continued her practice in private, rather than within the Buddhist community. She has been vegetarian (dairy/eggs, but no meat/fish) 20 years.

In the 1980's Marian went with a group on the Green Turtle bus to Las Vegas to protest at the Nevada Nuclear Test Site. This was her first experience with Quakers, with whom she stood and sat in silence in the vast desert. She feels an affinity for the values Quakers have demonstrated throughout their history, such as conscientious objection and opposition to violations of human rights, e.g., U.S. internment of the Japanese (she recalls a film showing Quakers throwing clothes over the wire fences to the Japanese). Marian appreciates that Quaker women were pioneers in the women's rights movement.

Marian was a caretaker of her mother who lived in San Francisco. After her mother's death five years ago, Marian's Sundays opened up, so she was able to begin attending Strawberry Creek Friends Meeting. She mentioned that our Meeting is a place she feels she can belong, sitting in silence with others, connected in the presence of Spirit. She likes that there are no rituals that "get in the way"; and that the setting is more natural and supports having important realizations. At Strawberry Creek Meeting, she has served on Loaves & Fishes, and helped out in the children's program.

Self-Expression

Recently retired, Marian lives in a studio apartment within a community setting that includes Strawberry Mary White. Marian's favorite neighborhood shopping stores are Monterrey Market and Trader Joes, and Passione Pizza on Fifth Street, across from her house.

Having taken Chinese brush water color painting and calligraphy at the Berkeley Senior Center, Marian continues practicing on her own. She's taken a wide variety of active classes, such as line dancing, singing, and hiking, from other East Bay centers (Albany Community Center, West/North Berkeley Senior Center, and the El Cerrito Community Center).

She's especially enjoying nature and the outdoors. A few times a week she takes long bicycle rides, e.g., from the Bay Bridge to Treasure Island. She loves the twice a week Tai Chi group led by Strawberry Peter Lin at Ohlone Park (intersection of Hearst and Sacramento Streets).

She also volunteers for Friends of Five Creeks [Editor's note: Friends of Five Creeks supports the creeks and watersheds of the East Bay, from North Berkeley to

Richmond. It revitalizes creeks, improves habitat and water quality, eliminates invasive plant species, and increases public access and stewardship]. As a volunteer, Marian works on Codornices Creek (Albany).

Marian frequently listens to National Public Radio (NPR) and relies heavily on the Berkeley Public Library for books and CDs. She is currently reading *No Time to Spare – Thinking about What Matters* (2017) by author Ursula Le Guin. She is a fan of Jordan Peele, who at the 2018 Independent Spirit Awards won Best Director for his film debut *Get Out*, which won Best Picture.

Marian feels political arguing doesn't end up making people happy, although she feels it is important to actively engage. Strawberry Karen Lin introduced her to writing postcards as a way of making a political difference. She has written post cards to influence swing state election outcomes in Florida, Georgia, Michigan, North Carolina, and Ohio, as well as the upcoming Georgia senatorial race.

Asked how the pandemic has affected her life, Marian indicates she has been enjoying "many long quiet walks."



Photo by Kathy Barnhart from *Breathing Safely*

Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting
Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business
December 13, 2020 Minutes*

* These are draft minutes, for review at January Meeting for Business.

Meeting for Business opened at 11:50 a.m. with silent worship and was conducted via Zoom. Elizabeth Moses Strain clerked the meeting. 47 Friends were present. Sarah Hawthorne shared the reflections of the Communications Committee on the advices and queries on Stewardship and Vocation. The Clerk reviewed the agenda, which had been posted by the recording clerk to groups.io on December 11th. The report from the Treasurer was added to the agenda after it was circulated.

The Recording Clerk read the minutes for the November 8, 2020 meeting for business. The minutes were approved with the following changes:

- Added to Communication Committee section: The Communications Committee job description was approved.
- Added to Naming Committee report: James Hosley's term on the Nominating Committee is two more years, his co-clerkship is for 2021.

Correspondence and Clerk's Business

On December 12: Strawberry Creek had a wonderful Twelfth Month celebration via zoom. Appreciation was expressed to the planning committee: Rhea Farley, Barbara Birch, and Shelley Tannenbaum.

Old Business

Worship and Ministry (Judith Schumacher-Jennings) Judith reported on the seasoning of the job description that had taken place over the past month.. The latest version was circulated via groups.io Dec 12th. One friend has approached Judith with suggestions, which are technical in nature and can be incorporated without further discussion. The job description was approved with that understanding.

Nominating (James Hosley) Nancy Wilkinson and Philippa Barron were approved to serve as PYM representative and observer, respectively.

Finance Committee (Richard Leath) The budget for 2021 was approved.

Naming committee (Cindy Trueblood) The following names were approved for the 2021 Nominating Committee.

Continuing from 2020

- James Hosley (additional 2 years), co-clerk for 1 additional year
- Ralph Murphy (additional 1 year), co-clerk

New for 2021

- Patricia Dienstfrey (2 years)
- Josh Gallup (2 years)
- Laura Miller (2 years)
- Margaret Schneider (2 years)
- Mary White (1 year)
- Diane Wolcott (1 year)

New Business

The Community Sharing Fund working group (Susan Burr, Stephen McNeil, Lee Douglas, and Nancy Wilkinson, convened by Larry Strain and Lari Keeler) circulated a proposed minute via groups.io December 12th. The sense of the meeting was that the purpose and realization of the

fund needed to be more fully fleshed out. Many suggestions were made and the committee will continue its work.

Reports

The Treasurer (Nancy Wilkinson) summarized the report, which was circulated via groups.io December 12. At the end of November we were about \$256 in the red. We are about \$3,000 in the black with the donations received thru December 12. Any surplus at the end of the year will roll over into the general fund for 2021. She also noted that expenses are about half what was budgeted for 2020.

Susan Burr presented the Annual report from the Power, Privilege and Race subcommittee. The subcommittee's activities have included the "Be More Than a Bystander" training, the minute on dismantling racism passed by the meeting, the visit to the "Soul of a Nation" exhibit, and several listening sessions and discussions. Appreciation was expressed by many for the subcommittee's hard work, and all the opportunities to engage with racism that the subcommittee provided for the whole meeting. [For the complete PPR report, see below].

Shelley Tannenbaum shared reflections on the evolution of her witness regarding connection to the earth, as reflected in her 10 years of service with Quaker Earthcare Witness. She expressed appreciation for her anchor committee, and for the privilege of traveling among Friends.

Carl Magruder reported on College Park Quarterly Meeting's fall session. He called attention to the transformation represented by meeting via zoom. Members can now go to the Quarterly Meeting's website (www.collegeparkquarterlymeeting.org) to view relevant documents.

Announcements

- Next Meeting for Business will be January 9, 2021 at 11:50 a.m.

Meeting closed with silent worship at 2:10.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Moses-Strain, presiding clerk
Beth Wrightson, alternate clerk
Paul Jolly, recording clerk

Power, Privilege and Race Subcommittee of SCMM Worship and Ministry Committee Yearly Report to Meeting for Business, 12/13/20

Anti-Racism work is being forwarded in various parts of our meeting. The Power, Privilege and Race Subcommittee's (PPR) purpose and responsibilities are outlined in the job description approved by Worship and Ministry Committee in February of 2019.

Purposes:

To open eyes and hearts to issues of power, privilege (including white privilege). and race, which are complex, entrenched, part of the "air we breathe" in U.S. society.

To examine the ways in which Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting (SCMM) may not be welcoming to all and to open ourselves to change.

To recognize and acknowledge structural racism and the ways it diminishes our lives, interferes with our relationships, and encumbers our spirits.

To encourage Spirit-led internal transformation.

To embrace the need to address systemic/institutional racism both within our community and the wider community and to take action on this concern.

Responsibilities

Plan and present experiential and informational education programs to support our purpose.

Examine aspects of SCMM process and structure, as well as written documents of SCMM and Pacific Yearly Meeting (PYM), with attention to how they may express unconscious bias.

Present reports of PPR activities at W&M committee meetings at least twice a year; present a report to Meeting for Business at least once a year.

PPR's work since the last report to Meeting for Business on 12/8/19. Some of the activities were joint efforts of PPR with other groups or committees in the meeting.

12/15/19 Be more than a Bystander

- Workshop-style session for participants to explore ways to respond when experiencing or witnessing public acts of violence against people of color, disabled people, Muslims, Jews, Indigenous people, LGBTQ people and others.
- In groups of three, shared experiences of being targeted or of being a bystander and if we were able to intervene successfully or not.
- Watched video, "Don't be a Bystander: 6 Tips for Responding to Racist Attacks"
- Did role play to try interventions followed by discussion of what was seemed most effective and other possible steps to take.

2/9/20 Meeting for business approved SCMM's "Minute on Uprooting and Dismantling Racism in Strawberry Creek Meeting"

- Minute initiated by Quaker Action Worship Group (QAWG). Seasoning carried forward jointly by QAWG and PPR through small group worship sharing and larger group Listening Meetings.
- Drafts brought to Meeting for Business in April 2019 and November 2019. Brought a 3rd time and approved 2/9/20.

2/22/20 Coordinated trip by around 25 Strawberries to the De Young Museum to experience Soul of a Nation: Art in the Age of Black Power 1963-1983

- The exhibition featured African American artists who promoted cultural pride, collective solidarity, and empowerment through powerful, political work in two pivotal decades when conversations about race and identity defined national politics and social ideals. An exhibit brochure posed two queries: How does art impact a community? How do artists help change a nation?

4/19/20 Unpacking Quaker Culture: Where are we held back by what we cannot see?

- First program after Covid 19/pandemic. PPR acknowledged the extremely disproportionate number of deaths of BIPOC people. First program on Zoom platform.
- Topics:
 - A. bringing our Minute to life through SEEING — an exploration of when our Quaker practices are a reflection of the dominant culture so we might change what needs to be changed;
 - B. could there be "compassion gap" in Quaker culture that stems from origin in the English language and existence in an English-dominant culture?
 - C. experiencing being "out of bounds" in regard to past ways of participating in Quaker groups.
- Included two QuakerSpeak videos: Ayesha Amani, *How does Culture Influence Quaker Worship*; Sterling Duns, *Dreaming of Wholeness: Quakers and the Future of Racial Healing*

June, July and August Book discussions on Robin DeAngelo's White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism.

- DiAngelo encourages/challenges white folks to become aware of and move beyond defensiveness which stems from the belief that racism is limited to individual intentional acts committed by unkind people. Build skills in thinking critically about racism with focus on the pervasive system with its interlocking dynamics — personal, interpersonal, cultural, historical and structural.
- Timely choice given Pacific Yearly Meeting's recommendation to meetings to read and discuss the book in preparation for 2020 Annual Session with the theme "Radical Inclusivity." While the summer sessions were well attended (June ?, July 41 people, August 48 people), many Friends had not yet read much of the book *It's not too late!* Many Strawberries have copies we may well be willing to share.

REPARATIONS Listening Meetings, August 30 and October 18

- Care of the Meeting Committee (CoM) initiated opportunities for our community to begin addressing the role of our Meeting in seeking reparations for the enslavement of African people in the colonies and for centuries of racist policy and actions carried out upon their descendants to this day. The discussions were clerked by Stephen McNeil (CoM) and jointly planned by Friends from (in alphabetical order) by Care of the Meeting Committee, Peace, Earthcare and Social Witness Committee (Witness Committee), Power, Privilege and Race Subcommittee (PPR), and Quaker Action Worship Group (QAWG).

11/15/20 Deepening our Awareness of "That of God in Everyone" After the Election

- This session was the first after a divisive and stressful US election process. A few tenets of early Friends are reflected in the language of SCMM's Uprooting and Dismantling Racism Minute. Several of those early expressions were lifted up in the desire that we, like early Quakers, might "Stand still in the Light" and become "fused together with a heightened sense of life, fellowship and power." (Howard Brinton, *Friends for 350 Years*)
- The session included acknowledgement of November as Indigenous Peoples' Month, sufferings inflicted on ancestors by the false story of the first Thanksgiving and an invitation to experience a personal prayer reflecting inclusiveness at the core of Spirit.
- PPR continues to hold and work on the concern voiced by a Friend of Color during worship sharing about racial bias in the allocation of time to speak. PPR also continues to follow up contacts with Friends who attended the session.

NOTED as we live into the Uprooting and Dismantling Racism Minute:

- Several committee job descriptions brought for approval to M4B include anti-racism language pertinent to the committee's work.
- Seasoning has begun on creating a Community Sharing Fund to carry anti-racism work beyond our Meeting into the wider East Bay community.

Power, Privilege & Race Subcommittee

Susan Burr, clerk

Ragni Larsen-Orta

Deborah Marks

Laura Magnani

STRAWBERRY CREEK MONTHLY MEETING

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www.strawberrycreekfriends.org

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

TO:

January 2021 ISSUE
TIME VALUE

FIRST CLASS MAIL