

STRAWBERRY CREEK MONTHLY MEETING OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

DECEMBER 2021
NEWSLETTER

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

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

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

Listserv (for subscribers) strawberrycreek@groups.io

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

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

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

Newsletter Deadline is Sunday prior to Distribution Sunday. **Deadline: December 19** (for January 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 unless otherwise noted)

SUNDAYS (unless otherwise noted)

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

5 p.m. Oakland Quaker Worship Group (at Peter Lin's house, see <http://oaklandquakers.org>)

Dec 5 Advices & Queries on Integrity & Personal Conduct – read aloud by Communications Committee
11:45 a.m. Quaker Action Worship Group (QAWG). Contact Betsy Morris or Asa Brown.

Dec 11 (Saturday) 3-6 p.m. Strawberry Creek Twelfth Month Gathering. See inside for details.

Dec 12 11:50 a.m. Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business

Dec 19 9:00 a.m. Worship Sharing based on a query. Contact Bob Langfelder boblangfelder@aol.com
11:50am Climate Crisis: Spirit Calls Us to Act - Peace, Earthcare, and Social Witness Committee

Dec 26 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.



Strawberry Creek Sunday Worship (Zoom)

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

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

Oakland Quaker Worship Group - Sundays

Sundays at 5pm the Oakland Quakers meet in person at the home of Peter Lin. Contact Peter or go to their website <http://oaklandquakers.org>

Berkeley Friends Meeting (BFM)

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

Quaker Center Morning Worship (Zoom)

Every morning (7:30-8am) Quaker Center Ben Lomond offers worship and once a week it offers worship sharing (Wed at 10am). For these and other Quaker Center events, see www.quakercenter.org

Quaker Action Worship Group

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

Reparations Now in Berkeley

On behalf of Strawberry Creek Friends Meeting, the Peace, Earthcare, and Social Witness donated \$100 to Reparations Now. Local leaders such as Josh Daniels, and Anthony Hughes/St. Paul's African Methodist Episcopalian (AME) are working "to implement true reparations for African Americans within Berkeley. The reparation payments would be funded by a special parcel tax that would be on the November 2022 ballot." As an initial step, the group is seeking "to conduct a voter poll to help us finalize details and ensure passage. We need to raise at least \$25,000 to make sure that the poll is accurate and informative."

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/berkeley-reparations>



Twefth Month Gathering 3pm Saturday Dec 11

On Saturday December 11 (3-6 pm) Meeting will once again come together (on Zoom) to share special and creative things that we do in the world, spend time in breakout rooms to exchange memories, then re-join as a whole for more sharing and festivities.

The Events Committee (Laura Miller, Rhea Farley and Philipa Barron) would love to hear from you if you'd like to share something creative you do. The committee is also compiling favorite recipes, so send them yours! If you have other ideas for "zoomy" festivities, please let them know.

Climate Crisis: Spirit Calls Us to Act – Dec 19

This month our third Sunday session is offered by Peace, Earthcare, and Social Witness Committee. This session will summarize where we are in the effort to restore the earth and bring the climate back in balance, and explore how we can amplify personal actions and make our corporate voice heard at a larger scale. The session continues our work on Earthcare and Racism. Remember, it's easy to feel overwhelmed as our individual actions alone may seem small, yet it's important we act.

Proposed Nominating Committee

The Naming Committee (Andrea English, Paul Jolly, David Rutschman) offered their proposed slate for Nominating Committee: returning members Patricia Dienstfrey, Josh Gallup, Laura Miller, Mary White, and new members Barbara Birch, Susan Black, Janet Piggins, and Susan Strong. Barbara Birch has agreed to co-clerk the committee. Beth Wrightson will join Barbara as co-clerk through March, as needed.

**Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting
Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business
November 14, 2021 draft minutes**

For review and approval at November 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. 39 Friends were present.

The Alternate Clerk read the Advices and Queries on Stewardship and Vocation. We reflected on them in silent worship. The Clerk reviewed the agenda, which had been posted by the Recording Clerk to groups.io on November 12, 2021.

The Acting Recording Clerk read the minutes for the October, 2021, Meeting for Business. The minutes were approved with the following modifications:

Under Reports, in the Care of Meeting report, change “Care of the Meeting Committee (Stephen McNeil) has appointed” to “Stephen McNeil, Clerk of Care of the Meeting Committee, reported that the committee has appointed”, and, Kathy Barnhart’s name was added to the Clearness Committee on membership for Chris Hogness.

Under New Business, change “Peace Earthcare and Social Witness (Larry Strain) has decided” to “Larry Strain, clerk of Peace Earthcare and Social Witness, reported that the committee has decided.”

Query - The clerk read the query: *“We are reminded to consider how our work and decisions today support SCMM in becoming an actively anti-racist faith community.”*

Correspondence and Clerk’s Business

The Clerk shared thank you letters from Western Friend and Friends Committee on National Legislation for our annual donation of \$150 to each.

Old Business

Rick Herbert read a report from the Clearness Committee for membership for Chris Hogness. Members of the committee were in unity to recommend Chris’s membership to the Meeting. Stephen McNeil reported that the Care of the Meeting Committee also was in unity to recommend his membership. This item will season for a month and feedback can be given to Care of the Meeting Committee. Chris lives in eastern Washington and was a member of SCMM and Multnomah Meeting in the past. He attends Meetings on Zoom as his work life permits.

Stephen McNeil reported that Care of the Meeting Committee was in unity to lay down the membership of Heather Alden. Elizabeth Strain had a long conversation with her, and Heather is doing well and feeling very spiritually nourished in her life. Meeting approved laying down her membership, with appreciation for Heather.

Larry Strain, clerk of Peace Earthcare and Social Witness (PESW), asked that a \$100 donation for an effort to get a reparations initiative on the Berkeley November 2022 ballot could be given in the name of SCMM, rather than just in the name of Peace Earthcare and Social Witness. A group called Berkeley Reparations/Reparations Now! is trying to raise \$25,000 for this effort, but the committee was not able to find out more information about the group since the last Meeting for Business. The money will come from PESW’s budget. The treasurer said that the committee could get their budget supplemented at a later date from the general fund if needed. Meeting approved the donation in the name of SCMM.

New Business

Richard Leath, clerk of Finance Committee, presented the initial budget for 2022. When we start having hybrid meetings, the budget may need to be modified. They will be considering raising our annual donation (currently at \$150) to 19 different groups. This is the same amount we have been donating since 2008 [earliest record found actually shows 2004]. A question was asked about whether we should continue our annual gift to Berkeley Technology Academy, even though we haven't used the site this year. We are not currently paying rent because of the pandemic, but there are other reasons that it may be appropriate to donate to the school. One Friend noted that most of the students at B-Tech are either Black or Latinx, so contributing to the school would fit with our efforts to be actively anti-racist, as our query asks us to do. Other items on the budget that we discussed were about separating PPR's line item from Worship and Ministry so it is more easily accessible. The costs and benefits for our storage space were discussed. The budget will season until next Meeting for Business, and the Finance Committee seeks guidance from members and attenders.

James Hosley from Nominating Committee brought the names of Phillipa Barron for Pacific Yearly Meeting (PacYM) representative and Ragni Larsen-Orta for PacYM observer. The terms for these positions begin in January. These nominations will season for one month. James also said that Facilities Committee needs at least four more people to serve when we re-open for in-person meetings. Interested people should contact James Hosley or Ralph Murphy, co clerks for Nominating Committee.

David Rutschman reported for the Naming Committee, which consists of David, Andrea English and Paul Jolly. Returning to the Nominating Committee will be Patricia Dientsfrey, Josh Gallup, Laura Miller, and Mary White. New members nominated are Susan Black, Janet Piggins, Susan Strong, and Barbara Birch. Barbara Birch has agreed to co-clerk the committee. Beth Wrightson will join Barbara as co-clerk through March, if needed. These names will be seasoned.

Reports

Larry Strain reported that he and David Rutschman, for Peace, Earthcare, and Social Witness, attended an all-faith meeting in Berkeley of about eight churches. Since BOCA has dissolved, this is an organization that will fill some of the same roles, linking local faith congregations in a Berkeley Faith and Justice Alliance. In addition, PESW will be leading an adult education session in December on the subject of Climate and Justice.

Nancy Wilkinson, Treasurer, gave a financial report up to October 31, 2021. We have a surplus of \$3,324.71, which is unusual for us at this time of year. Contributions will still be welcome through the end of the year..

Ralph Murphy reported for Worship and Ministry. The committee is continuing to work on a plan for in-person meetings. He will report further in the December Meeting for Business.

Query - The Clerk invited us to contemplate the query: "*How did our work today support us in becoming an actively anti-racist faith community?*" One Friend shared that she felt our Meeting was developing stronger muscles regarding being actively anti-racist, but that we must also continue to hold environmental justice as important. Another Friend said we are "walking the talk" regarding being an "actively" anti-racist community.

Announcements

*Next Meeting for Business will be December 12th, 2021 at 11:50 a.m.

*Our Twelfth Month Gathering on Zoom will be December 11 in the afternoon. Details will follow.

*Avotcja Jiltoniro thanked people for contributions for the people in the mountains of Puerto Rico. In addition to solar supplies or money to buy supplies, toys & gift items for children would be appreciated for the holidays.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Moses Strain, Clerk Beth Wrightson, Alternate Clerk, Kathy Barnhart, Acting Recording Clerk

Clearness Committee Report **On the Membership Request of Chris Hogness**



Kathy Barnhart, Leonard Joy, Joyce Samati, Rick Herbert (convenor) met with Chris Hogness October 29, 2021 to seek clearness on his request for membership in Strawberry Creek Meeting.

After gathering in quiet worship, Chris shared from his journey bringing him to this point. He recalled he first experienced Quakers and Meeting for Worship when his Dad took him along to visit Haverford College as an 8 year old. He remembers being drawn to the quiet. Years later when recalling this experience, he chose to go to Haverford College. While there, he began attending Meeting for Worship. Chris felt that a particular benefit he gained from attending Haverford was learning the importance of not speaking until moved to speak.

Chris returned to the Bay Area to attend Medical School. While here, he lived in a couple shared households that included Quakers. Over a 5 year period he traveled in Latin America for ~11 months, which included some travel with Quaker Caesar Martinez from the Mexican Friends Service Committee as well as with David Hartsough of San Francisco Friends Meeting. It was Caesar who urged Chris to become a Quaker, saying “just do that, Hogness”, when Chris was considering applying for membership.

Chris met his wife, Leesa, when both were medical students/& then he was doing his residency. They were married at Ben Lomond Quaker Center, with several Strawberries present. Chris attended Strawberry Creek from 1981 – 1995, as he was able to do so during his studies & training. He

became a member of Strawberry Creek Meeting in 1984 and later served on the Overseers committee, clerked at that time by Andrea English.

Chris and Leesa moved to Portland in 1995, where he attended & then transferred his membership to Multnomah Monthly Meeting for the 12 years they lived in Portland. During some of this period, Chris attended a small worship group that met monthly in people’s homes in the vicinity. This group shared some similarities with Strawberry Creek Meeting’s early days.

After Chris & his family moved in 2007 to the Methow Valley, just east of the Pacific Crest Trail in northern Washington state, Chris resigned from his membership in Multnomah Meeting. The closest Quaker Meeting was about a 3.5 to 5 hour drive each way, not a feasible option for him to participate in regularly. He has found spiritual sustenance while in Washington state through reading John Woolman’s Journal & other Quaker biographies, in a retreat with Thich Nhat Hanh, in a Catholic Church’s Spanish service, and a Methodist Church’s Holden service.

Since attending Meetings by zoom became possible during the current pandemic, Chris has attended Multnomah Meeting a few times and Strawberry Creek Meeting more frequently when his work schedule allowed. He has appreciated finding people still active here that he remembers from the time when he previously attended Strawberry Creek, as well as many others who’ve become involved since. Though recognizing some limits of Meeting via zoom, Chris has found that he can experience a depth of worship in this form, too.

He has been struck by the dynamism of Meeting’s grappling with several issues, including race. This past summer Chris was able to participate in several portions of Pacific Yearly Meeting’s Annual Session via zoom. He feels drawn now to become more actively engaged in Strawberry Creek Meeting. Chris recognizes that members have a responsibility to regularly attend Meeting for Worship, the Meeting for Business & to serve on committees. He expects to be able to do so, as his work schedule allows. His current work load as a hospitalist is a block schedule where he may be on for four days and off for twelve or vice versa. He works about 15 days a month.

STRAWBERRY CREEK MONTHLY MEETING

Box 5065, Berkeley, California 94705

Phone messages: 510/524-9186

<www.strawberrycreekfriends.org>

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

TO:

DECEMBER 2021 ISSUE