

STRAWBERRY CREEK MONTHLY MEETING  
OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

JULY/AUGUST 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](mailto: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: August 22** (for September issue)

Note: this issue covers both July and August. Next newsletter distributed Sunday August 29.

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

Newsletter Editor & Calendar Postings Sarah Hawthorne [editor@strawberrycreekfriends.org](mailto:editor@strawberrycreekfriends.org)

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THE CALENDAR (activities below via Zoom)

**SUNDAYS** (unless otherwise noted)

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

July 4 Advices & Queries (TBA)

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

July 11 (no Meeting for Business in July)

July 18 9:00 a.m. Worship Sharing based on a query. Contact Bob Langfelder [boblangfelder@aol.com](mailto:boblangfelder@aol.com)

11:50 a.m. Braiding Sweetgrass - PPR book reading group. See inside.

July 25 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.

Aug 1 Advices & Queries (TBA)

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

Aug 8 11:50 a.m. Meeting for Worship on the occasion of Business

Aug 15 9:00 a.m. Worship Sharing based on a query. Contact Bob Langfelder [boblangfelder@aol.com](mailto:boblangfelder@aol.com)

11:50 a.m. *Braiding Sweetgrass* - PPR book reading group. See inside.

Aug 22 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.

Aug 29

**WEDNESDAYS (ongoing)**

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

**THURSDAYS (ongoing)**

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

### **Strawberry Creek Sunday Worship (Zoom)**

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

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

### **Berkeley Friends Meeting**

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

### **Quaker Center Family Work Camp – Experience It August 3-8, 2021**

A camp for all ages! Improve and repair things at Quaker Center, Build community while repairing, constructing, painting, cooking and cleaning! Deepen community by worshipping, playing, hiking, talking, swimming, singing and swinging! See <http://www.quakercenter.org>

### **Attend Quaker Meetings Everywhere... Around the United States with a Click!**

Western Friend has conveniently created a webpage listing several Quaker Meetings that offer an opportunity to visit a worship hour via Zoom. Take advantage of this opportunity to try out many places while Meetings still offer online worship. See <https://westernfriend.org/collection/online-worship>

### **Sierra Friends Center announces...**

**Jorgensen School for Nonviolence @ Woolman**  
Woolman is seeking faculty to teach workshops for Jorgensen School for Nonviolence, which provides meaningful and collaborative learning experiences.

The School is designed to enable individuals to see their own role in the perpetuation of violence, to change those ways of being, and to respond to the violence they encounter in their own lives, relationships, workplaces, communities, political systems, and world through the use and understanding of nonviolent methods and direct action training. Woolman expects to roll out the first workshops in Fall of 2021. If you are interested in learning more about this developing program please contact [info@woolman.org](mailto:info@woolman.org)

### **Summer book series: *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, & the Teachings of Plants***

On Sunday June 20th, the Power, Privilege, and Race subcommittee (PPR) welcomed 34 Friends to the SCMM book discussion series on Robin Wall Kimmerer's *Braiding Sweetgrass*.

This first of three sessions engaged those gathered in small group sharing about "Responsibilities", "Ceremony", and "Gifts", all in the context of our Minute on Engagement to Uproot and Dismantle Racism, our Earthcare testimony, and indigenous wisdom and scientific knowledge of the author.

Next meetings:

- **July 18th** discussion will cover pg. 156 through pg. 300 in the paperback version. This is the remainder of the "Picking Sweetgrass" section and all of the section also called "Braiding Sweetgrass".
- **August 15th** discussion will cover the final section, "Burning Sweetgrass" and the "Epilogue: Returning the Gift."

Please contact PPR member Susan Burr, Ragni Larsen-Orta, or Laura Magnani, for more information.



**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>

**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>

**Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting**  
**Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business**  
**June 13, 2021 draft minutes**  
*For review and approval at August 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. Lee Douglas shared the reflections of the Finance Committee on Personal Relationships. **[see Reflections, below]**

The Clerk reviewed the agenda, which had been posted by the recording clerk to groups.io on June 12th.

The recording clerk read the minutes for the April 11, 2021 Meeting for Business. The minutes were approved with the following clarifications:

- The name of the Traveling Ministry and Service Fund has been changed to the Ministry and Service Fund.
- The date of today's meeting is June 13<sup>th</sup>, not June 12<sup>th</sup>.
- The body recommending use of a query about racism is The Institutional Assessment Implementation Group of Friends General Conference.

**Correspondence and Clerk's Business**

The clerk acknowledged with sadness the death of longtime member Lynne D'Angelo. We received a donation from John Bird and Theresa Kobak "as a memorial to celebrate Lynne Bird D'Angelo's life and memory," to be used as needed.

Peter D'Angelo asked that we wait until we are able to meet in person again to convene a Memorial Meeting.

The clerk read a message from Heather Alden requesting that her membership be laid down. The clerk is forwarding the message to the Care of the Meeting Committee so they can follow up with her.

The clerk has appointed an ad hoc committee on the future of worship [informally called the "Blended Berries" ad hoc committee], under the care of Worship and Ministry. Its purpose is to provide Worship and Ministry with information to assist in their discernment with regard to Meeting's "re-opening" (gathering in person again as covid restrictions permit and Meeting is ready).

The ad hoc committee will explore health and safety issues, as well as technology that will support the Meeting in continuing to serve those who benefit from accessing our Meeting through Zoom. They hope to provide a report to W&M for their June committee meeting. W&M will discern: What does it look like to make the beloved community available and welcoming to all -- children and their families, People of Color, folks with seen and unseen disabilities. These are the ad hoc committee's members and consultants:

- Sarah Hawthorne (convenor)
- Eric Wilson (Facilities Committee)
- Tom Rothschild (Worship and Ministry Committee)
- Rick Herbert (Care of the Meeting Committee)
- John McCarthy (Communications Committee)
- Josh Gallup (First Day Children's Program Committee)
- Amy Dewey (Zoom facilitator/web coordinator)
  
- Laura Miller (medical consultant)
- James Hosley (audio/visual consultant)
- Jay Cash (resource consultant)

**Old Business:**

There was no old business.

## **New Business**

Power, Privilege, and Race Subcommittee (Susan Burr) shared the recommendation that we use this query for accountability to our "Minute on Engagement to Uproot and Dismantle Racism in Strawberry Creek Meeting": *How does this decision and our work support Strawberry Creek in becoming an anti racist faith community?*

“The subcommittee recommends: 1) After the prior month’s Minutes are read and approved, the Clerk states, We are reminded to consider how our work and decisions today support SCMM in becoming an actively anti-racist faith community, 2) Before announcements and closing Worship, reflect on “How did our work (and our decisions, if relevant) today support us in becoming an actively anti-racist faith community?”, 3) That committees consider how to incorporate this recommendation into their work, and 4) we assess after a year how the practice has been working. This recommendation will season until the next business meeting **[report below]**

Peace, Earthcare, and Social Witness (Stephen McNeill) shared a proposed minute in support of legislation on a Truth and Healing Commission regarding Indian Boarding Schools. The minute was shared via groups.io June 12<sup>th</sup> and has several links that friends can explore for more information. The minute will season until the next business meeting. **[see proposed minute, below]**

Care of the Meeting Committee (Kathy Barnhart) recommended that we accept Ragni Larsen-Orta’s transfer of membership from Visalia Meeting. The request will be seasoned over the next two months and be raised for approval at our next business meeting in August.

Nominating Committee (James Hosley) revised its proposed slate of officers, representatives, and committee members. The committee replaced the name of Loren McIntyre as representative to Youth Spirit Artworks with Janet Piggins. It also proposed Laura Miller as clerk and Philippa Barron as member of the Events Committee. These recommendations will be held over and brought for approval at the August Meeting for Business. Those with questions or concerns should speak to a member of the Nominating Committee.

## **Reports**

Nominating Committee (James Hosley) shared the annual report from the committee, which was circulated via groups.io June 11<sup>th</sup>. One Friend requested that the term “physically challenged” be replaced with “persons with disabilities”. James said that he agreed and would present the change to the Committee. [The committee subsequently approved the change.] **[see full report, as amended, below]**

Friends General Conference (Michelle Bellows) reported on some of the significant work done in Friends General Conference over the past year, and spoke of her own experience of ministry in doing the work. FGC's purpose is to nurture spiritual vitality in the Religious Society of Friends. It’s primary program, the annual Gathering, is a week of Quaker worship, workshops and community for all ages. This year the Gathering will be online, June 27 – July 3 with the theme, Way Will Open.

## **Announcements**

- Next Meeting for Business will be August 12<sup>th</sup> at 11:50 a.m.
- Power, Privilege, and Race Subcommittee (Susan Burr) SCMM summer book discussion series on [Braiding Sweetgrass](#) by Robin Wall Kimmerer is scheduled for June 20<sup>th</sup>, July 18<sup>th</sup> and August 15<sup>th</sup>, 11:50 a.m. via Zoom; same link as for Meeting for Worship.
- PacYM will be held via zoom this year, July 23-28. Deadline for registration July 16<sup>th</sup>. Details and a link for registration were circulated via groups.io on June 11<sup>th</sup>.

The clerk closed the Meeting at 2:00 p.m after a period of worship.

Respectfully submitted, Elizabeth Moses Strain, Presiding Clerk,  
Ralph Murphy, Acting Alternate Clerk, and Paul Jolly, Recording Clerk



**Reflections**  
**Advices & Queries**  
**On Personal Relationships**  
*from Finance Committee*  
*(read by Lee Douglas)*

A few of us felt that these Advices and Queries are not well organized, somewhat scattered, leaving out many other important aspects of Personal Relationships.

One Friend appreciates the Advices and Queries' focus on children because it is so important to take care of them.

These Advices and Queries apply mainly to household relationships, but there are many other significant relationships in our lives. Per the first query, we are very conscious of "friendliness, joy, and peace" for household residents, but visitors may not "feel God's presence". That is an area for improvement.

We are grateful for the tenderness and openness with which sexual relationships are handled in Meeting. The Meeting considers intention and values before external opinions.

One Friend relates particularly well with the first sentence of Advices: *In daily relationships with others, both inside and outside the home, our lives as Friends speak immediately and lastingly.*

The Advices and Queries didn't seem to apply well to my life because I generally don't create and nurture personal relationships. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Query, "what barriers keep me from responding openly and lovingly to each person", speaks to my condition. I put work and "getting things done" above personal relationships. However, when I do make the effort, it feels good.

Several of us mentioned that visitors have not been in their home for quite a while. We wish to make home a friendly environment for visitors as soon as possible. One Friend mentioned that their home is not necessarily a place of friendliness, joy, and peace; however, they are grateful for what they DO have as many others have less.

Having a young adult nephew staying with us, I've been trying to make my home a place of God's love and acting as elder for this person.

Relationships with immediate family members have not been difficult (with usual exceptions). However, that cannot be said for some extended family members. We need to be truthful and honest, not avoiding interactions, in order to have constructive relationships with other family members. Children push the limits in many ways. We have to protect them while letting them grow. How do we help with the despair that many young people experience in these times?

Out on the street it is often difficult to "respond openly and lovingly to each person". We have limits to how much we can open ourselves to everyone we meet. The need is too great. Many times, it is "beyond my light and strength". Sometimes compassion means saying, "I can't do that." We need to have compassion for ourselves.

I have learned in my life that I CAN respond openly and lovingly to others, but I have a difficult time automatically trusting. I have notions about the limits of my trust (especially with teenage children), but it doesn't mean I stop loving. In the end trust is EARNED while love can be automatic. Being open with others can require discernment.

Power, Privilege, and Race recommendation:  
**Adopt decision-making query for accountability**

*to our Minute on Engagement to Uproot and Dismantle Racism in Strawberry Creek Meeting*

**Background:** Following months of fruitful, meeting-wide laboring, SCMM approved (at the February 2020 Meeting for Business) our Minute on Engagement to Uproot and Dismantle Racism in Strawberry Creek Friends Meeting. The minute states our Meeting's intention to:

**\*Increase awareness** of how we and our practices perpetuate the structure of racism,

**\*Help one another** discern what Spirit calls us to do,

**\*Live up to the Light,**

**\*Reject the racial *status quo*,**

**\*Illuminate, uproot, & dismantle white privilege** because it is used to maintain white dominance, and

**\*Commit to the work** of healing and transforming to make foundational change in our Meeting.

The suggestion came to April 2021 Meeting for Business that SCMM consider adopting use of the query that Friends General Conference uses to test their business decisions. The version for

**Minute in Support of a Truth and Healing Commission for Native Peoples (draft)**  
by Peace, Earthcare, and Social Witness Committee of the Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting

The Strawberry Monthly Meeting of Berkeley, CA (Pacific Yearly Meeting) supports the "Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policy Act" (HR 8420) that was considered by the U.S. House of Representatives in 2019-2020.

Although HR 8420 did not become law, Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting continues to support the establishment of a Truth and Healing Commission.

The bill's purpose was to set up a Truth and Healing Commission to address the historical trauma experienced by Native American and Alaska Native children who were forcibly removed from their homes between 1869 and the 1960's and placed in Indian Boarding schools. The children were taught to reject their Native languages, cultures, and spiritual practices and adopt Euro-American culture. Native Americans continue to suffer multigenerational trauma caused by this policy of forced assimilation and cultural genocide. Quakers were among the strongest

Strawberry Creek would be "**How does this decision and our work support Strawberry Creek Meeting in becoming an actively anti-racist faith community?**"

**PPR is bringing a recommendation:**

Some business meetings are conducted without decisions being made, yet we want all corporate work we do to be carried out with intention to live into our anti-racism minute. We believe the query is best brought early in the Meeting for Business agenda.

**Recommendation:**

1. After the prior month's Minutes are read and approved, the Clerk states: We are reminded to consider how our work and decisions today support SCMM in becoming an actively anti-racist faith community.
2. Before announcements and closing worship, reflect on "How did our work and our decisions [as relevant] today support us in becoming an actively anti-racist faith community?"
3. That committees consider how to incorporate this recommendation into their work.
4. Assess how the practice has been working after a year.

supporters of the Indian boarding school policy and operated some 30 Indian schools (some in collaboration with the federal government) for varying periods of time.

U.S. Secretary of the Interior, Deb Haaland, has tasked Senator Elizabeth Warren with reintroducing the bill this year. Senator Warren will consult with the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition for wording for the bill. It is expected to be introduced before the August Congressional recess, with wording very similar to last year's bill.

SCMM urges Friends to watch for this bill and give it their support. SCMM further urges Friends to learn the history of the Quaker Indian schools and consider ways to support indigenous-managed healing processes, including programs to teach indigenous languages.

## Annual Report of the Nominating Committee to Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting (June 13, 2021)

Nominating Committee thanks all of those who volunteered to serve the Meeting this year. You made it possible for us to submit a nomination slate which will provide us with the leadership and community energy necessary to keep our Meeting spiritually centered and functioning. This report is our effort to share with the Meeting the results and “sense” we have gathered from our many conversations with you over the past months.

Beginning in June, our Meeting will have eighty-nine (89) positions of service (including seven Nominating Committee positions and three *ex officio* positions). Seven of these positions will remain unfilled until our Meeting returns to meeting in person. Sixty-four (64) members and attenders will be filling the 89 positions. One person will be concurrently serving in three positions, and sixteen (16) people will be concurrently serving in two positions. Nominating committee believes that those serving in multiple positions will be able to do so competently, given the particular nature of those positions. Power, Privilege and Race Subcommittee, the Quaker Action Worship Group, and the Welcoming and Inclusion Working Group, are not nominated by the Nominating Committee, and therefore their positions are not among the eighty-nine (89) positions listed on the Nominating slate.

In general, participation in Meeting service is high. The Meeting has 104 members. Twenty-eight of those members are “scattered”, leaving 76 “active” members. Not every active member is serving currently in a position. There are many reasons for this, including family, work and witness responsibilities, illness or incapacity, or a needed rest. The committee sensed no general apathy or lack of concern as to the well-functioning of the Meeting.

The Nominating Committee believes there are **three** issues that go beyond the scope of our committee’s work, but should be considered by our Meeting:

### **Meeting and Working by Zoom**

From our interviews with each member of our community we have found various views on the effectiveness of meeting by Zoom. Some of us have not participated in Zoom meetings because the format did not allow them to center in Spirit. Most of us are grateful for Zoom meetings but find that centering with a Zoom screen is harder than physical meetings.

A significant number of members found that Zoom meetings are essential for them to participate in worshiping with our community, including those who find it hard to attend physical meetings. These include persons with disabilities, the elderly, parents with young

children, and those traveling. Some have expressed gratitude for being able to better hear ministry in zoom meetings.

Zoom also affected our committee work. We were grateful to be able to continue to work together and appreciated the convenience of zoom committee work. We missed some of the subtleties and nourishment of meeting in person, but in general, our committees have fared well. The two committees that have struggled this past year are both committees that are about creating connections in the Meeting, the Children’s Program and the Events Committee. Both of these committees will be finding their way as we begin to gather again in person. The Nominating Committee hopes that the Meeting and the Care of Meeting Committee will be attentive to the process and support these committees as they discern a way forward.

### **Aging of the Meeting**

In our work to fill positions in the Meeting we have become aware of the aging of our meeting. A growing proportion of our meeting is older. We do not have enough younger folks to relieve the older from leadership responsibilities. Often older members have served the Meeting well but feel the need to pull back from their commitments. They may be willing to serve on a committee but find agreeing to clerk or become an officer too demanding. In some cases, Nominating Committee has had to ask them to help us out by continuing to serve in leadership positions. Sometimes selecting co-clerks to share the responsibilities has worked well. If this demographic change continues, we may be prompted to request fewer committees.

### **Minute on Engagement to Uproot/Dismantle Racism**

In our calls, community members spoke of feeling both challenged and supported by the Meeting’s work with the Minute on Racism. Many members expressed appreciation for the Minute. With the Minute in mind the Committee made sure that all members of the community who are people of color were aware of opportunities to serve and that their requests for service were carefully considered.

Nominating Committee sees us as a strong, Spirit-led body, whose members are willing to serve the Meeting in order to ensure that the Beloved Community, with Spirit’s help, remains strong and vibrant.

*Submitted by members of the  
2021 Nominating Committee:*

*Co-clerks – Ralph Murphy and James Hosley.*

*Members – Mary White, Patricia Dienstfry, Josh Gallup, Margaret Schneider, and Laura Miller*

**STRAWBERRY CREEK MONTHLY MEETING**

Box 5065, Berkeley, California 94705

Phone messages: 510/524-9186

[www.strawberrycreekfriends.org](http://www.strawberrycreekfriends.org)

**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**

**TO:**

**JULY/AUGUST 2021 ISSUE**