

STRAWBERRY CREEK MONTHLY MEETING OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

OCTOBER 2020
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: October 19.**

THE CALENDAR

(all activities listed below happen online via Zoom)

SUNDAYS (Unless otherwise indicated)

Oct 3 (Sat) - CANCELLED: Strawberry Creek Meeting Fall 2020 Retreat has been cancelled.

Oct 4 Advices & Queries on Social & Civic Responsibility, by Loaves & Fishes (worship hour)

11:45 a.m. Quaker Action Worship Group (QAWG). Contact Betsy Morris or Lynne D'Angelo.

4 p.m. AFSC celebrates Laura Magnani (retirement party). Details inside.

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

Oct 16-18 College Park Quarterly Meeting – Fall 2020. Details inside.

Oct 18 - 9 a.m. Worship Sharing based on a query. Contact Bob Langfelder <boblangfelder@aol.com>

11:50 a.m. PESW Listening Meeting on Reparations (follow up to Aug 30 Listening Meeting)

Oct 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.

THURSDAYS (ongoing)

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

4 p.m. Twelve-step Open Meeting. Contact facilitator Avotcja Jiltonilro (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 – organized by Berkeley Friends Meeting, Berkeley Friends Church, Strawberry Creek Meeting (socially distanced w/ masks).

Strawberry Creek Sunday Worship (Zoom)

Strawberry Creek Friends Meeting meets for worship at 10pm 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/>

Marie Schutz Memorial Oct 24th

On Saturday, October 24 at 2 p.m, a memorial meeting will be held for Marie Schutz via zoom. Marie was 98 and a member of Redwood Forest Friends Meeting and longtime resident of Friends House. She is the mother of Strawberry Creek Friend Roberta Schutz and Friend Mico Sorrel.

If you have photos of Marie with her friends to be used in a short 'slide show' during the memorial, please send them to evaherndon@gmail.com

This is the Zoom link for the memorial:

<https://zoom.us/j/99997553415?pwd=MHI5TXh1WWh0RGRXaE9WZ3dUVE1SUT09> To join by telephone, dial (408) 638 0968. When prompted, use Meeting ID 999 9755 3415; password 062638.

Laura Magnani AFSC Retirement Party

On Sunday October 4th at 4 p.m., American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) is celebrating Laura Magnani's more than thirty years of AFSC service on behalf of prison reform and abolition.

A scrapbook with affectionate memories will be presented to Laura. If you have a story about Laura you would like to share in the "scrapbook", please contact Naneen Karraker (nkarraker@gmail.com) or Dorothy Kakimoto (dkalameda@gmail.com).

To register for the Zoom celebration, go to <https://www.afsc.org/story/help-us-celebrate-laura-magnani> This link is also a way to contribute online. If you prefer to donate by mail, send a check to the Oakland AFSC office, (1730 Franklin St, #201, Oakland CA. 94612) and write "Laura Magnani celebration" on the memo line.

AFSC hopes to raise \$20,000 in Laura's honor to boost the AFSC's Healing Justice campaign. To help with fundraising, call Paul Jolly at (301) 758- 3410 or email paulsjolly@gmail.com

Update on Elsa Glines

Jeanne Diller reports that Elsa has moved to her daughter Melinda Glines' home at 534 Seacliff Place Richmond, CA 94801-4124. She described it as "being out of jail". She's very happy to be at Melinda's house. It's a very nice place in Point Richmond and it looks out on the Bay. She gets a lot of help from Melinda, Mateo and Mercy, [her grandchildren] and will soon be taken out for a walk in a wheelchair. The first good outdoor walk in a long time! A big plus to being at Melinda's is being able to see Melinda, Arturo and Elsa's grandchildren. She moved to Melinda's on Thursday. She says she no longer has pain except very occasionally. She wants to express her appreciation for all the wonderful cards and greetings she received from everyone. She says it was so nice of you to have taken the time to send those greetings.

Oct 16-18 College Park Quarterly Meeting

College Park Quarterly Meetings are held on the weekend of the third Sunday in January, May and October. The next quarterly meeting gathering will take place the weekend of October 16-18, 2020. The theme for the upcoming quarterly meeting is "Walking Together in the Light."

"At this time when the concurrent pandemics of climate degradation, COVID-19, and racism unleash a triple whammy that disproportionately and drastically affects people of color and the poor, there is a great need for spiritually strong and grounded people to join together in the Light to effect a sea change. The Quaker response to injustice is reflected in our testimonies and our practice of patient listening for Divine leading.

Fall quarterly meeting will be a time to partake of spiritual nourishment and consider faithful action, a time to join together in the Presence to tap into our deep spiritual roots as we discern what witness and action the Divine is calling us into. We will be invited into waiting worship to "sink down to the seed which God sows in the heart" and will have opportunities for individual Friends, monthly meetings, and our Friends organizations to share the ways they are working through the obstacles of sheltering in place and social distancing in order to engage with the needs of their local communities and to take action on public policies."

For more information and/or to register, go to <http://collegeparkquarterlymeeting.org/>

George Lakey (free Oct 5 Pendle Hill lecture)

Can Quakers Help Prevent an American Slide Into Dictatorship? Hint: Nonviolence Will Be Key!

4 p.m. (CA time) Monday October 5, Pendle Hill is offering this free Monday lecture by George Lakey, but you must register to access the zoom link.

As the November Presidential election nears, thoughtful leaders are worrying about the possibility of a power grab should the vote be close with procedures challenged. George Lakey believes a coup attempt is unlikely, but notes that the President refuses to say he will abide by the electoral result. To register, go to <https://pendlehill.org/events/can-quakers-and-others-help-prevent-an-american-slide-into-dictatorship-hint-nonviolence-will-be-key>

Friday Vigils: Save our democracy!

At 4pm on second & fourth Fridays, Quakers from Berkeley Friends Meeting, Berkeley Friends Church, and Strawberry Creek Meeting come together to vigil (socially distanced with masks) in downtown Berkeley at Old City Hall. Join us! Questions? Contact Berkeley Friends Meeting Genie Stowers <gstowers835@gmail.com>

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. We ask the question: how can we, how should we, live as Quakers right now?" Specifically, QAWG purposes are:

- Support: for Quakers' personal leadings and activism
- Coordination: for a Quaker presence at public events
- Response: to act carefully and thoughtfully in local events
- Connection: to other community/faith groups

This last year QAWG has especially reflected on continued leadings and learnings from our Meeting minute on uprooting racism and the Meeting's discernment process around Reparation. QAWG has also shared readings on White Fragility as offered by the Power, Privilege, and Race subcommittee. QAWG has also reflected on the laying down of the Dime-A-Gallon Fund by PESW.

QAWG was begun in January 2017 by Strawberry Creek Friend Laura Boles, after she heard many messages from Friends about their struggles to find the Light in these dark times. 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.

Ben Lomond Quaker Center (Fire Update)

Although Ben Lomond Quaker Center was evacuated due to the fires in Santa Cruz County, no structures were lost. The local Fire Department did a great job defending the Center and the adjacent Sequoia Center.

The Center lost about two-years worth of firewood and sustained some damage to its water lines. The air quality (due to ash and smoke) combined with extreme summer temperatures, make re-population challenging, but cleaning up and starting over are already underway. For updates, check its website <http://www.quakercenter.org> or contact Jay Cash.

Sierra Friends Center (Fire Update)

Dear Friends (August 21, 2020),

I know many of you have been following the story of the Jones Fire and the impact on Sierra Friends Center. The fire is basically out though still being monitored for smoldering roots and embers; many of the teams will be leaving soon to fight other fires.

Marty just returned from touring the campus and the land with the fire crew. While there was extensive damage and loss we have much to be grateful for; while we lost buildings everyone was evacuated successfully and no one was hurt. For that we can only express our deepest gratitude to the Nevada County Emergency Management teams, especially the Nevada County Sheriff who was instrumental in getting people evacuated safely and quickly, in the middle of the night.

I'll start with the losses. We lost one home, cedar house and Madrone Hall, which was leased to the Sierra Streams Institute. We also lost the west side cabins, bath house, garden and garden structures as well as the



large animal barn and storage shed. The rest of the buildings on campus were saved even as everything else around the buildings burned. Marty said she and Chris met the firefighter who held the hose that saved Chris Benfield, the campus caretaker's, home. As you might imagine, a few tears of gratitude were shed.

Many of the firefighters were California state prisoners and they deserve an enormous amount of appreciation for fighting heroically to control a fire that was extremely difficult to fight. They were sent into some of the most

dangerous situations and the most difficult terrain. We really want to acknowledge them as well as the entire CalFire and Nevada County Consolidated Fire District. Their dedication and fearlessness is beyond words.

We were also fortunate that the fire mitigation efforts managed by Chris Benfield made it possible for the firefighters to make a stand at Woolman that saved all of the homes on Woolman lane; with the notable exception of Amy and Chamba Cook's home which was right in the path of the fire that consumed the other structures. This work also may have saved the forest; not known yet. Marty said that the brush all burned, but the big trees are all standing; showing burn marks but hopefully able to survive. We will be consulting with tree and soil experts to learn what we can do to heal the forest...

We want to thank all of you for your continuous prayers and concern and we want to assure you that we are resilient and intend to rebuild. We will be hosting a ceremony for grieving our losses and offering opportunities for all to help us heal the land by replanting and cleaning up from the burn...

Blessings to all! May all those in the path of these many fires find kernels of hope in the ashes and helpers to heal. – Sierra Friends Center

For updates or to make a donation to Sierra Friends Center, go to <https://woolman.org/>

To volunteer for clean-up and recovery, send an email to abbyc@woolman.org

Spotlight (someone in our community)

DAVID RUTSCHMAN

Co-Clerk of Peace, Earthcare, & Social Witness

Mennonites have not tended to view social activism as part of their spiritual life, but rather as a distraction from it... Quakers have a tradition and a commitment to working toward justice on earth in our time. I strongly believe that our greatest contribution as Friends is through our values – and Spirit-based action in the world. – David Rutschman

In Uruguay his full name is David Henry Rutschman Fischbach to include recognition of his mother's family name (Fischbach). His father's family was of German Swiss Mennonite origin. In their first ten years, five thousand Swiss Brethren were executed in Switzerland and surrounding regions. The 1660 Martyrs Mirror records a Rutschman, who was baptized in the first ten days of the Brethren in Zurich, and later killed.



in Colombia. The school's purpose was to educate and house children whose parents had leprosy (the intent being to reduce the risk the children would contract leprosy living at home).

In 1948 in Bogota, Colombia, David was born while the city was under curfew due to riots protesting the assassination of a political left leader (200,000 deaths resulted). His father had to show a police permit to visit his

mother at the hospital.

On his father's side, David's great grandparents were Mennonites in Switzerland, who moved to the United States and settled in Kansas. The Swiss Mennonite Church in Whitewater, Kansas, worshipped in schweizerdeutsch (a mix of Swiss German language) until 1926, when the Mennonites began to assimilate as their use of the German language and their stance of pacifism "created uncomfortable dynamics with "Americans".

While still in high school, David's father was dramatically impacted by the sudden death of his older two missionary brothers. He decided to follow in their footsteps by going into missionary work. To prepare he enrolled in Wheaton College, Illinois, an Evangelical Protestant liberal arts college. There David's father met David's mother, a Methodist young woman from Ohio farmlands.

On behalf of the General Conference Mennonite Church, David's parents helped start a boarding school

His childhood in Colombia nevertheless held many happy memories. "My first memories are of the finca (rural land), which was set in the coffee and banana producing mountains... A fast flowing mountain stream (almost a river) on the edge of the pasture drew... me for adventure. There were several horses that my Dad rode for hours on mountain paths as he visited small congregations he had started in neighboring villages... Many of these congregations are still active today."

In 1956 the family moved to Uruguay, a small South American country between Argentina and Brazil composed mostly of residents with European ancestry, which prided itself on democracy and public welfare. There David's father was a professor at the Mennonite seminary (most students were German-speaking Russian Mennonites). One of the highlights of that era was his family's two and a half month overland trip in a Model A Ford through Argentina, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador,

Colombia, and Central America. (The Model A is in his garage in Vallejo expecting to be restored.)

In 1968 David began university studies, during the worldwide student movement, seeking better conditions for workers, social justice, land and banking reform. In his University's student occupation of the medical school, he recalls his terror crawling out on the ledge to attach/wire speakers to broadcast their message, as the police watched him from below. To personally commemorate the students killed in those demonstrations, David grew a mustache (which to this day he has never shaved off).

In 1971 David married Marj, the daughter of North American Mennonites who had served in Argentina and Uruguay, as part a Mennonite community.

Actively working in a Uruguay slum for displaced persons, one day (when putting up signs for a protest), David was arrested, blindfolded, and interrogated. Several hours later he was dropped off, unharmed. Others of his close friends were not so fortunate – detained for year(s) in military barracks or prisons. The President of Uruguay closed parliament; the University shut down, and “the years of hopelessness” began.

Since he was a “U.S. draft evader”, he was unable to renew his U.S. passport, but could legally live in Argentina based on the Argentinian status of his wife Marj. They moved to Argentina. Less than two years later a military coup overthrew Argentinian President. A ruthless repression followed (20-30 thousand people, including some Mennonites, “disappeared” within Argentina in seven years).

A few years later, thanks to the draft evaders amnesty granted by President Jimmy Carter, David and Marj were able to move to the United States to go to graduate school. Settling in New Mexico (where David's brother lived), the couple were taken under the wing of Quaker peace activist Dorie Bunting, a founder of the Albuquerque Peace Center. She invited David's young family (two sons Mark and Dave) to live with her in a house, a hub of social activism for peace and justice activities.

Soon they were attending Dorie's Albuquerque Friends Meeting, which quickly asked them to lead the 1983 bilingual Quaker Youth Pilgrimage in the Southwest. This Pilgrimage to sacred New Mexico sites with Mexican and U.S. youth, deepened the couple's relationship to Quakers. Soon after this trip, they requested membership in the Meeting.

One of David's first experiences of “the power and the pain” of Quaker deliberation process was when the Albuquerque Meeting, as part of the Sanctuary

Movement, slowly reached unity on offering sanctuary to refugees from Central America. Their VW van was the link that took refugees from Albuquerque to destinations east and north.

Upon completing his graduate work, David and his wife moved from Albuquerque to Chicago. David and Marj joined 57th St Meeting (for many years David was Clerk of the Meeting and active in Illinois Yearly Meeting).

In Chicago Marj served as Regional Director for Amnesty International USA and for the next 30 years, David taught mathematics at Northeastern Illinois University (an “Hispanic Serving Institution”). Besides serving as department chair and associate dean at the University, David and two other colleagues founded an adult bilingual high school completion program, composed primarily of Central American immigrants. Remarkably, all the teachers were unpaid volunteers, and nearly 500 students graduated during its 15 years existence.

In order to be near their two sons and four grandchildren, in 2015 the couple decided to retire in California and bought a house in Vallejo.

Interestingly, the Albuquerque Meeting laid the foundation for his children to find a home in Zen Buddhism. While in First Day School, the Meeting took his young sons to visit a small Buddhist community in the Jemez Mountains of New Mexico. “Silent worship among Friends and deep Zen meditation touch the same depths of our spirits.” David's son Mark said it this way “Deep down, Quakers and Buddhists trust experience and practice more than theory and theology. In both traditions there is recognition of the mystical and unknowable.”

Today son Mark is a teacher for the SF Zen Center at Green Gulch Farm, where both he and his wife are Buddhist priests. Son Dave lives in Alameda with his wife and two children, and is a therapist.

Explaining how he found his way to Strawberry Creek Meeting (necessitating a pre-pandemic round trip drive to/from Vallejo on Sundays), David mentioned how impressed he was with the Meeting's Dime-a-Gallon fund and the eco-efficiency of the Meeting's use of an otherwise unused school building on Sundays for worship. Continuing his lifelong work to support Latin and South Americans, David is currently actively working with the Accompaniment Team (affiliated with the Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity), which now sponsors an El Salvadorean immigrant, who previously was detained by ICE for almost five years. He's also active on FCNL's East Bay advocacy team, specifically assigned to California Representative Mike Thompson.

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

* These are draft minutes, pending corrections/approval at October business meeting.

Business meeting opened at 11:50 a.m. with silent worship and was conducted via Zoom.

Beth Wrightson clerked the meeting. 33 Friends were present. Erik Wilson of the Facilities Committee shared their reflections prepared on the advices and queries on Meeting for Business. The Acting Clerk reviewed the agenda which was posted to the meeting's web group, groups.io. The Acting Recording Clerk read the minutes for the August 9, 2020 meeting for business. The minutes were approved with the following correction under Reports: "the Care of the Meeting Committee suggested that the Communications Committee might hold an Adult Education session...."

Correspondence and Clerk's Business

- Thank you emails/letters were received from Berkeley Friends Meeting (for \$1,500 for solar panels) and Rebuilding Together (for \$1,533 for work on lead abatement on Richmond homes and on fixing holes and clearing the backyard on a home whose inhabitants had suffered a drive-by shooting) from the Dime-A-Gallon Fund.
- An email from Francie Nurske, Clerk of the Events Committee, requesting a three-month leave to attend to her parents who had to be relocated due to the fires. We held them all in the Light amid worship.
- Beth noted that the "front table" this month consisted of all acting people.

Old Business

Care of the Meeting Committee (Stephen McNeil). The committee recommends Mary Anderson's transfer to Berkeley Friends Meeting. Approved. Elizabeth will prepare a Certificate of Transfer to be sent to Berkeley Friends Meeting. Friends expressed fond memories of Mary's participation in the life of our Meeting.

Acting Clerk Beth Wrightson noted no concerns were raised on the nominations of Cindy Trueblood, Rhea Farley, and Jay Cash to the Naming Committee which have been seasoned for a month. Approved.

New Business

Peace, Earthcare and Social Witness Committee (Carl Anderson) read the following draft posted to the listserv with a few corrections:

We seek to live our lives in reverence for all life on Earth, encompassing right-sharing of the world's resources amongst all people and all species. Friends are called to enter into right relationship with Earth and the community of life it supports. — Strawberry Creek Earthcare Testimony 2010

Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting unites with Honolulu and San Francisco Friends Meetings in their support of the Treaty on Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Supported by a majority of the world's nations, signed by 83 nations and ratified by 44 nations, the Treaty is a fitting international effort in response to the 75th anniversary of the US bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The US currently has backed away from its former commitments to nuclear non-proliferation and reducing its nuclear arsenal.

Britain Yearly Meeting's Meeting for Sufferings stated in 1955 that "to rely on the possession of nuclear weapons as a deterrent is faithless, to use them is a sin." US continued development and testing of new nuclear weapons are endangering life on earth.

While support of long-term efforts such as US ratification of this Treaty are needed, we encourage Friends to do locally what we have been doing over time: witness and protest at the Lawrence Livermore Labs, Vandenberg Air Force Base, Nevada Test Site, Lockheed Martin's big plant in Sunnyvale, and with the Regents of the complicit University of California; financially support anti-nuclear organizations such as Livermore Conversion Project, Tri-Valley CARES, Western States Legal Foundation and Friends Committee on National Legislation among others.

While all cannot do everything, we can work and pray for peace and for a nuclear-free world. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Treaty_on_the_Prohibition_of_Nuclear_Weapons

The draft minute will season for a month.

Nominating Committee (James Hosley) James reported that Tom Rothschild has had to resign his membership on Worship & Ministry Committee. The Nominating Committee puts forward the name of Rachel Findley as a member of Worship & Ministry Committee. She may start as a volunteer while her nomination seasons for a month. The Acting Clerk thanked Tom Rothschild for his service on the committee.

First Day Children's Program Committee (Joyce Samati) read the draft job description for the committee also posted to the listserve. It had been suggested that the Meeting's minute on "Engagement to Uproot and Dismantle Racism in Strawberry Creek Friends Meeting" be considered by all when revising job descriptions. Joyce noted that they had considered this suggestion but did not come up with any language. Susan Burr from the Power, Privilege and Race Subcommittee of Ministry & Worship Committee reported that they are considering suggestions for language. It was suggested that the job description make clear whether or not members are expected to be present with the children. Also suggested was that it state that the Child Safety Policy is reviewed yearly. Joyce welcomed further suggestions as the draft seasons for the month.

Reports

Communications Committee (Amy Dewey) Amy reported that she is the contact point for people to request Zoom meeting time. If a breakout room is required after Meeting, giving her the names of the attenders ahead of time facilitates set-up.

Announcements

- Our next Meeting for Business will be October 11 at 11:50 a.m.
- A Quaker vigil for democracy will be held at the Old Berkeley City Hall every second and fourth Tuesday at 4:30.
- The Meeting's Fall Retreat may be Saturday, October 3, stay tuned for an update. [subsequently the Retreat was cancelled].
- Stephen McNeil, for the organizing workgroup (Care of the Meeting, Peace, Earthcare and Social Witness Committees and Power, Privilege and Race Subcommittee) thanked all who had participated in the August 30th Listening Meeting on Reparations. He announced that the next session will be on October 18th, the scope of which meeting is to be determined.
- Retirement celebration for Laura Magnani Oct. 4, 4:00 p.m.
To donate online in honor of Laura's service, click this link. To donate by mail, send a check to the Oakland AFSC office, (1730 Franklin St, #201, Oakland CA. 94612) and write "Laura Magnani celebration" on the memo line.

The meeting ended at 1:15 p.m. with a period of worship. Respectfully submitted, Beth Wrightson, Acting Presiding Clerk; Ralph Murphy, Acting Alternate Clerk; and Stephen McNeil, Acting Recording Clerk.

STRAWBERRY CREEK MONTHLY MEETING

Box 5065, Berkeley, California 94705

Phone messages: 510/524-9186

www.strawberrycreekfriends.org

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

TO:

October 2020 ISSUE

TIME VALUE

FIRST CLASS MAIL