

STRAWBERRY CREEK MONTHLY MEETING
OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

MAY 2021
NEWSLETTER

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
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: May 23** (for June 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)

SUNDAYS (unless otherwise noted)

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

May 1 (Saturday) 10am–5pm **Strawberry Creek Spring Retreat** (Zoom). Details inside.

May 2 Advices & Queries on Peace – Nominating Committee (read aloud during worship hour)
11:45 a.m. Quaker Action Worship Group (QAWG). Contact Betsy Morris or Asa Brown.

May 9 11:50 a.m. Meeting for Worship on the occasion of Business

May 16 9:00 a.m. Worship Sharing based on a query. Contact Bob Langfelder boblangfelder@aol.com
11:50 a.m. Worship & Ministry Committee (not yet confirmed - Carl Magruder as speaker)

May 23 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.

TUESDAYS

7 p.m. Book Reading Group *Caste: The Origins of our Discontents* by Isabel Wilkerson.
Collaboration of Strawberry Creek Meeting and Berkeley Friends Meeting.
Continues every other Tuesday, ending June 1 (see online calendar). Contact Susan Burr for Zoom link.

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 Avoteja 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>

College Park Quarterly (Spring) May 14-16

At the next CPQM meeting (Zoom) the focus will be on Quaker response to climate justice, and how we are led on other peace and justice issues. If you would like to offer an interest group, please contact Jan Turner yellowgateroad@gmail.com

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>

Financial Aid to Attend Quaker Programs

Quaker Events Support Fund, administered by Care of Meeting (CoM), makes modest financial aid available to help SCMM members, and regular attenders, participate in College Park Quarterly or Pacific Yearly Meetings, Friends General Conference Annual Gathering, and Quaker board or committee meetings. For aid guidelines, contact CoM Clerk Stephen McNeil.



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>

Strawberry Creek Spring Retreat, Sat May 1

This year our Meeting's Spring Retreat is the first Saturday in May from 10 -5pm on Zoom (same link as for Sunday worship). There will be a mix of worship-sharing, interest groups and informal time together. Organizers are Shelley sheltanen@att.net and Rhea jrf8@humboldt.edu

Save Peter a Call! Confirm your Directory Info

By the end of May, each of us is being asked to confirm that their contact info in the Meeting Directory is correct (otherwise, Peter attempts to contact you). If you are not in the directory (and wish to be), provide your contact information to Peter Lin, peterlin@speedymail.org

Concert for AFSC work w/immigrants, May 15

On Saturday, 7pm May 15, folksingers Annie Patterson and Peter Blood, creators of Rise Up Singing songbooks, are doing a virtual singalong "tour" called Songs for the Journey to benefit AFSC's Project Voice. During th COVID, director Pedro Sosa has continued to build leadership and resiliency in rural immigrant communities through virtual education and training.

<https://www.afsc.org/document/west-region-news-april-2021>

PacYM Racial Justice Fri May 7 (part 2)

PacYM's Racial Justice Subcommittee (of Ministry Committee) is sharing personal stories and offering worship sharing groups focused on race awareness and our own experiences with race. See SCMM online calendar for link to register.

Quaker Center (Ben Lomond) - Post-CZU Fire

In addition to Sojourner's Cottage and Haven, personal/household retreat spaces are available in Casa de Luz and Redwood Upper Bunk house. Quaker Center does not provide meals, but Cottage and Haven have full kitchens, while Casa, Redwood Loft, and Redwood Lodge are equipped with small refrigerators, microwaves and electric kettles. Limited access to the library is also available. Learn more (including online programs) at www.quakercenter.org

Maintenance Technician Jesse Keesaw and his crew have completed much of the needed erosion control and continue to dig trenches as preparation for replacing nearly 2,000 feet of waterline destroyed in the CZU Fire. They are also continuing to clear and thin brush and fuel within 75 feet of buildings.

Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting
Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business
April 11, 2021 Minutes*

** These are draft minutes, for review at the May 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. 39 Friends were present. Rachel Findley shared the reflections of the Worship and Ministry Committee on the Advices and Queries on Worship (see Reflections below).

The Clerk reviewed the agenda, which had been posted by the recording clerk to groups.io on April 9th.

The recording clerk read the minutes for the March 14, 2021 meeting for business. The minutes were approved with the correction (in the announcements) of the date of Tom Rothschild's workshop, which was April 1.

Correspondence and Clerk's Business

The clerk requested that Friends limit their use of the Zoom Chat function to technical matters or posting materials that are under discussion.

The clerk read a note from Nathan Moon which follows here: *FGC Implementation Committee will be challenging Yearly meetings to follow FGC's lead and undergo an institutional assessment, and adoption of minute and query. "How does this decision support (us) in (our) goal to transform into an actively anti-racist faith community?" I suggest SCMM get ahead of the curve and begin this process now. Please bring this idea forward for consideration. Thank you.*

She forwarded the note to the Power Privilege and Race subcommittee

The clerk shared a minute from Santa Monica Meeting, forwarded by PacYM, on dismantling all institutions which advance institutional oppression. The minute will be posted to the list serve and forwarded to the Peace Earthcare and Social Witness Committee (see Santa Monica Minute below).

Old Business

Care of the Meeting (Stephen McNeil) recommends that Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting appoint a representative to Youth Spirit Artworks. The recommendation has seasoned for one month and the committee has heard no concerns. The representative will serve as an ex officio member of PESW. The Meeting approved the recommendation.

State of the Meeting report (Rick Herbert), was circulated, in its refined version, via groups.io on April 7. The report has seasoned for one month. The meeting approved the report, with the addition of the date of passage for the Minute on Engagement to Uproot and Dismantle Racism (see final State of Meeting Report below).

New Business

Nominating Committee (James Hosley) presented a proposed slate of officers, representatives, and committee members (see slate below). Loaves and Fishes and Facilities committees are not fully staffed, due to the lockdown. If we return to meeting face to face, the Nominating Committee will work to ensure that those functions are covered.

Reports

Ministry (Carl Magruder) spoke about his ministry. His Anchor Committee (Rachel Findley, John McCarthy, Sally Hindman, and Elaine Emily), has been meeting with him for ten years. He did a Bible Study at FGC in 2020 on Jesus as a trickster God. He has also met with several Quaker meetings and gatherings. There is a link to his Soul Ways Spiritual Accompaniment web page with his videos, articles, a prayer request form, etc. on the Civic Lights Project website <https://www.civicligh.org/soulways>. His work as a chaplain has included advocating for patients in hospitals, isolated from family because of COVID. Friends expressed appreciation for Carl's ministry and his report.

Announcements

Next Meeting for Business May 9 at 11:50 a.m.

Next Sunday April 18 at 11:50 a.m. Adult Religious Education (Avotcja Jiltonilro, Paul Jolly, Ellen Levin) Poetry as a spiritual exploration. Bring your own or someone else's to share.

Meeting Retreat (Shelley Tannenbaum) Our Meeting's annual retreat will be held Saturday May 1, approximately 10 am - 5pm, via the Meeting's Zoom link. There will be a mix of worship sharing, worship, and interest groups, plus a break for lunch. If you want to offer a 1-1/2 hour interest group on any topic that you think would be of interest to Friends, please contact Shelley to schedule this - these will be held in breakout rooms in the early afternoon. Send Shelley a brief description (1 paragraph) of what you want to present and let her know if you need to use screen-share during your presentation. Her contact info is sheltanen@att.net.

Susan Burr: Friends are invited to join a book group that will be reading and discussing Caste: the origins of our discontents by Isabel Wilkerson, in conjunction with Berkeley Friends Meeting. There will be four Tuesday evening sessions, beginning April 20th.

Amy Dewey (web coordinator) reiterated the availability of the Meeting's Zoom account. Friends who want to use the space for any Meeting-related function should contact Amy.

Avotcja Jiltonilro encouraged Friends to hold her friend Richard Sandero, a cherished activist, in the Light.

Michelle Bellows (FGC) recommended that friends register for the virtual gathering, which gives them priority for workshops. Tom Rothschild and Barbara Birch of SCMM will both be offering workshops. If you have questions, contact Michelle. Tom mentioned that his workshop will be on "Listening Meetings into Wholeness."

The clerk closed the meeting 1:40 p.m. with these words: "May we feel Spirit in our depths as we are in these choppy waters."

Respectfully submitted,

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



At April Meeting for Business, Rachel Findley read aloud the reflections of Worship & Ministry Committee on the Advices and Queries on Meeting for Worship:

Do we feel ourselves "drawn together in a living silence by the power of God in our midst?" We are drawn together, whether or not any individual feels it. My feeling depends a lot on my personal condition. Just as the deep ocean currents do not waver like the choppy waters at the surface, so the power is there, deep and strong, underneath my shifting awareness.

Meeting for worship is an opportunity for me to see other people, to acknowledge them individually, and be grateful for their presence. Particularly now, I see more clearly that in addition to our individual lives, together we make up a communal body, Strawberry Creek Meeting, an entity that has a life of its own... abilities, hopes, a history and a future.

Woven into the experience of Meeting for Worship right now is Zoom. The Meeting is so fortunate that Zoom was available at the beginning of the shutdown, even if some of us could not join, or preferred not to join. While some meetings have gone on hold in the last year, in our Meeting several people have generously contributed their expertise to lead the way, figure things out, and protect us from hacks. I may have issues with centering down on Zoom, but we have had our Meeting throughout the pandemic.

Reflections:
Advices & Queries on Meeting for Worship
from Worship & Ministry Committee

"Do I come to Meeting with heart and mind prepared for worship?" Reading this query on M4W before meeting would be a good way for me to prepare. Spirit is not accessible when skimming the surface, but takes a deep dive and ample reverence. "At times the spirit may prompt you to speak in Meeting." It takes careful discernment, faithfulness and courage for me to speak when led. "Accept and support each other in the community where God dwells among us." I'm grateful for our community always presenting me an opportunity to stretch my understanding and acceptance of others and myself. "As you do so, you may find the grace of prayer." This phrase is a nugget and a mystery to me. Ripe for turning over and exposing to the light.

Our committee has noticed that during worship sometimes people do more sharing with us rather than vocal ministry. This has impacted the quality of our worship, but we've had a need during this time of isolation to be connecting. As testimony to our meeting's ability to center down, we have had whole meetings of complete silence. I'm amazed that it is possible and I am grateful for that. Regarding the sharing of prepared ministry, *Faith and Practice* reminds us, "In both silent and vocal ministry, do I respond to the leadings of the Holy Spirit, without pre-arrangement and in simplicity and truth?"

"Our daily lives are linked with the M4W and the M4W with our daily lives." This linking is made stronger in recent months as we are at the same time in communion in Meeting for Worship and in the homes where we live our lives every day. We are grateful for the leadership both human and divine that has allowed us to come together as a whole meeting.

2021 State of the Meeting Report

(as revised/approved 4/11/2021 Meeting for Business)

Writing Committee: Roberta Schutz, Barbara Birch, Rick Herbert

On Sunday, February 21, Friends gathered on Zoom and responded to three queries in a listening meeting for the State of the Meeting Report. In addition, some reflections were received by email after the meeting.

Joy, Hope, and Spiritual State of the Meeting

So many of us have been able to get together virtually, to hold Meeting, see each other, hear voices, and visit, but we are aware that this reflects our privilege in comfort level with technology and access to devices. We feel joy in having Friends join us by Zoom who are far away or cannot travel to attend Meeting. We look forward to returning to in-person worship and hope this can continue without losing people. Also, we have enjoyed the world online - outside readings, concerts, dance, events, videos, worship - and we hope some of this keeps going in the post-pandemic world.

We appreciate the steadfastness of meeting on Zoom; it allowed our Meeting to survive the pandemic. Friendly Sevens by Zoom have continued to be effective for some, allowing connection and sharing from near and far. Our strong spiritual community has kept us grounded and anchored, and has been central to our ability to weather this year. For many, the silence of worship is deep, and our Meeting feels interconnected and vibrant. Our Meeting was described as calm and mature, like a banked fire from which flames can come up, but without a lot of vocal ministry. Our Meeting feels sustainable, like a tree with deep roots, aging and still growing. As we meet remotely, without a sense of a room, the mystical is laid bare.

Many people give so much of themselves to the Meeting and work so hard; we are grateful for their time, care, and meticulousness. So many people offered to serve on Nominating Committee that it seemed easier this year to find a strong committee. Committee service has helped people stay connected, and people want to continue their connection. We have offered each other and the Meeting a rich spiritual depth and strength in a year of duress.

Meeting supports many things we are doing with anchoring, clearness, and support committees. Our spiritual lives inform our ministries, and people who are spiritually grounded here have been able to go out in the world and become involved in positive change. Our Meeting seeds and anchors many ministries. Meeting members and attenders support ministries through direct volunteering and through the work of our active committees. Many expressed appreciation for the love and support they have received from the Meeting to help deal with difficult life circumstances, including help with death of loved ones and support to ease isolation.

Quaker practice is important in our Meeting community, and the original Quakers still have a lot to teach us. We might offer another Quakerism 101 to help us remember where we came from.

Sorrow

It's been a very hard year, full of stressful news and events, and grief, anxiety, and loss. Some of us feel off-balance from isolation. We miss people who have not been able to join us on Zoom; we are not whole as a family without those who cannot worship with us. It is different to meet over Zoom. For some, it doesn't work at all, and we miss them; for others it has been difficult to center down on Zoom. For some, it has become easier over time as we have 'exercised new muscles' to maintain the Meeting and the beloved community. We miss each other, without physical presence and in-person contact. As one Friend mentioned, we are mammals and we are meant to be together. With social connections harder to keep, we need to overcome introversion or shyness to reach out to one another. We hold in the Light those who are not with us, and those suffering from losses during this time.

We are sad that the children's program has not transitioned to Zoom, and wish we could do something for the children if they want it. More broadly, for the future of the Religious Society of Friends, we recognize the need to grow the children's program, and to bring children, young people, families, and people of color into the Meeting. We need to connect our Meeting more to the community around us.

Aware of our leading to be more inclusive and of how far we have to go, some of us have visited meetings across the world that seem more welcoming to Black and Indigenous People of Color. Other meetings have things to teach us about how to welcome all.

PPR Subcommittee and the Minute on Engagement to Uproot and Dismantle Racism

The Power, Privilege and Race subcommittee and the Minute on Engagement to Uproot and Dismantle Racism (approved 2/9/2020) both support the mindfulness of the Meeting. PPR activities have been a robust expression of our Meeting and they have helped us meet the challenges of this year. We appreciate them because they strengthened our community and helped us learn. The many suggested readings and resources related to white fragility and racism have caused us to question our feelings and responses. Some PPR activities have been uncomfortable, but the discomfort is supported, and people have been willing to speak frankly. PPR gave us a mirror to see something so ugly that is part of everything around us. They created a safe space to look at it together with people who have skill and lived experience, and we have learned and grown.

The Minute on Engagement to Uproot and Dismantle Racism is larger than our Meeting. It has been integrated with love in our Meeting, encouraging and speeding up learning. We've found we can say awkward things without fear of judgement as we've worked with it. The minute has been effective both in guiding the Meeting's work and in supporting the work of individuals in the communities around us. It is helping us become less exclusive and more connected to the world outside the Meeting, and has led to the development of a community sharing fund now in the works. We need to continue pushing ourselves further in this area. One Friend encouraged us to open our hands, noting that our Meeting tends to come from a place of scarcity as to what we can do, but that we have abundance.

Quaker Action Worship Group provided powerful experiences for some, and earlier, contributed to the creation of the minute, which educates us and gives guidance for both individuals and the Meeting to live into. QAWG work has been restorative and enriching, if sometimes a struggle, leading some to more participation in the local community.



Earthcare Testimony and the Minute on Engagement to Uproot and Dismantle Racism

Earthcare continues as a deep concern of our Meeting, with many of us addressing environmental concerns as individuals, such as stopping buying water in plastic jugs, and firing their bank. 2020 marked the 10th anniversary of the Meeting's Earthcare Testimony, developed to reflect the Meeting's experience of living and witnessing in the world in alignment with ecological integrity and environmental justice. This year two sessions were held to celebrate the Meeting's more than 30 year commitment to care of the earth, and to consider how well we are living the Testimony and how this relates to the Minute on Engagement to Uproot and Dismantle Racism. One Friend holds that caring for the earth is one of the best ways to care for people and to improve health. Another suggested our work on racism seems interconnected with earthcare and that caring for people will help save the earth, noting that across Indigenous cultures, earthcare combines place-based and community-based concerns.

As one Friend affirmed, even though she hasn't seen us in the flesh for almost a year, she still believes we exist. Our faith stays strong in our Meeting.

Nominating Committee's Proposed Slate (2021-2022)
Officers, Reps, and Committees

At the April Meeting for Business, Nominating Committee submitted its slate of nominations for the term beginning June 1, 2021. These nominations are seasoning for one month, to be presented for final approval at the May Business Meeting. If you have any questions or concerns about the nominations, please contact a member of the Nominating Committee (listed below).

Officers:

Clerk of Meeting Elizabeth Strain
Alt Clerk of Meeting Beth Wrightson
Recording Clerk Paul Jolly
Recorder Peter Lin
Database Coordinator Peter Lin
Treasurer Nancy Wilkinson

CARE OF MEETING

Stephen McNeil, Clerk
Carl Anderson
Kathy Barnhart
Susan Burr
Rick Herbert
Leonard Joy
Janet Piggins
Renee Watkins

COMMUNICATIONS

Sarah Hawthorne, clerk
newsletter editor
Amy Dewey, web coordinator
John McCarthy
Raven Moon, librarian

EVENTS

Shelley Tanenbaum, clerk
Rhea Farley
Laura Miller

FACILITIES*

Erik Wilson, Clerk
Peter Lin
Andrea Parriot
Dick Strong

FIRST DAY CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

Josh Gallup, co-clerk
Joyce Samati, co-clerk
Rachel Findley
Em Holmes
Ellen Levin
Nathan Moon

FINANCE

Lee Douglas, co-clerk
Richard Leath, co-clerk
Frank Satterwhite
Nancy Wilkinson, Treasurer *ex officio*

LOAVES AND FISHES*

Phyllis Malandra, clerk
Susan Black
Patricia Dienstfrey
Ted Dienstfrey
Dusty Sykes
Cindy Trueblood
Matthew Trueblood

MUTUAL CARE

Deborah Marks, co-clerk
Margaret Schneider, co-clerk
Michelle Bellows
Charlie Blanchard
Jay Cash
Lari Keeler
Kat Stenstedt
Barb Tittle

NOMINATING (approved for 2021)

James Hosley, co-clerk
Ralph Murphy, co-clerk
Patricia Dienstfrey
Josh Gallup
Laura Miller
Margaret Schneider
Mary White

WORSHIP AND MINISTRY

Ralph Murphy, co-clerk
Judith Schumacher-Jennings, co-clerk
Lynne D'Angelo
Carolyn Edwards
Rachel Findley
Betsy Morris
Tom Rothschild
Peter Trueblood

PEACE, EARTHCARE, AND SOCIAL WITNESS

(includes representatives to AFSC, BOCA FCLCA, FCNL, PYM UWN, as ex officio)

Larry Strain, clerk
Avoteja Jiltonilro
Bob Langfelder
Kris Muller
David Rutschman
Mary White

*When the Meeting returns to gathering in-person, Nominating Committee intention is to fully fill Loaves and Fishes, and Facilities committees.

REPRESENTATIVES

AFSC David Rutschman
BLQC Jay Cash
BOCA David Rutschman
CPQM Shelley Tanenbaum
FCLCA Nathan Moon
FCNL Stephen McNeil
PYM Representative Nancy Wilkinson
(Approved for 2021)
PYM Observer Philippa Barron
(Approved for 2021)
PYM Unity w/Nature Shelley Tanenbaum
Sierra Friends Center Cindy Trueblood
Youth Spirit Artworks Loren McIntyre



Santa Monica Friends Meeting House

Santa Monica Minute - A Call for Social Justice

We, the Santa Monica Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, Quakers, believe that there is “that of God” in all people. Therefore:

- We seek a just society where each person is afforded dignity and fair treatment.
- We seek a just society that is free from the economic exploitation of the many by the few.
- We seek a loving society where each person has the opportunity, resources, and encouragement to develop and express individual gifts.
- We seek a just and loving society that is free from insidious stereotypes and systems that institutionalize racism, sexism, classism, and religious and gender intolerance.

We pledge as individuals and as a community to deepen our understanding of how poverty, bias, and violence have ingrained themselves in our country.

We pledge to look not only at our neighbors but also at ourselves to root out systems of thought and behavior that are subtle, pernicious and pervasive.

And *we further pledge* ourselves to the work of creating the just and loving society that we seek.

Approved March 14, 2021
Santa Monica Monthly Meeting
Santa Monica, California
Eleanor Barrett, Clerk of Peace and Social Action

STRAWBERRY CREEK MONTHLY MEETING

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Phone messages: 510/524-9186

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

TO:

MAY 2021 ISSUE