

# STRAWBERRY CREEK MONTHLY MEETING OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

SEPTEMBER 2020  
NEWSLETTER

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

Also First Day Children's Program (online) during worship hour. Contact Nathan Moon.  
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](mailto: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](mailto:editor@strawberrycreekfriends.org)

To create a Zoom meeting or join our Listserv, contact Web Coordinator [amyd@alumnae.mills.edu](mailto: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: September 21.**

## TALK BACK!

How can our monthly newsletter best serve our Strawberry Creek Friends Meeting? Check out the *Qua-Qua* Sampler Page (inside) and send your survey answers to [editor@strawberrycreekfriends.org](mailto:editor@strawberrycreekfriends.org)

## SURVEY QUESTIONS

- 1) What primary purpose does the newsletter serve for you personally?
- 2) What specific parts of the newsletter do you usually read?
- 3) Is there any feature(s) you'd like to see changed, added, or dropped?

## THE CALENDAR

(all activities listed below happen online via Zoom)

### SUNDAYS

Sept 6 Advices & Queries on Meeting for Worship for Business, by Facilities Committee (worship hour)

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

Sept 9 (Wed) - 7 p.m. Friendly Seven shared meal. Details inside.

Sept 13 - 11:50 a.m. Meeting for Worship on the occasion of Business

Sept 20 - 9 a.m. Worship Sharing. Contact Bob Langfelder <[boblangfelder@aol.com](mailto:boblangfelder@aol.com)>

1 p.m. Carbon Emissions Pricing (response to global warming) – Tom Yamaguchi presenter

Sept 27 - 11:50 a.m. Committee Sunday. Check with your committee clerk for details.

Oct 3 (Sat) - Strawberry Creek Meeting Fall 2020 Retreat. Details inside.

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

### THURSDAYS

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

4 p.m. 12-step Open Meeting (currently on Zoom). Contact facilitator Avotcja Jiltonilro (510) 658-7995.

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

## Notes and Reflections

### Strawberry Creek Sunday Worship (Zoom)

Strawberry Creek Friends Meeting continues to meet for worship at 10pm Sunday mornings. We worship online via Zoom. The "Virtual Meeting Room" opens earlier at 9:30 a.m. Our worship closes at 11 a.m., when time is offered for Friends to speak into the silence the names of those they wish the Meeting to hold in the Light. We then have Announcements, followed by an opportunity to visit informally in the Zoom format.

### 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/>

### Friendly 7s

At 6 p.m. Thursday September 9, Friendly 7s offers informal fellowship and worship sharing with others during shelter-in-place. It worked last time!

*"A meal, however simple, is a moment of intersection. It is at once the most basic, the most fundamental, of our life's activities, maintaining the life of our bodies; shared with others it can be an occasion of joy and communion, uniting people deeply."* — Elise M. Boulding

Friendly 7s are usually small potluck dinners where people collaborate to put together a meal/social gathering, but that won't work now. Instead, we will gather together to eat our own food and socialize with a small group of Friends from Strawberry Creek Meeting. After our food, we will have a short worship-sharing session on a query.

Please email me back at [birchcarl@live.com](mailto:birchcarl@live.com) (not the listserv) if you are interested in the Zoom Friendly 7s virtual get-togethers.

### Vigils: Save our democracy, save our post office!

Second & fourth Fridays, at 4pm 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!

### Fall 2020 Retreat

On Saturday October 3rd, the Strawberry Creek Meeting Fall Retreat will be held from 10am to 3pm via zoom. The program begins with half an hour of Meeting for Worship, followed by "Community Sharing" time, when Friends are invited to spend a few minutes offering a poem, short reading, Bible quote, song, or other form of community sharing. Look for more information on SCMM list serv. Email Frances Nurfse [fpnurfse@gmail.com](mailto:fpnurfse@gmail.com) or Shelley Tanenbaum [sheltanen@att.net](mailto:sheltanen@att.net) with questions or to sign up.

### Thank you Laura! (retirement party)

#### Celebrating 35 years of AFSC leadership

At 4pm Sunday, October 4, 2020. American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) celebrates Laura Magnani for her more than thirty years of AFSC service on behalf of prison reform and abolition. Laura has been a tireless advocate, a facilitator, and strategic organizer.



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](mailto:nkarraker@gmail.com)) or Dorothy Kakimoto ([dkalameda@gmail.com](mailto:dkalameda@gmail.com)).

Laura has been a participant in extraordinary transformations. During the decades of her AFSC service, she has seen the problem of incarceration become more widely recognized, and reform has started. Today the movement's leadership has passed to formerly incarcerated people, many of them young people whom she mentored, and who are now equipped to continue the struggle.

Laura authored *America's First Penitentiary: A 200 Year Old Failure* in 1990 and in 2006 she co-authored AFSC's *Beyond Prisons: A New Interfaith Paradigm for Our Failed Prison System*. For more see <https://www.afsc.org/content/laura-magnani>

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](mailto:paulsjolly@gmail.com)

### Carbon Pricing (Tom Yamaguchi)

On Sunday, September 20 at 1:00 pm, Tom Yamaguchi will speak on carbon pricing. This Zoom event is sponsored by Berkeley Meeting's Social and Environmental Action Committee. His review will cover a half dozen Congressional bills to tax carbon emissions, including H.R. 763, supported by Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL), for which Tom has volunteered for several years.

How are these bills similar? How are they different? How is a carbon tax different from Cap and Trade, which is being used by the State of California to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that are fueling the climate crisis?

Zoom link made available later. All are welcome.

## **Quaker Retreat Centers - Wild Fire** **"WE ARE WOOLMAN STRONG!"**

At 2pm August 19, Executive Director Marty Coleman-Hunt emailed the anxious outside world awaiting news about whether our beloved Sierra Friends Center (Grass Valley) survived the ferocious Jones Fire: "I was contacted by a TV news crew who gained access to the campus to film. They showed me the video and it is clear we lost the Cedar House, Farm buildings (not the barn), Madrone Hall, West Site Bath House and a few Cabins, Tree Frog (uninhabited trailer). I was told the main SFC buildings were unharmed. I know the Ranch House and Animal Barn is standing. The fire seems to have blew a path through campus from the Wood Shed area across the Garden. I am hopeful the big green meadow stopped or slowed it."

To contribute to Sierra Friends Center recovery efforts, go to <https://woolman.org/about/donate/>

On Monday August 24 a note on the website of Quaker Center (Ben Lomond) indicated its staff had evacuated the prior Wednesday and the local fire department was continuing to fight the raging CZU Lightning Complex fire. Quaker Center hoped its fire prevention efforts taken in early spring were going to pay off, from thinning small trees and brush surrounding buildings to carting away truckloads of brush. Just before evacuating, staff hosed things down and turned off propane tanks, and the Capstone insurance company's crew stayed overnight the day before to prep structures with gel and test hydrants. Informal news suggested that the fire had reached the grounds of an adjacent neighbor the Sequoia Retreat Center

### **Celebrating the Life of Al Thompson (1942 – 2020)**



Al Thompson passed on Saturday, May 30, and a Memorial Meeting was held on his birthday August 4th. His sister shared the following on his memorial webpage <https://www.althompsonmemorial20.com>

Al was a committed Quaker for 30 years, active in both Strawberry Creek Meeting and Ben Lomond Quaker Center, where he served on the Board several years.

Al grew up in Vancouver, B.C., in a house built by his dad. From early childhood Al honed his research skills

as he helped his father build ham radios, speakers for PA systems, and rebuilt transistor radios. His physics teacher in high school let Al teach many of the lessons. Al was known as the 'Jolly Green Giant'.

Al earned a degree in Physics from U.B.C., followed by a Master's degree from Carleton University in Ottawa and a doctoral degree from Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh in 1971. He moved to Los Alamos for post-doctoral work at the Meson Facility (linear accelerator) in 1972. He did research there until the fall of 1974, when he was hired at the Lawrence Berkeley Lab (LBL).

While working for LBL, he did collaborative research at the Stanford linear accelerator, developing ways to use nuclear particles to create clear images of the heart. At LBL he invented and developed a machine able to detect and identify previously unknown molecular viruses which provided valuable medical breakthroughs. He then developed his own company "Research Detectors Incorporated" producing a smaller version of that same machine over the past seven years; while still consulting with his previous colleagues on various other projects.

He also developed non-invasive digital angiography using an accelerator for clear images in 1983 and lectured cardiologists worldwide in subsequent years. He taught physics at University of California at Berkeley for two years but then returned to the research field that was his true calling. He only wanted to be involved in research that would improve the world, and declined opportunities for other research.

In 1980, Al met Janice Wood. Together they developed a computer reading program called 'Mavis Beacon Teaches Typing', first released in 1987; it has helped many children and adults master typing skills. This innovative software is still being used in many school systems around the world. He loved hiking in Yosemite Park and other California nature sites.

### **Elsa Glines**

Among many other roles, Elsa Glines has faithfully passed out the Strawberry Creek newsletter for years. She recently fell in her home and is now at the rehabilitation center called Bay Area Healthcare Center. No visits are allowed, but staff will give her your cards sent to 1833 10th Avenue, Oakland, CA, 94606

## QUA-QUA

### Quarantined Quakers

*Below is a sample page with a variety of features that could possibly be included in future newsletters, depending on interest. (Note: items below were provided by editor. Future items will be submissions from others. — Sarah*

#### Misfit

The September Advices & Queries are on Meeting for Worship for Business (to be read by Facilities).

Only three of the four phrases are actually from this A&Q. Which phrase is *not* in this A&Q?

... the conduct of business will lead to truth, unity, and love.

... Inaction is a form of action.

... we may hear the voice of Spirit speaking through any one of us.

... lay aside personal opinions and attend to what God requires

#### Words (books/articles)

Book: *Caste*, Isabel Wilkerson (2020)



“As we go about our daily lives, caste is the wordless usher in a darkened theater, flashlight cast down in the aisles, guiding us to our assigned seats for a performance. The hierarchy of caste is... about power – which groups have it and which do not... Caste is the bones, race the skin. Race is what we can see, the physical traits that have been given arbitrary meaning and become shorthand for who a person is. Caste is the powerful infrastructure that holds each group in its place.”

Description: In her new book, *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents*, Pulitzer Prize-winning author Isabel Wilkerson presents an examination of what she sees as America’s often disguised, but very real, caste system. The book compares America’s system with those in India and Nazi Germany, and delves into how America betrays its ideals of meritocracy by instead cultivating an insidious hierarchy based on race. “Caste” is a much anticipated follow up to Wilkerson’s 2011 book “The Warmth of Other Suns,” which detailed the decades-long migration of black people from the South to other regions of the country. Wilkerson joins Forum to discuss her new book and how America’s past relates to its future. [National Public Radio 8/11/20] *Submitted by Asa Brown*

Book: *Plundered Skulls and Stolen Spirits: Inside the Fight to Reclaim Native America’s Culture*, Chip Colwell (2017)

Description: as Curator of Anthropology at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science, the author describes the political realities of responding to tribes’ request for his museum to return the bones of their ancestors, stored in dusty drawers or displayed under glass for public viewing. He points out that although anthropologists

argue the Indian skeletons should be kept for scientific research, by contrast United States laws make it a crime to exhume buried white persons from their graves. *Note: on June 11, 2020, the California State Auditor found the University of California, Berkeley out of compliance with the 1990 Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), because, as of 30 years later, it had returned to the tribes only twenty percent of the “remains and artifacts” held in its collection.*

Book: *In the Light of Justice: The Rise of Human Rights in Native America and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, Walter Echo-Hawk (2013)

Excerpt: “The real problem ... arises because we cannot confront our inner demons from the legacy of conquest and bring ourselves to face the collective wrongs committed against Native Americans, because their claims implicate the legitimacy of a nation ... and impugn our inflated self-image as the most fair, just, morally pure, and exceptional people in the world... [T]he best course of action is to admit that we have feet of clay and normalize our self-image. That frees us to repair harm through restorative justice measures provided by the Declaration, so that trauma is healed and unity restored in a nation-building process...”

#### Pictures (movies, videos)



TV Series: *United Shades of America*, W. Kamau Bell, Cable News Network (CNN)

Comedian/documentarian W. Kamau Bell visits communities of color across America to understand the challenges they face. Emmy Award three years in a row. *Note: in 2015 an Elmwood Cafe employee told Bell to leave because she assumed he was harassing white customers (in fact, he was joining his wife at the table). Neighborhood outrage led to the original owner closing the café in 2018.*

Movie: *Gentleman’s Agreement* (1947), Netflix DVD.

In a film directed by Elia Kazan, Gregory Peck plays a “white” journalist investigating anti-Semitism by himself posing as a Jew. Gradually his worldview crumbles as he sees those around him through very different lenses.

Movie: *The Help* (2011), Netflix streaming

Nominated for an Academy Award for her portrayal of a 1960’s housemaid, actress Viola Davis later publicly stated she regretted having done this movie “due to the marginalization of Black maids and its ‘white savior’ narrative.” She said “I just felt that at the end of the day, it wasn’t the voices of the maids that were heard. I know Abileen. I know Minny. They’re my grandma. They’re my mom. And I know that if you do a movie where the



whole premise is -- I want to know what it feels like to work for white people and to bring up children in 1963 -- I want to hear how you really feel about it, I never heard that in the course of the movie." She added that the film was "created in the filter and the cesspool of systemic racism."

#### **Moments** (quotes, poems)



Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Truth and Reconciliation Commission: "Unless you deal with the past in a creative and positive manner, then you run the terrible risk of having no future worth speaking of."

#### **Stepping Up (volunteering)**

Dorothy Day House (posted 8/7/20): "We are still in need of a few extra people to help us with lunches [to those who are homeless] and to do our outreach to the encampments. We have just started partnering with the Berkeley Free Clinic and will be joining them on Wednesdays to provide services to several of the encampments that we both serve." This program is also

operating a Mobile Outreach at People's Park, in conjunction with the UC Berkeley Homeless Outreach coordinator (Ari Neufeld). for. If interested in helping, please contact Bob Whalen, Dorothy Day House Program Manager, [bwhalen@dorothydayhouse.org](mailto:bwhalen@dorothydayhouse.org) or (510) 333-7521.

Election Post Card Writing: For several years (since 2016) I've been involved with a postcard writing group to turn purple states to blue. Right now we are very busy writing postcards for vote by mail in Florida, also an effort to get people who haven't voted in recent elections to vote in November, and also in some specific campaigns. We get our addresses from Flip the West and Tony the Democrat. We like the cards to look nice, so good handwriting is a plus for this effort! We will be writing a lot during August and September, but things will taper off soon after that. If you would like to participate, please contact my friend Lynn Brown ([lynncbrown@yahoo.com](mailto:lynncbrown@yahoo.com) or (510) 548-7102) (there are also many other groups who do postcard writing). [Submitted by Kathy Barnhart]

#### **Spotlight (someone in our community)**

AVOTCJA JILTONILRO

*Don't be afraid to accept the beauty of differences. People shouldn't be afraid to find their passion and when they find it not let anything get in the way of it. Get a square job on the side if you have to, so you won't have to sell out. — Avotcja*

Avotcja has been a resident of the Bay area for over forty years, with an incredible number of artistic accomplishments as poet, musician, playwright, teacher, radio host, photographer, and community organizer. This Spotlight feature takes language primarily from Avotcja's own website and a 2010 interview with her by *El Tecolote* (links below).



In 2004, Avotcja Jiltonilro joined other writers to organize in opposition to the decision of the City of Salinas to close its libraries as a cost saving solution to its budget crisis. This closure would have made Salinas the biggest city west of the Mississippi, and possibly in the United States, with no public library. Local homes housed the activists. Avotcja found herself in the home of Quakers, who invited her to attend their worship meeting. Her father had always encouraged her to learn about as many spiritual traditions as possible -- closest to her heart is the Lukumi tradition from Nigeria. She appreciates the principles of the nonviolent Jesus, but disagrees with many positions and actions taken by various Christian institutions in his name.

At the private home where the Quakers met in Salinas, Avotcja sat in the silence and listened to the crickets outside and other nature sounds. On that Sunday morning she had one of her most important spiritual experiences. For several months she continued to drive

from her Oakland home down to Salinas on Sunday mornings for the Quaker worship hour. Realizing the need to find a closer Quaker community to worship with, she felt most at home at Strawberry Creek Friends Meeting. She has now been attending with us for about 15 years.

**Accomplishments** (<http://www.Avotcja.org>)

May 10th, 2014, was proclaimed Avotcja Jiltonilro Day by the Berkeley City Council. That day she received the Lifetime Achievement Award in Poetry at the 12th Annual Berkeley Poetry Festival.

Avotcja's poetry has been published in English and Spanish in the United States, Mexico and Europe, including her published poetry collection *With Every Step I Take* (2013).

Her jazz group, Avotcja & Modupue, was inducted into the Bay Area Blues Society Hall of Fame Jazz Group in both 2005 and 2010.

Avotcja has composed and played music and written poetry for theater, film, and dance including the Danish documentary *MuNu*, Dimensions Dance Theater, The Purple Moon Dance Project, and New York's Dance Mobile.

Avotcja is a popular Bay Area DeeJay & Radio Personality. For years, Avotcja broadcast weekly in her radio show—Bebop, Cubop and The Musical Truth.

Thanks to the California Arts Council, she was an Artist in Residence at the Milestones Project and San Francisco Penal System. She teaches creative writing, storytelling, and drama in public schools.

Avotcja is a proud member of DAMO (Disability Advocates of Minorities Organization), PEN Oakland, California Poets in the Schools, IWWG (International Women's Writing Guild), and is an ASCAP (American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers) recording artist.

### **Her Journey**

(from *El Tecolote* interview at <http://eltecolote.org/content/features/29th-annual-encuentro-del-canto-popular-honoring-local-heroes/> )

Avotcja Jiltonilro was born in New York to parents with roots in the Caribbean. She began collecting records as a kid. Soon, her voluminous collection got the attention of local radio hosts who invited the young girl on to their show. By the age of 14, Avotcja was performing poetry, learning radio production and playing music. During her teen years Avotcja found her passion – blues, Jazz, and Latin music, especially the kind with an African soul: “I started doing my stuff when I was 14. So for me the music and the poetry always went together. I refuse to call myself a spoken word artist, because stuff is written for the page and the stage.”

Yearning to be on her own, she ran away at age 15 to California in the mid-1950s where she was declared an emancipated minor at 16. Unfortunately, no one would hire her because she looked even younger. Avotcja explained the only place she could find work was in the strawberry fields:

I picked anything I could but the one that got me the worse was strawberries. You are wet all the time and they have these big horrible caterpillars. They use to spray the fields when we were in them. That's probably why I have MS [multiple sclerosis] now, but you can't prove anything.

There in the fields she met Mexican and Filipino farmworkers who took her under their wings and who

she credits with keeping her on track. “If it wasn't for those rough Mexican and Filipino men who grabbed me by my ear because I was a wild child and I was ready to get into trouble...

In the next decade she lived in California, New York, Mexico, Canada and Europe, finally settling in California. After attending Laney College, Oakland, Avotcja later completed her Bachelor's Degree (1975) at Westminster College, Fulton, Missouri. But Avotcja really credits her education to music: “Music has introduced me to the planet.”

Avotcja tried working for the networks, starting as an engineer at NBC. While the money was good, she felt there was no space for creativity. “You played what they wanted you to play.”

Her work in Bay Area radio began in the early 1970s in Berkeley when two young men who were hosting a program at U.C. Berkeley on Raza Media ask her to take over their show for a few months. Soon Avotcja was hosting her own program at KPOO alternative station, where she was free to play whatever she wanted, including her favorite, black music from the Caribbean, Mexico and Latin America.

Then KPFA called her. At KPFA she hosted several programs (her blues program won three awards). Avotcja likes to say: “I'm the oldest, continuous DJ in the Bay Area.”

To sustain her radio work, Avotcja took up teaching to pay the bills: “I taught in the penal system. I taught in the schools. I taught music, poetry and drama.” For more than 20 years, she worked in the penal system where she won recognition for her ability to teach people who didn't want to read and write.

### **A Request**

One of Avotcja's most urgent projects is collecting essential items for those in Puerto Rico. At the moment she is working with fellow Strawberry Mary White to pack/ship those items. She asked that in this feature story I remind folks that those wishing to help with the Puerto Rico project should make their check payable to Avotcja Jiltonilro (write Puerto Rico project on the check's Memo) and mail to her home address 3255 San Pablo Ave #313, Oakland, CA 96608. Questions? Call Avotcja at (510) 658-7995.

**Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting**  
**Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business**  
**August 9, 2020 Minutes\***

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

Business meeting opened at 11:55 a.m. with silent worship and was conducted via Zoom.

Elizabeth Moses Strain clerked the meeting. 41 Friends were present. There were no reflections prepared on the queries for the month, which were on Reaching Out. The Clerk reviewed the agenda which was posted to the meeting's web group, groups.io. The Recording Clerk read the minutes for the June 14, 2020 meeting for business. The minutes were approved with the following corrections.

- The revised date for the Meeting's annual retreat, October 3rd, was added.
- Changes were made to the record of the discussion of the February Minute on Engagement to Uproot and Dismantle Racism. These changes reflected the depth of sharing in that discussion, and the correct pronoun for the Friend who brought it up.
- The word "approved" was substituted for the word "passed" where it appeared.
- Elizabeth Moses Strain's title, Presiding Clerk, was added.

**Correspondence and Clerk's Business**

- Mary Anderson asked for transfer of membership to Berkeley Friends Monthly Meeting.
- The Clerk read aloud the 2020 Epistle from the FGC pre-gathering for Friends of color and their families. It contained many queries, including: *How can Friends decenter themselves in order to listen to and hear Friends of color?* Many Friends shared their reflections on this minute. Beth Wrightson circulated the minute via groups.io August 10.
- Bridging the Gap is a committee of Friends from Strawberry Creek, Berkeley Friends Meeting, and Berkeley Friends Church which meets quarterly. Carl Anderson, Laura Magnani, and Jeanne Diller will serve on behalf of Strawberry Creek in the coming year.
- Naming committee names were presented for seasoning: Cindy Trueblood, Rhea Farley, and Jay Cash. These names will be considered at the September meeting for business. Let Elizabeth Moses Strain or Beth Wrightson know if you have concerns about this slate.

**Old Business**

Care of the Meeting Committee (Stephen McNeil). The committee recommends Thistle West's transfer to Redwood Forest and Tom Yamaguchi's transfer to Berkeley Friends Meeting. Approved. Elizabeth will prepare Certificates of Transfer to be sent to those meetings.

**New Business**

There was no new business.

**Reports**

*Care of the Meeting Committee* (Stephen McNeil). Care of the Meeting invites attenders and Friends to submit East Bay local groups to which grants might be made if a Covid-19 Fund is set up. The criterion that they have some existing or emerging relationship to someone in the Meeting is strongly recommended.

The Meeting might explore a sister-relationship with a nearby African American church: Downs Memorial Methodist Church was one congregation mentioned because Carolyn Marks was a member there.

The Reparations Listening Meeting planning for August 30th is moving forward. The committee will post materials ahead of time.

The committee suggests that when using email to communicate within the meeting, Friends do not automatically use "reply all" if a response to the sender alone is appropriate. The Communications Committee might hold an Adult Education session on email and Zoom etiquette and other ways we can better clerk ourselves and hold centered discussions.

*Pacific Yearly Meeting* (Nancy Wilkinson). Nancy circulated her full report (which includes links to minutes and reports, a list of PYM officers and committees) via groups.io August 8<sup>th</sup>. The theme of the gathering was radical inclusivity. The Zoom technician displayed photos of special places at Walker Creek. Meeting by Zoom offered the advantage of participants who otherwise might not attend, such as a big contingent from Mexico. There was an undercurrent of grief: COVID, the awareness of pervasive racial injustice, a large number of Friends who have died in the past year, and the likelihood that Sierra Friends Center is selling some or all of its property. Here are the action items approved or announced at the gathering:

- Expected Monthly Meeting contributions will be reduced 20% (\$98 per member)
- The Unity with Nature Committee is being reconstituted
- The process for dealing with proposed minutes from Monthly Meetings, Quaker organizations and PYM is being modified on a trial basis.
- The Ministry and Oversight Committee has been renamed the Ministry Committee
- Approval of exploring hiring someone to help with PYM administrative work
- The Yearly Meeting will explore shifting more of its business from Annual Sessions to Representative Committee

A link to Mica Estrada's keynote address was circulated via groups.io by Amy Dewey August 9<sup>th</sup>.

*Treasurer* (Nancy Wilkinson). Nancy sent the Treasurer's Report via groups.io August 8. There is not much change from June. Expenses are down \$9,000 for the year in rent, and \$2,000 in Loaves and Fishes expenses. We are "significantly less negative than usual."

*Communications Committee* (Sarah Hawthorne)

The newsletter editor's email address is now editor@strawberrycreekfriends.org. The newsletter has 200 subscribers, including 50 who receive paper copies. Its format has not changed in 30 years. A survey, circulated in September to explore how it could better serve the community, will consist of these questions:

- What do you see as the purpose of the newsletter?
- What do you read?
- Is there anything you would like to see changed?

One clarification: the Meeting for Business minutes circulated in each month's newsletter are drafts, included to equip Friends to correct and approve them at the upcoming business meeting. Draft minutes will also be sent to groups.io. The recording clerk was asked to mark draft minutes as such to avoid confusion.

If you have something to add to the calendar send it to Sarah. You can do that by clicking on a link on the Meeting's website. A question was raised about Strawberry Creek's Facebook page. Barbara Birch, Facebook editor, said nothing essential to the life of the meeting is posted on Facebook.



*Mutual Care Committee* (Charlie Blanchard). If you are shopping at Trader Joe's or Costco, and are willing to pick things up for other Friends, let Charlie know by phone or email.

The sharing fund receives \$1,500 every year from the operating budget. It spends roughly \$2,300 a year, drawing down \$800 from the reserve annually. The sharing fund was enhanced several years ago by a bequest of \$20,000, and so has plenty of funds. The committee recommends that \$4,000 from the Sharing Fund be moved to a new fund for the pressing needs of the broader community. It further recommends that preference be given to organizations that serve the East Bay, and organizations led by people of color. Individuals will be encouraged to contribute. Discussion ensued regarding the appropriate mechanisms for such a fund, but it was decided that the committee would further work on this proposal to bring an action item to Meeting for Business. Gratitude was expressed to the committee for its proposal.

*Nominating Committee* (James Hosley). Many of the job descriptions for representatives, officers, and committees are dated. Current holders of those positions are urged to update or review those job descriptions, and insert a current date. As a new Nominating Committee will begin its work in December, Friends are urged to complete this review by November. A Friend urged us to consider the minute on dismantling racism as we update job descriptions.

*Peace, Earthcare, and Social Witness Committee* (David Rutschman). The committee is laying down the Dime a Gallon fund, with appreciation for the Friends who put energy into it, including Al Thomson, Susan Strong, James Hosley, Sandra Lewis and many others. \$1,500 has been sent to Berkeley Friends Meeting for its solar panel installation. The remaining \$1,533 will be sent to Rebuilding Together, formerly Christmas in April, which provides assistance to low income homeowners.

The committee will convene on the 4th Sunday of every month via Zoom. Please let co-clerks Susan Black or David Rutschman know in advance if you want to attend, or have items to add to the agenda. Note that items for the agenda may need to wait for a later meeting. There is a separate zoom link for this meeting, so you will need to contact the co-clerks to attend.

The committee is working with the Care of the Meeting and Worship and Ministry Committees to prepare the Listening Session on reparations, which will take place August 30.

Appreciation was reiterated for the consciousness raising that the Dime a Gallon Fund achieved, and the people who worked hard to make it happen. Responding to language in the report about laying it down and moving forward, a Friend observed that characterizing climate change as an issue that is "not inclusive" is incorrect. It is an issue which impacts the entire planet.

### **Announcements**

- A Quaker vigil for democracy will be held at the Old Berkeley City Hall, August 14th, 4:30. David Rutschman circulated details via groups.io August 5th
- Discussion of Robin DiAngelo's book *White Fragility* will be held at 11:50 on August 16. We will discuss chapters 8-12. All are welcome, even if you haven't read the book or participated in earlier sessions. Ask Susan Burr if you have questions.
- Our next Meeting for Business will be September 13 at 11:50 a.m.
- The Meeting's Fall Retreat will be Saturday, October 3
- Retirement celebration for Laura Magnani Oct. 4, 4:00 p.m.

The meeting ended at 2:10 p.m. with a period of worship. Respectfully submitted, Elizabeth Moses Strain, Presiding Clerk, Beth Wrightson, Alternate Clerk and Paul Jolly, Recording Clerk.

**STRAWBERRY CREEK MONTHLY MEETING**

Box 5065, Berkeley, California 94705

Phone messages: 510/524-9186

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

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