

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

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

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

Listserv (for subscribers) strawberrycreek@groups.io

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

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

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

Newsletter Deadline is Sunday prior to Distribution Sunday. **Deadline: January 23** (for February issue)

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

Newsletter Editor & Calendar Postings Sarah Hawthorne editor@strawberrycreekfriends.org

THE CALENDAR (activities below via Zoom unless otherwise noted)

SUNDAYS (unless otherwise noted)

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

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

Jan 2 Advices & Queries on Harmony with Creation – read aloud by Care of Meeting Committee
11:45 a.m. Quaker Action Worship Group (QAWG). Contact Betsy Morris or Asa Brown.

Jan 9 11:50 a.m. Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business

Jan 16 9:00 a.m. Worship Sharing based on a query. Contact Bob Langfelder boblangfelder@aol.com
11:50am “How Do You Experience the Divine?” - Worship & Ministry Committee

Jan 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.

Jan 30 11:50 a.m. Radical Transformation – Vanessa Julye Lecture by Power, Privilege, and Race (PPR)

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 Jiltoniro 510-658-7995.



Strawberry Creek Sunday Worship (Zoom)

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

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

Oakland Quaker Worship Group - Sundays

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

Berkeley Friends Meeting (BFM)

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

Quaker Center Morning Worship (Zoom)

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

Quaker Action Worship Group

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

Shelley leads Book Group for QEW

For three evenings (Jan 11, Jan 25, and Feb 8, 2022) starting at 5pm, Shelley Tanenbaum (General Secretary of Quaker Earthcare Witness) will facilitate a discussion on the book, *The Depths of Our Belonging: Mysticism, Physics and Healing* (author Mary Conrow Coelho).

Shelley will be assisted by author Coelho, who has a background in biology and spirituality, and who is a long-time member of the QEW community). See <https://quakerearthcare.org/event/new-story-book-discussion-for-the-qew-community/>

PPR Invitation to Listen/Engage Jan 30

The Stephen G. Cary Lecture featuring:

Vanessa Julye on Radical Transformation – Long Overdue for Religious Society of Friends:

The Power, Privilege, and Race Subcommittee invites you to join at 11:50am on the fifth Sunday in January for an adult education session focusing on the Stephen G. Cary Memorial Lecture by Vanessa Julye at Pendle Hill last September.

George Fox, the founder of the Religious Society of Friends envisioned a revolutionary religion which professes the belief that every person has a direct relationship with God. Early Friends proclaimed our capacity for spiritual wholeness comes from the seed of God planted in our hearts. We'll consider:

How have Friends collaborated with and sustained the global system of White Supremacy?

What structures are preventing Friends from living into their beliefs and growing God's seed?

Questions? Please contact Susan Burr, PPR clerk, susanburr45@gmail.com Note: we won't be able to see the entire lecture at our session, given its length. To access the full one and a half hour talk, see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zuYwKDS6mjU>

Facilities Volunteers Urgently Needed

Nominating Committee notes that as we look ahead towards re-opening our Meeting for in-person gatherings this Spring, volunteers are needed for Facilities Committee to assist in the logistics of Meeting's worship. No heavy lifting required.

Facilities already has a clerk and four volunteers, but four more volunteers are needed to prepare the multi-purpose room for our presence, and to return the room to the way we found it, every Sunday. This means arriving early, and/or staying late. This may include moving two dozen chairs into the courtyard (with the rolling "chair jack"), putting-out signage around the facility, opening the Library and placing literature on tables. If you can help, please contact James Hosley at bluejkh@sonic.net

AFSC is discerning Way forward

Western Friend recently published a letter from a group of concerned Friends. Below is an excerpt:

Today we are at a crossroads. Will AFSC adopt a top-down NGO, grant and donor centered approach, or will it build on a powerful history by committing even more deeply to a grassroots, community-led approach that builds strategy and campaigns from the bottom up?

A year ago, with the support of the AFSC corporation (a 100+ member Quaker body formed from and representing Friends throughout AFSC's sphere of influence), the Board approved a strategic plan. The development of this plan cost the organization \$400,000 (excluding hours and hours of staff time), and organized the program work into three thematic areas: Just Peace, Just Economies, and Just Migration.

In the name of strategic plan implementation, the Senior Leadership Team has since proposed a dramatic organizational restructuring that invests another \$500,000 per year into a commitment to fund six additional middle management positions while adding no resources into the programs on the ground. It is unclear from where the funding for the new management positions will come.

... But the people at the top of the organization -- the General Secretary, Deputy General Secretary, the Assistant General Secretary for Advancement, others on the Senior Leadership Team, as well as the clerk of the Board and several other Board members -- continue to insist that this way forward is the only way to implement the strategic plan despite no Board approval of this proposal...

To read the complete letter, including author names, see Western Friend online

<https://westernfriend.org/media/afsc-perilous-crossroads>

The AFSC Board has issued a memo responding to the foregoing letter, which may be obtained from David Rutschman or from board@afsc.org

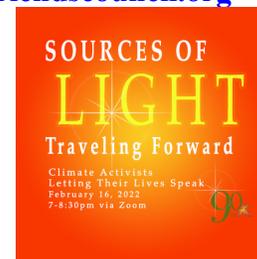
Responding to the Threat of Overwhelming Climate Change - Written with Leonard Joy's leadership, this epistle is posted by Quaker Institute for the Future on their website

<https://quakerinstitute.org/2021epistle/>

Friends Council on Education-Quaker Ed Talks

Friends Council on Education (FCE) is composed of schools and organizations based on the faith and practice of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers). Committed to the independence of its member schools, FCE supports their prerogative to create values-based learning communities based on the unique educational missions of their schools. As the only national organization of Friends schools, Friends Council on Education is in a unique position to be a public voice for Friends education.

FCE is currently celebrating its 90th anniversary with a series of Quaker Ed Talks. The next Quaker Ed Talk is on **Climate Activists Letting Their Lives Speak** on February 16, 2022. See <https://www.friendscouncil.org>



And if you missed the inspiring talk in December “**Faith, Ministry, and Leadership as a Public Friend**”, by Outgoing FCNL General Secretary Diane Randall and Director of Quaker Leadership Alicia McBride, FCE Quaker Ed Talk has posted it: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-T3qBbZQORQ>

2021 PacYM Keynote Recording Now Posted!

Gabriela Portillo Alvarado and **Avoteja Jiltonilro** speak and share their poetry at 2021 Pacific Yearly Meeting, on theme of: “Love and Justice: Heeding the Spirit’s Power Within and Among Us.”

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/1811391/9660531>



Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting
Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business
December 12, 2021 draft minutes

For review and approval at February 2022 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. 34 Friends were present.

Sarah Hawthorne read the reflections of the Communications Committee about the Advices and Queries on Integrity and Personal Conduct.

The Clerk reviewed the agenda, which had been posted by the Recording Clerk to groups.io on December 10, 2021.

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

- Richard Leath is *co-clerk* of Finance Committee.
- In New Business: the acronym for Power, Privilege, and Race subcommittee was spelled out

Query

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

Correspondence and Clerk’s Business

The Clerk shared a thank you letter from Friends House Moscow Support Association. She also shared a request for transfer of membership from Lydia Bryans, for herself and her twelve year-old-son Lev Bryans. Lydia, her husband, and Lev have settled in the Downingtown Meeting of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. Lydia’s letter is being forwarded to Care of the Meeting Committee for its deliberation. Regarding Lev, one Friend noted that Strawberry Creek does not have membership by birth. Care of the Meeting Committee will discuss this with Lydia.

Old Business

Finance Committee (Lee Douglas) presented the changes to the budget for 2022 since its presentation in November. The refined budget was shared via Groups.io December 9th. Here are the changes:

- Gifts to 19 organizations have been increased from \$150 to \$200.
- Power Privilege and Race Subcommittee has been broken out as its own line item.
- \$170 was added to the Worship and Ministry Committee’s proposed expenses for audio equipment. There may be additional funds needed as we move to a hybrid format, which will be taken from the site contingency fund.
- Donations to Berkeley Technology Academy during Covid. Lee shared a section of a letter that Richard Leath received from the school’s principal. The school serves students with both acute and chronic needs. The committee recommends contributions to B-Tech of \$1,500 each for 2020 and 2021, and a \$100 honorarium for each year for Damond, the custodian.

Worship and Ministry (Judith Shumacher-Jennings) circulated a Proposal for Meeting Reopening, via groups.io December 10th [*complete Proposal printed in following pages*]. These concerns were voiced:

- Admitting people on a “First come first serve” basis could be problematic. When weather is inhospitable, people who are excluded from the space would not have time to get back home for Zoom meeting. What about having an online sign up sheet instead? This would also be useful for contacting people in the event of an outbreak/exposure.
- Division of meeting between Zoom and in-person participants could divide us into two camps, one more cautious and the other more willing/able to take risks.
- On the Sundays when proof of vaccination is required, what about boosters?

- Is “no masks required outdoors” still viable with the Omicron variant at large?
 - There was discussion of different options for air filtration, open and closed doors, open and closed windows, and Berkeley Unified School District’s air quality standards’ alignment with the CDC’s recommendations.
- The Worship and Ministry Committee was asked to continue its discernment.

Reports

FCNL Representative (Stephen McNeil) reported on FCNL Annual Meeting. He also sent a written report via groups.io today (December 12).

Query

The Clerk invited us to contemplate the query: *“How did our work today support us in becoming an actively anti-racist faith community?”* Appreciation was expressed for the opportunity to know more about B-Tech from the Finance Committee’s presentation.

Announcements

Next Meeting for Business will be January 9th, 2022, at 11:50 a.m.

Avotja Jiltonilro invited people who wish to support the people in the mountains of Puerto Rico to contact her. Her contact information is in the directory.

Larry Strain announced a session December 19th at 11:50 a.m. on the climate crisis. It was incorrectly listed in the Newsletter as taking place in January.

The Meeting closed with worship at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Moses Strain, Clerk, Beth Wrightson, Alternate Clerk, Paul Jolly, Recording Clerk





Reflections - Advices & Queries on Integrity & Personal Conduct from Communications Committee

The Advices & Queries on Integrity and Personal Conduct begin by noting that trust is essential in communications between people and with Spirit. A Friend noted that trust is not something that can be manufactured in a vacuum, but rather is rooted in our experience of another's demonstrated trustworthiness. We can trust others to be true to their own nature, and we have a responsibility to learn about the nature of those around us and take what we know about them into account.

We found that integrity was a core principle to each of us, and that as a group, we felt Quakers historically have placed great importance on integrity and are still known for their integrity, manifested as honesty and plain speaking. At times, this commitment to integrity may even be perceived as at the expense of cordiality and politeness.

Our committee felt that the tone of some sentences in this Advices & Queries seem to echo the Prohibition era, by elevating alcohol and tobacco to a high status of special concern, while not mentioning other addictions of even greater concern today. One Friend commented that coffee could be considered a modern day addiction, but that used in moderation, stimulants can support us in our daily lives to be more productive. We appreciated the timeless observation that the "rightness" of our conduct must include an awareness of how we are impacting others, not just ourselves.

We questioned the appropriateness of lumping chemical addictions such as alcohol and tobacco together with psychological dependencies such as gambling and lotteries. The admonition to avoid "practices based on chance" made us wonder about

how participation in the stock market fits with this Advice. One Friend noted that even supposedly "green portfolios" may contain companies whose actions are counter to Quaker values.

The sentence "These activities profit from the inevitable loss of others, promote greed, and conflict with good stewardship." took our conversation in a new direction, as we considered how the description of addictive behavior might apply to humanity's devastation of the planet. Modern society's inability to curb its consumption of products and its belief that acquisition and growth are the measure of success seem to be examples of addictive behavior and the addict's tendency to rationalize. Like an alcoholic who says "one more drink" won't matter, we rationalize since we're only one person, that what we do is insignificant.

We recalled that as long ago as the '60's there was a powerful image that our planet is Spaceship Earth, a self-contained unit that must adopt sustainable practices if we are to survive. We were moved by a Friend sharing the poetic image that earth is "our raft in the middle of the stars."

Another Friend shared recent conversations with family members, and how difficult it is when those you are close to don't see the importance of making choices that reduce our carbon footprint and stop waste. Sharing that she would appreciate not getting any gifts, and instead wanted others to make donations to worthy causes, was a simple way to make the point without being preachy. We should acknowledge that each of us may be called to emphasize different causes. For example, one person may be vigilant about buying local, organic food while another might be vigilant about buying all used or organic and consciously made clothing. For some, simply making a point not to buy anything on Black Friday is a great goal.

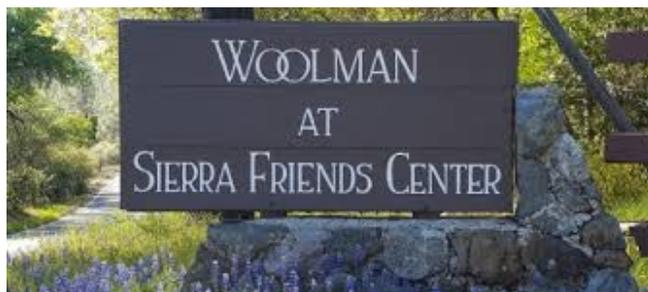
A Friend suggested that true integrity is revealed by how we act when we believe there will be no negative consequences that we ourselves will experience as a result of our choice (the old adage "it's not a crime if you don't get caught"). What is our personal conduct when we think no one else will know, or when the one who will be harmed is far away and unseen? Computers, the internet, and online games create the illusion that our actions

have no consequences in the real world and therefore do not have any moral significance. A humorous remark was made that even if we are “rude to Alexis”, an inanimate device, our true character is nevertheless revealed.

While some of the introductory material in this Advices & Queries didn't speak to us strongly, we found the queries compelling. The query about whether we have brought into sync our inner values and our outer actions touches on a struggle very much with us today.

Similarly, the query to reflect upon how “the ways I gain my wealth and income” impact others pierces the heart, as most of us find we continue, in one way or another, to contribute to and perpetuate, the very systems that are inconsistent with our Quaker values.

We were heartened that in these Advices & Queries on Integrity and Personal Conduct, which can feel strict and leave one discouraged at how far one falls from the mark, there was an encouragement to find activity that “brings you joy and energy”.



Woolman School @Sierra Friends Center Announces New Executive Director

After a three-month, nationwide search, the Woolman board has appointed a new, permanent executive director who will begin on January 3. Coleen Hedglin brings to Woolman more than twenty years' nonprofit management experience, including project startup and fundraising for social justice organizations, with a focus on youth. Coleen holds a degree in Education and is passionate about child rights and healthy child development. She enjoys developing programs, leading teams, and facilitating workshops.

Coleen lived and worked in Haiti for 16 years, beginning as a Peace Corps volunteer. Most recently, Coleen was with Beyond Borders, a nonprofit that helps people build movements to liberate themselves from oppression and isolation, working primarily in Haiti. For nearly 20 years, she was instrumental in building Beyond Borders' flagship program to end child domestic slavery, which impacts about 400,000 children in Haiti.

More than 44,000 Child Rights Activists have been trained to mobilize their communities to prevent violence against children and child domestic slavery. She played an integral role in development and adaptation of dialogue-based methodologies to promote social change and facilitate community organizing. She was part of a team that brought Open Space Technology to Haiti, using it to facilitate town hall-style meetings, promote shared leadership, and spark local initiative.



Coleen Hedglin

Coleen believes in the power of dialogue and loves helping groups hold meaningful conversations. She enjoys hiking, which keeps her grounded, and listening to music, which feeds her soul. Coleen values life-long personal growth and learning.

RE-OPENING PROPOSAL (Worship and Ministry Committee)

In the united stillness of a truly 'gathered' meeting there is a power known only by experience.... There are perhaps few things which more readily flow 'from vessel to vessel' than quietness. The presence of fellow-worshippers in some gently penetrating manner reveals to the spirit something of the nearness of the Divine Presence. —Caroline E. Stephen, 1908

Worship and Ministry is grateful for the initial work of the Blending Berries (Sarah Hawthorne, James Hosley, John McCarthy, Tom Rothschild, Erik Wilson, Amy Dewey, Rick Herbert, Josh Gallop, Laura Miller, Jay Cash) and also to have been informed by their guiding principles:

Trust "Moving at the Speed of Trust" (an expression of faith in Quaker process)
Treat everyone Equally (commitment to offer each of us the same options)
Treasure the Vulnerable (a belief that we all benefit when no one is excluded.)

The proposal below will only be implemented when W&M feels the Meeting is ready to meet in person.

The Proposal

We will continue with Zoom meetings for worship each First Day at 10 a.m.

When volunteers come forward to be on the Facilities Committee, we will additionally begin meeting in person the first and third first days of the month at 10 a.m. in the B-Tech multipurpose room.

A. Health and Safety Recommendations (subject to change per Alameda County directives).

- 1) Alameda County will have remained in a yellow zone of infection or less for at least four weeks. Why four weeks? Two weeks in yellow will trigger our request to use the meeting space, which then has two weeks lag-time till it is available. If Alameda County drops below the yellow zone, in-person meetings will be discontinued.
- 2) Proof of vaccination will be checked for every meeting on the first First days of the month. On every third First Day, no vaccination status will be required.
- 3) Masks will be worn indoors. Masks will be discretionary outdoors unless otherwise required by Alameda County
- 4) The multipurpose room's capacity will be 30-39.
- 5) Chairs will be socially distanced and preset.
- 6) Those who arrive after the room's capacity has been reached will be seated outdoors. Members of Facility Committee will set up socially distanced and preset chairs either in the courtyard or under the entryway shelter depending on the weather.
- 7) Attenders with special needs may contact the co-clerks of Worship and Ministry to reserve a seat in the meeting room.
- 8) Fresh air intake will be ensured through open doors and exhaust fans.
- 9) We will exit the meeting room at rise of meeting for socializing outdoors.
- 10) Touching and hugging is appropriate when permission is given.
- 11) For the time being, refreshments will not be offered during social hour. Drinks and food availability will be considered in the next phase of reopening.

B. B-Tech and Zoom

Currently it is not possible to host a hybrid meeting at B-Tech because we don't have WIFI that will enable a stable Zoom connection. If it does become possible, we will experiment with technology to link in person and online Meetings with audio, or possibly both audio and video. We will give everyone plenty of warning prior to starting up any changes.

C. Evaluation

An Evaluation Subcommittee consisting of the co-clerks of Worship and Ministry will encourage and receive responses. Responses will be forwarded to Worship and Ministry and other committees as appropriate. In addition Worship and Ministry Committee will conduct a survey of attenders at the end of the two in person meetings to find out how they worked. A listening meeting will be held if Worship and Ministry senses a need.

D. Timing

W&M hopes volunteers for the Facilities Committee come forward and Alameda County remains “in the yellow” so we will be able to offer in person meetings by January or February, 2022.

E. Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business and Adult Education

Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business and Adult Education will continue to be held on Zoom for the time being. Start times for these sessions may be adjusted when in person worship is offered at B-Tech (in order to allow those who need travel time to join by Zoom from home.)



Report by SCMM’s FCNL Rep Stephen McNeil

The Annual Meeting of Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) was held via Zoom November 12-15, 2021. The Quaker Public Policy Institute provided training on the need to renew the Child Tax Credit in the Build Back Better bill then pending in the House; there were 200 lobby visits from 44 states and the District of Columbia.

Vanessa Julye gave the keynote address. FCNL celebrated the ten years of astounding service of departing General Secretary Diane Randall, as well as the appointment of new incoming General Secretary Bridget Moix.

Fifteen Pacific Yearly Meeting members will serve next year on the FCNL General and Standing Committees. Strawberry Creek will be helping to set legislative priorities for 2022-2023.

In March 12-15, 2022, hundreds of young adults will gather again in Washington DC for Spring Lobby Weekend—FCNL young adult advocacy conference and day of action. The focus will be on lobbying Congress on immigration and refugee policy issues. FCNL events are listed at <https://www.fcnl.org>

Bridget Moix
New FCNL General Secretary



A member of Baltimore Yearly Meeting, Bridget authored “Choosing Peace: Agency and Action in the Midst of War” (2019). She is Executive Director of the Washington DC office of the London-based Peace Direct (an award-winning, international NGO which supports local people in challenging conflict environments),

Bridget has spent ten years lobbying on US foreign policy and peace issues with FCNL. She has taught at Haverford College, Columbia U, George Washington U, American U, Eastern Mennonite U.

STRAWBERRY CREEK MONTHLY MEETING
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

TO:

JANUARY 2022 ISSUE