

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: March 20** (for April 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>)

March 6 Advices & Queries on Meeting for Worship – read aloud by Peace, Earthcare, and Social Witness

Daylight Savings Time begins!

March 13 11:50 a.m. Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business

March 20 9:00 a.m. Worship Sharing based on a query. Contact Bob Langfelder boblangfelder@aol.com
11:50am Quakerism 101, Reflections from the 21st century – Worship & Ministry. Details inside.

March 27 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.

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.



*In 1996 the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 2142 (XXI) proclaimed 21 March as the **International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination** to be commemorated annually. In 1960 on that day, police opened fire and killed 69 people at a peaceful anti-apartheid demonstration in Sharpeville, South Africa. In its resolution the General Assembly called on the international community to redouble its efforts to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination.*

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

Western North American Experiment w/Light

At 6:30pm on the fourth Wednesday of every month, e.g., March 23, April 27, the Western North American Experiment with Light group meets on Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6820730575>

Experiment with Light is a guided spiritual practice based on early Quaker experiences of their faith. Quaker and theologian Rex Ambler initiated the practice in 1996, drawing on early Friends' writings. Rex Ambler goes into depth on this spiritual practice in an October 2021 video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2aXLMtD2V74>
For more information, contact Barbara Birch.

Scientist's Case for Hope/Healing: Mar 10 & 24

Tom Yamaguchi (Berkeley Monthly Meeting) is hosting a two-part Zoom book discussion of Dr. Katharine Hayhoe's *Savings Us, A Climate Scientist's Case for Hope and Healing in a Divided World*. Dr. Hayhoe is a climate scientist, teaching Public Policy and Public Law at Texas Tech University. She has produced a series of YouTube videos with PBS titled *Global Weirding*. She is the chief scientist for the Nature Conservancy. See her bio <http://www.katharinehayhoe.com/biography/>
For more information tomyamaguchi@mac.com

Quakerism 101: Reflections from 21st century

On Third Sunday March 20, Worship & Ministry is offering a short presentation/discussion of the inner and outer experiences of Friends and Meetings as shared in *Quakerism: the Basics* (2020), by Margery & Carl Abbott, and *Living the Quaker Way* (2012), by Ben Pink Dandelion. Strawberries at Dandelion's recent Quaker Center workshop are especially invited to share their gleanings. Contact Betsy Morris, 410-809-7252 for more information.

Black Quakers Film Festival 10am Saturdays

The Black Quaker Project begun in February continues online at 10am in upcoming Saturday mornings on March 12, 26, and April 9.

3/12 *Alaska On Line: Red Boucher Interviews Mahala Ashley Dickerson* (1998) - Quaker legal pioneer in Alaska and Alabama (1912-2007).

3/26 *Brother Outsider: The Life of Bayard Rustin* (2003) - Human Rights Activist & Social Critic (1912-1987), includes discussion between Walter Nagle, Bayard Rustin's partner and adopted son, and Dr. Sa'ed Atshan, Swarthmore associate professor of peace studies, currently writing a book on African American and Palestinian Quakers.

4/9 *Paul Robeson: I'm A Negro, I'm An American* (1989) - on Robeson's 124th birthday (1898-1976), it celebrates 200 years of his Quaker ancestors: Bustill-Mapps-Douglass family of Philadelphia.

For more information, contact Susan Burr (Power, Privilege, and Race. To read more and register, go to <https://mailchi.mp/89c0bf425b9d/the-black-quaker-lives-matter-film-festival-11303694?e=4888559fd2>

From *I Know We Can* by Avotcja Jiltoniro
(read aloud at 2021 Pacific Yearly Annual Meeting)

"...We have been here before
We know the Hanging Tree, the rope
The rape of our bodies, our Cultures
The theft of our Songs & our Children...
We've been through it all before
And we can get through it all again...
We have been here before & together we can heal!
I know we can!!!"

Quakers & Indigenous Peoples

Quaker Meetings and Organizations have had a growing interest in the history of indigenous peoples, and an increasing awareness of the role that Quakers have played. Quakers have sought to fulfill their responsibilities (in a variety of ways. National organizations have begun to include indigenous concerns into their platforms (Friends Committee on National Legislation has a full-time staff person Portia K. Skenandore-Wheelock, Congressional Advocate, Native American Advocacy Program).

Regional organizations have set up committees to specifically consider these issues (Pacific Yearly Meeting's Ministry Committee set up an Indigenous Concerns Subcommittee). Paula Palmer (Boulder Meeting) has traveled extensively hosting talks on Quaker boarding schools intended to strip indigenous children of their native culture.

Meetings are becoming active in learning how they can take steps to address injustices against indigenous peoples (Friends Meeting of Washington's Committee on Peace & Social Concerns took action on learning in the 1790's Quakers as settlers had moved onto local land in violation of a treaty explicitly granting the land to tribes under a treaty). Our own Meeting's Power, Privilege, and Race (PPR) led us in reading "Braiding Sweetgrass", a book Pacific Yearly Meeting currently meets to discuss on Tuesday evenings.

Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)

Because state police often claim not to have jurisdiction on tribal lands (and laws prevent tribal courts exercising jurisdiction over whites), white men who cross the border to rape native women often go unpunished. Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) was last reauthorized in 2013 and expired in 2018. The House passed a reauthorization bill in March 2021 and a year later its been introduced into the Senate (now pending). Friends Committee on National Legislation's Native American Advocacy Program Congressional Advocate Portia K. Skenandore-Wheelock urges Friends to write their senators. <https://www.fcnl.org/updates/2022-02/introduction-vawa-reauthorization-bill-major-step-forward-tribal-communities>

PacYM Indigenous Concerns Subcommittee

Established in February 2021 by the Pacific Yearly Meeting's Ministry Committee, the Indigenous Concerns Subcommittee has these purposes:

- *Inform & support the PacYM community as it seeks to uncover the history and ongoing impacts of colonization in and on both Indigenous and Quaker communities,

- *Increase awareness of Indigenous peoples' struggles and joys both within and outside our Quaker communities,

- *Seek equitable and just partnership among Indigenous and non-Indigenous Peoples.

Tom Rothschild is a member of this subcommittee, and is currently conducting a survey to find out more about our Meeting's interests/priorities:

<https://www.pacificyearlymeeting.org/committee-newsletters-and-reports/indigenous-concerns/>

Toward Right Relationship w/Native People

A rich resource <https://friendspeaceteams.org/trr/>

Tuesday March 1, at 5pm (Pacific time)

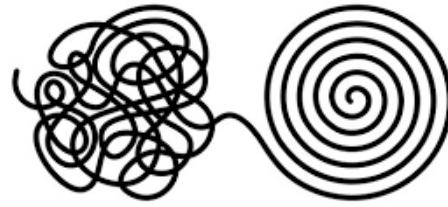
Attorney Jerilyn DeCoteau (Turtle Mountain Chippewa) presents Indigenous boarding schools. Currently co-director of Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples, she is past president of National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition Board. For more info/register <https://friendspeaceteams.org/indian-boarding-schools-mar-2022>



Wounded Yellow Robe, Henry Standing Bear, and Timber Yellow Robe, before and after admission to the Carlisle boarding school (Smithsonian photo)

Saturday March 19 at 1pm (Pacific time), Paula Palmer is hosting an online session to learn "the real history of our country" through the voices of Native people, European colonists, and historians, in order to understand why this history matters to all Americans today. For more info and to register <https://friendspeaceteams.org/trr-workshop-mar-2022>

Money & Quaker Values – 7pm Tues March 8
Multnomah Monthly Meeting in Portland, Oregon, spent a year searching for bank that has values aligned with Quaker values. Join the meeting's treasurer, Theresa Deibele, in a conversation about what the meeting learned during their journey toward an honorable bank. For Zoom link, see <https://westernfriend.org/event/search-honorable-bank>



Western Friend: westernfriend.org

In Search of an Honorable Bank

Conversation with
Theresa Deibele

Tu Eve, March 8, 2022

tinyurl.com/HonorableBank



Who is Our Meeting Supporting?

Finance Committee lists nineteen organizations to which our Meeting donates \$200 annually. This is in addition to organizations supported by the Community Sharing Fund.

American Friends Service Committee
Alternatives to Violence Project California (AVP)
Ben Lomond Quaker Center
Berkeley Food Pantry
College Park Quarterly Student Scholarship Fund
Friends Association for Service to the Elderly
Friends Committee on Legislation of California
Friends Committee on National Legislation
Friends House Moscow
Friends Journal
Friends World Committee for Consultation
Pacific Yearly Meeting Fund for Concerns
Quaker Bolivia Link
Quaker Earthcare Witness
Quaker Institute for the Future
Sierra Friends Center
Western Friend
Youth Spirit Artworks (YSA)
Dorothy Day House

That of Odd in Everyone (free Quaker music)

On February 8, 2022, Quaker songster/theologian Doug Gwyn posted his music online for all to enjoy. To hear his songs <https://brothersdoug.me/> His book *Personality and Place* is a “theological history” of Pendle Hill. Read his interview <https://quakerearthcare.org/qa-with-douglas-gwyn>

CROP Hunger Walk 2022 – Sunday May 1

The Berkeley CROP walk is an annual spring event that raises money for hunger relief programs, both internationally and locally. These last two years the Berkeley CROP Hunger Walk has been a virtual event. This year organizers are already planning the route and setting up the donation website for a hybrid event –an actual walk with online option.

75% of the funds collected go to Church World Service, which has been working to end hunger in the world since 1946. The remaining 25% goes to local relief agencies. Again this year, the local beneficiaries are Berkeley Food Pantry, Dorothy Day House, and Youth Spirit Artworks. More information about Church World Service can be found at <https://cwsglobal.org> Interested? Join the Berkeley Quakers team! Contact Tom Yamaguchi tomyamaguchi@mac.com or call 510-548-5294.

Be a Stay-at-Home Volunteer!

If you’ve been wishing you could be actively involved but aren’t yet comfortable doing in person activities, there are several organizations that offer opportunities to volunteer from home.

Red Cross volunteers

https://volunteerconnection.redcross.org/?nd=rc_o_opportunity_browse_list&postal_code=94705

Other at home volunteer opportunities

<https://retirement.berkeley.edu/volunteer/resources>

Or if you’re itching to travel as a volunteer...

<https://retirement.berkeley.edu/volunteer/national>

Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting
Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business
February 13, 2022 draft minutes
For review and approval at March 13, 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. 43 Friends were present.

Paul Jolly read the Mutual Care Committee's responses to the Advices and Queries on Spiritual Life.

The Clerk reviewed the agenda, which was posted by the Recording Clerk to groups.io this morning.

The Recording Clerk read the section of the December, 2021, minutes which was omitted from the version originally circulated. Friends approved the December 2021 minutes.

The Recording Clerk then read the January, 2022, minutes. The minutes were approved as circulated.

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 thank you letters from Friends Journal, and from Quaker Earthcare Witness, for our annual contributions. Intertribal Friendship House also wrote to thank us for a gift from the Community Sharing Fund. The clerk said she would post the letter from Quaker Earthcare Witness to groups.io.

Old Business

Care of the Meeting Committee (Stephen McNeil) unites with the recommendation of the transfer committee (Susan Burr, Stephen McNeil, and Rick Herbert) that we accept Lydia Bryans' membership transfer to Downingtown Monthly Meeting, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. This recommendation will be seasoned.

New Business

Communications Committee (Sarah Hawthorne) proposed updates to the Librarian's job description, to include stewardship of digital resources. The new version was circulated by Sarah via groups.io January 26th. This proposal will season until the March business meeting.

Communications Committee (Sarah Hawthorne) recommended that the Meeting modify our system for Western Friend subscriptions. The Committee's proposal is that the Meeting pays a Western Friend subscription for anyone in the directory, who affirmatively indicates the desire to receive it, excluding scattered berries. This new process would begin January, 2023. This proposal will season until the March business meeting.

Reports

Care of the Meeting Committee (Stephen McNeil) reported that Renee Watkins has resigned from the Committee. Nominating Committee has been notified. The committee is working on three issues.

1. The aging of the Meeting, including considering the structure of the Meeting's ability to carry on.
2. How do we present ourselves to the world and what do we have to offer?
3. In becoming an anti-racist Meeting, is it a question of optics, internal personal changes, and/or "showing up" in others' struggles?

Worship and Ministry (Judith Schumacher-Jennings) presented its update on plans for resuming in-person meetings. The subcommittee spearheading this effort is Kathy Barnhart, Peter Lin, Nancy Wilkinson, Ralph Murphy, and Judith Schumacher-Jennings. Returning to Berkeley Tech is the preferred alternative, if we can solve the technical issues of a blended Meeting there (air circulation and a wifi link). We may need to hire a consultant to help us with those details. If we encounter insurmountable challenges with that space, we will look for alternative space.

College Park Quarterly Meeting (Shelley Tanenbaum) reported on the January session of College Park Quarterly Meeting. She will send a written version of her report to groups.io today.

1. Marcelle Martin spoke about how to establish faithfulness groups.
2. The Quarterly Meeting is looking for a safe space to store its archives. If you have ideas, contact Joe Magruder.
3. Friends House has endured a rough year. Lots of residents have passed away. There were several changes in management over the past year, and fire threats have continued. The Facility has closed skilled nursing, expanded assisted living spaces and is planning on creating more independent living spaces.
4. The Quarter's Ministry and Oversight Committee is struggling with its name, and with the shrinking size of many monthly Meetings.

PacYM Unity with Nature Committee (Shelley Tanenbaum) reported that Philadelphia Yearly Meeting has formally embraced the commitment to make addressing climate change one of its primary priorities. PacYM's Unity with Nature Committee will be hosting a discussion of what a comparable commitment at PacYM would look like. That discussion will take place February 19 at 4:00 p.m.

Treasurer's report (Nancy Wilkinson) on 2021 was circulated via groups.io February 12. Due to the reduced expenses caused by the lockdown, actual expenses for Strawberry Creek for the year were \$20,000 less than actual income.

Query

The Clerk invited us to contemplate the query: *"How did our work today support us in becoming an actively anti-racist faith community?"* Several Friends spoke in gratitude for the letter from Intertribal Friendship House. The hope was expressed that in the future we might find ways to elicit communication with the organizations that we support. The committee's decision to give with encouragement but no expectation of communication was also mentioned. The community expressed interest in the future of the Community Sharing Fund Committee.

Announcements

Next Meeting for Business will be March 13, 2022, at 11:50 a.m.

State of the Meeting Listening Session, February 20, 2022, at 11:50 a.m.

Black Quaker Film Festival can be found here:

<https://www.theblackquakerproject.org/black-quaker-lives-matter-film-festival>

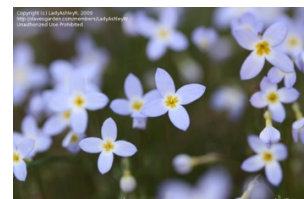
The Meeting closed with worship at 2:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Moses Strain, Clerk

Beth Wrightson, Alternate Clerk

Paul Jolly, Recording Clerk



Why are bluets called Quaker ladies?

Some say because the shape of this flower resembles the hats once worn by Quaker women. Others say the flower's color matches the fabric used in making dresses worn by Quaker ladies.

<https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/ornamental/flowers/quaker-lady-bluets/growing-bluets-in-the-garden.htm>



Reflections from Mutual Care Committee **Advices & Queries on Spiritual Life**

One Friend used to feel the term “continuing revelation” was a fancy, grand term, for other people, but this morning heard it as grace, our companion. When a longtime friend asked her recently if Quakers believe in God, she said, we have a desire for the divine, “we strive to live in the presence.” It’s from the Heart, not so much from the belief.

Another Friend appreciated that the first query focuses on *thankful awareness of God's constant presence* in our life. If it had said “*constant awareness*” rather than “*thankful awareness*”, he would feel inadequate. It’s the *constant* awareness where he falls short. Meeting for Worship substitutes for that constancy. He was late for Meeting that morning because he was enjoying sitting in the backyard watching the oxalis bloom. That seemed more compelling than getting to Meeting on time. They both have their place.

On the theme of Quakers believing the spiritual path is best found in community, another Friend has found that Mutual Care Committee is a setting in which she has shared her spiritual life, and heard the spiritual lives of others. As for spiritual practices, she offered that when a song has stuck in her mind – Yellow Submarine has been there a lot recently – she tries to put a hymn in there.

Zoom fatigue has increasingly been a barrier for another Friend when it comes to Meeting. He was disappointed and saddened when he learned that we won’t be meeting face to face again soon. In SF Meeting there are people who do Bible study, mid-week Meeting for Worship, a study group that reads a Quaker text, a little worship sharing every Sunday, and a presentation monthly by a Friend about how they see God. Those practices would enrich our community.

Another Friend has been feeling off center lately and although she attends Meeting, doesn’t feel she

does her spiritual life here. What has drawn her to Strawberry Creek is that she is blessed by the privacy that she feels about her own beliefs and practices, but she also misses having the spiritual connection that she had in the past with a different church community. She would never use the word prayer here, would never read a piece of scripture because she wouldn’t want to intrude on anyone else’s beliefs that are different. A conundrum!

Being open in the moment is useful, for example, the narcissus and daffodils that are coming into bloom. Something in the intensity of the color of a daffodil in the sunlight strikes a chord: gratitude, amazement, wonder...how did this manifestation of the divine come into being? This Friend says, if I am not amazed I am not paying attention. She has more time now than when she was parenting and working, but misses the hunger and thirst she felt then for connection with the Divine. When there were children in the house, they said grace before every meal. She wants to start doing that again.

Another friend spoke of growing up in a religion that emphasizes orthopraxy, not orthodoxy. In that community, it doesn’t matter if you believe in God or not. For practices, she celebrates the Sabbath every Friday, says the blessing for washing hands when she washes her hands. But when she was in her 30s and named herself as an agnostic, she came to feel how much she longed for connection with the Divine. At that point, a wise friend told her, “longing for God is a way of *being* with God.” She finds, as the Malvina Reynolds song Magic Penny says, that Love is an expression of Spirit, it keeps expanding.

Spelling G-d with a hyphen instead of a vowel is a practice another Friend has adopted in his writing this year. It helps him recognize that in using that word we are stepping toward something unfathomable. In answer to the question “do you share your spiritual lives with others in the Meeting”, he would respond: very cautiously, very judiciously. He feels militant about protecting that spark so precious to him and so magnificent. He knows the militancy prevents him from bringing himself as fully to the Meeting as he would like to, but doesn’t know what the alternative is. He longs for a sense of safety for sharing his spiritual life.

There is a wildness we might be able to recapture.

STRAWBERRY CREEK MONTHLY MEETING
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

TO:

MARCH 2022 ISSUE