

STRAWBERRY CREEK MONTHLY MEETING  
OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

MAY 2022  
NEWSLETTER

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](mailto: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: May 22** (for June issue)

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

Newsletter Editor & Calendar Postings Sarah Hawthorne [editor@strawberrycreekfriends.org](mailto: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>)

May 1 Advices & Queries on Personal Relationships – read aloud during worship hour by Nominating

May 8 11:50 a.m. Meeting for Worship on Occasion of Business (afterwards SCMM Annual Board Meeting)

May 15 9:00 a.m. Worship Sharing based on a query. Contact Bob Langfelder [boblangfelder@aol.com](mailto:boblangfelder@aol.com)  
11:50am FCL-CA Director Kevan Insko talk

May 22 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.

May 29 11:50 a.m. Community Sharing Fund Listening Meeting

**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.

### 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](http://www.quakercenter.org)

### Western North American Experiment w/Light

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

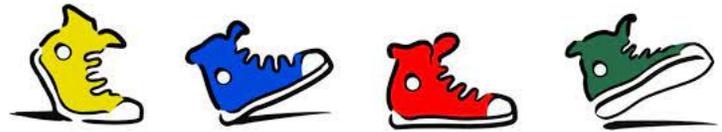
### College Park Quarterly Meeting May 13-15

On the weekend of May 13-15, College Park Quarterly Meeting will take place both in person at Ben Lomond Quaker Center, and in a hybrid format on Zoom (Sat/Sun, not Friday). The theme is *How to remain centered in these troubled times, how to be brave, how to be helpful*. To register and/or the complete weekend schedule of events, go to <https://collegeparkquarterlymeeting.org>

### Friendship Across Race & Class - Pendle Hill May 2 @4:30pm Pacific Time (free) Zoom

Mary Norman and Wendy Sanford, co-creators of the book [\*These Walls Between Us: A Memoir of Friendship Across Race and Class\*](#), will talk with K. Melchor Quick Hall. You are invited to reflect with them on how Quaker values might lead us to break down the institutional and cultural walls that continue to separate racial groups in the US. Registration required <https://pendlehill.org/events>

### WALK FOR A BETTER WORLD



### CROP Hunger Walk - Sun May 1

Berkeley CROP Hunger Walk returns with an actual walk on Sunday, May 1 at 1pm to raise money for hunger relief programs, both internationally and locally. 25% of donations go to local relief agencies such as Berkeley Food Pantry, Dorothy Day House, and Youth Spirit Artworks. The other 75% goes to Church World Service <https://cwsglobal.org>, which has been working to end hunger in the world since 1946. CWS has established the Ukraine Crisis Response fund..

Gather at St-Mary Magdalen Church, 2005 Berryman Street, Berkeley for a walk to south of campus and back. Or do the virtual walk. For more on joining the Berkeley Quakers team or donating <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2022/team/berkeley-quakers> or contact Tom Yamaguchi, [tomyamaguchi@mac.com](mailto:tomyamaguchi@mac.com), 510-548-5294.

### Still got tread on your shoes?

### Support For a Better Future Pilgrimage (May 7)

On Saturday May 7, at 6pm refreshments will kick off a benefit at St John's Presbyterian Church, 2727 College Ave, Berkeley, followed by a 7pm program. The event is to support the pilgrimage (May 28 - June 1) organized by Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity.

The purpose of the pilgrimage (already about 35 persons plan to go) is to transform incarceration systems by stopping at the seven ICE detention centers in California to gather in reflection, prayer, and action. These ICE facilities detain thousands of immigrants in California each year, separating families and loved ones from their communities. Immigration detention is unnecessary while local communities desperately need resources to support a thriving and sustainable future.



## SUMMER TIME and the LIVING is QUAKER



### **Made in God's Green Image – five Thursdays (May 5- June 2)**

At 10am Thursdays (May 5 - June 2, 2022), Quaker Center Ben Lomond offers an opportunity to reflect on what Scriptures mean when describing humans as made in God's image. This program explores relevant Bible passages, celebrates nature, and reviews the science of climate change. Participants share thoughts and experiences around environmental issues, take steps toward climate mitigation and resilience, and finally, learn about creative solutions from around the world, including rural Honduras (where Sister Confianza lives), and the COP26 summit in Glasgow (where geoscience instructor Frank Granshaw was a Quaker Earthcare Witness observer). For more info and to register <http://www.quakercenter.org/programs>

### **Quaker Service & Art Camp (June 18 – 25)**

Rising fifth to ninth grades (ages 10-14) will learn about Quaker faith and practice, share time in nature, and build community through art and service, campfires, singing, games, and hiking. Young people can experience the remarkable redwoods of the Santa Cruz mountains. Campers will join camp staff as well as adult Friends for a week of experiencing Quaker community in nature to learn about diversity, resilience, stewardship and the power of community. Space is limited; reservations on a first come, first served basis. To register as a youth, or apply to serve as staff, go to <http://www.quakercenter.org>

### **Quaker Center Seeking Director-in-Residence**

Quaker Center is currently seeking two persons to serve as full-time, on-site Director and Associate Director, or Co-Directors. Compensation includes salary, housing in the beautiful Santa Cruz redwoods, utilities, and other benefits.. See <http://www.quakercenter.org/about-us/employment-opportunities>



### **FGC Gathering July 3-9**

Friends General Conference 2022 Gathering will be held online July 3-9. Registration for the virtual Gathering will open in May. Under discernment: Young Adult and Youth (YAY!) *may* be held in-person for children, teens, young adults (under 36). For more, go to <https://www.fgcquaker.org>

**Events are planned for Quakers of Color (only)**  
<https://www.fgcquaker.org/fgcprograms/the-gathering/programs-and-events/events-for-people-of-color-only/>

### **PacYM Summer Gathering July 22-27**

Friends of all ages from all corners (and in-between) of our Pacific Yearly Meeting community are invited to gather July 22-27 either in person at Mount Madonna Center near Watsonville, or remotely, via Zoom, under the theme ***Beloved Community. What Does it Mean to Belong? To Ourselves? To Each Other? To the Earth?*** To read the Clerk's Call (on this theme) and for information, see [www.pacificyearlymeeting.org](http://www.pacificyearlymeeting.org)



**Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting**  
**Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business**  
**April 10, 2022 draft minutes**

*For review and approval at May 8, 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. 33 Friends were present. Betsy Morris read the Worship and Ministry Committee's responses to the Advices and Queries on Peace. The Clerk reviewed the agenda, which was posted by the Recording Clerk to groups.io on April 8.

The Recording Clerk then read the March, 2022, minutes. The minutes were approved with two changes:

- Old Business: in the Care of the Meeting Committee's discussion about Lydia Bryans' membership transfer, Lydia's name was replaced with "Lydia Bryans and her family".
- New Business: in Worship and Ministry Committee's discussion of plan for resuming in-person meeting for worship, the sentence "Several Friends had concerns and questions" was added.

**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 that the Meeting received for our annual contribution to Woolman at Sierra Friends Center. The clerk apologized that the Minute on the situation in Ukraine written by Berkeley Friends Meeting in February, and shared at the March business meeting, had not been successfully posted on groups.io. She said she would post it, as well as a similar Minute from Live Oak Meeting, reflecting that war has now broken out.

**Old Business**

Michelle Bellows read the revised State of the Meeting Report, which has been seasoning since March. After the heading "Trepidation" was replaced with "Deep Concern" the report was approved.

Peace, Earthcare, and Social Witness Committee (Stephen McNeil) read the FCNL Legislative Priorities, incorporating changes suggested since March's business meeting. Revised recommendations were shared on groups.io April 9, with changes indicated by bold type. The document was approved for forwarding to FCNL.

Peace, Earthcare, and Social Witness Committee (Larry Strain) brought up the Quaker Institute for the Future epistle. The Meeting approved forwarding the epistle to Pacific Yearly Meeting for distribution.

Worship and Ministry Committee (Judith Schumacher Jennings) The reopening proposal, which incorporates feedback received since the March business meeting, was shared via groups.io on April 8. The guiding principles for the committee's deliberations are: moving at the speed of trust, providing equal access to everyone, and treasuring the vulnerable. Judith reiterated the need for volunteers to assist with preparation for in-person Meeting for Worship. Worship and Ministry Committee will replace the injunction for people who are sick to stay away from the in-person meeting with an appropriate list of symptoms. With that change, the Meeting approved the proposal. Lee Douglas asked to be recorded as standing aside.

Finance Committee (Nancy Wilkinson) recommended a modification of the 2022 budget to accommodate the technology needs of re-opening; \$5,000 will be added to the Ministry and Worship line in the budget, taken from the general surplus accumulated in 2021. Nancy shared the proposed revision via groups.io April 7. The Meeting approved the change.

## **New Business**

Nominating Committee (Susan Black) presented the Committee's slate of Strawberry Creek officers, representatives, and committee members for 2022-23. There are still some holes: needed are a co-clerk for Nominating Committee, a Librarian, two new members for Worship and Ministry, and one addition each to the Facilities and Finance Committees. Once we resume in-person meetings and the committee feels that serving food is appropriate, Loaves and Fishes will need more people. The proposed slate will be seasoned for a month, and will be shared via groups.io. Please contact the Nominating Committee if you have concerns about the slate, or would like to offer to fill one of those vacancies.

## **Reports**

Treasurer's report (Nancy Wilkinson) shared our financial situation as of March 31<sup>st</sup>. Line items for Community Sharing Fund and Western Friend subscription expenses will be added later. We are currently approximately \$7,000 in the hole, but that is typical for this time of year and not concerning.

Pacific Yearly Meeting (Philippa Barron) presented a report from PacYM Representative Committee Meeting. She read a quote from Laura Magnani, Presiding Clerk of PacYM.

"In this 2022, Pacific Yearly Meeting celebrates 75 years, adding to the many reasons that make this a Jubilee Year. I hope you will consider attending Annual Session this summer (22-27 July), which is being designed for both in-person and online participation. Join us in-person at Mount Madonna (near Watsonville) or online (via Zoom) to build, together, the Beloved Community. Our pay-as-led model encourages all Friends to attend Annual Session by lightening the financial burden. As an extra incentive for our youth and families to attend, we will not be asking for any financial contribution for Friends under 18. Look for more information in early May as we get ready to open registration for Annual Session."

Care of the Meeting Committee (Stephen McNeil) shared that the Committee is inquiring whether there is interest in a new group for discussions about issues related to aging. If you are interested, please contact Stephen.

**Query** - The Clerk invited us to contemplate the query: "*How did our work today support us in becoming an actively anti-racist faith community?*" One Friend expressed appreciation for Strawberry Creek members' openness to hearing when a hurt has happened. Another shared that she heard, in many of the reports, the occasion for opening to Spirit. We need to bring our brightest wisdom to a transition that will not be a return to what was previously familiar.

## **Announcements**

- Next Meeting for Business May 8th, 2022 at 11:50 a.m. Following business meeting, there will be an annual board meeting.
- Adult Ed Session on the Climate Crisis April 17, 2022 at 11:50 a.m. (Larry Strain).
- Listening Meeting on the Community Sharing Fund May 29, 2022 (Larry Strain).
- Pacific Yearly Meeting will be hybrid this year, at Mt. Madonna, July 22-27, 2022.
- FGC will be primarily online July 3-9<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Registration will open in mid-May (Michelle Bellows).

The Meeting closed with worship at 2:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Elizabeth Moses Strain, Presiding Clerk  
Beth Wrightson, Alternate Clerk  
Paul Jolly, Recording Clerk



## Reflections on Advices & Queries on Peace *from Worship & Ministry*

Russia's war against Ukraine challenges the foundational Quaker testimony of peace. The war is unjust; every day we see images of its human suffering; and the Western response, while largely economic, is also supplying war materiel to Ukraine. Demonstrating for peace is a long-time Quaker practice, dating from, in most of our lifetimes, the American-Vietnam War, and the American wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Quakers have long demonstrated for peace even in the face of our government's disdain. That disdain makes us wonder about the value of taking to the streets. Perhaps our best focus is on how we can help the people of Ukraine.

Certainly, our peace testimony is not for simple neutrality. We are not merely to refuse to pick up arms (nor do we carry, in the first place, swords to put down). We are to be witnesses in the world for peace and the non-violent resolution of conflicts. We recognize that violence in the world war arises from unjust circumstances and underlying structural violence.

Berkeley and Oakland have faced violence by far-right groups and antifascist protestors. Friends have differed in our response to the use of force among protestors, between the police and protestors, and damage to property. More recently, the Black Lives Matter movement has raised awareness of the ongoing harms caused by police violence against Black community members.

George Lakey reminds us that demonstrations of nonviolence, even when people are defending themselves against armies, have long term value -- they are just as likely to succeed as violent resistance, and they also create new skills to create a

society that uses less violence toward children, strangers, and all living beings.

Part of structural violence is the violence done to the planet during war. Not only are there stunning levels of destruction of human and animal lives, homes, businesses, artifacts, cultural treasures, and agricultural riches, but a mere two hours' flight of one fighter jet uses enormous amounts of fossil fuel and directly contributes to climate change.

Our testimony for peace should not obscure the reality that conflict is human, normal, and inevitable. When we let go of entrenched positions of right and wrong and recognize that conflict is part of our paradoxical human condition, we can embrace conflict to find a non-violent way forward.

We humans, like all mammals, have nervous systems that automatically protect us with fight, flight, and freeze responses. These defenses, organized in each of us by the largest nerve in our bodies, the vagus nerve, are meant to protect us. But the vagal nerve organizes not just *reactions*, but gentle, loving *responses* that allow us to connect kindly with ourselves and others. From that connected place, we can calmly and skillfully work out non-violent solutions to conflict. The repeating tragedies of police violence, for example, are largely the results of the dysregulated nervous systems of everyone involved in which fight, flight, and freeze rule. The more we learn to practice skills that calm our vagus nerves, the more our tense reactions can give way to thoughtful, value-congruent responses.

The old song, "let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me," is a musical reminder about calming our nerves. When we are anxious and afraid, our nervous systems are activated for defense. When we settle into and connect with Spirit for worship, asking for Spirit for help, we can receive the peace, kindness, and compassion that passes all understanding. Full of that peace, we can pass it on to others.

## Pacific Yearly Meeting Report

*from PacYM Representative Philippa Barron*

Philippa Barron, PYM Rep, and Ragni Larsen-Orta, PYM Observer, together attended the PYM Representative Committee meetings on Saturday, February 26<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup>. The topics discussed included the following:

On February 26<sup>th</sup>, there were reports from PYM committees, including a Treasurer's Report, and reports from Finance Committee, Naming Committee, Nominating Committee, Communications Committee, and the Hybrid Exploration Committee.

In addition, the Children's Program Committee, Field Trip Coordinator and Youth Programs Coordinator all gave detailed reports on the state of our Quaker children. One very important learning was that PYM needs more people to volunteer to work with our children, who need to meet in person. Quaker children and teens are not connecting well via Zoom meetings.

The sessions on February 26<sup>th</sup> concluded with Discernment on How to be a Beloved Community.

We reconvened the following Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, and there was participation and additional reporting from the following committees:

Indigenous Concerns Subcommittee, Naming Committee, Peace and Social Order, Nominating Committee (Part II), College Park Quarterly Meeting, Communications Committee (Part II), and the Faith and Practice Revision Committee.

Ultimately, PYM Representative Committee discerned that this year, we should meet in a hybrid manner for Pacific Yearly Meeting. Today, I received the following message from our own Laura Magnani, PYM Presiding Clerk. She summarizes the outcome of Rep Com beautifully:

In this 2022, Pacific Yearly Meeting celebrates 75 years, adding to the many reasons that make this a Jubilee Year. I hope you will consider attending Annual Session this summer (22-27 July), which is being designed for both in-person and online

participation. Join us in-person at Mount Madonna (near Watsonville) or online (via Zoom) to build, together, the Beloved Community. Our pay-as-led model encourages all Friends to attend Annual Session by lightening the financial burden. As an extra incentive for our youth and families to attend, we will not be asking for any financial contribution for Friends under 18. Look for more information in early May as we get ready to open registration for Annual Session.

Ragni and I will continue to bring information to SCM via Business Meeting and announcements on our listserv, as the dates for PYM get closer.

On another note, I wanted to pass on information from Julie Harlow (Davis Meeting), as follows: Friends House Moscow is currently sponsoring a daily Meeting for Worship, opening at 8:45 am PST, holding in the Light all people affected by the current crisis in Ukraine. If you would like to find the link, it is under the Online Worship tab on the very top of the Western Friend website <https://westernfriend.org/quaker-worship-and-fellowship-online>. A contact person for this is Julie Harlow (Davis Meeting) [fhmus@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fhmus@sbcglobal.net). This meeting is being attended by Quakers from around the world.

### **Camp Woolman/Sierra Friends Center Opens!**

The Director of Camp Woolman of Sierra Friends Center (Raen Thornberry) announced that after being closed for three years due to covid & fire, Camp Woolman in Nevada City will be open this summer! The camp fosters Quaker values through camp traditions. Mornings and evenings include periods of silence, and team-building is emphasized in all activities. Hikes and backpacking trips allow for serene connections with nature (neither campers nor counselors use personal electronics while at camp).

An overnight camp provides opportunities for 9-14 year olds (June 19-July 15), as well as opportunities for 13-17 year olds (July 17-29). Friends are encouraged to serve as counselors. Both young & seasoned adults are encouraged to apply. Camp Woolman operates a shuttle to/from the Bay Area. Learn more at [www.woolman.org/camp](http://www.woolman.org/camp) or contact Raen [raen@woolman.org](mailto:raen@woolman.org)

## PROPOSED 2022-2023 SLATE *from Nominating Committee*

#Positions or individuals with positions followed by a pound sign (#) serve on the Board of Directors of Strawberry Creek Meeting by virtue of their position.

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

\*Individuals whose names are followed by an asterisk (\*) are continuing on that committee.

\*Individuals whose positions are followed by an asterisk (\*) are continuing in that position on that committee.

^Positions followed by a caret (^) are positions requiring membership in Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting

### COMMITTEES

#### **Care of the Meeting** (membership in RSoF req'd)

Stephen McNeil\*, Clerk#\*^

Chris Hogness

Carl Anderson\*

Kathy Barnhart\*

Susan Burr\*

Leonard Joy\*

\_\_\_\_\_, *ex officio*

#### **Communications**

Sarah Hawthorne\*, Clerk, newsletter editor\*

Amy Dewey\*, web coordinator\*

John McCarthy\*

\_\_\_\_\_, librarian

#### **Events**

Laura Miller\*, Clerk

Beth Rodman

Phillipa Baron\*

#### **Facilities\* (plus reopening working group)**

Erik Wilson\*, Clerk\*

Heather Levien

Peter Lin\*

Dick Strong\*

Bob Langfelder

Ragni Larson-Orta

\_\_\_\_\_

#### **Officers:**

**Clerk of Meeting**#^ Beth Wrightson

**Alternate Clerk**#^ Elaine Emily

**Recording Clerk**# Paul Jolly\*

**Treasurer**#^ Nancy Wilkinson\*

**Recorder** Peter Lin\*

**Database coordinator** Peter Lin\*

#### **Representatives:**

**AFSC** David Rutschman\*

**Ben Lomond Quaker Ctr** Jay Cash\*

**CPQM** Carl Magruder

**FCLCA** Rick Herbert

**FCNL** Stephen McNeil\*

**PacYM Representative** Phillipa Baron

**PacYM Observer** Ragni Larson-Orta

**PacYM UwN** Shelley Tanenbaum\*

**Sierra Friends Center** Cindy Trueblood

**Youth Spirit Artworks** Janet Piggins

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#### **Finance**

Lee Douglas\*, Co-clerk\*#^

Peter Trueblood\*, Co-clerk\*#^

Frank Satterwhite\*

\_\_\_\_\_

Nancy Wilkinson\*/Treasurer\* *ex officio*

#### **First Day Children's Program**

Josh Gallup\*, Co-Clerk\*

Andrea Parriott, Co-Clerk

Joyce Samati\*

Rhea Farley

Em Holmes

Ellen Levin\*

#### **Loaves and Fishes\***

Phyllis Malandra\*, co-Clerk\*

Susan Black, co-clerk

Patricia Dienstfrey\*

Ted Dienstfrey\*

Cindy Trueblood\*

Matthew Trueblood\*

\_\_\_\_\_

### Mutual Care

Deborah Marks\*, Co-clerk  
Margaret Schneider\*, Co-clerk  
Michelle Bellows\*  
Charlie Blanchard\*  
Jay Cash\*  
Kat Stenstedt\*  
Barb Tittle\*  
\_\_\_\_\_, *ex officio*

### Nominating (Calendar )

\_\_\_\_\_, Co-clerk#^  
Barbara Birch, Co-clerk#^  
Patricia Dienstfrey\*  
Josh Gallup\*  
Laura Miller\*  
Susan Strong  
Susan Black  
Mary White\*  
Janet Piggins\*

### Peace, Earthcare, and Social Witness

Larry Strain\*, Co-clerk\*  
David Rutschman\*, Co-clerk  
Avotcja Jiltoniro\*  
Kris Muller\*  
Mary White\*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
*Ex officio*: Reps to AFSC, FCLCA, FCNL,  
PYM UWN

### Worship & Ministry

Judith Schumacher-Jennings\*, Co-clerk\*^  
Janet Piggins, Co-clerk^  
Rachel Findley\*  
Betsy Morris\*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, *ex officio*

### *In times of war and conflict, Quakers show up...*

#### **Tom Fox – Quaker Peacemaker (1951–2006)**

*“If Jesus and Gandhi are right, then I am asked to risk my life, and if I lose it, to be as forgiving as they were when murdered... Standing firm is a struggle, but I’m willing to keep working at it.”*



After twenty years in the Marine Corps Band, Tom Fox was inspired, after the attacks of September 11, 2001, to find some way “to move us out of the darkness and move the world (even if it is only one person) toward the light.” An American Quaker, he volunteered in 2004 to join Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT) on a mission to Iraq.

The aim of CPT is to support human rights and to use its presence, where possible, to minimize violence. The work of Fox’s team in Baghdad consisted largely of assisting the families of imprisoned Iraqis. On November 26, 2005, he and three other members of the CPT were kidnapped by members of Al Qaeda. While the other three hostages were rescued, Fox was not. His body was found on March 10, 2006, on a garbage heap in Baghdad.

Just before his abduction, Fox posted a blog in which he addressed the question, “Why are we here?” He wrote: “We are here to stop people, including ourselves, from dehumanizing God’s children, no matter how much they dehumanize their own souls.”

**STRAWBERRY CREEK MONTHLY MEETING**  
Box 5065, Berkeley, California 94705  
Phone messages: 510-524-9186  
<[www.strawberrycreekfriends.org](http://www.strawberrycreekfriends.org)>

**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**

**TO:**

**MAY 2022 ISSUE**