

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>

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

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

Newsletter Deadline is Sunday prior to Distribution Sunday. **Deadline: Oct 23** (for November 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)

### **SUNDAYS (ongoing)**

#### **10 a.m. Meeting for Worship**

*10am Sunday Meeting for Worship is now both onsite and on Zoom. Details inside.*

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

*(activities below via Zoom unless otherwise noted)*

Oct 2 Advices & Queries on Stewardship and Vocation, read aloud by Children's Program (worship hour)

Oct 9 12:30 p.m. Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business

Oct 16 9 a.m. Worship Sharing. Contact Bob Langfelder for details.

Oct 23 12:30 p.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.

Oct 30

### **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

We meet for worship at 10am Sunday mornings, both in person at Berkeley Technology Academy and online. Newcomers (in person or on Zoom) are invited to sign the Guest Book. For Zoom link and Guestbook, see Meeting's website

<http://www.strawberrycreekfriends.org>

*See next column for more information.*

## 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)

For more information about Sunday worship, see <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, the Western North American Experiment with Light group meets on Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6820730575>

For more information, contact Barbara Birch.

## Becoming Patterns & Examples E-Retreat

Tuesdays Oct 4 to Nov 1s from 8:30am – 10am, Barbara Birch is facilitating an e-retreat for Friends General Conference (FGC) Retiring from her job as a CSU professor this semester, she sees this as a transition to a new line of work! Over the four weeks, participants will:

- Explore the testimonies of early Friends and test them against their own inner promptings.
- Listen to hear other promptings there may be for new and modern-day revelations/testimonies.
- Explore and engage in daily disciplines to create the inward space for more light to be generated.
- Come to understand Friends' view of social action as prompted by a transformation that reveals the Inward Spirit as the source of all action.

<https://www.fgcquaker.org/event/becoming-patterns-examples-eretreat/>



## Your Newsletter Your Way

Communications Committee is in the process of discerning whether Meeting is best served by producing its newsletter (the one you're reading right now!) exclusively in a digital (PDF) format posted online, easily printable. See <https://www.strawberrycreekfriends.org/newsletter> For pros/cons, read ComCom's report to Meeting for Business (later in this issue). To share your opinions, email [editor@strawberrycreekfriends.org](mailto:editor@strawberrycreekfriends.org)

## College Park Quarterly Meeting October 14-16

Did you know College Park Quarterly Meetings always happen on the weekend of third Sunday in January, May and October? October meetings have been held at the Sierra Friends Center near Nevada City, May meetings at Ben Lomond Quaker Center near Santa Cruz, and January meetings have rotated between Berkeley, San Francisco, Redwood Forest, Palo Alto. SCMM CPQM Rep is Carl Magruder <https://collegeparkquarterlymeeting.org>



Wed in Redwood Circle at Quaker Center, Ben Hofvendahl, spouse **Thistle** Hofvendahl, daughter Emmylou move to Quaker Center, where Ben's experience in forestry, construction, fire mitigation and permaculture will help him as Maintenance Technician <http://www.quakercenter.org>

## **Immigrant Accompaniment Team Report**

*from the Berkeley and Strawberry Creek Friends Meetings' Immigrant Accompaniment Team at the Berkeley Friends Business Meeting on Sept 11 2022. Submitted by Marilyn Cleveland, Clerk of the Accompaniment Team.*

We have been accompanying Khalil Bakhtyari and Fernanda Olivares del Castillo and their four year old son Alexander for almost six months during which time they have lived in the Meeting House Guest Living Space. During that time, a close friendship has developed between the family and the team members. Khalil and Fernanda are preparing to move to other housing, and we will have a final accompaniment meeting with them later this month. We expect the friendship, but not the accompaniment, to continue. They may even decide to join us in accompanying other newcomers to the area.

Khalil and Fernanda have been accepted by a cooperative housing development here in Berkeley. They have the keys to their new home and are in the process of preparing their new home moving in. They plan to be fully moved within the next 2-3 weeks. We will hold a final accompaniment meeting with them and Kelly Younger from the Nueva Esperanza program of the Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity at that time.

Khalil has found legal counsel and submitted his application for temporary protected status. This may allow him to get a work permit while he waits for his asylum application to be processed. Fernanda has had her status adjusted to a temporary status that allows her to work in the U.S., and she now has a full time job as Operations Director at the YWCA Berkeley/Oakland. Alexander is in a full-day pre-school which he enjoys. The family has found a church affiliation where Alexander has found friends. The church is welcoming them and hopefully will offer them community and support.

Once they have moved and cleaned the space, we will evaluate needs for preparing the space for our next guests. We hope to be ready for our next guests in early October, although this is an ambitious plan.

Nueva Esperanza has suggested another family for us to accompany and house. Our team will meet on September 14 to discuss whether to offer them accompaniment and housing. Kehila Synagogue provided them very short term housing and has provided us with some information about their background.

Our team is open to welcoming new members. If you or anyone you know is interested, please contact me and I can tell you more about the work and the process for joining the team. It is a wonderful group with whom to share this experience and an opportunity to learn about others whose lives have been different from our own. We also appreciate donations to the Meeting's Immigrant Assistance Fund, and appreciate the Meeting's support of this work in so many ways.

Note: The Team is also trying to raise money for Khalil's twin brother in Afghanistan. See <https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-Mohammad-save-five-lives>



### **Patagonia – The Secret Lives of Trees**

On September 14, 2022, Patagonia's Founder announced he and his family are giving away his \$3 billion company to trusts and nonprofits working to combat climate change. Not long ago, Patagonia Films has made an awesome film on the spiritual wisdom of trees. To watch this film, go to Western Friend <https://westernfriend.org/secret-life-trees>

**Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting**  
**Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business**  
**September 11, 2022, draft minutes**

*For review and approval at October 9, 2022, Meeting for Business*

Meeting for Business opened at 12:30 p.m. with silent worship and was conducted via Zoom. Beth Wrightson clerked the meeting. 27 Friends were present.

The Clerk reviewed the agenda, which was posted by the Recording Clerk to groups.io on September 9th.

The Recording Clerk then read the August, 2022, minutes. The minutes were approved with no corrections.

The Advices and Queries on Simplicity were read. Erik Wilson shared the Facilities Committee's response to the Advices and Queries on Civic and Social Responsibility.

### **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 reported that she tried, during the week following the August business meeting, to find a more diverse slate for the Naming Committee. She was unable to find additional Friends able to serve in that capacity. The Naming Committee (Charlie Blanchard, convener; Rick Herbert; and John McCarthy) was approved.

The clerk shared that she has started asking Friends if they are willing to serve on the Bridging the Gap committee, which facilitates the cooperation of the Berkeley Friends Meeting, Berkeley Friends Church, and Strawberry Creek. She will continue with this inquiry, and hopes to present names at the October business meeting.

### **Old Business**

We continued our review of the anti-racism prompt and query, with a particular focus on Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business. The clerk read Strawberry Creek's Minute on Uprooting and Dismantling Racism, and the Meeting entered into silent worship. A member of the Peace, Earthcare, and Social Witness Committee shared that that committee has been discussing the letter from Sarah Hawthorne circulated via groups.io on August 15th of this year. Other friends shared the following. There is a great bounty of cultural richness in the neighborhood where we worship, and Friends are urged to take advantage of it. Removing "if relevant" from the query: *How did our work (and our decisions, if relevant) today support us in becoming an actively anti-racist faith community* makes the query more direct. We might read the whole minute occasionally in Meeting for Business. The clerk asked the Power, Privilege and Race Subcommittee to make recommendations for moving forward.

Barbara Birch read a report from the Nominating Committee, which asked the Meeting to consider how to respond when it is impossible to fill slots. Specifically, at this time, Nominating Committee is unable to fill the Clerk position for the Care of the Meeting Committee. Several Friends had ideas about how to proceed. The Clerk asked Care of the Meeting committee to recommend a process, and invited Friends to speak with her or with members of the committee if they had further suggestions.

### **New Business**

There is no new business.

## Reports

**Treasurer** (Nancy Wilkinson) gave us an update on the annual budget. Our current expenses for the year are \$5,350 more than our income, which is typical for this time of year. If you are holding receipts for Meeting expenditures, please submit them to Nancy soon. \$5,000 is allocated for audio visual equipment, and Nancy would be particularly grateful for receipts for those expenses.

**First Day Children's Committee** (Josh Gallup) is facing several challenges: small numbers of interested children, a shortage of adult volunteers, and health concerns. One option would be to hold a First Day children's program monthly, instead of weekly. The committee has drafted a letter to send to parents in the Meeting with survey questions about the program. After sending the letter they will call parents to find out what they want. Josh concluded, "We have to move ahead like it's going to be a big deal."

**Pacific Yearly Meeting** (Ragni Larsen-Orta) read both the Pacific Yearly Meeting 2022 epistle, and the epistle from PacYM's young adult Friends. Links to those epistles are [here](#) and [here](#). They can be found at PacificYearlyMeeting.org by clicking on:

Events > Annual Sessions > PacYM 2022 epistle, or

Events > Annual Sessions > 2022 Young Adult Friends epistle.

**Communications Committee** (Sarah Hawthorne) shared a report on the current state of the committee's deliberations on the pros and cons of moving to an all-digital newsletter format. While several Friends prefer the printed version, a digital format would have the following advantages. It requires much fewer volunteer hours (Peter Lin, who has been printing, stapling and stamping newsletters for many years, has less availability now). An all-digital version would offer limitless space. And a digital newsletter could be revised at any time. The Committee had done research on the practices of other Meetings regarding their newsletters. She closed by asking how Friends feel about the following practices:

1) Meeting for Business minutes occupy about one third of our current newsletter pages. Upon request, those who now receive a printed newsletter could be sent a printed copy of *only* Meeting for Business minutes, so that they may continue to conveniently read them in a printed hardcopy version, which would also facilitate their maintaining a hard copy for their personal files if that is important.

2) Our Meeting's standard newsletter could continue to be available online. As happens now, newsletter subscribers could be sent an email message each month when the new newsletter is ready to access.

The Committee welcomes comments and suggestions on how to proceed. Please send them via email to [editor@strawberrycreekfriends.org](mailto:editor@strawberrycreekfriends.org) before September 15, 2022.

**Worship and Ministry** (Janet Piggins) shared that we will be adding a video screen so people at B-Tech can see Zoom participants. A projector and large screen have been purchased. The new setup will be in place in the next couple of weeks. The committee welcomes feedback; please address concerns or questions to Janet or to Judith Schumacher-Jennings.

**Query** The Clerk invited us to contemplate the query: "*How did our work and our decisions today support us in becoming an actively anti-racist faith community?*"

**Announcements** Next Meeting for Business October 9, 2022, at 12:30 p.m.

The Meeting closed with worship at 2:45 p.m.

Beth Wrightson, Presiding Clerk, Elaine Emily, Alternate Clerk, Paul Jolly, Recording Clerk

**Reflections on Advices & Queries on  
Social & Civic Responsibility**  
*from Facilities Committee*



The Advice and Queries on Social and Civic Responsibility were written some time ago and do not mention some specific current issues such as abortion. It is good for us to remember that this query should be read as both general to many issues and specific to current issues.

These are good words but what actions do we take? There is still so much suffering. Are we making progress? That makes me feel uncomfortable. I do think that the Community Sharing fund and the PPR committee are good actions.

As a human I feel that I cannot do more. I feel that I have been imprisoned without arrest or trial. However there has been many individual contributions from Meeting. No one can do this alone. We much live into our faith and believe that we can do it.

Making the world a better place seems to require power and leverage. Our world seems built to give power and leverage to those who have centered their lives upon the pursuit of power and, in doing so, may also have lost the direction and desire of making our world a better place.

This query makes me consider the value brought by people who have different but still strongly held understandings. Pacifism and the war in the Ukraine and abortion are two issues where we might help each other deepen our understandings.

**First Day Children's Program Report (9/11/22)**

At Meeting for Business Co-Clerk Josh Gallup shared that the First Day Children's Program (FDCP) Committee is continuing to explore ways to reopen the children's program.

There are several issues facing the FDCP:

- 1) public health concerns
- 2) a dwindling number of in-person regular attenders with children
- 3) a small number of volunteers available to assist in person First Day School
- 4) some questions about the goals and presentation of goals for First Day School

Some of these issues may make it infeasible to have a weekly program at this point in time.

One idea the committee is considering is to hold a monthly children's program rather than a weekly program. This might allow more children to attend, and it might also make it easier to find two adult volunteers.

Another idea we are considering is having an online children's program, which intersects with health concerns.

FDCP committee members will be reaching out to parents and grandparents of young children and teens to assess these issues.

Is there interest in in-person or online programs. We seek to make a program that reflects what the parents want and holds meaning for them. Some questions for our families will include: what are the goals of First Day School, and how shall they be presented?

For instance: Should FDCP include Quaker and likeminded content or secular content or no specific content?

How should we manifest the goals (offering focused and led experiences vs free play)?





## Communications Committee Report (9/11/22)

Communications Committee seeks to serve Meeting through digital and printed information. In March (2022) Meeting for Business approved Meeting covering the cost of a Western Friend subscription (print or digital) for those listed in our main Meeting Directory. All but one of our 25 current Western Friend subscribers renewed, and to date an additional ten more persons opted to get Western Friend that were not subscribers in 2022. Total cost to Meeting is about \$1000. The opportunity to ask for a Meeting-paid subscription ends September 15.

On another front, our committee is exploring how to balance many factors with respect to our own Meeting's newsletter. Out of 50 subscribers who receive the printed version of our newsletter in the mail each month, we have received just eight responses to our inquiry about whether it is important to continue to receive a hardcopy printed newsletter or if a digital format is acceptable.

Of the eight responses, four indicated they were willing to shift to digital, and four indicated they would like to continue to receive the printed format. What does this mean? It is likely that the low response rate actually means most folks who get the newsletter (printed or otherwise) probably do not read it at all. Those who do, most often refer to the usefulness of having the Meeting for Business minutes in a paper format for review.

Our Meeting's response is consistent with studies done in the general population. Studies show that readers, especially older readers, usually prefer to read information in a printed paper format when the text is of any significant length.

However, studies show the vast majority of people (of any age) who receive newsletters do not read any of the newsletter text. List serves and on-line event calendars now provide timely information about activities on short notice in a way that a monthly newsletter cannot. Modern readers tend to be interest-driven, preferring to "drill-down" to obtain specific information sought at the time it is needed, rather than reading a cover to cover document that lays out a broad range of subjects.

We contacted three other Northern California Meetings (Berkeley Friends, Sacramento Friends, and San Francisco Friends) and found they have already essentially eliminated hard copy newsletters, and only provide their newsletter digitally.

When visitors ask to sample our newsletter, I have been offering them the opportunity for a digital newsletter, but not a printed newsletter sent in the mail.

In conclusion, production of printed versions of the newsletter currently takes us about a week and (in the absence of a volunteer) costs between \$2-3 per issue per subscriber. By contrast, digital newsletters have quick turn around times, with little labor or cost. More importantly, digital newsletters offer far greater flexibility because contributions can be added on short notice, and there are no limitations on space for content.

Communications Committee is asking for feedback from those with opinions about whether Meeting should continue to mail printed paper newsletters or shifts to an exclusively online digital PDF that can be printed by the reader. Send your comments to [editor@strawberrycreekfriends.org](mailto:editor@strawberrycreekfriends.org)

***Western Friend Update:*** By the Sept 15 deadline for requesting a 2023 Western Friend subscription paid for by Meeting, 28 existing subscribers had renewed (15 printed, 13 digital), and 14 new subscribers (9 printed, 5 digital) came on board!

**STRAWBERRY CREEK MONTHLY MEETING**

Box 5065, Berkeley, California 94705

Phone messages: 510-524-9186

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

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

**TO:**

**OCTOBER 2022 ISSUE**