

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: February 20** (for March 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>)

Feb 6 Advices & Queries on Spiritual Life – read aloud by Mutual Care Committee

11:50am Session on FCNL Legislative Priorities in 2022-2023. Contact FCNL Rep Stephen McNeil.

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

Feb 20 9:00 a.m. Worship Sharing based on a query. Contact Bob Langfelder boblangfelder@aol.com

11:50am State of the Meeting Listening Meeting. Details inside.

Feb 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.



Quaker style heart cross stitch pattern

For more Quaker quilt patterns, go to <https://www.pinterest.com/lindakay916/quaker-quilts/>

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

PacM RepCom gathers Sat Feb 26 & March 5

All are invited to this year's meeting of PacYM Representative Committee (RepCom) to be held on two successive Saturdays, February 26 & March 5. You must register for RepCom in order to receive the Zoom links. **Deadline to register is Feb 18.** Friday evening 7:30pm February 25, there will be a meeting for Monthly Meeting Reps. See <https://www.pacificyearlymeeting.org/>

Hope & Healing - March 10 & 24 (Book Discuss)

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

Winter 2022 CPQM Now Minutes Available

Minutes for College Park Quarterly winter session just ended will be posted online <https://collegeparkquarterlymeeting.org/documents>

FCNL 2022-2023 Legislative Priorities Feb 6

On Feb.6 after Meeting, FCNL Representative Stephen McNeil will hold an open session on why and how the Meeting selects up to seven suggested FCNL priorities for work in the next Congress. Results from this session go to February meeting for business for approval. Then the FCNL Policy Committee will season all submissions from hundreds of Meetings and Churches and present results at FCNL Annual Meeting in November.

This process has yielded concrete action in the past: environmental concerns were raised over time, leading to full time staffing and organizing of grassroots activists. Nowadays there are over 120 Advocacy Teams around the country in 42 States who lobby locally. San Francisco/Berkeley is one such team. Priorities affect their actions. For more, <https://www.fcnl.org/about/world-we-seek/legislative-priorities>

State of Meeting Listening Meeting Feb 20

The State of the Meeting listening meeting will start at 11:50am on Sunday February 20. We are invited to deeply listen to each other as we reflect together upon the year that has just passed (2021) and seek to discern how Spirit has fared among us. This year's Writing Committee is Betsy Morris, Chris Hogness, and Michelle Bellows.

Youth Spirit Artworks seeks Wooden Chairs

Youth Spirit Artworks (USA) is seeking donated wooden chairs for use in its winter/spring jobs training workshops. If you have wooden chairs you might be willing to give, YSA will pick them up. Contact Sally Hindman 510-282-0396. Note: Now raising funds to finish a strawbale Welcome Center /Store and Artisan Space, YSA is also making plans for its next Tiny Village. Check it out! <https://youthspiritartworks.org>



Please note that the complete draft minutes from the December 2021 Meeting for Business have been re-printed and may be found following this month's minutes below. Both minutes to be submitted for approval at the February Meeting for Business. Send questions/comments to Paul Jolly paulsjolly@gmail.com

Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting
Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business
January 9, 2022 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. 37 Friends were present.

Kathy Barnhart read the Care of the Meeting Committee's responses to the Advices and Queries on Harmony with Creation. It was suggested that we circulate these reflections more broadly among Friends.

The Clerk reviewed the agenda, which had been posted by Recording Clerk to groups.io on January 7, 2022.

The Recording Clerk read the minutes for the December, 2021, Meeting for Business. Friends recommended the following modifications:

- Berkeley's school system is Berkeley Unified School District, not Berkeley United School District.
- The calendar error Larry Strain pointed out was in an announcement on groups.io, not in newsletter.

After the reading of the December minutes by the Recording Clerk, Friends raised concern that what had been published online and in the newsletter was incomplete. At first the Recording Clerk believed that only a few sentences were missing, but it was revealed that an undefined portion of the written record was missing. The missing material was believed to have been caused by an electronic glitch. It was decided that the normal handling of "corrections to the Minutes" would be inadequate under the circumstances.

Versions of December 2021 Minutes previously published are missing the following italicized text:

Appreciation was expressed to the Finance Committee.

b Nominating Committee (James Hosley) brought the names of Phillipa Barron for Pacific Yearly Meeting (PacYM) representative and Ragni Larsen-Orta for PacYM observer. The nominations were approved.

James also urged Friends to volunteer for Facilities Committee, which will have additional needs when we re-open.

c Naming Committee (Paul Jolly) reported that no concerns were raised regarding the Nominating Committee recommendations. Returning to the Nominating Committee will be Patricia Dientsfrey, Josh Gallup, Laura Miller, and Mary White. New members nominated are Susan Black, Janet Piggins, Susan Strong, and Barbara Birch. Barbara Birch has agreed to co-clerk the committee. Beth Wrightson will join Barbara as co-clerk through March, if needed. The meeting approved the recommendation.

d Care of the Meeting Committee (Stephen McNeil) encouraged the meeting to enthusiastically accept the membership of Chris Hogness, which we did. A welcoming committee of Andrea English, Nancy Wilkinson, Leonard Joy, Susan Burr, and Paul Jolly (convenor) was appointed.

The Meeting discerned that the December Minutes could not be approved without the omission being corrected. The December minutes will be recirculated via groups.io and the Meeting's newsletter, with the bulleted corrections above, and the missing text reinserted. Those minutes will be submitted for approval at the February business meeting.

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 that the listening session on the State of the Meeting will be the third First day in February. The Writing Committee is being composed. When that Committee is finalized, the Meeting will be informed via groups.io.

Old Business - Worship and Ministry (Judith Shumacher-Jennings) shared their current deliberations.

1. Given the unknown risks of an Omicron surge we will hold off on in-person meetings until more is known.
2. We clearly heard at M4B last month that some members feel strongly that meeting in person without having the capacity to hold blended meetings would split the meeting unacceptably into those who could meet in person and those who could only meet on Zoom.
3. A blended meeting at B-Tech would require a stable wifi connection. BUSD is not open to us using their Wi-Fi system. James Hosley is making progress on finding us a stable Wi-Fi connection.

The room presents problems for adequate fresh air intake. Using the heating system during M4W supplies adequate fresh air intake for the room. However, it creates a significant noise problem.

Instead of meeting ASHRAE requirements we might mask, use air purifiers and keep windows open for fresh air intake which exceeds county guidelines.

4. We could search for alternative meeting spaces to B-Tech.

New Business - There was no new business.

Reports - There were no reports.

Query - The Clerk invited us to contemplate the query: *"How did our work today support us in becoming an actively anti-racist faith community?"* Friends expressed appreciation for the invitation to see things to which they were blind. One Friend noted that the last time we had such a short agenda was immediately following the killing of George Floyd, and asked "what does a business meeting agenda look like for an actively anti-racist faith community?"

Announcements

- Next Meeting for Business will be February 13, 2022, at 11:50 a.m.
- Power, Privilege and Race Subcommittee (Susan Burr). Vanessa Julye's 2021 Stephen G. Cary Lecture, "Radical Transformation: Long Overdue for the Religious Society of Friends", will be the focus of SCMM's adult ed session on January 30 at 11:50. Friends who wish to view the lecture beforehand can see it [here](#), although you are welcome to participate if you have not seen the lecture beforehand. Friends are also welcome to invite people who are not Strawberry Creek attenders who may be interested in participating.

The Meeting closed with worship at 1:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Elizabeth Moses Strain, Clerk,

Beth Wrightson, Alternate Clerk, Paul Jolly, Recording Clerk

Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting
Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business
December 12, 2021 draft minutes, complete
For review and approval at February 2022 Meeting for Business

Note: the section of the minutes which was omitted from the version previously circulated via groups.io and the newsletter are in italics below.

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 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

- a. 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:
 - i. Gifts to 19 organizations have been increased from \$150 to \$200.
 - ii. Power Privilege and Race Subcommittee has been broken out as its own line item.
 - iii. \$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.
 - iv. 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 \$100 honorarium for each year for Damond, custodian

The meeting approved the budget, and those allocations for B-Tech. *Appreciation was expressed to the Finance Committee.*

- b. *Nominating Committee (James Hosley) brought the names of Phillipa Barron for Pacific Yearly Meeting (PacYM) representative and Ragni Larsen-Orta for PacYM observer. The nominations were approved. James also urged Friends to volunteer for Facilities Committee, which will have additional needs when we re-open.*
- c. *Naming Committee (Paul Jolly) reported that no concerns were raised regarding the nominating committee recommendations. Returning to the Nominating Committee will be Patricia Dientsfrey, Josh Gallup, Laura Miller, and Mary White. New members nominated are Susan Black, Janet Piggins, Susan Strong, and Barbara Birch. Barbara Birch has agreed to co-clerk the committee. Beth Wrightson will join Barbara as co-clerk through March, if needed. The meeting approved the recommendation.*
- d. *Care of the Meeting Committee (Stephen McNeil) encouraged the meeting to enthusiastically accept the membership of Chris Hogness, which we did. A welcoming committee of Andrea English, Nancy Wilkinson, Leonard Joy, Susan Burr, and Paul Jolly (convenor) was appointed.*

New Business

Worship and Ministry (Judith Shumacher-Jennings) circulated a Proposal for Meeting Reopening, via groups.io December 10th. These concerns were voiced:

- a. 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.
- b. 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.
- c. On the Sundays when proof of vaccination is required, what about boosters?
- d. Is “no masks required outdoors” still viable with the Omicron variant at large?
- e. 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 Jiltoniro 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 from Care of Meeting Committee **Advices & Queries on Harmony with Creation**

Many of us on Care of Meeting Committee were struck by how dated the advices and queries on Harmony with Creation seem. They were written over 20 years ago and since then, we, and people all around the world, have experienced first-hand the effects of the climate crisis: extremes of heat and cold, fires, droughts and floods. When this version of Faith and Practice was written originally in 2001, many of us were not aware that the climate crisis had already arrived.

But while we might feel overwhelmed and fearful at times, as individuals we often are able to revel in nature, to be buoyed and comforted by it. The gratitude we feel for the beauty of earth and its gifts motivates us to protect it, to care for it, and to make the changes necessary to do that. Increasingly we are aware of being within Creation, a piece of the whole, rather than outside of it or even with it.

There is an emphasis on individual actions in this set of advices and queries, lacking mention of our role, especially as Americans, in creating climate crisis. Also, we are aware of the larger role of legislators, banks, policy-makers, corporations (and others) in maintaining systems that keep it in place.

We take many individual actions, such as walking instead of driving, limiting possessions, recycling, using cloth bags, and trying to reduce our carbon footprint. But we can get stuck concentrating on individual acts. Though they are important, how much are they just stalling for time since the next 10 years are crucial for major changes? As is the case with our efforts to uproot and dismantle racism, we need to press for systemic changes.

While life on earth will continue in some form regardless, OUR way of life is not sustainable. We need to address consumption as a root cause. Quakers have something to offer here, with our testimonies on peace, community, equality, integrity and simplicity. We could do more in our communities to bring this awareness to others.

Corporate capitalism views people and land as potential for profit and wealth. We have benefitted from this perspective and live in abundance. But the earth and people become devalued in this process; one Friend mentioned that a quarter of Blacks and Hispanics in the U.S live within three miles of a superfund site. We are called to work for environmental justice.

Strawberry Creek Meeting has been concerned with Earthcare for many years. We have a testimony on it (2010) and we have a minute on climate change (2014). Where are we as a community in implementing these concerns?

We recently had an adult ed session on the climate crisis that explored amplifying personal action and making our corporate voice heard. It's easy to feel overwhelmed, but it's important to act and also to examine Earthcare through the lens of racism. Earlier in 2021, reading "Braiding Sweetgrass" deepened our understanding of Harmony with Creation.

Several Friends suggested alternate, or supplemental queries, to those offered in Faith and Practice. Among them are:

- What are we as Quakers doing to encourage/urge systemic changes to create a just and sustainable world, both on a local and larger level?
- How might my actions be inspired by a sense of belonging to Creation?
- To what extent is my inaction (or action) fueled by fear?
- Do I trust Spirit to sustain me in the face of revelations of harms and challenges?
- Am I open to joy in working with others on behalf of Creation?

Let us continue to experiment with the radical, transforming power of love and recognize all of creation as a gift none of us "earned." Let us remember the lessons of the earth and let nature be our teacher. We want to move beyond individual actions, which are still important, to actions that impact the policies, laws and organizations that keep us from living more deeply within Creation. We want to leave an earth restored and healthy for future generations. Let us discern, with Spirit's guidance, our next steps.

STRAWBERRY CREEK MONTHLY MEETING
Box 5065, Berkeley, California 94705
Phone messages: 510-524-9186
<www.strawberrycreekfriends.org>

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

TO:

FEBRUARY 2022 ISSUE