

STRAWBERRY CREEK MONTHLY MEETING OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

NOVEMBER 2020
NEWSLETTER

10 a.m. every Sunday Meeting for Worship (online), see next page for details.

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

Website: <http://www.strawberrycreekfriends.org>

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

Listserv (for subscribers): strawberrycreek@groups.io To join, contact Web Coordinator.

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

To post calendar events or contribute to newsletter, email editor@strawberrycreekfriends.org

To create a Zoom meeting or join our Listserv, contact Web Coordinator amyd@alumnae.mills.edu

Read the current newsletter online <http://www.strawberrycreekfriends.org/pdf/newsletter.pdf>

Distribution Sunday for paper/electronic newsletter is the last Sunday of the month, except August.

Newsletter Deadline is the Monday preceding Distribution Sunday. **Next deadline: October 19.**

THE CALENDAR

(all activities listed below happen online via Zoom)

SUNDAYS (Unless otherwise indicated)

Nov 1 Advices & Queries on Social & Civic Responsibility, by Loaves & Fishes (worship hour)

11:45 a.m. Quaker Action Worship Group (QAWG). Contact Betsy Morris or Asa Brown. Details inside.

Nov 8 - 11:50 a.m. Meeting for Worship on the occasion of Business.

Nov 15 - 9 a.m. Worship Sharing based on a query. Contact Bob Langfelder <boblangfelder@aol.com>

11:50 a.m. Thanksgiving for “That of God in Everyone” - Power, Privilege, and Race (PPR). Details inside.

Nov 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.

THURSDAYS (ongoing)

7 a.m. Mid-Week Morning Worship. For information, call Peter Lin (510) 530-0479.

4 p.m. Twelve-Step Meeting (open to all). Contact facilitator Avotcja Jiltonilro 510-658-7995.

(previously held at Berkeley Fellowship, 1027 University near San Pablo Ave, Berkeley).

FRIDAYS (ongoing)

4 p.m. second & fourth Fridays, Vigil for Democracy at Old City Hall in downtown Berkeley (socially distanced w/masks, and signs if you wish) – Berkeley Friends Meeting (BFM), Berkeley Friends Church, Strawberry Creek Meeting. The group begins with 30 minutes of silent worship. For more information, contact Genie Stowers, BFM, <gstowers835@gmail.com>

Strawberry Creek Sunday Worship (Zoom)

Strawberry Creek Friends Meeting meets for worship at 10pm Sunday mornings via Zoom. The "Virtual Meeting Room" opens earlier at 9:30 a.m. Our worship closes at 11 a.m., followed by holding in the light those in need, announcements, and online social time to informally share.

Berkeley Friends Meeting

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

Quaker Center Online Worship

Daily online meeting for worship from 7:30-8 a.m. <http://www.quakercenter.org/meeting-for-worship/>

Celebrate early Thanksgiving w/PPR

After Sunday social time on November 15, 2020, the Power, Privilege, and Race subcommittee welcomes all Friends/friends to our gathering of thanks for "That of God in Everyone."

That phrase is the core of Quaker belief. What does it mean? How do we recognize and celebrate the Divine we encounter in all others? Does our process sometimes take the joy out of our Spirit?

How might deeper awareness and radical acceptance of "That of God in Everyone" invigorate our worship and strengthen human connections within and beyond our Strawberry Creek community?

Please join us at 11:50 a.m. in the Zoom "room" after Meeting for worship and social time! In love and celebration, Susan Burr, clerk PPR.

Tis' the Season of Giving

The newsletter was asked to provide the following, to assist in our individual end of year contributions in the upcoming season of giving.

According to Finance Committee, the Meeting relies on an average contribution of \$600/person from those participating in our Meeting (it is understood that some are able to give more and others contribute less). One expense covered is the Pacific Yearly Meeting (PYM) assessment, for which our Meeting pays PYM \$122 for every Strawberry Creek Friends Meeting member.

In hopes that we may be inspired as individuals to contribute to these worthy causes, the Meeting makes a modest donation (\$150) to each of these non-profit organizations, by highlighting that these are organizations with whom our Meeting has a direct relationship. The individual named as the Meeting's connection may no longer be correct (please inform Finance Committee co-clerks Richard Leath or Lee Douglas if you find an error).

American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)
Laura Magnani, <http://afsc.org/>

AVP (Alternatives to Violence Project California)
Amy Dewey, <http://avpcalifornia.org/>

Ben Lomond Quaker Center
Barb Tittle, <http://www.quakercenter.org/>

Berkeley Food Pantry
Tom Yamaguchi, <http://berkeleyfoodpantry.vpweb.com/>

College Park Q.M. Student Scholarship
Tom Yamaguchi, <http://collegepark.quaker.org/>

Dorothy Day House
Susan Black, <https://www.dorothydayhouseberkeley.org>

Friends Assoc. for Service to Elderly (FASE)
Margaret Sorrel, <http://www.friendshouse.org/>

Friends Committee on Legislation of CA (FCL-CA)
Shelley Tanenbaum, <http://www.fclca.org/>

Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)
Stephen McNeil, <http://fcnl.org/>

Friends House Moscow
Carl Anderson, <http://friendshousemoscow.org/>

Friends Journal
Kathy Barnhart, <http://www.friendsjournal.org/>

Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC)
Paul McCold, <http://www.fwccworld.org/>

Pacific Yearly Meeting Fund for Concerns
Lari Keeler, <http://www.pacificyearlymeeting.org/>

Quaker Bolivia Link
Barbara Tittle, <https://qbl.org>

Quaker Earthcare Witness
Tanenbaum, Herbert, deNeergard, Langfelder,
<http://www.quakerearthcare.org>

Quaker Institute for Future (QIF)
Tanenbaum, Joy, Blanchard, Wolcott, <http://www.quakerinstitute.org/>

Sierra Friends Center
Cindy Trueblood, Joyce Samati, Thistle West, <http://woolman.org/>

Western Friend
Tom Yamaguchi, <http://westernfriend.org/>

Youth Spirit Artworks
Sally Hindman, <https://youthspiritartworks.org>

Quakers in Russia

At 8 a.m. (PST) Saturday, November 7, (9 p.m. Moscow Time). Friends House Moscow invites you to a Zoom lecture (in English) by Sergei Nikitin on his book *When Quakers Were Saving Russia* (the English working title is *Friends and Comrades*). The book was published in Moscow (June 2020), and it is hoped an English translation will soon be available.

The book's subject is the relief work done by British and American Quakers in Russia during the terrible years after World War I, after the Bolshevik revolution, during the Civil War and after it - until 1931.

This presentation is significant in that it's about the history of Quakers in Russia, and it's a rare opportunity to hear a Russian Quaker, speaking from Russia, in real time. Carl Anderson has registered for this presentation and others may be able to access. Contact Carl if you are interested.

Come as You Are Bible Study

One hour *Come As You Are* Bible Study is offered at 9 a.m. Mondays and Thursdays via Zoom.

On Mondays Mary Miche facilitates a series on "Women in the New Testament," hosted by Live Oaks Friends Meeting. On Thursdays Robert Levering selects a variety of Bible passages as led, and the sessions are hosted by Redwood Forest Friends Meeting. For more information and/or the Zoom links, contact Jay Cash <jonahcash@gmail.com>

Quaker Action Worship Group

At 11:45 a.m. the first Sunday of each month, Quaker Action Worship Group comes together on Zoom. QAWG's mission is "To discern how our Quaker practice and tradition can more strongly and fully inform our political activism. We ask the question: how can we, how should we, live as Quakers right now?"

At the October 4th QAWG meeting, the group's focus centered on making amends, repair and rebuilding (especially interpersonal relations), and "making right", especially by living the meaning we seek. QAWG discussed the challenge of acknowledging common ground, and keeping in mind the other's humanity and shared values, despite politicized language that highlight differences and points of conflict.

QAWG draws from Strawberry Creek Friends Meeting, Berkeley Friends Meeting, and Berkeley Friends Church. For more information, please contact Co-Convenors Betsy Morris or Asa Brown. QAWG next meets the first Sunday in November (Nov 1).

Minute to Stop Nuclear Weapons

Strawberry Creek Friends Meeting joined other Quakers around the world in supporting the Treaty on Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. At our October Meeting for Business (10/11/2020), our Meeting adopted the minute set out below.

The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) announced shortly thereafter that Tuvalu ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons today, becoming the 47th state party. Tuvalu is the ninth Pacific island state to ratify or accede to the treaty, following Palau, New Zealand, the Cook Islands, Samoa, Vanuatu, Kiribati, Fiji and Niue. (Go Pacific Islanders!) To track progress on this issue, visit the ICAN website <https://www.icanw.org/>

The complete text of the minute adopted is:

We seek to live our lives in reverence for all life on Earth, encompassing right-sharing of the world's resources amongst all people and all species. Friends are called to enter into right relationship with Earth and the community of life it supports.

— Strawberry Creek Earthcare Testimony 2010

Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting unites with Honolulu and San Francisco Friends Meetings in their support of the Treaty on Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Supported by a majority of the world's nations, the Treaty is a fitting international effort in response to the 75th anniversary of the US bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The process of signing and ratification is active. As of September 30, 2020, 84 nations have signed; 46 nations have ratified. The US currently has backed away from its former commitments to nuclear non-proliferation and reducing its nuclear arsenal.

Britain Yearly Meeting's Meeting for Sufferings stated in 1955 that "to rely on the possession of nuclear weapons as a deterrent is faithless, to use them is a sin." US continued development and testing of new nuclear weapons are endangering life on earth.

While support of long-term efforts such as US ratification of this Treaty are needed, we encourage Friends to do locally what we have been doing over time: witness and protest at the Lawrence Livermore Labs, Vandenberg Air Force Base, Nevada Test Site, Lockheed Martin's big plant in Sunnyvale, and with the Regents of the complicit University of California; financially support anti-nuclear organizations such as Livermore Conversion Project, Tri-Valley CARES, Western States Legal Foundation and Friends Committee on National Legislation among others.

While all cannot do everything, we can work and pray for peace and for a nuclear-free world.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Treaty_on_the_Prohibition_of_Nuclear_Weapons

Help Build a Tiny House

Youth Spirit Artworks (YSA) is putting together teams of move-in helpers (22 groups of 3-5 people) to assist Tiny House Village residents move into their homes. Teams are needed each day from 2:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on two weekends – November 28/29, and December 5/6.

YSA hopes that each congregation sending teams will (for the residents of each Tiny House its teams are assisting) 1) sign a personal card with well-wishes, 2) provide \$140 funding for a mattress, 3) collect items for a "welcome basket." This "basket" should be a shower caddy containing toiletries and other personal care items, such as soap and shampoo, conditioner, body lotion, a toothbrush and toothpaste, floss, flip flops, socks, and washcloths.

Additional items such as towels, sheets, a chair, a pillow, curtains, clothes hangers, a wastebasket, a dustpan, and a quilt can be picked up at the YSA gallery (located at 3324 Adeline St or via alternate entrance at 1740 Alcatraz Ave).

Teams bring all items collected (including Welcome Basket) to the Village, 633 Hegenberger Road, Oakland. Once a residents belongings have been moved into the Tiny House, teams may assist the new resident with decorating, including hanging the curtains.

YSA hopes Tiny House residents living in close proximity will develop a mutually connected and supportive community together.

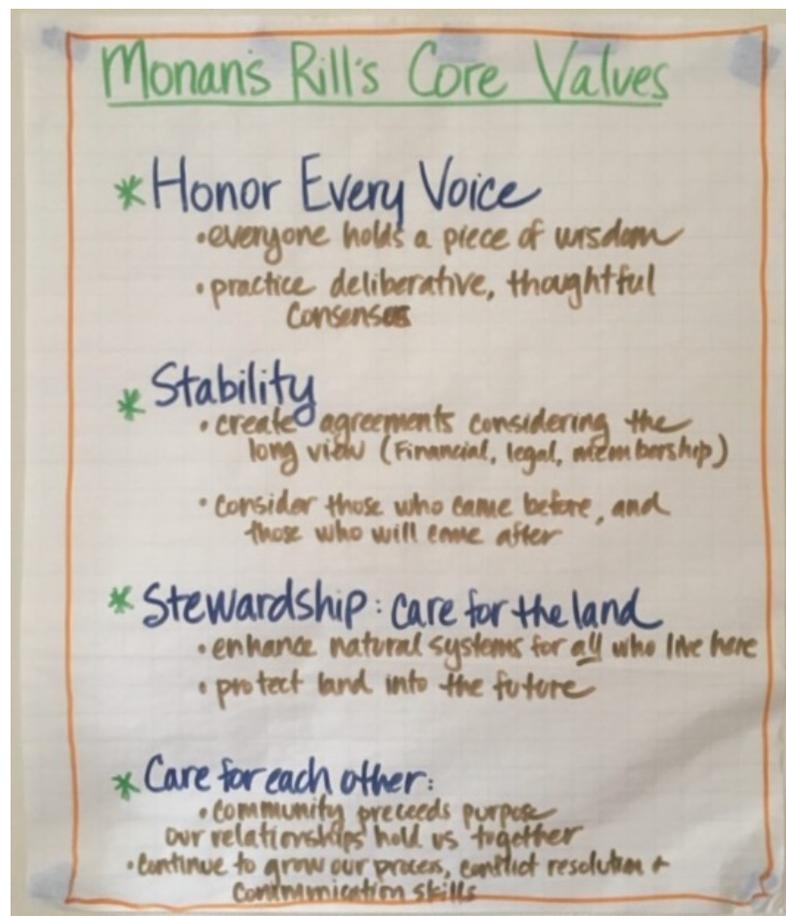
Does being part of the joyful process of helping someone move-into their brand new home sound like fun?!! If so, once you have put together a team that has sufficient backing from its congregation to fulfill the necessary commitments YSA has described above, then fill out this form, and contact Tiny House Village Project Coordinator Jilly <jilly@youthspiritartworks.org>.

Monan's Rill Devastated by Fire

Monan's Rill, an intentional community with fourth generation residents, was co-founded in the 1970's by Quakers from Berkeley Friends Meeting and others, on 400 beautiful rustic acres outside Santa Rosa. The parents of Strawberry Creek Friend Roberta Schutz were among its founders.

After the Glass Fire only one of twelve Monan's Rill homes was left standing (fortunately no lives were lost). The one house left standing was built by the late Russ and Mary Jorgensen, long ago of Berkeley Friends Meeting, both Freedom Riders, riding in the 1960's for desegregation in the South.

In addition to this one home, Monan's Rill's community building, shop with tools and equipment, and recently installed rainwater catchment system and solar array are still intact. The community has expressed its intent to rebuild. If you would like to contribute, go to <https://www.gofundme.com/f/SupportMonansRill>



Spotlight (someone in our community)

ELLEN LEVIN

*I will arise and go now, and go to Innisfree,
And a small cabin build there, of clay and wattles made;
Nine bean-rows will I have there, a hive for the honey-bee,
And live alone in the bee-loud glade.
And I shall have some peace there, for peace comes dropping slow...
I hear it in the deep heart's core.
— William Butler Yeats*

The above poem is a longtime favorite of Ellen Levin, who observed to me that many of her most important adventures have come from saying yes to interesting people, who invited her to join them doing things she might never have done on her own. She emphasized also what a blessing it is, especially after a challenging high risk adventure, to find respite somewhere nourishing and deeply safe. These two contrasting movements compose a delicate dance in her life.



She began attending Strawberry Creek Friends Meeting long ago, when it was housed at Shelton School (MLK and Adeline). Ellen reflects that when she first visited she was strongly encouraged to join the Loaves and Fishes Committee, which at that time only served coffee, tea, and cookies (folks felt lucky on those occasions when there were crackers and cheese!). The committee was very small and she remembers how kind Rich Tittle was. Ellen believes becoming part of the Loaves and Fishes Committee was a critical part of helping her feel she belonged at our Meeting.

Early years

Ellen was born in Baltimore, Maryland, where she grew up. She has one younger brother, who currently lives in Rockville, outside Washington D.C.

At an early age Ellen learned to understand (but not speak) Yiddish. Her paternal grandparents were traditional Orthodox Jews and lived on the floor below them in the same building in Baltimore. At Friday night Shabbat her grandmother lit the big candles – her seven children (and all their children, including Ellen) gathered round. However, her own parents belonged to Reformed Judaism and did not actively attend temple.

Seeking somewhere different, she chose a women's college in faraway Greensborough, North Carolina, where there were very few Jews. Her college roommate was a strong activist for justice on campus. For the first time Ellen met women who openly identified as lesbians. She admired their confidence and advocacy. Although surrounded by political activists, Ellen acknowledged that in general she was (and is) uncomfortable in situations involving conflict. On the

weekends she often relaxed at her roommate's nearby cotton mill hometown (Hildebrand, North Carolina). After enjoying meals made with vegetables from the family's garden, Ellen sat on the family porch listening to her roommate's father play guitar. She herself always felt welcomed and included there, but she can still recall derogatory comments about Jews popping up during casual conversation.

In selecting her undergraduate degree major, she chose English literature, since she loved the Romantic poets like Wordsworth and Lord Byron. The famous Yates scholar Randall Jarrell, who once held the position now known as U.S. Poet Laureate, was her professor.

Just before graduating, she met an artist who invited her to run away with him to New York City. Once there Ellen was happy to get work proof reading and spellchecking crossword puzzles published in Dell magazines – the first in a series of short term quirky jobs in New York. The two of them lived in a small \$40/month apartment on Lower Eastside, painted in colors of pink and green, in a lively Puerto Rican neighborhood.

Appalachian Trail

Soon they were joined by a third person (who slept for awhile in their kitchen). He suggested the three of them walk the Appalachian Trail from Bear Mountain (above NYC), all the way back to North Carolina (500-600 miles). Ellen had no hiking experience and bought new hiking boots for the trip. None of them had a tent; only backpacks and sleeping bags. When it rained, they got sopping wet, unless they were fortunate enough to have sheltered in one of the lean-to's situated every ten miles along the trail. In places the trail took her over rocks, across streams, and one time beside an active hornet's nest. She kept a close watch out for rattlesnakes, having accidentally sat down very near one.

After about a week on the trail, Ellen was ready to go home, but the two young men persuaded her to continue. She ended up walking the trail a total of six weeks, before she finally left the trail in Virginia to hitchhike the remainder of the distance back to North

Carolina. Re-united in Chapel Hill, the three of them rented an inexpensive rundown “shack” without electricity or running water. For awhile she worked as a model (always in a bathing suit!) for the art students at the University of North Carolina. As winter came on and snows began, it was freezing, especially in the early morning! Once she was trying to get the fire going in the coal burning stove, the stove combusted/exploded, singeing her hair!

When Ellen’s parents came from Baltimore to visit her and saw her bare living situation, her mother insisted Ellen come with her to California to visit friends. One of her mother’s friends was a professor in Berkeley, who invited Ellen to stay with her. Ellen made the decision to make California her home.

California Dreamin’

At first Ellen felt lost and somewhat disoriented in the Bay Area. She read Beatnik poetry, and books like Jack Kerouac’s *On the Road*, and she hung out at the Purple Onion coffee house in San Francisco. One day she was befriended by a “Jesus freak”. Confident he wasn’t trying to “pick her up” or rip her off, she found she enjoyed hearing about Jesus, someone she knew very little about. She accepted his invitation to come stay at his friend’s house in Mill Valley. She liked the area enough to soon find her own place, and lived in Mill Valley for about ten years, usually by taking care of young children.

A job in Marin that Ellen remembers most fondly was folding the Sunday newspaper from midnight Saturday to Sunday dawn at a Sausalito garage, from where she had a view of the beautiful moonlight playing across the water and the nearby houseboats. Looking back, it struck her as remarkable that although she was alone in the dark, she was not afraid and felt very safe. She also worked as a waitress in a restaurant near the Sausalito houseboats, and as a desk clerk at the fancy hotel Casa Madrone.

In her younger years Ellen sometimes dreamed of being a professional dancer, realistically she knew that wouldn’t happen. However, dancing remained close to her heart, and she sought to earn her master’s degree in dance therapy at Lone Mountain College in San Francisco. Ellen did well in most of her courses, but struggled with her Psychopathology course, as she found herself identifying with each of the pathologies the class studied. At that time, being gay was considered a pathology and an illness. Ellen notes this perspective was very disturbing to her, since at that time she was wrestling with her own sexual identity and orientation.

She took a break from her dance therapy studies and went to visit her parents back in Baltimore, Maryland (her mother’s health had taken a sharp turn for the worse). As she feared, the time spent back on the east coast with her parents and aunt was extremely stressful, and left her seriously depressed. When she again returned to San Francisco to finish her thesis at Lone

Mountain College, she was unsure of what subject to write about. She somewhat randomly selected autistic children as her field of study. Not knowing how to work with autistic kids or how to write a formal thesis paper, she felt overwhelmed and did not complete her masters.

“I see you in an Apple Orchard”

Feeling alienated and unrooted, she found a place at Westside Lodge (Hayes Valley) San Francisco. One of her roommates there was a Quaker and invited Ellen to the Quaker Meeting on Lake Street. Ellen immediately loved Quaker worship and community, where she felt accepted, safe, and cared about. Quaker quiet was particularly restorative.

After moving to another part of town, the difficult logistics prevented her continuing to attend the Quaker Meeting on Lake Street. However, Spirit continued at work in her life.

One especially wonderful encounter was in a coffeehouse, where folks put their name in a basket and a spiritual coach drew out her name, saying “I see you in an apple orchard.” The spiritual coach then suggested she go to the Harbin Hot Springs Healing Festival that weekend.

Ellen acted on this suggestion, but on her way there, she got on the “wrong” bus, where she began talking to a fellow passenger who was blind. Her new friend invited her to come to Sebastopol and stay with his friend, an activist and community caretaker. It turned out the friend lived in an apple orchard!

She stayed at the friend’s home for over a month, and experienced great security. This time was the start of a new chapter in her life. She still recalls with so much gratefulness the Thanksgiving she celebrated there.

During her time there, there was no pressure on her, e.g., she was free of academic requirements, petty house rules, and worry about food and shelter. Instead, she joyfully ate vegetarian meals prepared with love. It was a time of deep healing – she never forgot the family’s generosity. Finally, she felt prepared to return to San Francisco.

Children – A Life’s Work

Back in San Francisco, she settled into providing childcare, first at the Tenderloin Y, where the mothers were so appreciative - Ellen felt very needed and confident that she was doing good and valuable work.

Later, she began working in the Mission District, at a pre-school Head Start program and thereafter at Bue Dia Family program. Meanwhile she took childcare courses at San Francis State University, where she was only two classes short of earning her teaching certificate.

About 35 years ago Ellen moved from San Francisco to the East Bay to do pre-school child care, and has been here ever since. She worked in Berkeley Unified School

District for 22 years as a special education assistant; twelve years ago she retired but remains active.

Dancing with Words

Ellen has always loved the music of language, and appreciates the writing of others, as well as writing poetry herself.

The last eight years she has co/led a writing group for people at a residence for homeless people. Strawberry Creek Friends Meeting supported her in starting a garden at the homeless residence. The Dime-a-Gallon fund contributed to the garden's expenses; Meeting member Paul McCold and the Youth Spirit Artwork

(YSA) students of Meeting member Sally Hindman provided hands-on help.

In addition to co-leading a writing group for homeless individuals, she is also part of the Writing Group Fresh Ink and has had some of her poems published in anthologies.

Strawberry Creek Friends Meeting has influenced her writing in many important ways. When asked to elaborate, Ellen explained: The meeting has helped me believe in my quiet center and a few members have validated me and shown interest in me. I believe in the bluebird of happiness."

Nothing Special

I've become quiet
from sitting at Quaker Meeting
with others around me

not pushing at me, not telling me what to think
from singing a love song to myself
"Daisy, Daisy give me your answer true"

from watching the cat curl up like a snail shell
her quietness like the stillness
after the vacuum cleaner stops

she licks her paws, like that's all that really matters
her white socks like they just came
out of the washing machine bleached and all

the triangle of white on her throat
the purring that seems to come
from under that triangle

when she lays down beside me just me
in my black and white prison shirt
covering my constricted heart

it opens
and begins to purr too.

— Ellen Levin (2012)

Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting
Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business
October 11, 2020 Minutes*

* These are draft minutes, pending corrections/approval at October business meeting.

Business meeting opened at 11:50 a.m. with silent worship and was conducted via Zoom. Elizabeth Moses Strain clerked the meeting. 37 Friends were present. Joyce Samati and Josh Gallup presented responses to the advices and queries on Simplicity from the First Day Children's Program Committee. The Clerk reviewed the agenda, which was posted to the meeting's web group, groups.io.

The Recording Clerk read the minutes for the September 13, 2020 meeting for business. The minutes were approved with the following changes:

- The name of the Ministry and Worship Committee was corrected to Worship & Ministry
- The time of the Quaker vigil for democracy (4:00 on the second and fourth Friday of the month) was corrected
- It was noted that Zoom has made a change and now it possible for individuals to select their own breakout rooms, so the web coordinator just needs to know that you want a room.

Correspondence and Clerk's Business

The clerk noted that we received an acknowledgement for our \$150 contribution to Friends Committee on National Legislation. She also expressed appreciation for the Friends who served as presiding, alternate, and recording clerks during the September business meeting.

Old Business

Nominating Committee (James Hosley). Rachel Findley was approved to serve on Worship and Ministry.

First Day Children's Program committee (Joyce Samati). After the committee presented its proposed revision of its job description in September's business meeting, Friends recommended several changes, which were reflected in a revised job description.

- The term "the spices" was removed
- This sentence was added: "For us it's important to consider issues of diversity and racism and to be open to talking about these with children."
- "Each committee member *may* serve a two year term" was changed to "Each committee member *will* serve a two year term"
- The injunction to review the meeting's child safety policy annually was inserted.

The revised job description was approved. (It was circulated via groups.io after business meeting.)

Peace, Earthcare, and Social Witness (Carl Anderson). The Minute on the Treaty on Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons was approved with changes clarifying the process of signing and ratification. The final minute is being posted today to groups.io.

New Business

Peace, Earthcare, and Social Witness (with Stephen McNeil, Care of Meeting Buddy) A sub committee comprised of Stephen McNeil, Larry Strain, and Susan Black presented a proposal for the Strawberry Creek Meeting Community Sharing Fund, which was circulated via groups.io on October 9th. It was noted that the donors to the Contingency Fund (formerly the Site Contingency Fund) from which part of the seed money for the Community Sharing Fund will be drawn, specified that the funds be used to meet to respond to a specific leading from the Spirit. The following changes were recommended:

- Organizations that are led by people of color will be prioritized.

- The process for Friends to recommend East Bay organizations for grants is to submit their names to the convener of the Working Group/Ad Hoc Committee.
- The intention is that the fund will be replenished by both a line item in the meeting's budget, and individual contributions from Friends. The goal is to give away \$10,000 every year.

A Working Group/Ad Hoc committee made up of members of Peace Earth Care and Social Witness, Care of the Meeting, Power, Privilege and Race subcommittee of Worship and Ministry, Finance and Mutual Care committees will be formed by the Clerk to work out additional details and review East Bay organizations to which to donate. Their report will come back to Meeting for Business for review and action.

Nominating Committee (James Hosley) Carl Magruder's name was nominated as the meeting's representative to College Park Quarterly Meeting. While his name is seasoning, he will attend Fall Quarterly and present a report. The clerk asked that Care of the Meeting and Nominating Committee meet to discuss a way to avoid the potential difficulties that might arise when Friends are asked to begin service in a particular role before they are approved.

Communications Committee (Ragni Larsen-Orta). A new draft job description for the committee, including individual job descriptions for newsletter editor, librarian, and web coordinator, was circulated via groups.io on October 9th. The committee welcomes comments between now and the November business meeting.

Reports

Treasurer (Nancy Wilkinson) presented highlights from the financial reports, which were shared via groups.io on October 9th and 10th. We are \$3,700 behind in contributions for the year, which is not a concern given that the bulk of contributions come in December. Due to the lockdown, there are big savings in the rent and Loaves and Fishes and lines.

Announcements

- College Park Quarterly Meeting will be held via Zoom October 16th through 18th. Details on CPQM can be found at <http://collegeparkquarterlymeeting.org>.
- Power, Privilege and Race subcommittee will convene a second discussion on reparations after worship on October 18th. Stephen McNeil circulated links to reading materials for this via groups.io on October 4th
- Our next meeting for business will be November 8th at 11:50 a.m.

Meeting closed with silent worship at 1:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Moses-Strain, presiding clerk
Beth Wrightson, alternate clerk
Paul Jolly, recording clerk

STRAWBERRY CREEK MONTHLY MEETING

Box 5065, Berkeley, California 94705

Phone messages: 510/524-9186

<www.strawberrycreekfriends.org>

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

TO:

November 2020 ISSUE
TIME VALUE

FIRST CLASS MAIL