

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>

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: Dec 18** (for January 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

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)

Dec 4 Advices & Queries on Harmony with Creation, read aloud by Communications (worship hour)

1pm Care of Meeting: Re-envisioning/Brainstorming a post-pandemic Meeting. See details inside.

Dec 11 12:30 p.m. Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business

Dec 18 11:30 Twelveth Month Holiday Gathering. Onsite at Berkeley Technology Academy.

Dec 25 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.

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 Jiltoniro 510-658-7995.



If you are receiving this newsletter as printed copy mailed to you through the postal service *and you are not in the Strawberry Creek Meeting Directory*, please email editor@strawberrycreekfriends.org if you wish to begin receiving an electronic copy of this newsletter. **Starting in January 2023**, for at least the next six months, **the newsletter will no longer be printed and mailed to subscribers.** See inside for more details.

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>

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

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.

Friends House Moscow Craft Fair & Speaker

At 12:15pm on Sunday December 4th, at 1600 Sacramento, Berkeley Friends Church, there will be a Craft Fair & Guest Speaker Julie Harlow from Friends House Moscow (FHM), which is a Quaker Center in Russia, that provides a Quaker presence and nurtures seekers throughout Russia, Ukraine and Beyond. The FHM supports promotes peace, conflict resolution and justice, and helps orphans refugees, victims of domestic violence, disabled children, conscientious objectors, teachers of nonviolence, and Alternatives to Violence.

Sierra Friends Weekend Writers Retreat

From 5pm Friday December 2 until 1pm Sunday December 4, 2022: Writers of all experience levels and genres welcome! \$250 person includes program, lodging, and meals. Plan on campfires! Email coleenh@woolan.org for more information or visit Sierra Friends Center website.



NEWSLETTER'S NEW YEAR RESOLUTION

Following a four month survey and discernment process, Communications Committee reported to November Meeting for Business that (as a six month experiment) **starting in January 2023 the newsletter will be available only in digital format** <https://www.strawberrycreekfriends.org/newsletter>

Monthly email notices will continue to be sent to digital subscribers alerting them to the posting of the new newsletter, including a convenient link.

Getting Print Now?

- 1) Persons now receiving the newsletter in a printed format -- who are listed in Meeting's Directory -- will be **automatically included** in the newsletter notices via email.
- 2) Those not listed in Meeting's Directory should **provide their email address** to editor@strawberrycreekfriends.org in order to receive newsletter notices via email.

Digital only delivery of the newsletter will be re-assessed at the end of six months. During these six months, all are invited to give feedback.

Those unable to access the newsletter online or print their own copy (or have someone else do it) may contact editor@strawberrycreekfriends.org



Re-Envisioning/Brainstorming Our Meeting 1pm Sunday December 4

Care of Meeting Report (11/13/22) from Co-Clerk Kathy Barnhart

As co-clerk of Care of Meeting Committee, I'd like to say a few words about our Zoom meeting scheduled for December 4 at 1 pm.

For the past 5 or more years, after each Nominating cycle we have been informed that there aren't enough people to serve on the committees as they stand. We have responded in the past by merging or eliminating committees, or by hoping that next year will be better. This year at the Clerks Meeting in August, we heard from the clerk of Nominating that she felt we were "rearranging chairs on the Titanic." Care of Meeting would like to begin the process of looking together at this reality. We know that the pandemic, plus the aging of our Meeting members and attenders are partly responsible.

But it is also an opportunity for us to look at, what Paul Jolly said to Chris and me, is "at its heart, a spiritual question." I often look to the writing of Patricia Loring when I seek inspiration. She says it well: "...our participation manifests our love, by our willingness to serve one another in the tasks that keep the outward life of the meeting running." And also, "...many matters are routine and don't take us to spiritual depths. The spiritual commitment is precisely in the willingness to perform these unglamorous tasks, in humility and love, for the body of which we are part."

We expect the process of looking at the larger structure of our meeting, our workload, and how to adapt to our reality, to take some time. But there are also urgent questions to look at right away, since Nominating will be starting its current cycle very soon. We are so grateful to Nominating for the work they do.

In a recent conversation with Barbara Birch, a co-clerk of Nominating Committee, she asked for guidance from the Meeting for situations such as:

- Should a person, who is willing and able, clerk more than one committee? We had an example earlier this year.
- If a committee is not currently functioning, should Nominating try to fill it? For example, First Day School, Loaves and Fishes
- If a committee is not big enough to carry the workload, what should Nominating do? For example, Facilities committee now has very few active members
- If people set limits on who they will work with or how many people must be on a committee before they will clerk it, should Nominating accommodate them rather than place them where needed?

As for the longer run, here are other questions:

- Should we consolidate some committees, as has been done in the past? Are there some committees that should be prioritized, in order to keep our blended Meeting for Worship functioning?
- Should we keep committees as they are, and if fewer people staff them, reduce the work they do?
- How should we reach out to new members and attenders, in hopes of growing our Meeting?

Between now and the December 4 meeting, please consider how your own role can be modified to suit our current reality. Even those who only come to Meeting on Zoom could fill useful roles by phone and computer. We will listen to Spirit and to each other in discerning how Strawberry Creek can joyfully move forward.

Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting
Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business
November 13, 2022, draft minutes

For review and approval at December 11, 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. 25 Friends were present.

We heard Advices & Queries on Integrity and Personal Conduct.

The Clerk reviewed the agenda, which was posted by the Recording Clerk to groups.io on November 11th.

The Recording Clerk then read the October, 2022, minutes. The minutes were approved with the following corrections. The spelling of Mico Sorrel's name was fixed. The advices and queries for which we heard reflections were on Stewardship and Vocation.

Prompt

The clerk read the prompt: *"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 said that she has received thank you letters from Sierra Friends Center and the Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) for our annual donations. AVP announced that they are able to be back in the prisons to do their work. She also received a request from Carl Thiermann to lay down his membership, which she passed on to the Care of the Meeting Committee. She shared a fragment from Thomas Kelly's writings, an invitation to slow down and sink more deeply into the life of the Spirit. The Front Table is considering a blended Meeting for Business, beginning in the new year.

Old Business

Nominating Committee (Barbara Birch) brought back the nominations of Kathy Barnhart and Chris Hogness as co-clerks of Care of the Meeting Committee. The nominations were approved.

Care of the Meeting Committee (Kathy Barnhart) reports that they have heard no objections to the transfer of membership for Heather Levien from Berkeley Friends Meeting to Strawberry Creek. The Meeting approved the transfer. A committee, comprised of Elizabeth Strain, Ragni Larsen-Orta, and Elaine Emily, will meet with Heather to formally welcome her to our community.

Communications Committee (Sarah Hawthorne) has made two changes to the Zoom Coordinator job description, and the revised job description was circulated via groups.io November 8th. The job description was approved as circulated.

The Clerk shared that she has been discussing with various committee clerks which committee should house the Zoom Coordinator. That deliberation continues.

New Business

Laura Miller (Events Committee) advises that we are not yet ready for a Spring Retreat at Ben Lomond. That decision was affirmed by the meeting. Peter Trueblood, who is on Quaker Center's Finance Committee, will communicate the cancellation to them, and ask them to reserve the first weekend of May, 2024.

The Events Committee will plan a 12th Month gathering (December 18th) and a local event for the Meeting in May.

Naming Committee (Charlie Blanchard) brought the names of Barbara Birch and Susan Black (co-clerks, returning) for Nominating Committee. Continuing committee members Mary White and Josh Gallup will be joined by new member Philippa Barron. The Naming Committee will continue to seek a sixth committee member. The co-clerks' willingness to serve again was predicated on the committee's not having to call everyone in the directory.

There was discussion about how to recognize the value of all members and attenders, without disturbing people who would not welcome a call from the nominating committee. The Clerk will confer with the Care of the Meeting and Mutual Care Committees about how to ensure Friends don't slip through the net.

Power, Privilege, and Race Subcommittee (Susan Burr) shared its recommendation for SCMM usage of the antiracism accountability prompt and query, which were shared via groups.io November 13th. The recommendations, to continue using the prompt and query (removing "when relevant") in Meeting for Business and also in all committees, were approved.

Nancy Wilkinson (Treasurer) presented a year-to-date report, to set the stage for Finance Committee (Peter Trueblood & Lee Douglas)'s presentation of the first draft of the 2023 budget. The committee was advised to add funds for a spring retreat. Friends who have further comments on the draft 2023 budget (distributed via groups.io November 11), please contact Peter or Lee.

Reports

Care of the Meeting (Kathy Barnhart) has scheduled a session December 4th at 1:00 p.m. for discernment together. The topic will be how to modify our structure to match our capacity, diminished as it is by COVID and aging.

Communications Committee (Sarah Hawthorne) shared what they have heard from Strawberry Creek monthly newsletter readers. The Meeting has 200 digital subscribers and 50 print subscribers. Starting in January, the committee will do a six month experiment shifting to digital delivery to everyone. All who are in the directory will get the digital newsletter, which is also available via the website. Anyone who needs a paper copy is encouraged to contact Sarah.

Worship and Ministry (Judith Schumacher Jennings) reported on its deliberations.

Using B-Tech's heat, ventilation, and air filtration system. For Winter Adjustments: we will continue to require vaccinations, wear masks indoors, rely on BUSD HEPA Filters and turn on the heat. Today we began to keep windows ajar for fresh air intake.

Resuming social hour with coffee and refreshments. The Clerks of Loaves and Fishes would prefer not to be involved at this time. An ad hoc Committee would be required. If this is something you could help with please let Judith know.

Today we experimented with socializing without masks under the new canopy in the courtyard and continuing to wear masks in the rest of the courtyard. We do not want to further fragment the meeting. Please continue to send in your feedback.

The Tech Subcommittee (John McCarthy, James Hosley, Randy Matamoros, Paul McCold, Erik Wilson) made a Report to W&M for input. Due to a volunteer shortage, 1st, 3rd and 5th hybrid meetings will be prioritized and 2nd and 4th Meeting will be side by side meetings and not hybrid as needed.

A new laptop has been approved and purchased for use at the hybrid meeting.

The Tech Committee has been an ad hoc subcommittee of W&M for the last few years while it was in a transitional phase in setting up the hybrid meeting. W&M would like the Tech Committee now to find another home so W&M can refocus on the Spiritual Life of the Meeting. The Facilities Committee was considered, but that solution would unduly burden the Facilities clerk. The Tech Committee could possibly become a Committee in its own right. That would require a clerk.

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?”* Several Friends shared thoughtful responses.

Announcements

Next Meeting for Business December 11, 2022, at 12:30 p.m.

Power, Privilege, and Race Subcommittee will present a session on power November 20, 12:30 p.m. This will be the first of a series of three.

John McCarthy invited volunteers to take over the zoom coordinator function, to oversee facilities setup in January through March, and to serve as zoom host during Stephen McNeil’s celebration of life.

A celebration of life for Stephen McNeil will be held on Saturday, November 19th, at 1 p.m. at the Berkeley Friends Meetinghouse at 2151 Vine Street. Friends can also participate via Strawberry Creek’s zoom link.

The Meeting closed with worship at 2:50 p.m.

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



STRAWBERRY CREEK MONTHLY MEETING

Box 5065, Berkeley, California 94705

Phone messages: 510-524-9186

<www.strawberrycreekfriends.org>

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

TO:

DECEMBER 2022 ISSUE