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Website <http://www.strawberrycreekfriends.org> (with Zoom link for Worship Hour)

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

Calendar <https://www.strawberrycreekfriends.org/calendar>

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

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

Distribution Sunday is the last Sunday of each month (newsletter posted online & subscribers are emailed)

Newsletter Deadline is the Sunday a week prior to Distribution Sunday. **Deadline: Jan 22** (for February issue)

### SUNDAYS (ongoing)

**10 a.m. Meeting for Worship** is 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)*

Jan 1 **Worship is on Zoom Only**. Advices & Queries on Spiritual Life, read aloud by Care of Meeting

Jan 8 12:30 p.m. Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business

Jan 15 1 p.m. Doctrine of Christian Discovery, w/PPR and Peace, Earthcare, & Social Witness. Details inside.

Jan 22 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.

Jan 29 1 p.m. Listening Meeting on our worship experience since re-opening, with Worship & Ministry

### 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 Jiltonilro 510-658-7995.



**Discover how Quakers celebrate New Year! See inside...**

## Strawberry Creek Sunday Worship

**January 1 (New Year's Day) we meet on Zoom only (no meeting at B-Tech).** Otherwise, 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](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.

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## Against the Grain: Talking to White People about Racism in a Time of Polarization

Monday Jan 9 at 4:30 – 6pm (Pacific Time), Pendle Hill is offering a free online (Zoom) First Monday Lecture with Drick Boyd. For more information, [click here](#) or call 610-566-4507, ext. 137.

Registration required. [Register Online](#)

Despite the growing polarities, Drick proposes a particular dialogical approach to talking with white people in their personal, familial, and professional networks about issues of race and racism. He is an activist involved with POWER Interfaith, New Conversations on Race and Ethnicity (NewCORE), and the Restorative City Initiative. For 22 years, Drick Boyd was faculty, Eastern University, PA.



UNITED TO END  
RACISM

LEARN. SHARE. ACT.

*Sunday Jan 15 - Coming to Terms with the  
Doctrine of Christian Discovery*

On January 15 at 1pm, our Peace, Earthcare, Social Witness Committee (PEAS) and Power Privilege and Race Subcommittee (PPR) will show the film *The Doctrine of Discovery: Unmasking the Domination Code* by Steven T. Newcombe (Shawnee, Lenape). This is part of an initiative of the Indigenous Affairs Subcommittee of PacYM. The 60-minute film will be followed by discussion.

What makes this Doctrine, expressed in Papal Edicts from the 17th Century so important? It was the justification for the seizure of lands of Indigenous Peoples in North America—and throughout the world—on the basis that they were not Christian, and therefore had no rights, and could be displaced, enslaved, even killed. And this Doctrine is a foundation of U.S. law. All rights to land ownership are derived from it, continuing up to the present day. This film shows in detail the history of this fundamental legal-religious Doctrine and its meaning today. How should we respond?

Please join us for this event. This event will be on Zoom Only. Link for the meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82663325227?pwd=ZWdSQTRLUW1mZHR4UUJOcmo2Z0tIZz09>

Closed Caption will be available for this event.

Please contact Tom Rothschild if you have any questions <tomr@tnrmediate.com> We expect to post a follow up message on the Listserv in January with some further information, and look forward to seeing many Strawberries at this event.

## Dismantling Racism and Militarism Mon Jan 9

At 7:30pm on the second Monday in January (Jan 9), Berkeley Friends Meeting is hosting the last session of *Dismantling Militarism and Racism*” See [www.berkeleyfriendsmeeting.org/news](http://www.berkeleyfriendsmeeting.org/news)

**CELEBRATE NEW YEAR with QUAKERS**

*sipping hot cocoa in your favorite chair, at home, in your house robe (if you like)  
if it isn't New Year for you without snow...*

**Time Travel to PENDLE HILL via Zoom**



**New Year's: Music of Vision and Inspiration**

Dec 28, 2022 - Jan 1, 2023

An in-person retreat with Maestro Karl Middleman  
Amidst these times of strife, where can we gain  
inspiration? Where is peace and tranquility to be  
found? "Music of... [Learn More](#)



**Candlelight Meeting for Worship with Care for the New Year** Dec 31, 2022

Join Pendle Hill staff and community members  
online for our traditional candlelight meeting for  
worship with care for welcoming in... [Learn More](#)

**New Year's Eve Livestreamed Concert**

Dec 31, 2022

An online year's-end musical celebration! New  
Year's Eve promises a rare treat: the duo-piano  
team of Hugh Sung and Madalina Danila  
performing a musical world... [Learn More](#)



**New Year's: Open Heart, Peaceful Mind**

Dec 28, 2022 - Jan 1, 2023

A Retreat for Rest and Reflection w/Valerie Brown.  
For over 15 years, hundreds of people have  
welcomed New Year at Pendle Hill with the gift  
of... [Learn More](#)



## The POWER of EMPATHY

Strawberry Creek Friend Mary Bayard White is a Bay Area sculptor/arts educator, who works in the collaboration of environmental and social justice, human interface with the natural world, community arts and place making. Mary started her career as a high school art/graphics teacher in Oakland, CA, and later taught for nineteen years in the San Jose State University Spatial Arts program, leading the SJSU glass program.

In 2021 Mary became a Co-Director of **WEAD (Women Eco-Artists Dialog)**. WEAD does not subscribe to a single definition for ecofeminism or ecoart, nor one set of cultural, political, or social beliefs. Instead, WEAD celebrates a spectrum of differences under the colorful collective umbrella called ecofeminist art. Here women speak in their own voices, define their own work and map its place in the world. Together they work toward a just, sane, healthy world for all.

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### Party for the Planet on Jan 6

Citizens' Climate Lobby of Alameda County is having a fundraising concert 8pm Friday, January 6, at the Back Room in Berkeley. Party for the Planet will feature the Vultures, who describe themselves as "Berkeley's finest purveyors of hokum, old timey jazz, blues and bawdy tunes since 2004." Tickets can be purchased [tinyurl.com/vulturestix](http://tinyurl.com/vulturestix) The Back Room is located at 1984 Bonita Avenue, near the University. Citizens' Climate Lobby is a non-partisan, climate change organization that exists to create the political will for a livable world by enabling individual breakthroughs in the exercise of personal and political power. See website <https://citizensclimatelobby.org> or contact Tom Yamaguchi <tomyamaguchi@mac.com>

### In Memory of Stephen McNeil...

Elizabeth Strain shares if you feel moved to make a contribution in Stephen McNeil's memory, you may be interested to know Stephen specifically designated three organizations in his Will (click on name to go to websites):

- [Friends Committee on National Legislation](#)
- [Pendle Hill](#)
- [Volunteers in Asia](#)

Currently (**through Feb 15, 2023**), WEAD features a [free online exhibit "The Power of Empathy"](#), with an amazing program that allows the viewer to simulate walking through a museum to view the art. This exhibition explores compassion for all living beings; human and more-than-human, individuals, and communities of living organisms.

### Queries to answer with COLOR and IMAGES!

- What might an empathetic world look like?
- How can we inspire recognition and kindness, transcending the fear of "Others."
- How do we summon compassion in times of great difficulty?
- How can we resist apathy, and help others to resist?
- How do we cultivate empathy?



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### The Mystical Experience: Science, Sharing, and Vision, with Don McCormick (in person).

**Friday – Sunday Jan 27-29 Quaker Center**

This highly interactive program explores Quaker mysticism, psychology, neuroscience and the philosophy of religion. Participants will be encouraged to share their own experiences and questions. The program will end with participants crafting a vision of the future of mystical experience in Quakerism. [Click here](#) for info on Quaker Center Spring 2023 programs.

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

*For review and approval at January 8, 2023, 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. 26 Friends were present.

The Communications Committee shared their reflections on the Advices and Queries on Harmony with Creation. Several Friends spoke their thoughts about the urgency of climate change, the possibilities of human survival and human extinction, and the ways societal change evolves.

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

The Recording Clerk then read the November, 2022, minutes. The minutes were approved with the following correction. Under New Business, the Power, Privilege, and Race Subcommittee item was augmented with the following sentence: "Committee clerks are asked to contact PPR with feedback by early May 2023 about their committees' experience with trying the prompt and query."

**Prompt**

The clerk read Strawberry Creek's minute on Engagement to Uproot and Dismantle Racism.

**Correspondence and Clerk's Business**

The clerk shared a message from Pacific Yearly Meeting.

The meetings of Representative Committee (RepCom) are coming up on Saturday, February 25, and Saturday, March 4, 2023, to be held on Zoom. Meeting representatives to Pacific Yearly Meeting and PacYM Officers and Committee Clerks should plan to attend. All Friends with interest in the business of the Yearly Meeting are welcome to attend. A meeting to introduce Friends who are new to RepCom will be held on Friday, February 24, at 7pm on Zoom.

The Yearly Meeting's Communications Committee would like to hear from you about the new directory for Pacific Yearly Meeting, available on the PacYM website [here](#). If you don't have the password, please ask Peter Lin. If you would like to be added to the directory, or edit your entry, the forms are on [this page](#) too. Please send feedback about the Directory to [communicationsclerk@pacificyearlymeeting.org](mailto:communicationsclerk@pacificyearlymeeting.org).

A group of Friends across the United States has initiated a project growing out of their concern for threats to our democracy. At the core of this project is the "Quaker Call to Action", a document that individuals and organizations are invited to read and, if they feel so led, to sign. The document can be found on the Peace & Social Order page on the PacYM website and also [here](#). The Pacific Yearly Meeting's Peace and Social Order Committee encourages Monthly Meetings to take the following actions:

- Take this document up at a Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business and consider endorsing it as a Meeting.
- Circulate the document among members and attenders for the benefit of any who might like to endorse it as individuals. Endorsements can be submitted here: <https://quakercall.net/endorse-the-call>

The clerk handed this last request to Peace, Earthcare and Social Witness Committee.

Clerk's correspondence also included a postcard from Friends House Moscow, detailing that organization's support for children affected by the war in Ukraine, support for Russian Conscientious Objectors, and Alternatives to Violence training in Ukraine. Friends House Moscow also hosts a daily meeting for worship at 9:00 a.m Pacific Time at <http://tinyurl.com/fhm-zoom-for-peace>

## **Old Business**

Finance committee (Peter Trueblood) presented the final 2023 budget. It was approved, with three changes from what was originally proposed in November.

1. The library line item reflects the cost of providing Western Friend to members of our meeting. We had estimated it at \$1,100 in the first budget submission. A closer look revealed the cost will be \$1,258, which is reflected in the final budget.
2. \$500 was added under facilities for technology upgrades.
3. Proposed \$500 cancellation fee for Ben Lomond was removed. While Ben Lomond conveyed that the cancellation fee was not necessary, the organization welcomes year-end contributions. \$500 remains in the budget for a one day retreat in Berkeley in May.

Naming Committee (Charlie Blanchard) No concerns were raised since November Meeting for Business, so the nominating committee slate was approved. Barbara Birch and Susan Black will continue as co-clerks, Mary White and Josh Gallup as continuing members, and Philippa Barron and Francie Nurkse as new members. The recommendation was approved.

Care of meeting (Susan Burr) reported on Carl Theirmann's request to lay down his membership. He has transitioned away from attending and is clear that it is time to lay down his membership. He derives nurture from hiking in nature and spending time with his wife Marla. They would both welcome continuing contact. We paused to hold them, and Marla's mother, in the Light. The recommendation was approved with fondness and reluctance.

Mico Sorrel's request for transfer to Whidbey Island Friends Meeting was approved, after a pause to sink into worship and affection for Mico.

## **New Business**

Erik Wilson (Facilities committee) introduced a new job description which includes zoom coordinator, audio visual, and on-site prep and break-down. The proposal will be circulated via groups.io.

Sarah Hawthorne brought forward the names of Deborah Marks and Paul Jolly as zoom coordinators. This new position will be filled through the regular cycle of Nominating Committee work going forward.

## **Reports**

Worship and Ministry (Judith Schumacher Jennings) reported that worship on Christmas and New Years' day will be on Zoom only.

On December 29 there will be a listening meeting via zoom at 1:00. It will provide an opportunity for Friends to share their responses to the current worship / technology interface.

Due to limited Facilities volunteer availability, in January the worship schedule will be:

1st Sunday (1/1)	Zoom only
2nd Sunday (1/8)	Parallel (non blended) zoom and in-person worship
3rd Sunday (1/15)	Blended worship
4th Sunday (1/22)	Parallel worship
5th Sunday (1/29)	Blended worship

One friend asked for ongoing listening sessions regarding our experience with our blended worship.

Care of Meeting (Kathy Barnhart) shared the committee's decision that after-worship refreshments will pause, due to the current Covid surge. The committee met to consider alternatives that were proposed at the December 4 listening session: smaller committees, merged committees, reuniting with Berkeley Friends Meeting, establishing a worship group in Oakland.

### **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 January 8, 2023, at 12:30 p.m.

First Day Children's Program on December 18 will provide childcare 9:45 - 11:10. The meeting's Covid protocol will be followed. Vaccination requirements are to be determined.

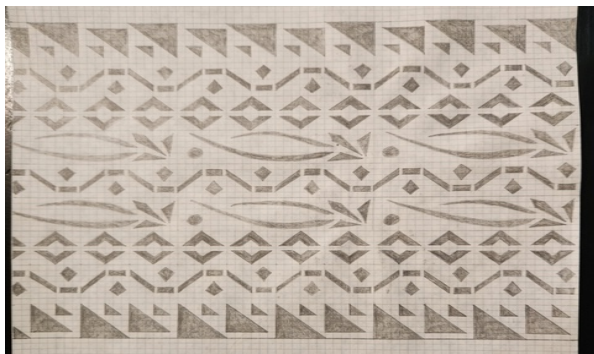
Also on December 18th, the 12th Month gathering will happen after worship. No refreshments will be served. If you attend, please bring two gifts: one for a gift exchange among those present, and another gift for delivery to a Friend who is not able to attend. If you have questions or would like to be on the gift delivery list, please contact Phillipa Barron.

Sunday February 19th: State of the Meeting discussion.

The Meeting closed with worship at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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



### **What's Amy doing now?**

As Amy steps down as Zoom Coordinator (thanks Deborah and Paul for stepping up!), she's had time to express her creative side. This artwork is pencil on graph paper, done with four different stamps repeated. Amy read about the Hawaiian tradition which uses triangles, squares, etc. (you'll recall Amy's has taken hulu dance lessons for years). Don't forget to wish her a Happy Birthday Jan 25!



*Reflections on Advices and Queries  
from Communications Committee*

### **Harmony with Creation**

As we spoke out of silent worship to reflect on these Advices and Queries, a Friend commented how remarkably wise William Penn's words from 1693 still are today -- it is challenging to go beyond them.

Conversely, another Friend noted how inadequate those words are with what we are now up against. Existential questions for humanity. We are at a crisis point. Nations seem unwilling to do what's necessary to avoid complete calamity. The people who will be most impacted are the poorest people.

Our way of life threatens the viability of life on Earth, particularly human life. We shouldn't just "be careful" as individuals. We need to recognize our responsibility, our contributions to the problems, and the need for collective action. We give lots of lip service, but we're not doing the work. We need to act more radically.

One Friend felt these Advices and Queries are overwhelming when she considers the many ways as a consumer she disproportionately uses earth's resources and fails to find alternatives that would meet her needs but require extra work on her part. It is heartbreaking to her how often avoiding inconvenience is her real reason for not choosing the earth-friendly option. It is so important not to get stuck in feeling guilty, but instead to stay committed to progress - one foot in front of the other making tiny improvements every day rather than giving up!

Yet another Friend said "I'm humbled by this world, by the beauty all around. I love autumn and changing seasons, the fall colors. Life is amazing. I look for words to translate this understanding into ways of living that reflect our responsibility to one another, to the greater community of life, and to future generations." We have responsibility all the way up the line. Too often I am not doing enough.

I wish I could do more. I eat organically, recycle... I could use less. I could be more boisterous, confrontational about what we as a whole should be doing. This really says that we are responsible. I don't know what more we can do.

One Friend said "I am excited about the things I am able to do – supporting stores that encourage patrons to bring their own packaging, recycling the packaging that I do get. The big things have to be done by our institutions; these little acts aren't enough to create the change that needs to happen." "I have my floor covered with voting information and I look forward to voting tomorrow. We can make change. That said, I am very much aware that, according to a report I read a few years ago, we will be climate refugees by 2050, the year I turn 70. I think this planet will breathe a sigh of relief when we're gone, and I hope we take as few other species with us as we go."

Another Friend echoed that sentiment "it's essential we make choices with deep integrity. Sometimes we can get lots of people to act for a short period of time, but saving humanity is unlikely. We've had a good run, used resources, and done a number of wonderful things. But the time may be right to let other forms of life evolve and leave with a blessing on our lips. Life will go on, even if Humans do not"

On the other hand, one of us pointed out how Covid showed us it's possible to slow things down when survival is at stake. Sometimes people acting in unison can overcome larger forces. For example, what if we all buy no more plastic and stop driving. What action can we all take together? Several of us agreed with Larry Strain's statement that we know what we have to do to meet the goals set by the Paris Agreement and it is completely within our knowledge and ability. We just have to do it.

Finally, one Friend returned to an earlier theme. "Too many of us have been seduced by the idea that we can do all these individual actions to really address the amount of CO2 in the atmosphere. We can't; it takes political action. It's not enough to hope for the best. Our way of life threatens the viability of life on Earth, particularly human life. What is called for is collective political action."