

Friendly Notes November 2012

Monthly newsletter of the Santa Monica Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
(Quakers)

**1440 Harvard Street
Santa Monica, CA 90404-3105**

**Tel: (310) 828-4069
www.santamonicafriends.org**

ADVICES AND QUERIES Getting Older

New opportunities present themselves at every stage of life. Approach the aging process with courage and hope. Honor that which you have been, welcoming new possibilities for wisdom, objectivity, and greater knowledge of the Spirit. Realize that as time passes, new ways of receiving and reflecting God's love will open.

Intermountain Yearly Meeting

We need to learn to let parts of us die in order to move into new experiences and stages in such a way that life can be a series of rebirths, for the freshness of life is maintained through renewal.

CYM 1971

Make provisions for the settlement of all outward affairs while in health, so that others may not be burdened and so that one may be freed to live more fully in the Truth that shall stand against all the entanglements, distractions and confusions of our times.

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

Dwell not, my friend, too much upon the gloomy side of life, but look to that light which dispels the clouds, causing the storm to recede, and the sunshine of love and truth to penetrate the heart and resurrect it to a higher state.

Sunderland P. Gardner, 1882

Do we seek to understand the needs of those who are sick or aging and to comfort them?

Do we, in loving concern, extend assistance to those who require it?

Is our meeting space safe, comfortable, accessible and with modifications for people hard of hearing or with low vision?

Have I prepared for my own aging and for the aging of those I love with the same care as for other events in my life? Are my personal papers and finances up to date and in good order?

Intermountain Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice

**Draft Notes for the Meeting for Worship on
the Occasion of Business***
**Santa Monica Monthly Meeting of the
Religious Society of Friends**
1 - 13 - 2013

Attending: Anita Hemphill, Stanford Searl, Carol Tantau, Maggie Hutchinson, Joann Taylor, Fred Buell, Curtis Raynor, Tanna Moontaro, Henry Yang, David Wolff, Shayne Lightner, Sara Rose House-Lightner, Lorei Mekhjian, Sheldon Blank, Diane Manning, Richard Shaw, Simon Simonian, Tim Vreeland, Kathy Forsman, Rachel Fretz, Richard Chamberlain, Rebecca Searle, Kate Watkins Shaw.

Copies of the Meeting agenda, a card about Business Meeting, Alice Herman Committee report, Finance Committee report (2012 Projected Actuals vs. 2012 Budget), and a report of House Expenses 2010-2012 were distributed.

Meeting for Worship on the occasion of Business opened with a period of silent worship.

Minutes from business meeting of December 9, 2012 were approved as read.

Nominating Committee, Cindy Waite reporting.

Cindy reported that the co-clerks of Fellowship Committee are Cindy and Elisa Harkness. Rick Shaw is nominated for membership on Finance Committee. Diane Manning will serve for a few months on Finance Committee, but is not being formally nominated at this time to serve on finance committee because of her health. If Diane's health permits her name will be brought

forward at a later date. Nominating committee is grateful to both Rick and Diane for stepping forward to serve.

Finance Committee, Richard Chamberlain reporting.

Richard reviewed the report of 2012 Projected Actuals vs. 2012 Budget, highlighting specific areas of interest or concern. House Committee overspent its \$18,525 budget by \$6,723. The over-expenditure was due to repair of structural problems such as the rotted wood in the rear staircase. There was extensive discussion about the appropriate accounting for such expenditures as 'Repair and Maintenance' in the general fund, or 'Capital' expense payable from the Capital Reserve Account. The discussion explored both definition issues and process issues about how decisions are made. Clerk asked Finance Committee and House Committee to meet, together with Shayne Lightner, to determine the definition of a repair which would be considered a "major expense" and should properly come from capital reserve. They will report back to Business Meeting.

Minute 13-01-01 – The Capital Reserve Fund is for anticipated and unanticipated major repairs, replacements and improvements. When a major, non-emergency expense is anticipated, it should come to Business Meeting for prior approval. When a major expense occurs and was not anticipated, House Committee is authorized to proceed with the repair and will report the expense to Finance Committee and Business Meeting

after the fact, at which point Finance Committee and Business Meeting will decide how to account for the expense.

Continuing with the Finance Committee report, Richard Chamberlain reported that Children's Education Committee, Fellowship Committee and Pastoral Care spent less than their budgets. Finance Committee overspent its budget due to the hiring of a bookkeeper. Meeting 'Dues and Contributions' included a \$1,000 one-time contribution to AVP California. There was some discussion and disagreement about the structure of the AVP Income and Expense budget and the intent for each area. It was felt that many of these questions will be resolved now that Finance Committee is making regular reports. Richard Chamberlain reviewed the 2013 1st Budget Proposal. He discussed the highlights and concerns. There is a mismatch between last year and this year for the AVP budget. Last year AVP spent \$7172, which included money that was earned from workshops they ran. In 2013 AVP does not plan to run nearly as many workshops, but have only asked for \$4,000. The transfer to Capital Reserve remains at \$5,000; Finance Committee and House Committee will review the adequacy of this amount, as there is currently only about \$19,000 in the capital reserve account. House Committee is the largest part of the budget; this amount still needs to be sorted out between repair and capital.

The suggestion was made that Meeting investigate seeking further additions to the Alice Herman Funds in members' estates. This suggestion was referred to Finance Committee for further discernment.

Meeting took a moment of silence to thank Richard and Finance Committee for all of their work.

Pastoral Care Committee budget is proposed to be lower. There was discussion about the adequacy of this amount.

A major concern is the level of contributions needed to financially sustain the meeting. Currently finance committee estimates an annual contribution per member of \$700-750. The proposed budget is almost \$4,000 more than the 2012 budget, and yet contributions in 2012 were \$5,257 short of the amount budgeted. We took a moment of silence to consider this issue. There was support for the desirability of Pastoral Care having a budget to offer scholarships to Quaker events. It was suggested that we review all Meeting's sources of income, including rent. It was proposed that Finance Committee meet with House Committee to review rent and whether we could get an increase in income from rent. It was suggested that Meeting review the level of contributions to other Quaker organizations. There was expression of discomfort to approve a budget that is so different from last year's. There was a sense that Meeting cannot get \$11,000 more in contributions, and if we cannot do this, then we need to reduce expenses. Finance committee will continue to work on the budget and to discern what the 'suggested' annual contribution amount should be.

Richard distributed a breakdown of the House Committee budget. The estimate is

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that the repair expense will be less in 2013 than in 2012.

It was clarified that the \$1,000 contribution to AVP CA in 2012 was a one-time contribution and should be taken out of the 2013 budget.

Dues and Contributions 1st Proposal. The items that are non-negotiable are PYM and SCQM dues. The question was raised about whether or not to make the 2012 contributions that have not yet been made. We will hold the Ecumenical Council, ICUJP and Interreligious Council contributions for further clarification, and will make the other budgeted contributions. Finance Committee was asked to review the status of a regular contribution to Quaker Bolivia Link.

Pastoral Care, Carol Tantau reporting.

Carol stated that the committee plans to meet on the first Sunday of the month.

Minute 13-01-02 – Meeting approves the request of Ann Tickner to transfer her membership from Santa Monica Meeting to Bethesda Friends Meeting in Maryland.

Pastoral Care is continuing to work on the formation of Clearness Committees. They will return to the question about the official membership list.

Worship and Ministry – Stan Searle stated that there is nothing to report.

Alice Herman Committee, Tim Vreeland reporting.

Tim presented the written report from the AHC, which includes the proposed 2013

budget and 2012 budget and expenses for the AHC. Less was spent for Emergency grants and Sojourning Fellowships than was budgeted.

A Friend noted that in 2012 the AHC proposed that the AHC budget should reflect the needs of Meeting rather than the level of income generated by the investment funds. There was some discussion as to whether this was accurate. Rick will forward the documentation for this decision to the clerks of the AHC and the Meeting.

Minute 13-01-03. Meeting approves two items in the proposed AHC budget: \$4,000 for Emergency Grants and \$5,000 for Sojourning Fellowships.

Meeting asked the AHC to report to Business Meeting about the status of the Alice Herman Fund investments as background to the budget request for \$3,000 for ‘other purposes’.

Shayne Lightner was brought forward as the approved signer on the three mutual funds so that the AHC can withdraw funds to meet expenses. Approval was held over until next month. AHC will also find out whether the signer must be an officer of Meeting.

New Business

PYM Youth Program Evaluation. Sara Rose House-Lightner noted that rich feedback came from the discussion at the Business Meeting in December. She suggested that a post be sent to the list

serve seeking further feedback so that the February 1 deadline can be met.

House Committee, Curtis Raynor reporting.

Curtis reported that there is substantial wood damage in the carport. The new sign has been installed in front of the Meetinghouse. Curtis highlighted the sentence "We gather here in silence to wait upon God." House Committee has heard that some people feel that this statement is very off-putting. House Committee requested further discussion about the need to have the smaller bottom sign that contains this statement.

There were a few moments of silence to consider the question from House Committee and to close the Meeting for Business.

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Tillberg, Acting Recording Clerk
Kate Watkins Shaw, Clerk

* Please note that these are draft notes, consult the next month's meeting on the occasion of business for corrections or omissions made when the notes are approved.

Alice Herman Committee January 2013

2013 Proposed Budget

\$4000 for Emergency Grants
(to be distributed by Pastoral Care)
\$5000 for Sojourning Fellowships
(to be distributed by AHC)
\$3000 for other purposes
(to be proposed by AHC and approved by
Business Meeting)

2012 Budget and Expenses

\$1730 for Emergency grants (\$4000 budgeted)
\$160 to Elissa Harkness for Sojourning
Fellowship
\$5000 for Clerking retreat (\$5000 budgeted)
\$1000 Cristine Reynaart for CASA fundraiser
(\$1000 budgeted)
\$15,2099.98 to Shayne Lightner for Alice
Herman Memorial Project. This was a one-
time grant that was approved by Business
Meeting.

Contributions To The Meeting

While the Meeting values everyone's contributions of time and energy, it also depends on financial contributions to support its many activities. Please give what you can. *Using this form, you can mail checks to:*

Santa Monica Friends Meeting
1440 Harvard St.
Santa Monica, CA 90404

Name: _____

Address: _____

Amount: _____

Please be sure your name and street address is on your check, and mark it as "Donation". You may also drop checks in the contributions box in the library area. If you wish to contribute by automatic deposit, please contact the Finance Committee.

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ALICE HERMAN COMMITTEE SOJOURNING FELLOWSHIPS

The Alice Herman Committee (AHC) welcomes written proposals from members and attenders of Santa Monica Meeting for a Sojourning Fellowship. Grants are made for sustained visits of a week or more in situations away from Santa Monica where recipients are led to deepen or refresh their Quaker commitment, and share it with others through their deeds, words, and lives.

Submit your applications well in advance of your sojourn; Quaker process takes time. Our budget is determined early in the calendar year. Though applications are considered at any time, worthy projects submitted toward the end of the year may not be approved due to a dwindling budget.

Please keep in mind the following guidelines to determine whether a proposal might be appropriate for AHC funding. All guidelines may not apply to every proposal.

Is your leading:

- * Consistent with Quaker principles and practices?
- * Spiritual or spirit-led?

Does your leading:

- * Involve the Meeting as a whole?
- * Tend toward social action?
- * Support and enhance the Meeting (e.g., presentations to the Meeting on the activities supported)?

Please include the following in your proposal:

- * Amount of time to be spent away from Santa Monica
- * Detailed description of activities during your sojourn (not a day-by-day account, but specific nonetheless)

* The type of report or presentation you will present to Santa Monica Meeting when you return

* A complete budget for your proposed project along with an amount you are requesting from AHC. You are generally asked to assume part of the expense for any sojourn.

Please email proposals to AHC Clerk, Gretchen Woelfle, at GWoelfle@aol.com.

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WEEKLY EVENTS AND MEETINGS

EACH WEEK

* **Meeting for Worship** is held every Sunday at 10 am, followed by announcements and Fellowship.

* **Contemplative Bible Group** meets at 8:45 am at the meetinghouse. For more information, call Elizabeth Cocca at (310) 573-6233, before 7 pm.

* **Exploring Quakerism** 15 week course, at the meetinghouse from 9 to 9:50 am. For more information call Don McCormick at (310) 470-2492.

FIRST WEEK OF THE MONTH

* A **Meeting for Healing** is held every **first and third Wednesday**, 7-8 pm, with prayers for healing, worship, and gratitude. Prayer requests may be emailed to Darlene Lancer at dlancer@verizon.net. Meetings are held at Darlene's home, at 450 San Vicente Blvd., buzz #305 to enter gate.

* **Pastoral Care Committee** meets at 7:30 pm. Contact clerks Anita McCormick or Carol Tantau if you have concerns to bring to this committee.

SECOND WEEK OF THE MONTH

* **Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business** is held on **Sunday** at 11:30 every month except August.

THIRD WEEK OF THE MONTH

* **Ministry and Worship Committee** meets every third **Wednesday** of the month. If you have any concerns to bring to this committee, please contact Clerk, Diane Manning, in advance.

* **Peace and Social Action Committee** meets on third **Sundays**, at the meetinghouse, at 11:45 am. All are welcome.

* **Children's Education Committee** meets on third **Sundays** at 11:30 am, at the meetinghouse. Anyone willing to participate in the children's programs is welcome.

* **Meeting for Healing** meets on **Wednesday**, 7-8 pm (see first week of month).

FOURTH WEEK OF THE MONTH

* **Fellowship Committee** meets on fourth **Sundays** after Meeting for Worship.

* **Sandwich Making for the Homeless** meets on fourth **Sundays** during Fellowship.

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**IMPORTANT CONTACT NUMBERS
MEETING HOUSE (310) 828-4069**

FRIEND-IN-RESIDENCE, CALENDAR KEEPER

Curtis Raynor (310) 954-7783

CLERK OF THE MEETING

Kate Shaw (310) 475-7139

Celia Carroll, Assistant Clerk (310) 450-4118

RECORDING CLERK

Ann Fuller (323) 934-7506

CORRESPONDING CLERK

Curtis Raynor (310) 954-7783

TREASURER

David Wolff (323) 465-4807

SCQM (Southern California Quarterly Meeting)

Shayne Lightner (310) 838-1877

PYM (Pacific Yearly Meeting)

Shayne Lightner (310) 838-1877

ADULT EDUCATION open**AVP (Alternatives to Violence Project)**

Ria Manetta (310) 577-0974

ALICE HERMAN COMMITTEE

Gretchen Woelfle (310) 397-9049

CHILDREN'S EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Celia Carroll (310) 450-4118

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Ann Fuller (323) 934-7506

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

Cynthia Cuza (310) 573-3894

Elisa Harkness (630) 988-2381

FINANCE COMMITTEE

open

AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE

Tanna Moontaro (310) 399-0315

FCNL (Friends Committee on National Legislation)

Elizabeth Ralston (310) 553-5783

FCLCA (Friends Committee on Legislation-California)

Laurel Gord (310) 392-9339

NEWSLETTER

Editor: Ann Fuller (323) 934-7506

Distribution: the Yang family (310) 373-9558

LISTSERVE (smfm@googlegroups.com)

Alice Burston (310) 396-9816

ELECTRONIC DIRECTORY

Monica Faulkner (310) 391-3705

COMMITTEE CLERKS (2011-2012)**HOUSE COMMITTEE**

Fred Buell (310) 644-3279

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

Don McCormick (310) 470-2492

MINISTRY AND WORSHIP

Brian Johnston (310) 838-0377

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

open

PASTORAL CARE

Anita McCormick (310) 470-2492

Carol Tantau (310) 902-1931

PEACE AND SOCIAL ACTION

Simon Simonian (310) 459-2506

SANDWICH MAKING FOR THE HOMELESS

Dick Heiser (310) 645-2149

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Santa Monica Friends Meeting
1440 Harvard Street
Santa Monica, CA 90404

Address Correction Requested

FRIENDLY NOTES

February 2013

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