

Friendly Notes

Santa Monica Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

October, 2014

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Upcoming Events:

- ◆ 10/5/14 - Meet with Burton Housman
- ◆ 10/18/14 - Quaker Quest all day retreat
- ◆ 11/1/14 - 11/2/14 - SCQM Fall Fellowship



Advices and Queries — Care for the Meeting Community

Queries

How can we make the meeting a community in which each person is accepted and nurtured, and strangers are welcome?

Advices and Queries (Britain)

Do we love one another even to the point of sharing one another's burdens? Do we care for one another so deeply that each other's needs are recognized and addressed?

As members of a spiritual community, do we actively work to maintain love and unity?

Advices

The spiritual welfare of a meeting is greatly helped if its social life is vigorous and its members take a warm personal interest in one another's welfare...It is our duty and privilege to share in one another's joys and sorrows.
London Yearly Meeting, 1960

Seek to know one another in the things which are eternal, bear the burden of each other's failings and pray for one another. As we enter with tender sympathy into the joys and sorrows

of each other's lives, ready to give help and to receive it, our meeting can be a channel for God's love and forgiveness. *Quaker Faith and Practice (Britain)*

Loving care is not something that those sound in mind and body 'do' for others, but a process that binds us together. God has made us loving and the imparting of love to another satisfies something deep within us...Careful listening is fundamental to helping each other; it goes beyond finding out about needs and becomes part of meeting them. *Quaker Faith and Practice (Britain)*

Community reminds us that we are called to love, for community is a product of love in action and not of simple self-interest. Community can break our egos open to the experience of a God who cannot be contained by our conceptions. Community will teach us that our grip on truth is fragile and incomplete, that we need many ears to hear the fullness of God's word for our lives.

Parker J. Palmer, 1977.

SCQM Fall Fellowship Retreat "Spiritual Deepening: Opening Doors to the Spirit"

Temescal Gateway Park
15610 W. Sunset, Pacific
Palisades, CA 90272

Saturday & Sunday,
November 1-2, 2014

MAIL-IN REGISTRATION
MUST BE COMPLETED
ON OR BEFORE FRIDAY,
OCTOBER 18.

A few Friends will share their spiritual practices. You will then be invited to participate

in some practical workshops and lively activities to help us send down deep roots, grow strong, and spread out fruitful branches.

Minutes - September 14, 2014

Contributions to Friendly Notes

Friendly Notes welcomes submissions by Friends. A quotation, poem or short essay that speaks to you in your spiritual journey, or something that you have written yourself, can enrich others seeking the Light. Please give a copy to the Editor, Friendly Notes, by email (rebeccatillberg@yahoo.com) or in written form at Meeting.

Draft Notes on the Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business

Attending: Kate Watkins, Wendy Christensen, Don McCormick, Stan Searl, Diane Manning, Judith Searle, Tim Vreeland, Tanna Moontaro, Curtis Raynor, Julie Murphy, Donna Cooper, Debbie, Henry Yang, Ruth Gooley, Brian Johnston, Dahlia van Gelder, Shelley Blank, Heather Aymie, Richard Shaw, Jamie McCormick, Grant Ramey, Cindy Waite, Miriam B. Covington, Ann Fuller, Simon Simonian.

Meeting began with silent worship on Queries about vocal ministry.

Minutes from the July 13, 2014 meeting for business were read and approved with the following addition: Under Worship and Ministry, add "Two Friends came forward to take custody of the old sign and preserve it."

Children's Education - Heather Aymie stated that this is a transitional time for Children's Education. They now have a good sized committee, which is discerning the needs, age groupings, and curriculum for the First Day School. There are 21 possible attenders, and the committee is particularly looking at families and children who have been regular attenders in the past. The older children are temporarily being taught by Sarah Edwards Williams, Heather Aymie and Michael Loeser. Elizabeth Cocca is taking a leave of absence, and on September 28 there will be a worship meeting at rise of meeting to acknowledge Elizabeth's long and devoted service.

Friends spoke to the wonderful experience of the All-Ages Meetings for Worship, which are being held on fifth Sundays.

Heather Aymie has been chosen as Clerk of the committee.

Worship and Ministry - Brian Johnston reported that the committee has been very active, planning for Quaker Quest and the All-Ages Worship Meeting, discerning the role of Peace and Social Action Committee, deepening Quaker process in meeting for

business, eldering in a spirit led way, and deepening and improving the spiritual quality of worship. W&M is calling for a listening session to guide the Communications Committee in considering how we represent ourselves, specifically in developing a brochure and website that can express who we are. Since Quaker Quest may cover these issues, the listening session will take place after that all meeting workshop.

Poetry as Ministry - Stan Searl read a traveling minute (attached) in regard to his leading to take his Quaker poetry to Friends' gatherings and meetings. He noted that naming the leading came in an Adult Education session where he shared his poems. A Friend noted that there is a copy of Stan's book, Quaker Poems, in the library.

09-14-01 Meeting approves the following traveling minute for Stanford Searl, Jr. (See pages 4 -5)

Nominating Committee - Tanna Moontaro brought forward the following Friends for approval: Tim Vreeland as AFSC representative and on the Sandwich Making Committee, Shayne Lightner as Pacific Yearly Meeting representative, Rachel Fretz on Worship and Ministry, David Anderson on Alice Herman Fund, Rebecca Searl on Communications, Brent Shelton on Library, and Molly Hood on Peace and Social Action.

09-14-02 Meeting approves the Friends service, as listed above.

The following Friends are brought forward for the first time:

Cristine Reynaert, Alice Burston, and Cynthia Cuza for the Alice Herman Fund Committee,

Sarah Edwards Williams, Heather Aymie, Donna Buell, Michael Loeser, and Judith Prescott on Children's Education, Bob Tajima on Communications, Alan Aymie on House, Wendy Christensen on Peace and Social Action, and Stan Searl, Don McCormick, Judith Searle, Patrick and Mary Finn and Ruth Gooley on the newly formed Adult Education Committee.

As of December, the Finance Committee will have only one member. The Clerk asked Friends to look into their hearts and consider serving on this



Minutes - September 2014

committee, one of the committees necessary for the functioning of the meeting. Fellowship now has two members, who put in a full day of work on First Days, and one of these Friends has served for 12 years and will be stepping down next year (September). A Friend spoke to his experience in becoming a better Quaker on Fellowship Committee. House Committee needs more members as it concentrates on finding new renter(s). It was suggested that committee needs be publicized in Friendly Notes and on the list serve.

In answer to a Friend's question about the distinction between House and Fellowship, it was explained that House Committee is responsible for the meetinghouse building and grounds, and Fellowship provides food at rise of meeting and for meeting gatherings. A Friend noted that in the past Fellowship was also charged with building community through such activities as Quaker Eights.

Stan Searl will be the Clerk of Nominating Committee.

Pastoral Care - Carol Tantau will be clerk.

House Committee - Rick Shaw reported that our tenant, Early Childhood Parenting Center, is unable to continue renting, even after proposed adjustments; rent was a small part of their expenses. Meeting is looking for referrals for weekday rentals (see description below). We can only rent to non-profits unless we investigate tax consequences. A Friend noted that providing space for recovery, after school and other groups could be a source of outreach to the community. As long as Santa Monica meeting is clearly separate from any literature put out by our rental groups, our policy is not to evaluate the rental group's purpose. House intends to improve the appearance of the front of the meetinghouse. House has received two estimates for painting and cleaning the front of the meetinghouse. Wood chips or stone will be placed next to the sidewalk.

Grant Ramey is contacting the company which made the new sign, to make the changes approved by meeting for business.

In response to the Clerk's question to the meeting, Friends suggested that issues important to the survival of the meeting be a higher priority than embarking on a process to discern the language for a new sign.. A cooling off period may help to deepen the discussion. After worship, the Clerk sensed that Quaker Quest and Worship and Ministry's listening session are part of a larger process, which will lead to clarity on potential new content for the sign, website and meeting brochure. A Friend spoke to the pool of creativity in the meeting community that can be tapped.

New Business - Tanna Moontaro called attention to our contributions to Interfaith Council United for Justice and Peace and the Southern California Ecumenical Council, and to supporting Quaker House in Fayetteville, near Fort Bragg. This was referred to Finance for the new budget, and it was suggested that articles about groups we support could be published in Friendly Notes. A Friend noted that we can send a representative to the Southern California Ecumenical Council. Friends expressed appreciation to Ann Fuller and Anita and Don McCormick for many years of work on the meeting newsletter, and to Rebecca Searl, who is the new editor.

A Friend noted that since we have no clergy, and no hierarchy, there is no work of the meeting without the participation of each of us.

Meeting closed in silent worship.

Respectfully submitted,
Kate Watkins, Clerk
Ann Fuller, Recording Clerk

History Corner

October is big month in our Meeting's history.

On Oct. 6, we will celebrate the 68th anniversary of the very first Meeting for Worship of the newly formed Santa Monica Friends Group.

It was held Sunday, Oct. 6, 1946, at 5:30 p.m. in a basement classroom (the Fidelis Room) of the Trinity Baptist Church on California Ave. near 10th Street in Santa Monica. Twenty-six people attended.

The Santa Monica Friends Group was the brainchild of two members of Orange Grove Meeting, Edith Sperry and Nina Heaton, who lived in Santa Monica and wanted to build a more local Quaker community.

Edith Grace Sperry, who was the guiding light of the Santa Monica Friends Group and, later, our Santa Monica Friends Meeting, had been the librarian at Occidental College before accepting the post of Santa Monica College Librarian and moving here in 1942.

Edith was both practical and intellectual. She was determined and active but also rather reserved. She was not one to grab the spotlight of attention. The 1956 Meeting Directory had thumbnail histories and interests of all who were listed, as well as the best times to reach by phone or to drop by for a visit. Edith wrote "Do come and see me and compare notes!" Her entry shared that

Continued on Last Page

Calendar - October 2014

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
			7:00-8:00 pm Meeting for Healing dlancer@verizon.net			
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10:00 Meeting for Worship 10:15 First Day School 12:00 Meet with Burton Housman						
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
10:00 Meeting for Worship 10:15 First Day School 11:30 Business Meeting			7:00-8:00 pm Meeting for Healing dlancer@verizon.net			Quaker Quest all day retreat
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
10:00 Meeting for Worship 10:15 First Day School 11:45 Peace & Social Action						
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
10:00 Meeting for Worship 10:15 First Day School 11:30 Sandwich Making 11:45 Fellowship Committee						

Traveling Minute of Ministry

09/14/2014

Dear Friends:

Our member, Stanford J. Searl, Jr., is traveling under a concern for a ministry of Quaker poetry, offering a worship sharing approach to deepening the practices of Quaker spirituality. The Santa Monica Monthly Meeting has discerned that Stan has a leading about a ministry through poetry to other Quaker Meetings in the Pacific Yearly Meeting and possibly beyond as well. Stan will offer his *Quaker Poems: The Heart Opened*, in a centered manner, with an emphasis upon spacious, deep listening together with other Friends as a form of worship sharing,

including sections about Quaker worship, history, social action and contemporary issues.

These poems express spiritually informed, heartfelt consequences of standing in the Light in an embodied manner; they are poems about life and death in a common, ordinary context; they illustrate the power and meaning of silence in people lives; the poems carry the community's values of love and compassion in action; they are about deep listening and offer means of transport and travel inward, about how Quakers can be played upon by the Spirit.

Burton Housman, travelling with Mary Jo Housman, is travelling under the care of La Jolla Meeting with a concern related to Casa de los Amigos. He will meet with Santa Monica Meeting friends on Sunday, October 5 at 12:00.

"In coming months I will be traveling though Southern California Quarterly Meeting with a seasoned concern I have shared with my Meeting. The concern is about the relationship of Casa de los Amigos in Mexico City to Southern California Quarterly Meeting's members.

I am drawn to try to examine closely with you the question of need between our Meetings and the Casa. The Casa, of course, like most non-profits always needs money. That is not, however, what my travel is about. Nor is this about Mexico City Meeting."

What is Quaker Quest?

Quaker Quest is a program of spiritual deepening and meaningful transformation for Quaker meetings that are considering reaching out to newcomers. It affirms that the Quaker way is a simple, radical, and contemporary spiritual path, and encourages Quakers to share their spiritual experiences. Quaker Quest was developed by Quakers in England and adapted by Friends General Conference.

Important Contact Numbers

CLERK OF THE MEETING	Kate Watkins Shaw	(310) 475-7139
ASSISTANT CLERK	Celia Carroll	(310) 450-4118
RECORDING CLERK	Ann Fuller	(323) 936-0558
CORRESPONDING CLERK	Curtis Raynor	(310) 954-7783
TREASURER	David Wolff	(323) 465-4807
FRIEND-IN-RESIDENCE, CALENDAR KEEPER	Grant Ramey	(310) 828-4069
ELECTRONIC DIRECTORY	Monica Faulkner	(310) 391-3705
LISTSERVE	Alice Burston	(310) 396-9816
NEWSLETTER	Editor: Rebecca Searl	rebeccatillberg@yahoo.com
	Distribution:	(310) 373-9558
	Yang family	

REPRESENTATIVES

AFSC	Tim Vreeland	(310) 738-7336
FCL	Ruth Gooley	(310) 473-7339
FCLCA	Elizabeth Ralston	(310) 553-5783
SCQM (So. Cal. Quarterly Meeting)	Shayne Lightner	(310) 838-1877
PYM (Pacific Yearly Meeting)	Shayne Lightner	(310) 838-1877

COMMITTEE CLERKS

AVP (Alternatives to Violence Project)	Tanna Moontaro	(310) 838-0377
ALICE HERMAN		
CHILDREN'S EDUCATION	Heather Aymie	
COMMUNICATIONS		
FELLOWSHIP	Cindy Waite	(323) 841-4131
FINANCE	Richard Chamberlain	(310) 443-1490
HOUSE		
LIBRARY		
MINISTRY AND WORSHIP	Cynthia Cuza	(213) 925-5998
NOMINATING	Stan Searl	(310) 204-4225
PASTORAL CARE	Carol Tantau	(310) 902-1931
PEACE & SOCIAL ACTION	Brian Johnston	(310) 838-0377
	Curtis Raynor	(310) 954-7783
SANDWICH MAKING FOR THE HOMELESS	Dick Heiser	(310) 645-2149

Traveling Minute, continued

The reading of these Quaker poems will be a form of worship sharing together in the Quaker process of being open to the Spirit and its influences in the moment. These poems are about an experiential version of breathing and vibrating together, a poetry of music and song coming from deep within the body and soul and mind and heart as a unified whole. These poems are, then, some

spiritual and fleshy fruits of the Spirit.

We entrust Stanford J. Searl, Jr. to your care and pray that you and he feel the presence of the Divine Spirit as you meet together.

Signed,
Kate Watkins Shaw,
Clerk, Santa Monica Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Santa Monica Monthly Meeting

1440 Harvard Street
Santa Monica, CA 90404-3105

Phone: (310) 828-4069
<https://www.quakercloud.org/cloud/santa-monica-friends-meeting>



WALK IN THE LIGHT WHEREVER YOU MAY BE.

«Unique Identifier»

«AddressBlock»

History Corner, continued

she was fond of hiking, gardening, and experimenting with art activities. She was active in the various Quaker organizations, in Santa Monica's Consumers' Co-op, the YWCA, and the Guild for Psychological Studies.

On October 19, we will celebrate Edith Grace Sperry's birthday. Were she alive today, she'd be 108 years old. Alas, she died young, in 1960, at the age of 54. (We'll learn more about Edith throughout the calendar year.) She's buried in Forest Lawn Glendale.

Over a decade ago, Chris Morrissey, Catilyn Dana, and I went in search of her grave. We found it, expressed our thanks both verbally and silently, and left three roses on her marker.

-Curtis Raynor

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.

Please make sure your name and street address are 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 Clerk of Finance Committee.

Mail to:
Santa Monica Meeting
1440 Harvard St.
Santa Monica, CA 90404