

Friendly Notes

Santa Monica Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

December, 2014

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Advices and Queries — The Quaker Way

Ben Pink Dandelion writes:

“If we as Quakers want our Quaker approach to faith to be vibrant, cohesive, coherent and socially useful, we need to be clear about what we are and what we are not.”

Queries

Why do I come to meeting for worship?
Is coming to Meeting “optional”?
What do I celebrate about Quakerism?
What is ‘the Quaker Way?’

Assessing the Impact of the 2014 Gaza War On prospects for peace - Shan Cretin



Shan Cretin, General Secretary of the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) will present a slide show about her recent trip to Gaza on Sunday, December 21, 2014 at 12:00

The AFSC is a Quaker organization that promotes lasting peace with justice, as a practical expression of faith in action.

Building peace is a key issue for the AFSC: peace and security can never be achieved through violence. AFSC advocates for economic and social systems grounded in nonviolence, building recognition that reallocating resources from militaries to peaceful endeavors will increase security worldwide.

Upcoming Events:

- ◆ 12/21/14; Noon - Peace & Social Action Committee: Slides from Gaza Trip by Shan Cretin
- ◆ 1/4/15; Noon - Adult Education Committee: Poetry as Ministry: A Workshop of Song & Poetry with Stan Searl and Joann Taylor
- ◆ 2/1/15; Noon - Adult Education Committee: Religion as Poetry, Quakers & Others with Judith Searle

Minutes - November 9, 2014

Draft Notes

Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business

November 9, 2014

Attending: Cynthia Cuza, Jan Bartholomew, Grayson Schick, Diane Manning, Jonathan Heston, Lori Reineman, Judith Searle, Tim Vreeland, Miriam Covington, Rachel Fretz, Cathleen Loeser, Donna Cooper, Shelley Blank, Cindy Waite, Henry Yang, Ruth Gooley, Simon Simonian, Helen Ciriello, Curtis Raynor, Tanna Moontaro, Richard Chamberlain, Richard Shaw, Rebecca Searl, Elizabeth Ralston, Carol Tantau, Grant Ramey, Wendy Christensen, Joseph Smith, Kate Watkins-Shaw, Brian Johnston, Ann Fuller.

Meeting began in silent worship on queries related to "Why do I come to Meeting?"

Minutes from October 12, 2014 were read and accepted, with the following corrections: under Nominating Committee, Donna Cooper was brought forward for the Nominating Committee. Under Peace and Social Action, AVP conducts a mini-workshop at Homeboys, not a "meeting".

Worship and Ministry - Cynthia Cuza read the following report:

Following Quaker Quest and many months of open discussion and listening in our community, the central concern that has emerged is: What is the essential nature of our Quaker community and what is our commitment to this community? W&M recognizes that our primary responsibility is to understand and affirm that which brings us together as Quakers in the Santa Monica meeting and in the larger Quaker community. We are in the process of discerning what is the core identity of the

Santa Monica Meeting as a worship community and how that identity can be and is embodied in a core of Friends who are committed to the community as witnesses in worship and in practice.

When our core identity as a Quaker worship community is fully understood and clearly reflected in worship and our committees, our community will grow in strength and numbers. All are welcome. Newcomers will understand what the community offers them. We will be continually enriched by their presence and by the rich variety of view and experiences of all who attend worship and participate the Quaker community.

The success of our searching requires commitment from the Santa Monica Meeting to continue our collective examination of who we are as Quakers, our understanding of the Quaker Way and our commitment to the community.

Today's advice and queries are intended to invite participation in this process of discernment. Worship and Ministry plans to facilitate this process.

She reflected that messages in the morning meeting for worship were relevant; all contributions to worship are part of a process as we move forward toward a higher level of understanding of what unites us. She suggests that Friends take the queries with them for further reflection. Worship and Ministry is seeking input from Friends as they discern the core identity of us as a worship community. In response to the Clerk's question, Friends referred to the pervasive pollution of noise in our everyday lives and the treasure of silence here, and suggested experimenting with a month of meeting in total silence. A Friend noted that a silent gathering arises on its own, and that even when messages are not spirit led they may be relevant to newcomers. A Friend expressed appreciation for Quaker Quest, in contrast to the apprehension about it being marketing

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.



Minutes - November 9, 2014

advice; looking at ourselves in this process has called forth deeper understanding.

Cynthia reported that after meeting with Quaker Quest facilitators Worship and Ministry has discerned that Santa Monica Meeting is not ready to focus on a ministry of welcoming. First, we need to examine what binds us together as a community. Our next step is to deepen our bonds to one another, to examine what draws us here and leads us. A Friend saw the need to develop a deeper understanding of verbal ministry, as a deepening of the silence, not as instruction. Before we welcome newcomers, we have to know what we are welcoming them to: who we are and how we love each other and show it, what do we want. Worship and Ministry will be leading us to becoming clear on these issues in the next period of time. Clerk asked about our commitment; early Quakers put their lives on the line in response to an outside threat, we are faced with the inside threat of meeting weakness. A Friend noted that in place of a belligerent Church of England, we are faced with global crisis and must work with other faith groups, and serve as a good example to others.

Nominating Committee - Donna Cooper brought forward two Friends for final approval, with appreciation.

11-14-01 Meeting approves the following Friends for service on committees: Tim Vreeland and Debbie on House Committee; Grayson Schick on Adult Education.

The following Friends are brought forward for the first time:

- Alan Aymie on House Committee
- Elizabeth Cocca on Fellowship/Fun Events
- Wendy Christensen and Lori Reineman on Fellowship
- Richard Chamberlain and Dahlia van Gelder on Finance Committee through December 2015.

Adult Education - Grayson Schick and Stan Searl will be co-clerks. The committee is working with Worship and Ministry to follow up on Quaker Quest. The following sessions are planned: On January 4, 2015, Stan Searl will lead us to consider poetry as ministry; on February 1, there will be a session on religious poetry of Quakers and others. The committee welcomes suggestions for further sessions.

Pastoral Care - Carol Tantau reported that a clearness committee has met on the membership of Kim O'Brian, and recommended him for membership. As is our custom, we will lay this over for further seasoning and discernment. Since Kim is not yet well-known to our community, Friends are invited to get to know Kim better and to speak with members

of Kim's clearness committee. There was a question as to whether Pastoral Care had followed good Quaker process with regards to Kim's request. We asked Pastoral Care to review the section in Faith and Practice on application for membership, to ensure that we are following Quaker process.

Children's Education - Heather Aymie reported that we have four or more children attending in both classrooms. New teachers are bringing a rich curriculum, and there is excitement about the upcoming Work Day, Baby Welcoming on November 24, and All Ages Meeting on November 5. The committee is considering policies, such as background checks, sexual harassment policy, teachers' pay and qualifications, and using mentor teaching. Pastoral Care is assisting with the All Ages Worship, and Simon Simonian and Kathy Forsman are helping with the Baby Welcoming.

Friends Committee on Legislation California - Elizabeth Ralston described the organization and staffing. In preparation for the General Committee meeting in December, which takes place every two years to set priorities for the organization, a survey has been distributed online and through our list serve, and Elizabeth will bring our concerns to this meeting. Friends spoke to providing help for people released by sentence reduction policies; the food desert in poor communities; continuing to focus on prison issues because of FCLCA's long experience; the prison/industrial complex; supporting other organizations that help prisoners. Peace and Social Action will have a table next week at Fellowship for us to communicate our concerns to FCLCA, Friends Committee on National Legislation, and the American Friends Service Committee.

Communications Committee - Rebecca Searl reported that the committee has many new members and has chosen her as clerk. Two members of Worship and Ministry attended the first meeting to help with process. The committee is discerning its charge to build and strengthen community, and specific issues such as guidelines and handling problems on the list serve; the purpose of the website, its content and log in procedures; inclusion of non-attenders in the Directory; and the interaction of the newsletter and the website.

House Committee - Grant Ramey reported that our tenant, ECPC, is likely to stay on in some form which will provide about half of our previous income from their rental. The committee is considering renting night parking spaces to neighbors.

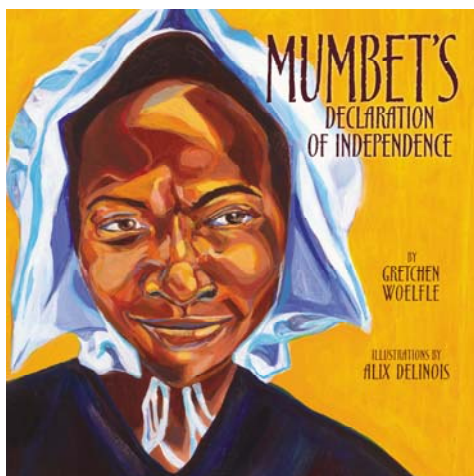
New Business: Simon Simonian noted the importance of working with other faith organizations, in a time when making friends from perceived enemies is crucial. Speak to Simon about the Ecumenical Council, and to Nominating Committee if you are interested in serving.

Meeting closed in silent worship,
Kate Watkins-Shaw, Clerk
Ann Fuller, Recording Clerk

Calendar - December 2014

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Nov. 30 10:00 Meeting for Worship 10:15 First Day School	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 10:00 Meeting for Worship 10:15 First Day School	8	9	10 7:00-8:00 pm Meeting for Healing dlancer@verizon.net	11	12	13
14 10:00 Meeting for Worship 10:15 First Day School 11:30 Business Meeting	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 10:00 Meeting for Worship 10:15 First Days School 12:00 Peace & Social Action - Shan Cretin: Slides from Gaza	22	23	24 7:00-8:00 pm Meeting for Healing dlancer@verizon.net	25	26	27
28 10:00 Meeting for Worship 10:15 First Day School 11:30 Sandwich Making	29	30	31			

Mumbet's Declaration of Independence - by Gretchen Woelfle



A new picture book biography for children recounts this story of personal freedom. Written by Gretchen Woelfle and illustrated by Alix Delinois, "Mumbet's Declaration of Independence" recounts how Mumbet, an African-American slave, used tenacity, hope, intellect and the power of the law to gain her freedom.

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
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	Distribution: Yang family	(310) 373-9558

Fantasia on Quaker Historical Roots and Branches Stanford J. Searl, Jr.

Note: This poem originated in reflecting upon the elaborate chart by Geoffrey Kaiser, "The Society of Friends in North America," 20th edition, 2011. It is in 3 parts; the second is here.

II. Hymn Tunes

I rode along with these Quaker historical branches and schisms,
following the separations and arguments and theological upsets
into an underground cavern,
dark yet oddly luminous,
pulled down by Hades himself and his mythic horses
to be present to this discordant stream of Quaker history,
these underground branches heated up
and I felt winded and burning with the heat as if nearly aflame,
but now listening to these buried voices from the Quaker roots and branches.

History Corner - Curtis Raynor

It was December 8, 1962. A community work party finished applying some interior final touches. It was done. What had taken three years of serious fundraising and two years of working with an architect and working through countless decisions on design and furnishings was, at last, completed. We had our Meeting House.

The first use of the new Meeting House was for our monthly Business Meeting held on Wednesday night, December 12. Four days later, on Sunday, December 16, our first Meeting for Worship was held in our new home. Our evolving community has come to our Meeting House for worship on each following Sunday for the past 52 years. Happy Birthday, Santa Monica Friends Meeting House!

Santa Monica Monthly Meeting

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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.

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

