

Friendly Notes

Santa Monica Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

January, 2015



Advices and Queries — Vocal Ministry

Upcoming Events:

- ◆ 1/31/15; Saturday, 3:00 - 'Won' Woman Show: AGAPE I - focusing on ❤️ is patient with Elizabeth Cocca
- ◆ 2/1/15; Noon - Adult Education Committee: Religion as Poetry, Quakers & Others with Judith Searle

How do I discern when to speak and when not to speak?

How do we encourage Friends to allow ample time to absorb the previous message before speaking?

How do I practice listening to the Truth which may be revealed by others?

*Our worship is our gift to God,
Ministry through words is God's gift to us.
As we seek the Presence,
Let us honor these gifts by testing our leadings to speak,
Discerning that they are truly guided by the Holy Spirit
That they are messages for the assembled body,
And not ourselves alone,
And by allowing each message to settle
Into the heart of those who need it,
By keeping silence between each ministry.
Let us allow ourselves to be gathered
By the power and grace of the light.*

Friends General Conference, 1995

Minutes - December 14, 2014

Draft Notes

Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business

Attending: Cynthia Cuza, Richard Shaw, Cindy Waite, Shayne Lightner, Tanna Moontaro, Curtis Raynor, Joe Morris, Shelley Blank, Donna Cooper, Richard Chamberlain, Simon Simonian, Diane Manning, Jonathan Heston, Henry Yang, Kathy Forsman, Joann Taylor, Rebecca Searl, Cathleen Loeser, Wendy Christensen, Kate Watkins-Shaw, Ann Fuller

Meeting began in silent worship on queries about the Quaker Way.

Minutes from the November 9, 2014 meeting for business were read and approved with one correction: under Nominating three Friends were brought forward for final approval.

Nominating Committee - Tanna Moontaro brought forward three Friends for final approval.

12-14-01 Meeting approves Richard Chamberlain on Finance Committee, through December 2015, or until another Friend steps forward to serve; Alan Aymie on House Committee; Wendy Christensen and Lori Reineman on Fellowship; and Elizabeth Cocca on Fellowship/Fun Events.

The following Friends are brought forward for the first time. Friends with any concerns are referred to the Nominating Committee: Joe Morris on Library Committee, Shelley Blank on Nominating Committee and Finance Committee, and Kim O'Brien on Peace and Social Action.

Pastoral Care - Kathy Forsman reported that Alan Aymie has requested mem-

bership and met with a Clearness Committee, which is recommending that he be welcomed as a member. Friends with concerns are referred to Curtis, Maggie or Kathy.

Worship and Ministry - Cynthia Cuza reported that W&M continues to work with Adult Education to deepen the conversation about who we are as a meeting, what people find who visit, and who we are when we go into the larger community. Friends are also asked to reflect on vocal ministry; what the difference is between messages from a higher place and messages which are passionately held or instructional.

Pacific Yearly Meeting's Discipline Committee is in the process of updating Faith and Practice, last revised in 2001. Faith & Practice is not like the Bible, and reflects changes over time in the understanding of Quaker practice. M&W is considering, with Adult Education, how we can participate, and welcomes ideas.

W&M is also considering the suggestion of an entirely silent meeting. A Friend noted that being quiet means more than not speaking. The Clerk noted that silence can deepen our experience of the divine and that messages arise out of and are part of that silence.

Finance Committee - Richard Chamberlain reported that, extrapolating from January to November of 2014, our income is down \$6432, including \$3755 less from members contributions (12.5% below expectations), and \$4300 from the loss of rental income. These shortfalls were offset in part by \$954 in interest income and an unexpected income of \$1150 from AVP. However, our expenses were \$6698 less than budgeted, even including all of our budgeted contributions and the customary \$7500 capital re-

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 - December 14, 2014

serve deposit. In sum, we are roughly balanced in 2014. Richard Shaw distributed copies of three progress reports for discussion.

1. A 2015 budget worksheet extrapolated from the first nine months of 2014, including budget requests from committee clerks. He notes that not all committees have responded with budget expectations, resulting in some placeholder zeroes in the chart, and that there will not be \$500 for Quaker Quest in 2015.

2. A draft 2015 budget with comparisons to 2012, 2013 and 2014 budgeted and actual income and expenses. Curtis Raynor noted that the AVP line assumes that they will have no income to contribute in 2015. The amount of Friends' contributions for 2014 can not be finalized until December 31, but in light of decreasing contributions, the budget for contributions by Friends has been lowered by \$2000 for 2015. We were just starting a planned escalation in rental income when our main tenant notified us of their intention to leave, or possibly rent for less days a week. A group associated with ECPC has signed a year contract for one room on Mondays. Meeting is still looking for a day renter and has no current leads. In regard to renting out parking spaces in our lots, the need for night parking has been discovered to be less than the need for day parking.

3. A worksheet on dues and contributions proposed for 2015.

Committee members from Library and Fellowship who were present stated that Library expenses should be kept the same, since not many books were purchased last year, and that Fellowship expenses will depend on the number of special events. The food provided on First Days is under discussion; decisions will be made in business meeting and well disseminated.

Friends suggested that the kitchen be painted to make it more welcoming to work there; that subscriptions to Western Friend or Friends Journal be given to newcomers or new members; that Friends be asked to pay for photocopies from Adult Ed sessions.

In order to have accurate knowledge of our expenses, Friends are asked to request reimbursement for meeting expenses they incur, rather than paying for them them-

selves, perhaps making a donation to the meeting in an equal amount. Reimbursement forms are in the Treasurer's inbox in the library.

In response to Friends' questions, it was noted that in order to cover our expenses, the average member contribution would be \$850 per member/per year.

In summary, meeting is \$3000 under balance as of now, but this may change. We intend to pay dues and contributions by the end of 2014. Questions should be directed to the Finance Committee (that is, Richard Chamberlain and Richard Shaw); changes will be brought to business meeting in January when the final budget is presented.

Friends expressed appreciation for the devotion and effort entailed in the work of the committee.

The Clerk called for silent worship.

House Committee - Grant Ramey reported that changing the bottom portion of the sign in front of the meetinghouse will cost \$350. The rental agent, and listing with Westside Rentals, have not produced any results in six months. Suggestions are more than welcomed.

New Business

A Friend noted that George Fox directed Friends to spread Quakerism. A Friend noted that the numbers of Quakers is decreasing. The Clerk responded that Worship and Ministry, in the light of Quaker Quest, has discerned that we need to have a better sense of who we are and how we function before we can do outreach. A Friend noted that we have a healthy number of new members and attenders. Another Friend noted that moving forward was more important than envisioning the end.

Meeting closed in silent worship.

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

Santa Monica Monthly Meeting

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<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

You are invited!

Elizabeth Cocca is offering her "Won" Woman Show:
AGAPE I
Focusing on  is patient.

Saturday, January 31, 2015
3:00
At the Meeting House

