

Friendly Notes

Santa Monica Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

March, 2015

Inside this issue:

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Advices & Queries: | 1 |
| Minutes 2/8/15 | 2 |
| Adult Education: | 3 |
| <i>Faith and Practice</i> | |
| Calendar | 4 |
| New Meeting Web Site | 4 |
| Important Contact Numbers | 5 |
| Ben Lomond Quaker Center | 5 |

Upcoming Events:

- ◆ 3/1/15: Noon - Adult Education Committee: Poetry as Ministry with Stan Searl & Betty Smith
- ◆ 4/5/15: Noon - Adult Education Committee: Conversation about Faith & Practice



Advices and Queries — Children and Youth

Queries

How do we share our deepest beliefs with our children and youth, while leaving them free to develop as the spirit of God may lead them? Do we invite them to share their insights? Are we ready both to learn from them and to accept our responsibilities towards them? Quaker Faith and Practice (Britain)

Do we encourage our children and youth to participate actively in meetings for worship and meetings for business? Are they aware of the meaning of membership in the meeting and the importance of service to the community? Intermountain Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice

Advices

Rejoice in the presence of children and young people in your meeting and recognize the gifts they bring. Remember that the meeting as a whole shares a responsibility for every child in its care. Quaker Faith and Practice (Britain)

We help our youth not by futile attempts to 'keep them in the Society' (they must make their own explorations) but by recognizing their own full stature as God's children. If we, the important adults in their lives, respect their integrity, their capacity to worship and experience God, then they will

respect it too. If we share the skills that we are learning, then they will practice them too. If we are truly touched by God in worship and realize that we can all, both young and old, open up to God, then we have made a good foundation. Quaker Faith and Practice (Britain)

Meetings should invite and integrate children and young people into as many of their activities as possible and cultivate their gifts. They should recognize that children and young adults can often do jobs and share insights within the meeting that are usually reserved for the greater maturity and experience of their elders. Canadian Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice

How do we adults help to make creative solitude available to our children? First, surely, by finding meaning in it for ourselves. Solitude has many faces: reflection, creation, prayer, contemplation, mystical union with the All-One. "Delight to step home, within yourselves," said William Penn. Forbidden fruit for busy parents and harassed organizers of the modern social scene? Rather the bread of life. And adults who seek it do not need to explain it to children. Elise Boulding, 1962.

Minutes - February 8, 2015

Draft Notes

Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business

Attending: Cynthia Cuza, Don McCormick, Richard Shaw, Richard Chamberlain, Julie Murphy, Stan Searl, Shelley Blank, Grayson Schick, Brian Johnston, Helen Ciriello, Grant Ramey, Henry Yang, Debbie, Cindy Waite, Margaret Hutchinson, Tim Vreeland, Judith Searle, Cathleen Loeser, Donna Cooper, Wendy Christensen, Kate Watkins-Shaw, Neil Flowers, Ann Fuller

Meeting began in silent worship on two queries: Are our meetings for worship with a concern for business held in the spirit of worship, seeking the guidance of God? How do we respond if we notice the meeting has lost an understanding of the presence of God? Friends spoke to the dynamic process of continuing revelation. The fact that we are all of one heart - though not necessarily of one mind - is the best guide to conducting our business. A Friend sees the presence of God in the degree of respect with which we listen to each other. Listening is deeper than having and expressing opinion. Meeting for business relies on good process, not good rules.

Minutes from the January 11, 2015 meeting for business were read and approved.

State of the Meeting Report – Stan Searl explained that reports from all Southern California Quarterly meetings will be read at the Spring gathering. The Clerk of SCQM distributed the following guidelines and queries: "The report should cover the Meeting's spiritual vitality over the previous calendar year and is not meant to be a laundry list of events and activities. Faith and Practice advises: '...the State of the Meeting Report should be a self-examination by the Meeting and its members of their spiritual strengths and weaknesses and of the efforts to foster growth in the spiritual

life. Reports may cover the full range of interests and concerns but should emphasize those indicative of the spiritual health of the Meeting. As Meetings engage in a process of self-reflection and frank discussion, they may consider the following queries. How does Spirit dwell in our Meeting? How does our Meeting support our spiritual growth? What are our hopes and concerns as we move forward?' Four Friends have been chosen by Worship and Ministry to work on a draft of the report, which will be brought to meeting for business: Cynthia Cuza, Henry Yang, Wendy Christensen, and Stan Searl. In worship sharing, Friends brought issues that are important to include to the committee; Friends are asked to communicate other issues to them.

Finance Committee – Richard Chamberlain distributed an update to the 2014 report, reflecting additional contributions from Friends, and a transfer of \$6418 to capital reserves. \$2241 remains as a surplus, which Finance recommends retaining in our general fund. In answer to a Friend's question, Richard clarified that capital reserve covers possible building replacement as well as maintenance, and items such as improvements revealed during Quaker Quest.

02-15-01 Meeting approves the transfer of \$2241 into the general fund.

Richard Shaw distributed the final revised 2015 budget, which reflects two changes: Adult Education requested \$200, and contributions were estimated at \$31,001. The budget is balanced.

02-15-02 Meeting approves the revised 2015 budget.

Nominating Committee – Stan Searl brought forward Julie Murphy for final approval to serve on Finance Committee.

02-15-03 Meeting approves Julie Murphy to serve on Finance Committee.

Worship and Ministry – Stan Searl noted that in our Quaker meeting W&M serves in place of a minister, and to the huge gift of

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 - February 8, 2015

participating in deep spiritual discernment in committee service. W&M is considering how we can become aware that worship begins as soon as the first person enters the meeting room, how can we see all ministries as gifts of the Spirit, and how we can deepen our experience together through practices such as speaking Joys and Concerns at rise of meeting. These practices are not rules, but ways to enable and encourage us to honor and respect each other and deepen our spiritual experience. W&M continues to consider how to protect the sacredness of Meeting for Worship.

In worship sharing Friends spoke to spoke to the meeting as a safe place to immerse in the Spirit without disturbing others in their search. Allowing time for Friends to incorporate spoken messages is respectful. Another Friend spoke to the complicated, dynamic, continuous relationship of meeting for worship with the rest of the week – each prepares for the other. A Friend suggested leaving the sliding doors open enough for a person to enter, but not fully open, after meeting is centered. A Friend spoke to our commitment to equality, which is reflected in listening to every ministry without judgment. It is the quality of listening that we want to bring to meeting, rather than the quality of the ministry.

Father Gregory Boyle will visit us on March 29 at noon. We will welcome him to share his own spiritual path, without particularly focusing on his work or celebrity status. Under the care of W&M, this will be a meeting for worship, rather than a public event, with a clerk and worship sharing, following Quaker process.

Adult Education Session about *Faith and Practice*

Adult Education will hold a listening session about the uses of *Faith and Practice* in our Santa Monica Meeting on April 5, 2015 at noon at the Meetinghouse. We will use these and possible additional queries:

1. How does our Meeting utilize *Faith and Practice*?
2. Unity: What are the nuts and bolts of how our Meeting reaches unity in our business process? What is the role

House Committee – Richard Shaw reported that the kitchen is being re-organized with some new shelving and probably painting, and that the men's room will be painted. Richard asked for meeting guidance on what guidelines the committee should follow for rentals, particularly whether we will consider only non-profit organizations. Friends noted that Quakers are not historically opposed to business, that concern for our neighbors be considered, and that activities of renters might be judged by our testimonies. Friends are asked to take concerns and information about tax status issues to Rick. The cost of replacing the lower part of the sign is being investigated.

Adult Education – Grayson Schick reported that the committee is considering a welcoming committee and a pamphlet for newcomers. The Runyons will be presenting their workshop in 2016, since a 2015 date could not be arranged. Other presentations being considered are: dialog with Muslims, and conflict in meeting. On April 5, the committee will have a presentation on Faith and Practice.

New Business - Cathleen Loeser noted that the Quaker Women's Group is meeting every two weeks, at a location determined by the members.

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

of our committees in the process? How does this compare to what is currently written in *Faith and Practice*?

3. Where does our Meeting have difficulty with the current *Faith and Practice*? Where does our Meeting have comfort with the current *Faith and Practice*?
4. Overall, what is your experience of using the current *Faith and Practice*? How have you used it and what has it meant to you?

Calendar - March-April 2015

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|--------|---------|--|----------|--------|----------|
| 8 10:00 Meeting for Worship 10:15 First Day School 11:30 Business Meeting | 9 | 10 | 11 6:00-8:00 pm Women's Support Group Loeser.cathleen@gmail.com | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 10:00 Meeting for Worship 10:15 First Day School | 16 | 17 | 18 7:00-8:00 pm Meeting for Healing dlancer@verizon.net | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 10:00 Meeting for Worship 10:15 First Day School 11:30 Sandwich Making for the Homeless | 23 | 24 | 25 6:00-8:00 pm Women's Support Group Loeser.cathleen@gmail.com | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 10:00 Meeting for Worship 10:15 First Day School | 30 | 31 | April 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 10:00 Meeting for Worship 10:15 First Day School 12:00 Adult Education | 6 | 7 | 8 7:00-8:00 pm Meeting for Healing dlancer@verizon.net | 9 | 10 | 11 |

New Meeting Web Site

<https://www.quakercloud.org/cloud/santa-monica-friends-meeting>

Check out the latest on the new Meeting web site! Bob Tajima has added much new content, including links to Friends resources and publications, information about events at Santa Monica Meeting as well as other Quaker events and more.

Be sure to check out the photos of the Meeting mural posted at the Pacific Yearly Meeting web site: <http://www.pacificyearlymeeting.org/2014/gallery/smfm-and-scqm-mural-quaker-testimonies/>

A combined group of the Communications Committee, Adult Education Committee, and Worship and Ministry is working to add more features and information to the web site.

Friends General Conference hosts the 'Quaker Cloud' for Meetings that want to use that service for their web site. Many thanks to Bob for researching the possibilities, and moving Santa Monica's web site to this platform.

Keep checking back with the web as new articles and features will be added regularly.

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 | Grant Ramey | (310) 828-4069 |
| ELECTRONIC DIRECTORY | Monica Faulkner | (310) 391-3705 |
| LISTSERVE | Alice Burston | (310) 396-9816 |
| NEWSLETTER | Editor: Rebecca Searl | (310)204-4225 |
| | Distribution: Yang family | (310) 373-9558 |

COMMITTEE CLERKS

| | | |
|--|---------------------|----------------|
| ADULT EDUCATION | Stan Searl | (310)204-4225 |
| | Grayson Schick | |
| AVP (Alternatives to Violence Project) | Tanna Moontaro | (310) 399-0315 |
| ALICE HERMAN | Alice Burston | (310) 486-7423 |
| | Carol Hofmann | (310) 455-7212 |
| CHILDREN'S EDUCATION | Heather Aymie | Aymies@att.net |
| COMMUNICATIONS | Rebecca Searl | (310)204-4225 |
| FELLOWSHIP | Cindy Waite | (323) 841-4131 |
| FINANCE | Richard Chamberlain | (310) 443-1490 |
| HOUSE | Richard Shaw | (310) 475-7139 |
| 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 |

My most hearty endorsement for the Ben Lomond Quaker Center!

By Cristine Reynaert

Friends! I had the most wonderful experience this past weekend at a workshop/retreat at the Ben Lomond Center. I know that several others before me have come back and sung the praises of this special place run by special people for a special purpose, but I wanted to add my voice to that chorus. It was so wonderful getting to meet other Quakers from around the state; the programming and opportunity for space and discernment were wonderful; the setting (in a Redwood forest) was to die for; and the vegetarian/vegan food was beyond delicious! Bob and Kathy who run the Center could not be more warm and gracious hosts.

As a reminder, our Meeting has an annual pass that pays for the registration costs of one Member or Attender at each pro-

gram. March is already spoken for, but I believe the remaining spots are open as of now (though I know several of you are also planning to attend the Clerking workshop, which is being supported separately from the annual pass). If you're interested in any of the upcoming programming, please email Carol Hofmann (cc'd here) to let her know you'd like the annual pass slot! And the programming costs are also quite reasonable even without the pass (and you can apply for additional Alice Herman funds in support of your visit if the annual pass spot is already taken).

And here is the 2015 schedule.

<http://www.quakercenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/2015-Program-Schedule.pdf>

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.

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

