

Friendly Notes

Santa Monica Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

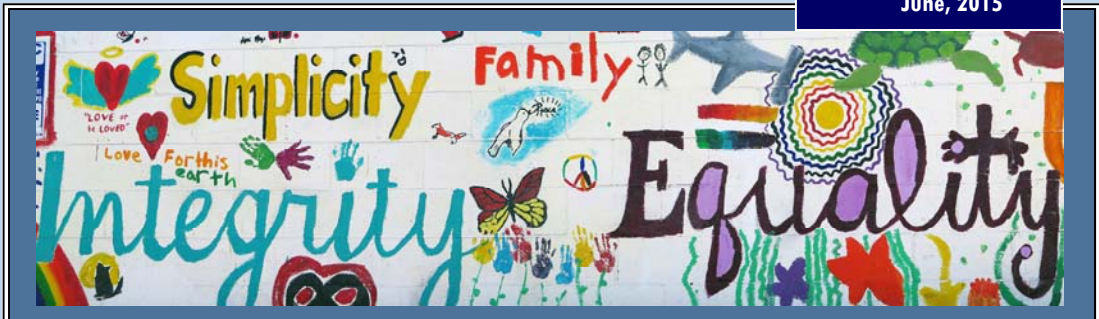
June, 2015

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Upcoming Events:

- ◆ 7/13/15-7/18/15 - Pacific Yearly Meeting Annual Gathering, Walker Creek Ranch



Advices and Queries — Stewardship

Queries

- What are we doing to ensure adequate water, food, shelter, education and respect for those who do not have ready access to these blessings? *IMYM F&P*
- Do I consider the damage I might do to the Earth's vulnerable systems in the choices I make of what I do, what I buy, and how I spend my time? *PYM F&P*
- How does our meeting engage its members in the support of the Meeting's work, its ministry, and the up-keep of its property?

Advices

- We do not own the world, and its riches are not ours to dispose of at will. Show a loving consideration for all creatures, and seek to maintain the beauty and variety of the world. Work to ensure that our increasing power over nature is used responsibly with reverence for life. *Quaker Faith and Practice*
- In the biblical tradition, the foundation for human governance is stewardship rather than ownership; we care for life's homeplace as servants, not as the lords of the earth. *IMYM F&P*
- Service is the rent we pay for the privilege of living on this earth. It is the very purpose of life, not something you do in your spare time. *Shirley Chisholm*



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 - May 10, 2015

Business Meeting
May 10, 2015

Attending: Ann Fuller, Julie Murphy, Simon Simonian, Grayson Schick, Cynthia Cuza, Judith Searle, Tim Vreeland, Donna Cooper, Cindy Waite, Richard Chamberlain, Vanessa Glasberg, Brian Johnston, Grant Ramey, Shelley Blank, Jan Bartholomew, Maria Manetta, Celia Carroll, Richard Shaw, Elizabeth Cocca, Wendy Christensen, Curtis Raynor, Jenna van Draanen, Kate Watkins-Shaw.

Meeting began in silent worship on advices and queries on Service and Vocation. Vocal ministry touched on living guided by the Light as faithfulness, rather than a heavy responsibility. Every day is a gift to be shared; are we bold enough to care deeply and actively, and to be open to continual improvement?

Minutes from the April 12, 2015 meeting for business were read and approved.

Nominating – Donna Cooper presented two nominations for committee membership: Jenna van Draanen on Peace and Social Action and Denny Flinn on House. These will be held over for one month for approval at the next meeting for business.

Meeting approves Gretchen Woelfle and Judith Searle on the Nominating committee, both for one year terms, and Jan Bartholomew on the Peace and Social Action Committee.

Peace and Social Action – Brian Johnston reported that the committee has been meeting regularly since September, focusing on how it can do its work. With no lack of issues on which members feel strongly, the committee is discerning which issues we are led to take up and how these issues reflect Quaker principles. A survey will be presented to members and attenders seeking to discover specific areas in which we are actively involved, and which issues of the larger Quaker organizations we are

called to support. The goal is to share interests, but information will not be shared without permission. The committee hopes to bring minutes of concern to meeting for business for worshipful consideration, to strengthen the Quaker voice in the larger community, and to hold Adult Education sessions to educate Friends on the issues. Action needs to come from a place of deep understanding and unity, based in Quaker values. A Friend noted that individual Friends are free to act as they are called; the Spirit will lead us to unity at the meeting level, but it takes time.

Alternatives to Violence Project – Curtis Raynor described AVP's history and work and noted several Friends in attendance who have been active. Tanna Moontaro and Ria Manetta started AVP-LA about 15 years ago, and it now includes many non-Quakers and Quakers from other meetings in California. About ten years ago, Santa Monica established a support committee under the care of the meeting. AVP now works in juvenile detention centers, the women and men's prisons in Chino, and in community workshops, such as the weekly AVP workshop with Homeboys. A new project is to become a registered non-profit (501)C organization, which will allow it to work with city and county government and to become self-supporting through tax-exempt donations, supplementing workshop fees. Santa Monica meeting has been a major source of financial support, and meeting support is still welcome.

Committees – Committee descriptions for three committees (see attachments) were read. Meeting approved the descriptions of Pastoral Care, Fellowship, and Finance, noting that Finance committee has a 15 month term, so that membership overlaps the budget year, and that it authorizes Friends to sign checks with attention to changing clerkships. The Clerk will work with Finance to finalize the Finance committee description. Two binders in the library contain all the committee descriptions and Friends are encouraged to refer to them when considering where they are led to serve.

Minutes - May 10, 2015, continued

PYM Annual Session – Kate Shaw read four proposed configurations for the annual session of Pacific Yearly Meeting (see attachment). Santa Monica meeting has already had input, and Friends were called to reflect on the current proposals in silent worship. Kate noted that the teens strongly support keeping a longer session.

Clerk sensed unity in support of Proposal Two or Four, with more important activities concentrated on the weekend. A

Friend recommended that the session close with Sunday lunch and begin with Tuesday dinner to facilitate those driving from a long distance.

Meeting closed in silent worship.

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

LETTING GO: Surrendering to the Source

18th Annual Quaker Labor Day Weekend Silent Retreat,
Friday 9/4-Sunday 9/6, 2015

Prince of Peace Abbey, Oceanside CA

How far can you take surrender? How much can you empty yourself? – Cynthia Bourgeault

Experience the peace of surrendering to Spirit during 2-1/2 days of extended and safe silence that eases us into the freshness of the holy. We meet as a community during our opening and closing worship-sharing circles, meetings for worship, and at silent meals -- and if so moved, we can explore the art room, contemplative walks, the monks' services, meditative writing, gentle yoga, and meeting for healing.

Questions? Talk with me, Monica Faulkner, at meeting for worship or by phone (310 391-3705) or email (monica.faulkner@gmail.com). (Financial aid is available from our meeting and the retreat committee. Attendees can also extend their stay through Monday 9/7 for an additional fee.)

BOOK REVIEW: THE PECULIAR PEOPLE

Book II of Jan de Hartog's Quaker Trilogy
Recommended by Don McCormick

I can't remember the last time I've enjoyed a novel as thoroughly as this one. This historical novel is a real page turner. It provides an engrossing good read, and also provides interesting insight into the nature of Quakerism in the U.S. in the first half of the 1800's, the nature of the main characters' struggles to find God's will, and the way Business Meeting can be used as an instrument of organizational politics. Soon after the publication of this book, the author was nominated for the Nobel Prize for Literature. I give this book 4 moments of silence (on the 1 – 4 moments of silence rating scale.)

Adult Education

The Ages of Woman: Women Poets Write about the Stages of Their Lives

"The Ages of Woman: Women Poets Write about the Stages of Their Lives" is the title of a program Judith Searle will present at the Friends Meeting House* at noon on Sunday, June 7 as part of the Santa Monica Meeting's Adult Education Program.

"What would happen if a woman told the truth about her life? The world would split open." So wrote the great American poet Muriel Rukeyser. This kind of truth-telling, sometimes disturbing, always heartfelt, is the theme of my program. It moves from childhood to old age, showing a variety of perspectives on the important stages and events in a woman's life through the poetry of Gertrude Stein, Phyllis McGinley, Sharon Olds, Edna St. Vincent Millay, Denise Levertov, Emily Dickinson, Amy Lowell, Judith Viorst, Gwendolyn Brooks, Lucille Clifton, Dorothy Parker, Elizabeth Bishop, and Marianne Moore, among others.

Committee Descriptions and Responsibilities

Pastoral Care Committee

The Santa Monica Monthly Meeting, Pastoral Care Committee has many responsibilities. Its overall goal: to take care of members' and attenders' physical and spiritual needs.

In writing this description we refer to the "Oversight Committee" section in Pacific Yearly Meeting's *Faith and Practice*. These are among the ways in which Pastoral Care (PC) hopes to achieve the goals of caring for Quakers' physical and spiritual needs:

- If an Attender wants to apply for membership or marry under the Meeting's care, the PC is the group to approach.
- When Quakers have personal problems, divorce, family adjustments, or such life events as moving, summoning courage to take a stand on a public issue, or coming out we hope they can talk with PC members. Friends may ask to convene a "Clearness Committee." Clearness Committee members are chosen in consultation with the person seeking clarity. PC will sometimes suggest that members with relevant experiences be asked to participate. Such a Committee doesn't offer advice or professional counseling; it tries to listen to the person in need but also tries to help by listening to the movement of the Spirit in order to seek clearness together, just as we seek clearness together in Meeting for Worship.
- Though Meeting funds are obviously not limitless, in working with the Alice Herman Committee, PC is sometimes able to grant funds for emergency needs of members and active attenders.
- PC encourages Quakers to write documents describing any plans they have made for burial and a memorial service, particularly if family is not aware of them.
- PC encourages fellowship by welcoming new members, planning baby welcome events, visiting the sick and troubled, and arranging transportation for Friends in need.

As these descriptions suggest, PC often will work with other Committees to achieve these ends, and may sometimes form subcommittees charged with certain responsibilities: marriage and clearness committees, for instance.

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	(310) 922-1434
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

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee is to carry out the duties as described in Pacific Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice. In practice these consist of:

- Connecting with other committees of Meeting to help estimate their financial needs
- Assisting the Meeting in formulating a budget each year to meet these aspirations, as well as fixed and emergent expenses
- Working with the Treasurer, assisting her/him as necessary, and clarifying the authorization for various expenditures
- Keeping Meeting informed of the progress of expenditures with respect to the approved Budget
- Communicating decisions of Meeting for Business to the Treasurer as necessary
- Coordinating with the Alice Herman Fund Committee to ensure that expenditures more appropriate for that Fund do not come from the general fund
- Providing ongoing information to Meeting as to whether or not receipts are keeping pace with the budgeted amounts, and periodically encouraging additional donations as required
- Ensuring that the investment accounts for Meeting and the Alice Herman Fund have the correct names of the authorized signers on the accounts. The treasurer and the Clerk are the authorized signers, and so whenever there is a new Clerk or treasurer these need to be

changed.

A major undertaking of Finance Committee each year is budget formulation.

- This process starts in the fall, with Finance working with all the other committees to determine the anticipated expenses for the coming year. The Finance Committee may also brainstorm new activities with the other committees, and determine whether innovative approaches will be needed to finance them. As a result, each committee will develop its input.
- Income must be estimated in addition to expenditures. Previous years' receipts can be considered, as well as changes in membership numbers, etc.
- Once these data has been gathered, Finance creates a consolidated Budget for presentation to Meeting for Business. This typically occurs in December; assuming concurrence at Meeting, the budget is held over for approval in January.

Because much of the preparation of Meeting's annual budget is done in the final three months of the calendar year (which are the first three months of the committee year), Finance committee terms are for 15 months (September through December of the following year) in order to overlap and give support to the new committee members when preparing the annual Meeting budget.

