

Friendly Notes

Santa Monica Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

July, 2015

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Upcoming Events:

- ◆ 7/13/15-7/18/15 - Pacific Yearly Meeting Annual Gathering, Walker Creek Ranch
- ◆ 10/3/15—Meeting Retreat



Advices and Queries — Diversity of Belief

Queries

- Do we welcome the diversity of culture, language and expressions of faith in our Meeting and in the larger community?
- How does Jesus speak to you today? Are you learning from his life the reality and cost of obedience to God?
- Does our Meeting respect that of God in everyone, though it may be expressed in unfamiliar ways?

Advices

Each of us has a particular experience of God and each must find the way to be true to it. When words are strange or disturbing to you, try to sense where they come from and what has nourished the lives of others. Listen patiently and seek the truth which other people's opinions may contain for you. Avoid hurtful criticism and provocative language. Do not allow the

strength of your convictions to betray you into making statements or allegations that are unfair or untrue. Think it possible that you may be mistaken.

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.

The Religious Society of Friends is rooted in Christianity and has always found inspiration in the life and teachings of Jesus. How do you interpret your faith in the light of this heritage? How does his relationship with God challenge and inspire you?

~From Quaker Faith and Practice, Britain Yearly Meeting

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 - June 14, 2015

Business Meeting
June 14, 2015

Attending: Jan Bartholomew, Maria Manetta, Bob Tajima, Tim Vreeland, Judith Searle, Ruth Gooley, Curtis Raynor, Grant Ramey, Julie Murphy, Shelley Blank, Brian Johnston, Cathleen Loeser, Wendy Christensen, Rebecca Searl, Grayson Schick, Stan Searl, Ann Fuller

Meeting began with worship on queries and advices on stewardship.

Minutes from the May 10, 2015 meeting for business were read and approved with the following two clarifications: the founders of AVP-LA were Tanna Moontaro and Shan Cretin, and, AVP does not work in juvenile detention centers.

Nominating Committee – Judith Searle read the nominees for committees in 2016, including Friends who are continuing and Friends who are brought for approval. Friends are referred to Stan Searl, Gretchen Woelfle, Donna Cooper, or Judith with any questions.

Meeting approves Dennis Flynn on House Committee, Jenna Van Draanen on Peace and Social Action.

Alice Herman Fund – held over until the next meeting for business

House Committee – Shelley Blank reported on the rental situation; Corey Wilson, a real estate agent, continues to look for possibilities, and will charge a standard fee if rentals are found. Grant Ramey reported that although weekends and evenings are almost completely filled, there

are no rentals on weekdays so far, and we have not equalled the rent lost when ECPC left. Friends are referred to Rick Shaw, Grant Ramey or Richard Chamberlain with suggestions or questions.

Fellowship Committee – Cindy Waite will be away for four First Days, from July 12 through August 3. Although other committees members will step up, Friends are welcomed to help with set up and clean up.

Worship and Ministry – Brian Johnston reported that the committee has discerned that the practice of having Joys and Concerns at rise of meeting, with space for Friends to share thoughts that did not rise to ministry, detracted from the spirit of the silence at a time when we are all still tender and returning to the mundane. Quaker and personal announcements will still take place at rise of meeting for worship. The clerk called for worship. Friends spoke to their experience at other meetings where appropriate parameters were set for sharing joys and concerns, or where announcements are written and given to the Clerk to read. A Friend noted that thoughts that do not rise to ministry may, with seasoning, rise at a future time. Our aim is to have a succinct and respectful end to meeting for worship.

Meeting closed with silent worship.

Respectfully submitted,
Stan Searl, 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.)

**Adult Education
Sunday, September 6, 2015; Noon**

Introduction to the New Meeting Website

Bob Tajima and Rebecca Searl will give a tour of the new Meeting web site. It is located here: <https://www.quakercloud.org/cloud/santa-monica-friends-meeting>

The web site is hosted by the Friends General Conference Quaker Cloud. A group of members of the Communications Committee, Worship and Ministry, and Adult Education have been working since last fall to develop content. It is still a work-i-progress. We invite you to take a tour of the new web site at the Adult Education session in September

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**WALK CHEERFULLY OVER THE EARTH ANSWERING THAT OF
GOD IN EVERYONE. -George Fox**

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.

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