

Friendly Notes

Santa Monica Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

September, 2015

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Upcoming Events:

- ◆ 9/25/15—Potluck with David Hartsough at Kate & Rick's
- ◆ 10/3/15—Meeting Retreat
- ◆ 10/4/15—Adult Education: Spiritual Journey with Betty Smith
- ◆ 11/1/15—Adult Education: Quaker Leadings with Stan Searl
- ◆ 11/7/15 -11/8/15—SCQM Fall Fellowship
- ◆ 11/11/15—Business Meeting
- ◆ 12/6/15—Adult Education: Clerking with Cynthia Cuza



Advices and Queries

Stewardship and the Uses of our Meetinghouse

“The principle of stewardship applies to all that we are given ... We are each obliged to use our ... material possessions and other resources in a spirit of love, aware that we hold these gifts in trust and that we are responsible for using them wisely.” (from Intermountain Yearly Meeting)

At the called Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business held 8/30/2015, the Business Meeting asked Worship and Ministry to engage in further discernment about how to approach the rental of space in our Meetinghouse. After reflection, prayer and worship, Worship and Ministry discerned that the principles of stewardship and right sharing of resources lead us to care for our building, and that caring for our building is a spiritual calling. We note that there are repairs and upgrades that the Meetinghouse needs, that we are not undertak-

ing. As a community, we were given an amazing gift from our founding Quaker women.

Worship and Ministry discerns that the primary concern before us at this Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business is how the Spirit moves us to carry out our communal responsibility as stewards of this sacred space and the right sharing of the resources entrusted to us.

We ask the Meeting to consider the following queries:

- Are we ready to embrace the spiritual foundation of stewardship? How does this lead us to care for our sacred space?
- How can we become good stewards, so that our Meetinghouse will be a spiritual and physical resource for future generations of Quakers?
- How can we use this resource in a spirit of love to strengthen the community in which we are located?

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 - July 12, 2015

Business Meeting
July 12, 2015

Attending: Debbie, Richard Shaw, Rachel Fretz, Sarah Edwards, Julie Murphy, Bob Tajima, Shelley Blank, Brian Johnston, Alice Burston, Judith Searle, Kim O'Brien, Elizabeth Cocca, Peace, Henry Yang, Donna Cooper, Grant Ramey, Simon Simonian, Celia Carroll, Margaret Hutchinson, Gretchen Woelfle, Wendy Christensen, Jan Bartholomew, Kate Watkins-Shaw, Ann Fuller

Meeting began in silent worship on queries on Diversity of Belief. Friends spoke to the importance of teaching and witnessing the principle of respect in today's world, and of the importance of respecting the different beliefs each of us brings to our community.

“The Role of Those Present”

(attached), from the Quaker Center clerking workshop led by Arthur Larraabee, was read aloud, and distributed to those who had not received it on the list serve. We reviewed these advices and will continue to reflect on them.

Alice Herman Fund Committee – Alice Burston read a report and suggested minute from the committee recommending a new category of grants by the Alice Herman Fund. These grants would support speakers and workshops brought to the Meeting for our spiritual enrichment. The Clerk sensed broad support, with the additional recommendation that requests come to AHC through committees, e.g. Peace and Social Action, Adult Education, Worship and Ministry. AHC is requested to bring a revised minute, including guidelines, to the next meeting for business for approval.

Pastoral Care – Cathleen Loeser brought Judith Searle forward for membership. Any concerns may be brought to her clearness committee, Brian John-

ston, Rebecca Searl, and Cathleen Loeser.

Finance Committee – Julie Murphy distributed the quarterly report, covering income and expenditures by each committee. After discussion, the Clerk noted that meeting will be in financial difficulty unless a daytime renter is found to replace ECPC. Business meeting requests that Finance Committee propose an alternative budget that takes into account our decrease in income. Committees are requested to look at what expenditures are essential. A question about non-profits being allowed to rent was referred to the committee.

Communications Committee – Bob Tajima read a report on the website, which is up and available (at <https://www.quakercloud.org/cloud/santa-monica-friends-meeting>) and the committee's work. By September, the committee intends to have a procedure for listing events, probably through committees. An Adult Education session is planned for the first Sunday in September to introduce Friends to the new website.

Ministry and Worship – Rachel Fretz asked Friends to save October 3 for an all-day retreat, focused on Quaker process in committees and meeting for business.

Nominating Committee – Gretchen Woelfle distributed the list of committee members for 2015, for final approval. The Clerk sensed that meeting was ready to move forward as read, after discernment on extending the term of the meeting clerk. Nominating is asked to consider the issues of continuity and change. It was noted that the question of extending the term was a question of process, not of performance.

07-15-01 Meeting approves the list of committee members for 2015 (attached) with the following additions: Jan Bartholomew on Fellowship and Wendy Christensen on Peace and Social Action.

New Business:

Minutes, continued

November Meeting for Business will be moved to November 15, to avoid conflict with SCQM Fall Fellowship.

A proposed PYM Minute on Latin American Concerns, distributed through the list serve, was read, and referred to Peace and Social Action, with the reminder that process, which leads us to unity, is as important as a position we take. The clerk sensed that the topic is one for which Santa Monica Friends have concerns.

Minutes from the June 14, 2015 meeting for business were read and approved.

Meeting closed with silent worship.

Respectfully submitted,
Stan Searl, Clerk
Ann Fuller, Recording Clerk

Alice Herman Committee - Meeting Enrichment Grants

The Alice Herman Committee (AHC) welcomes written proposals from committees of Santa Monica Meeting to bring speakers/presentations/workshops to our Meeting that will help us deepen or refresh our Quaker practice as a community. In general, the request should be submitted by the clerk of the committee, and/or should include a minute by the committee approving the request. Individuals who are interested in bringing a speaker, should work with the relevant

committee to season and approve the request. Please submit your application well in advance of the desired date for the Meeting Enrichment activity. Quaker process takes time. Our budget is determined early in the calendar year. Though applications are considered at any time, worthy projects submitted towards the end of the year may not be approved due to a dwindling budget.

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

Community

We need to find the courage to assert and act upon the hope, however naïve, that community can be found.

Parker Palmer



Minutes

Called Meeting on the Occasion of Business, August 30, 2015

Attending: Ann Fuller, Kate Watkins, Debbie, Celia Carroll, David Wolff, Wendy Christensen, Richard Chamberlain, Donna Cooper, Gretchen Woelfle, Dean Wahls, Monica Faulkner, Cynthia Cuza, Simon Simonian, Diane Manning, Kathy Forsman, Tim Vreeland, Judith Searle, Kim O'Brien, Henry Yang, JoAnn Taylor, Shelley Blank, Richard Plasten (?), Jan Bartholomew, Stan Searl, Elizabeth Cocco, Brian Johnston, Cathleen Loeser, Cindy Waite, Donna Buell, Curtis Raynor, Grayson Schick, Rebecca Searl, Rick Shaw, Grant Ramey

Meeting began in silent worship.

The Clerk clarified that this is not a discussion, it is a meeting for worship to discern how the Spirit is leading us.

Sean and Maria Kirschenstein spoke to us about renting our meetinghouse for an expansion of their day care facility. They have met with House Committee members Shelley Blank and Rick Shaw, and have heard our concerns. Sean spoke about Maria's warm, calm presence in the school which she runs from their home, and invited Friends to visit. Their current facility is approved, but is not ideal for their plans to expand. They feel some time constraint because of city permit process, but can be flexible to work with our process. They spoke to several concerns that have been discussed: retaining the character of the building as a place of worship, noise, neighborhood relationships, use of the upstairs, and the status of the Friend in Residence. Santa Monica Meeting would need to approve any changes to the building; they are working with an architect familiar with church/school collaborations.

There have been no complaints about noise at their current school, in a residential area; a Conditional Use Permit requires a neighborhood liaison, and contact numbers to be given out to neighbors. They give priority to families within half a mile, which facilitates relationships with the community; they work with Connections for Children for scholarship aid. They would prefer to use the entire upstairs space for offices, a quiet space, and a shower (required), but will check with the City fire inspector about the feasibility of retaining a Friend in Residence.

The present school has 14 children and 5 teachers. Their desire is to expand to 35-45 children, depending on the available space. The hours would be 7 am to 6 pm on weekdays, with occasional Saturdays for events; they prefer having exclusive access during those times, for reasons of security, cleaning, shifting and securing staff and materials, but would consider allowing evening use of the space.

Maria spoke about her history and philosophy. She has a degree in Early Childhood Education and taught for 12 years in her native Brazil, and has been teaching in the US for five years. She described the Reggio Emilia philosophy, which emphasizes working with the whole family, creating student initiated projects, with no time limits, working with the feelings that the children come with, and use of the environment through gardening and use of natural materials.

Friends brought concerns about our Friend in Residence, use of the meetinghouse as a commercial space, why they are leaving their current community, the possibility of priority given to Friends' families, and preserving our spiritual home in a shared space. Sean and Maria responded that they will need to check further with licensing agencies about commercial use of a space which is also a residence, although they have ap-

Minutes, continued

plied for conversion of their home. They intend to share the space by utilizing modular storage. A Friend pointed out that details such as space usage, and flooring, would be worked out in the next stage – we are considering only a Letter of Intent today.

The meeting settled into worship after Sean and Maria left.

Richard Shaw, for House Committee, distributed four items (attached). 1) two proposed Minutes, 2) a Letter of Intent, 3) a revised Committee report, and 4) a list of the Friend in Residence's duties. Later, he distributed copies of a statement of philosophy from Maria.

House Committee, in consultation with Finance Committee, has approved and brings forward the following two Minutes:

Santa Monica Meeting will agree to and sign the Letter of Intent from My First Place for rental of the meeting grounds and building and continue negotiation of a Lease Agreement.

Santa Monica Meeting will form an ad hoc committee to assist House and Finance Committees in reviewing and negotiating a Lease Agreement, including selection and monitoring of outside professionals (lawyers, accountants, et al.)

House Committee feels that proceeding with negotiations with My First Place is in the best interests of the Meeting, although there are still some specifics to work out in the crafting and negotiation of a Lease

Agreement. House Committee believes that the tasks now performed by the Friend in Residence can be accomplished by people who do not live on the property, since My First Place will cover routine maintenance, security, gardening and the improvements they require. While this offer is by far the best one we have received (and one of the only serious offers), House Committee may do further investigation of comparable preschool rentals in Santa Monica. Note that the Letter of Intent is not binding on either party, but is a recognition that we are on common ground and agree to have a conversation about a Lease Agreement.

Approval of these minutes will be held over for the next meeting for business in September.

The Clerk called for worship. The Clerk of Worship and Ministry was called on to remind Friends of good process; to set aside personal opinions, inviting a message from the Spirit, to speak the message when recognized by the Clerk, then release it. Our task is to see how the Spirit is moving.

Rick Shaw shared House Committee's difficulties in finding a rental, and spoke to several concerns. There will be no adverse tax consequences or changes to our non-profit status if we rent to a profit-based organization; our property tax would rise, but would be covered by the proposed rental income. Our current financial situation was described; only \$40,000 of our \$60,000 budget is covered by contributions and evening rentals. After

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Santa Monica Friends Meeting

Member or attender of this meeting?

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Quaker Meeting

Welcome to Santa Monica Friends Meeting!

Meeting for Worship is held every Sunday at 10-11 am. All are welcome. After Meeting we gather for refreshments and fellowship.

First Day School (Sunday School) for children and youth, and childcare for infants and preschoolers is from 10:15-11:15. Children are invited to join their families in meeting for worship from 10:00-10:15.

Worship with us!

310-828-4089

1440 Harvard Street
Santa Monica, CA 90404
United States

Check out Meeting's web site:

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

Simplicity

There was a care on my mind so to pass my time that nothing might hinder me from the most steady attention to the voice of the true shepherd.

John Woolman



“Among Friends, the decisions made by a group are enriched when all members commit themselves to regular attendance ... Remember that to everyone is given a share of responsibility, whether through silence or through the spoken word.”

Minutes, Called Meeting for Business, August 30, 2015, continued

fixed expenses are paid, cuts would have to come from other areas, such as outreach, children's program, fellowship. The proposed rent would cover the budget, and in addition My First Place would cover some expenses that meeting currently has to cover.

Friends spoke to a feeling of being rushed, and being on a different time line than My First Place, to the importance of good process to reach unity among us, to the benefit of a strong financial base with which to carry out our purposes, and of a concern for other community groups, memorials, and other events that we can accommodate now. Friends asked if we are open to meeting that of God in Sean and Maria. A Friend recalled the difficult discernment when Santa Monica meeting was setting up the Alice Herman Fund. Friends spoke to the quality of space in the meetinghouse being sacred and asked how the curriculum of My First Place during the week would support that. A Friend recalled the wonderful presence of young people in the All Ages worship in the morning and said that they saw a nurturing spirit in Maria which would enrich us and the space. A long time member spoke to a personal feeling of excitement and the opportunity to be better stewards of this space, and noted that the meetinghouse has undergone many changes over its 53 years. Another Friend described their coming to meeting from a group that met here (and was asked to leave because of noise). A Friend noted that self-sufficiency was reached in the past

through the generous contributions of a few members, who have passed on, and that we have come to accept a certain level of shabbiness. A Friend said that it is what we do here is what makes this space sacred, and expressed appreciation for the accumulated wisdom in the room this morning. A Friend asked whether our larger purpose might be to facilitate a child care program in the neighborhood; financial security is a priority but not as high as keeping our integrity and purpose pure.

Friends suggested including our need to retain the meetinghouse as sacred space explicitly in our agreements, and that we need expert advice. Our present Friend in Residence described his shift from initial feelings of loss and threat, to hearing that of God as Sean spoke, and now seeing a change that might represent an opportunity for himself and his family.

Worship and Ministry was asked to discern the spiritual basis for our decision and to report back to business meeting. Finance committee was asked to reflect on the Meeting's ability to come up with increased member contributions (approximately double current contributions) in the event we do not sign the letter of intent. Children's education committee was asked to visit My First Place and report to business meeting about the services My First Place currently provides. House was asked to clarify with the real estate agent and the proposed tenant the nature of the requirement that prevented us from having a FIR.

Meeting closed in silent worship.
Respectfully submitted,
Kate Watkins Shaw, Clerk
Ann Fuller, Recording Clerk

The Role of Those Present

Presented in a Clerking Workshop by Arthur Larrabee at Quaker Center

The role of those present is to:

1. Give thought to the meeting ahead of time. If an agenda and supporting materials are available in advance, give attention to them. Come prepared, mentally and spiritually, to do the business of the community in a spirit of worship.
2. Be present in a spirit of worship.
3. Support the expectations of the group for good order, which may include:
 - a. starting and ending meetings on time;
 - b. not asking to speak more than is your proportionate share, taking into a consideration the nature of the meeting, the matter at hand, your role, and the number of people present.
 - c. waiting to be recognized.
4. Speak your truth but then release it to the meeting, The act of letting go is as important as what you say.
5. Listen empathetically to others with the inner ear

as well as with the outer ear; ask yourself, “What is really being said?”

6. Hold in the Light those people and ideas with whom you seem to be in disagreement. Consider adopting an attitude of curiosity rather than an attitude of judgment.
 7. Challenge yourself to trust the Light that is given to others, being open to new truth, revelation and insight; be teachable.
 8. Refrain from repeating what has already been said.
 9. Hold the clerk and the recording clerk in the Light.
 10. Help the meeting to move forward; be present with clerking consciousness.
 11. Support the decisions of the meeting.
 12. Practice the spiritual discipline of patience.
- The role of those not present is to show up next time.

Southern California Quarterly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Fall 2014

Call to Fall Fellowship
November 1-2, 2014

Temescal Gateway Park
15610 W. Sunset, Pacific Palisades, CA 90272

“Spiritual Deepening: Opening Doors to the Spirit”

MAKING SANDWICHES FOR THE HOMELESS WITH THE SANTA MONICA FRIENDS

Meeting for Business

I had occasion to consider that it is a weighty thing to speak much in large meetings for business. First, except our minds are rightly prepared and we clearly understand the case we speak to, instead of forwarding, we hinder business and make more labour for those on whom the burden of work is laid.

John Woolman

How you do anything is how you do everything.

—Thérèse of Lisieux

First you put on plastic gloves. Then you lay out on the oilcloth-covered table in the courtyard two slices of bread, adjacent ones from the loaf, so they will match up to make a presentable sandwich. When the space is filled with these double slices you pick up a stack of orange cheese slices, carefully peel off one and place it in the center of a top slice of bread.

When all the bread stacks are crowned with cheese you shake the big yellow plastic bottle, uncap the top and squeeze mustard onto each piece of cheese—just enough so that when you position a second slice of cheese over the first there will be no yellow ooze out onto the bread. Now take the bottom slice of bread and place it evenly on top of the cheese. You have created a sandwich!

Now you need to protect it and preserve it. The bags come in two sizes, and if a sandwich won't fit comfortably into the smaller one, use the larger (more costly) one. Seal the top completely (not easy, wearing those plastic gloves) and pile the packages together.

Now someone is putting the bagged sandwiches into one of the empty bags the loaves came in, so that the shoulders of each sandwich line up with the adjacent ones to lessen the likelihood of damage. Watch how delicately this packer slides a couple of the smaller sandwiches into two sides of the larger bag, to fill the available space without crushing the bread, then fastens one of the original twist ties around the top.

The sandwiches will be distributed at a feeding center for homeless people to take with them after their hot midday meal, to eat later.

If you were homeless, the perfection of this sandwich might offer you more than one kind of sustenance.

—Judith Searle





Join Us!

Working together with love: Quaker decision-making practices

You are invited to a day-long retreat of members and attenders of the Santa Monica Meeting on **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 9AM to 4PM**, at the Malibu United Methodist Church near Zuma Beach. Children and young adults are welcome. Carl Magruder, from Berkeley Meeting, will join us as our guest speaker.

The retreat will invite us to explore the spiritual basis of our Quaker process and its importance to the decisions we make as a meeting community. We will seek to strengthen both our ability as a Meeting and individually to center in our worship, and make our decisions in the Light.

The church grounds are delightful, there are facilities for children, it is near the beach, and yet it is quiet. Light breakfast, and lunch will be provided. The Church is located at 31028 Morning View Drive, Malibu CA, 90265.

We have invited Carl Magruder, whom some of you may know, to guide us in our retreat.



Adult Education Programs for 2015

All of these Adult Education sessions will be at the Meetinghouse at noon and last for an hour. Come and bring your own experience to these vital Quaker sessions.

*10/04/2015: "Sharing One's Spiritual Journey" with Betty Smith. Betty is a long-time member of Santa Monica Meeting. The central focus of her work has been explorations of myth and the ancient Greek World, including founding Poiesis Seminars. Her latest book is *The Greek Dialogues: Explorations in Myth* (Xlibris, 2010) and Betty will have copies for sale at her presentation.*

*11/01/2015: "Quaker Leadings" by Stanford J. Searl, Jr., who has a public leading supported by the Santa Monica Meeting about poetry as ministry. This session will explore the theory and practice of leadings, with special attention to Marty Grundy's *Tall Poppies*, Pendle Hill Pamphlet #347 and "Faithfulness in Action" by Pacific Yearly Meeting.*

12/06/2015: "Practices of Clerking" with Cynthia Cuza. Following-up the October 3rd Retreat, Cynthia will explore various layers of Clerking, including a deepening of worship, the meanings of a sense of the Meeting, the importance of deep listening and a variety of related practices.

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 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.

Mail to:
Santa Monica Meeting
1440 Harvard St.
Santa Monica, CA 90404

