REDWOOD FOREST FRIENDS MEETING FOR WORSHIP
Sunday 10:00 AM at Quaker Meetinghouse
1647 Guerneville Rd. Santa Rosa, CA
Healing circle and snacks follow worship.
Potluck on third Sunday each month. All are welcome!
Childcare provided for infants and children. First Day School on 3rd Sunday.

Reminder: Please do not wear scented products as some of us are chemically sensitive.

See page 3 for Meetings Under Our Care and Other Meetings in the Area.

The Practice of the Presence
Sunday July 24, Second Hour

For the Second Hour on Sunday July 24, Dinah Bachrach and Eric Straatsma will share their experience of a 5-day workshop, “The Practice of the Presence,” held at Ben Lomond Quaker Center in the Spring, and led by Jim Anderson, Sandy Kewman, Diego Navarro, and Kathy and Bob Runyan.

Workshops can be very rich at the time, and then disappear like a dream: this one stayed. Come and get a little taste of the rich territory we covered, as well as its personal impact on us. Mornings were deep intellectual and experiential exercises in an aspect of Presence: Awakening, Responding, Following and Obeying, Forms of the Practice, and Fruits of the Practice using readings from early and late Quakers, talks from one of the 5 facilitators, reflecting, writing and sharing. Afternoons we took a turn in our small worship sharing group sharing our personal practices and receiving discerning responses. Evenings were explorations of the Presence through drawing, dance, skits, and worship.

Are You Responsible and Detail-Oriented?
The Meeting Needs You!

Breaking News Alert: As of June 23, Nominating Committee finds itself once again looking for someone to fill the vital role of serving as the Meeting’s Treasurer. Could that be you?

Perhaps you’re thinking: “No way! I’m already serving on a committee!” But consider: Would you be able to help the Meeting even more by serving as the Treasurer instead?

Please contact the clerk of Nominating, Ken DellaPenta (707-539-4941), if you would like to be considered for this crucial position. Thank you.
**JULY CALENDAR**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>03 SUN</td>
<td><strong>Committee Meetings</strong> both before Meeting and following snacks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 SUN</td>
<td><strong>Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business</strong> after snacks</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 WED</td>
<td><strong>Women’s Group</strong> 5:30–8:00 PM, starting with potluck, Residence. All women welcome.</td>
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<tr>
<td>17 SUN</td>
<td><strong>First Day School for Children</strong> 10-11 AM.</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Potluck</strong> following Worship, Residence.</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>After Potluck: NBOP Interest Group.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>24 SUN</td>
<td><strong>2nd Hour: Practice of the Presence</strong> following snacks. <em>See page 1 for details.</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>27 WED</td>
<td><strong>Women’s Group</strong> 5:30–8:00 PM, starting with potluck, Residence. All women welcome.</td>
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<tr>
<td>28 THU</td>
<td><strong>Child Refugee Subcommittee</strong> 5:30–7:00 PM, 576 B Street, Suite 1 C, Santa Rosa. All welcome. <em>See page 3 for details.</em></td>
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EVERY TUESDAY **Yoga Class 4:00–5:15 PM.** Slow in pace and designed for beginning adults. All welcome. Call Susan Gore (431-2304) to confirm and tell you’re coming.

DAILY EXCEPT SUNDAYS **Silent Meditation Group** 7:00–7:30 AM, Friends House Library.

DAILY: **Online morning worship from 7:30-8 AM.** Log onto the Quaker Center web site www.quakercenter.org and under the “News from Quaker Center” click on the link that says “on-line meeting for worship”.

**AUGUST CALENDAR**

Traditionally, Redwood Forest Friends Meeting slows down during August, using the time for contemplation and renewal of our spiritual energies.

We still meet every Sunday for Worship as usual, but there is no Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business during August, and most committees do not meet. There is no separate August newsletter.

Please check with the clerks/convenors of committees and interest groups that you are interested in attending to see if they will still be meeting during August. *(Guest editor’s note: In the past, I’ve created an August calendar, but inevitably it ended up having little correspondence with reality, so I will refrain this time!)*

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**Memorial for Otto Steinhart**

> August 21, 2:00 PM  
> Friends House

Otto was a member of our Meeting since 1994. He passed away on April 30, 2016.
Meetings
Under Our Care

Friends House Worship Group
Sunday 10 AM, Friends House Library, 684 Benicia Dr, Santa Rosa.

Lake County Worship Group
Sunday 11:30 AM at a member’s home. Call Barbara and Edwin Christwitz, (707) 995-0940.

Ukiah Worship Group
Sunday 10:30 AM, Plow-shares Peace & Justice Center, 1346 S. State St, Ukiah. Call 468-8478 for information and directions.

Other Meetings
In the Area

Apple Seed Friends Meeting
Sunday 9:30 AM, Many Rivers Book and Tea, 130 S. Main St, Sebastopol. Call 573-6075 for information.

Mendocino Friends Meeting
Sunday 10 AM, Jewish Community Shul, 15071 Caspar Rd, Caspar.

Napa-Sonoma Friends Meeting
Sunday 10 AM, Aldea Inc, 1801 Oak St (corner of Oak and Jefferson), Napa.

Child Refugee Subcommittee
Thursday July 28

The Child Refugee Subcommittee meets next on Thursday, July 28th, from 5:30–7:00 PM, at the offices of VIDAS (Immigrant Legal Services), 576 B Street, Suite 1 C, in downtown Santa Rosa. All are welcome to join us in meeting and in the accompaniment of a child or family. For further information, contact MaryAnne Michaels at (707) 521-9962.

ADVICES AND QUERIES
From PYM Faith and Practice

Social and Civic Responsibility

In the words of William Penn, “True godliness does not draw men out of the world, but enables them to live better in it and excites their endeavors to mend it.” Elsewhere he commented: “It is a reproach to religion and government to suffer so much poverty and excess.”

Poverty within a wealthy society is unjust, cruel, and often linked to skin color, gender, and language. We must examine our own privilege and role in the economic order that deepens this disparity. Friends should be alert to oppression and injustice, and persistent in working against them.

We value our part in shaping the laws of our country. Our task is to see that laws serve God’s purposes and build a just social order. Our first allegiance should be to God, and if this conflicts with any compulsion of the state, we serve our country best by remaining true to our higher loyalty.

If, by divine leading, our attention is focused on a law that is contrary to God’s law, we must proceed with care. Before acting, Friends should pray for further guidance and speak with the Meeting, family members, and all those who might be affected by the decision. If a decision involves disobedience to the law, we should make the grounds of our action clear to all concerned and be prepared to suffer any penalties without evasion. As a community, we must care for those who suffer for conscience’s sake.

What am I doing to carry my share of responsibility for the government of our community, nation, and world?

Am I persistent in my efforts to promote constructive change?

How do we attend to the suffering of others in our local community, in our state and nation, and in the world community?

Do we try to understand the causes of suffering, and do we address them as a Meeting?

How do we, individually and as a Meeting, support the organizations that work to bring the testimonies of Friends into reality in our society?
Redwood Forest Friends Meeting Committees and Officers
May 1, 2016 - April 30, 2017

**OFFICERS**

Clerk: Susan Swanstrom 18  
Assistant Clerk: Molly Bishop 17  
Recording Clerk: Steve Birdlebough 19  
Assistant Recording Clerks: Mike Dively 18, Sharon Beckman 18  
Treasurer: Currently vacant  
Assistant Treasurer: Sharon Beckman 17  
Recorder/Archivist: Jim Avera 18  
Assistant Recorder/Archivist: Eric Moon 19  
Newsletter: Barbara Moulton 19  
Email Co-ordinator: Eric Straatsma 18  
Web Servant: Pete Pilliod 17  

**PROPERTY**

Co-clerk: Keith Bridges 19  
Co-clerk: Vivian Sedney (19)  
Ruthie Villalovos (19)  
Lloyd Iverson 19  
Eric Moon (ex officio as Resident Friend)  

**WORSHIP & MINISTRY**

Clerk: Paul Harris 18  
Margaret Sorrel 18  
Kim Caldewey 18  
Nate Secrest 18  
Mike Dively 19  
Clarke Dixon-Moses 19  

**OVERSIGHT**

Co-clerk: Ruth Witchey (18)  
Co-clerk: David Beckman (19)  
Nancy Nanna, LCWG Liaison (19)  
Sally Davis, FHWG Liaison 17  
Molly Bishop (18)  
Jackie Thresh 18  

**PROPERTY**

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE
Lorna Backus 19  
Barbara Flynn 18  

**PEACE AND SOCIAL WITNESS**

Clerk: Paul Robbins (19)  
Ann Boone 17  
Rick Coshnear 17  
Eric Straatsma 18  
Barbara Christwitz 19  
Dinah Bachrach 19  

**GUATEMALA SCHOLARSHIP**

Co-clerk: Donna Smith  
Co-clerk: Harriet Lewis  
Treasurer: Tim Thresh  
Connie and Stanley McCracken  
Marianne Michaels  
Anne Boone  
Margaret Bean (Guatemala Meeting)  
Joe and Jane Snyder (Multnomah Meeting)  

**FINANCE**

Clerk: Jim Pilliod 17  
Erin Harness 17  
Mary Miche 19  
__________ (ex officio as Treasurer)  
Sharon Beckman 17 (ex officio as Assistant Treasurer)  

**REPRESENTATIVES** (1-year terms)

PYM Rep: Mary Miche  
PYM Observer: Barbara Babin  
CPQM: Karen Morgan  
AFSC: Dan Beck  
Ben Lomond Center: Keith Bridges  
SR Interfaith Min Assoc: Dorothy Duncan  
Sierra Friends Center: Dan Beck  
FGC Observer: Donna Smith  
NBOP Leadership Council: David Hoffman  
Linda Shormann*  
Paul Robbins (alternate)*  
FCLCA: James Alex Alexander  
FCNL: Steve Birdlebough

*Numbers after names indicate the last year of the person’s term.  
*Numbers in parentheses indicate the last year of a second term.  
*indicates nominations awaiting approval of Business Meeting as of 6/23/16.  
Please contact Ken DellaPenta (clerk of nominating) with updates to this list.
Committees and Groups Not Appointed by Nominating Committee

**Nominating Committee**
Clerk, Ken DellaPenta 17
Keith Bridges 16
Mary Miche 16
Gary Melrose 16
Vivian Sedney 17
David Hoffman 18

**Caring Subcommittee**
*Reports to Oversight*
Convenor, Jackie Thresh
Molly Bishop
Mary Karp
Clare Morris
Ruth Witchey

**Children’s Religious Education Subcommittee**
*Reports to Worship & Ministry*
Nate Secrest
Elspeth Benton
Marcia Anderson
Maggie Coshnear (teacher)
Amy Yamauchi (teacher)

**Greeters**
*Reports to Worship & Ministry*
Coordinator, Birch Moonwomon

**Movie Night Interest Group**
*Reports to Worship & Ministry*
Eric Moon & Eric Straatsma

**Resident Friend Subcommittee**
*Reports to Property Committee*
Clerk, Ann Boone
Steve Birdlebough
Barbara Babin
Eric Moon

**Library Subcommittee**
*Reports to Property Committee*
Currently vacant

**Contacts/Liaisons for Worship Groups**
Friends House: Sally Davis
Lake County: Nancy Nanna
Ukiah: Susan Baird and Benj Thomas

**Subcommittee on Refugees**
*Reports to Peace & Social Witness*
Convenor, Maryanne Michaels
Email contact, Rick Coshnear
Dinah Bachrach
Donna Smith
Kim Caldewey

**Quaker-NBOP Core Team Interest Group**
*Reports to Peace & Social Witness*
Convenor, Paul Robbins
David Hoffman
Ann Boone
Iris Hoffman
Dorothy Duncan

**Omelet Breakfast Fundraiser Interest Group**
Clerk, Barbara Flynn
Elspeth Benton
Ann Boone
Harriet Lewis
Laura Hinerfeld
Sharon Beckman

**COLE (Community for Oversight of Law Enforcement)**
Convenor, Ann Boone
Eric Moon
Dinah Bachrach
Rick Coshnear
Gary Melrose

**Camp Michela Interest Group**
Convenors, Barbara Flynn & Eric Straatsma

**Yoga**
Convenor, Susan Gore

**Women’s Group**
Convenor, Elspeth Benton

**Men’s Group**
Convenor, David Beckman

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Please contact Ken DellaPenta, Clerk of Nominating, with any updates to this list.
Redwood Forest Friends Meeting Minutes for Meeting for Business
June 12, 2016

The meeting opened with Worship at noon, with Susan Swanstrom, Clerk, presiding.

Advises and Queries: Harmony with Creation: In pairs, we considered: How has this testimony been part of my evolving Quaker life?

MINUTE 2016-6-1: Minutes of the May Meeting were approved.

Oversight Committee -- Ruth Witchey reported on the threshing session in May that drew a diversity of thoughtful comments regarding a possible change in the name of the Committee. Friends are asked to write their preference for suggested names, or to retain the present name. A list of potential names will be displayed in the library for a month so that people can express preferences.

The Sharing Fund has supported members of our community in times of need; Friends are reminded to consider the Sharing Fund in your giving to the Meeting.

Oversight is continuing to organize files in the library.

Property Committee -- Keith Bridges brought a recommendation that the current agreement for use of RFFM facilities be modified to state that: “Smoking is not permitted inside buildings or on the grounds.” Concerns were expressed that such a policy could have an adverse effect on 12-step groups, members of Camp Michaela and others. The Committee will consider the issue further.

Replacement of the fence on our west property line is delayed while heavy objects are moved to provide access, and while discussions of cost-sharing with the neighbor take place.

Worship and Ministry -- Paul Harris reminded the Meeting that the rather costly listing on the Saturday religious page of the Press Democrat was removed from the Budget, because newcomers are usually finding us thru the internet.

The practice of reading Advises and Queries near the beginning of Meeting on the first Sunday of each month will resume while the Committee considers other alternatives.

Birch Moonwomon has replaced Paul as the Coordinator of Greeters.

The Movie Night Interest Group will be under the Committee’s care; Eric Moon and Eric Straatsma are members. The 1st showing, “Where to Invade Next” had 45 attenders, most were from outside the Meeting. Currently, movies come from Moveon.org, which does not charge for public showings. There might be a charge to show some other organization’s movies. W&M, Property & Peace & Social Witness committees have all approved buying a large portable movie screen that could be set up for each Movie Night. The cost is approximately $55.00, to be taken from the Rainy Day Fund.

The second hour program on the 4th Sunday of July (7/24/16) will feature Eric Straatsma and Dinah Bachrach’s experience of “The Practice of the Presence,” a week-long program held at Ben Lomond Quaker Center in April.

Based on the responses to Spiritual Life Nurture Groups this year, the Committee is working to forming new groups with a slightly different format that would extend from the fall through June 2017. Details will appear in the July Newsletter, and sign-ups will be in early September.

The Committee invited a discussion of this Monthly Meeting’s culture of relaxed promptness. As introduction, Paul said that our worship is a group activity: “the community’s strength and focus draws one who is distracted back toward the center to be searched by the Light that exposes weaknesses and shortcomings and challenges the worshiper to transformation.” (See PYM Faith & Practice.) It is not and never has been solitary meditation with others around. When 2 or more are gathered, Worship begins. However, when it takes 20 minutes or more for all of us to gather, the beginning of that Worship can be rather weak, and it diminishes the likelihood that worshipers will hear that still small voice. The community may not have time to reach that deep pool of still waters, or its time there will be abbreviated. Why is it that we all do not begin centering down by 10 am? What prevents each of us from wanting longer and deeper Worship? Isn’t depth and transformation why we come here week after week?

After some silence, a Friend ventured that it’s an uphill battle to correct bad habits; connecting with another person for mutual accountability sometimes helps. Others asked how we can let people know their presence at the start of Worship is important and appreciated? Can connections outside Worship help? Would too strong a tradition of promptness result in people staying away when they most need us, or when a family obligation or when traffic causes them to be late? How seriously do we need promptness? Do we hold in the Light those who are absent (the empty chairs)? Can we be grateful for every time the door opens? Some people can’t sit for a full hour, and there are the greeters, who arrive at 10 minutes past the hour. Could we return to the practice when latecomers enter Worship all at once? Can love can be our motivator, where reminders are more important than policies? How do we carry responsibility without guilt? The Committee will consider.

Nominating Committee -- Ken DellaPenta presented an updated list of the Meeting’s subcommittees and groups that are not nominated by Nominating Committee. An updated list will be posted on the bulletin board in the Residence. [See page 5.]

In May, Eric Straatsma was proposed to serve as Treasurer for the Meeting. This nomination having been season for a month the Committee recommended approval:

MINUTE-2016-2: Eric Straatsma is appointed to serve as Treasurer of Redwood Forest Friends Meeting, and the attached letter and resolution giving him check-signing authority for the meeting’s bank accounts are approved.

The Committee proposes Linda Shormann to represent the Meeting on the North Bay Organizing Project Leadership Council. David Hoffman was previously approved to serve as one of two representatives. Paul Robbins, who has served as the other representative, is nominated to serve as an alternate representative. After season for one month, Nominating (cont. on p. 7)
Minutes (cont. from page 6)

anticipates bringing these nominations to Business Meeting for approval in July.

Peace and Social Witness – Paul Robbins invited Friends to attend a June 25th workshop on structural racism, hosted by the North Bay Organizing Project. Details are to be announced. Those who attend will be invited to work together afterwards to create an event for the Meeting to continue and deepen our conversation about this issue.

Barbara Moulton reported on efforts to focus Congress on Climate issues. She will post a RFFM email message that enables each of us to easily contact our representative and senators with a relevant and timely message on the threat of global warming.

Steve Birdlebough reported on a second-hour meeting to suggest priorities for our Quaker lobbying organizations in Sacramento and Washington D.C. Recommendations addressing the issues below provide opportunities for progress toward the World that we seek, while reaching out to all corners of the body politic.

1. Make corporations responsible for climate protection as well as for the short-term interests of shareholders.
2. Extend affordable good quality health-care to everyone.
3. Highlight restorative justice and other examples of the efficacy of non-violent responses to conflict.
4. Replace the Gross Domestic Product with a measure of community well-being such as Bhutan’s Gross National Happiness index.

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New Spiritual Life Sharing Groups Starting in September

(cont. from page 8)

and struggle that goes into building and sustaining our Meeting.

Some Friends have expressed desires for other kinds of opportunities for spiritual nurture. Mary Karp and Margaret Sorrel have shepherded the groups this year, evaluated the feedback and propose the following as a model for the coming year.

Beginning in September of 2016 and continuing through the academic year, three types of groups will meet. Each group will meet approximately monthly. Friends are encouraged to participate in the one that seems most suited to what they perceive their current spiritual needs to be.

ONE: Spiritual Life Sharing Groups (aka Spiritual Deepening Groups) described above are composed of four Friends each. Two time slots will be offered for these groups: a Tuesday morning from 9 to 11:30 and a Thursday evening from 6:30 to 9.

TWO: A reading group will meet on a Tuesday evening from 7 to 9 pm considering two Quaker classics by Thomas Kelly, Testament of Devotion and The Eternal Promise. Participants will be expected to read sections of the book between meetings and come prepared to discuss both the content and the relevance to their personal lives.

THREE: A reading and eating group will meet on a Wednesday evening from 6:30 to 9:00. Soup will be provided by the host and potluck items to fill out a simple meal will be brought by those in the group. Sections of Patricia Loring’s Listening Spirituality Volume I, Personal Spiritual Practices Among Friends will be read aloud and participants will work together with the exercises outlined in her book. No reading between meetings is expected.

We hope to form as many groups of each type as there are people interested in participating. We are trusting that hosts and facilitators will emerge from those interested in participating in each type of group. A full write up of the format of a Spiritual Life Sharing Group is available by email from Margaret Sorrel (margaretsorrel@gmail.com). Friends interested in participating in group type ONE, TWO or THREE are encouraged to contact Margaret Sorrel or Mary Karp (marykarp@gmail.com). If you have interest in one or another group but the stated time is impossible for you, please let us know. Friends who cannot meet at these times may be able to find other compatible times to meet. Deadline for signing up for all groups will be September 15.

Our expectation is that our individual investment in these small groups will serve our beloved community’s ability to “bear witness to and nourish one another’s spiritual growth.” In addition we dare to hope that groups like these will come to be seen as an essential, dynamic and reliable resource for our inner growth in the years to come.

5. Make affordable housing available to all.

MINUTE-2016-2: The above priorities shall be communicated by Meeting Representatives to the Friends Committee on Legislation of California and to the Friends Committee on National Legislation.

College Park Quarterly Meeting -- Karen Morgan summarized the College Park Quarterly Meeting Quick Notes, themed “Voices of Renewal” and read the youth rap on the May gathering at the Ben Lomond Quaker Center. It was noted that our Quarterly Meeting is unusual in that it has three corporations under its care.

Correspondence/Announcements -- Susan Swanstrom said that we have received thank you letters for donations, notice of a job opening at Quaker House, North Carolina, and a request for support for John Calvi’s ministry. A request for transfer of membership by Suzanne Ratcliffe was forwarded to the Oversight Committee.

Joys/Concerns -- The Woolman Semester is facing a difficult financial situation; we are thankful for our process, good queries, and struggles; diverse leadership; cracked eggs let the light in.

Closing Worship ended at 1:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by
Susan Swanstrom, Clerk
Steve Birdlebough, Recording Clerk
New Spiritual Life Sharing Groups Starting in September

When Spiritual Life Sharing Groups were offered to RFFM in the fall of 2015, many Friends were grappling with the question “What can we do as a community, to better witness and nourish one another’s spiritual growth?” A fruitful year ensued in which 28 people participated in the offered Spiritual Life Sharing Groups. In each session, in the context of worship, individuals were invited to respond to two queries: “How has your spiritual life been nourished since we last met?” and “Have there been opportunities for spiritual growth?” Group members, when led, offered reflections, blessings and prayers to each other as we witnessed to one another’s spiritual life. One of the seven groups has chosen to continue at least through the summer. Individuals in other groups are interested in being reconfigured into new groups to continue to nurture one another spiritually with a chance to get to know more people in the Meeting.

We sense a maturation of spiritual health for the Meeting through the Spiritual Life Sharing Groups this last year. It was rich to experience sharing our differences and deepening our sensitivity to the beauty (cont. on page 7)

News from Friends House

Seven continuing and three incoming FASE board members recently met for a very productive full-day retreat. It was a time to get to know each other personally and professionally, and to learn more about the skills we bring to bear in our fruitful work on behalf of Friends House. It is an exciting and hopeful time, a time when you, reader, might consider working with us, either as a board member or on one of our committees. It’s a chance to shape the future of this vital community, to work with a fabulous group of people—board members, residents and staff—to give back . . . Do you have experience in real estate development, fundraising or the legal field? Think about it. Be in touch!

Margaret Sorrel, FASE Clerk
margaretsorrel@gmail.com