
SAN FRANCISCO FRIENDS MEETING

65 Ninth Street
San Francisco, CA 94103
415-431-7440
<http://sfquakers.org/>

September 2010 Newsletter

Meeting for Worship
& First Day School
Sundays at 11:00 a.m.

Midweek Meeting for Worship, Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.

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Advices and Queries for Eighth Month

From Pacific Yearly Meeting's *Book of Faith and Practice*

Simplicity

ADVICES:

"Life is meant to be lived from a Center, a divine Center... a life of unhurried peace and power. It is simple. It is serene. It takes no time, but it occupies all our time."

thomas r. kelly, *testament of devotion*, 1941

A life centered in God will be directed toward keeping communication with God open and unencumbered. Simplicity is best achieved through a right ordering of priorities, maintaining humility of spirit, avoiding self-indulgence, resisting the accumulation of unnecessary possessions, and avoiding over-busy lives.

Elise Boulding writes in *My Part in the Quaker Adventure*,
"Simplicity, beauty, and happiness go together if they are a byproduct of a concern for something more important than ourselves."

QUERIES:

Do I center my life in an awareness of God's presence so that all things take their rightful place?

Do I live simply, and promote the right sharing of the world's bounty?

Do I keep my life uncluttered with things and activities, avoiding commitments beyond my strength and light?

How do I maintain simplicity, moderation, and honesty in my speech, my manner of living, and my daily work?

Do I recognize when I have enough?

Is the life of our Meeting so ordered that it helps us to simplify our lives?

Advices and Queries for Ninth Month

From Pacific Yearly Meeting's *Book of Faith and Practice*

REACHING OUT

ADVICES:

Integrity has always been a goal of Friends. It is essential to trust, to all communication between people and between people and God. Integrity grounds our beliefs, thoughts, and actions in our spiritual center and makes us whole.

Friends believe that we are called to speak the truth. A single standard of truth requires us to conduct ourselves in ways that are honest, direct, and plain, and to make our choices, both large and small, in accord with the urgings of the Spirit. It follows that we object to taking an oath, which presupposes a variable standard of truth. Be true to your word.

... let your yea be yea, and your nay, nay.
James 5:12 (King James Version)

From early days Friends have opposed gambling and practices based on chance. These activities profit from the inevitable loss of others, promote greed, and conflict with good stewardship. Public lotteries have not furthered their purported benefit to the public good. All addictions are of concern. As the use of alcohol and tobacco all too often entail serious risks to self and others, Friends who serve alcohol at home should be diligent in offering alternatives. Alcohol should not be served at Meeting gatherings.

Find recreation that brings you joy and energy. Be aware of how your choices affect yourself and others.

QUERIES:

How do I strive to maintain the integrity of my inner and outer lives?

Do I act on my principles even when this entails difficult consequences?

Am I honest and truthful in all that I say and do, even when a compromise might be easier or more popular?

Am I reflective about the ways I gain my wealth and income and sensitive to their impacts on others?

Is my life so filled with the Spirit that I am free from the misuse of alcohol and other drugs, and of excesses of any kind?

Do we, in our Meeting, hold ourselves accountable to one another as do members of a healthy family?

Business Meeting Minutes from 7/11/2010

Meeting opened at approximately 1 p.m. with 19 present for a period of open worship. Clerk Chris Mohr read the advices and queries on "Reaching Out" from Pacific Yearly Meeting's *Faith and Practice*.

1. Minutes:

7-1: Meeting approves minutes from 6/13/2010

2. Clerk's Report

Chris reported that Pacific Yearly Meeting (PYM) will be happening at the end of the month. New directions for the future of Yearly Meeting will be discussed. George Lakey and Vanessa Julye will be featured speakers.

The clerk requests feedback on the best times to schedule discussions at Meeting. He has prepared a survey to be filled out to gather this information.

Minister among Us: Heidi Pidcoke: Heidi calls herself a "Quaker missionary"—living life as a testament to God, living a life that is dependent on God. Living this way, she has experienced "way opening." In the past seven years, in her relationship to God, she has felt well cared for, and this has allowed her "the daily walk into love and away from fear." In Nairobi, Kenya, she has deepened her spiritual practice of holding her life to the standard that God is love, which has been deeply rewarding. The clerk expressed his joy at the work Heidi is called to do. A Friend spoke to Heidi's work with victims of trauma in Kenya, that her work added another step to the recovery from violence, as well as the life of the country.

3. Fund for Leadings

Clerk Chris Mohr reported the Ad Hoc Committee's proposal for a Fund for Leadings was published in the Seventh Month newsletter describing guidelines for requests, a clarification on leadings, the process for written proposals, the Clerk's "review of readiness," and the process for Meeting's disbursement of funds.

The second paragraph will be revised with the wording "...Friends will review the Fund again."

One member recommended postponing the review of the fund until after 2011, as proposals may not have arrived.

A Friend asked about wording for those who may not feel a sense of being called by "God." One Friend noted the language is from *Faith and Practice*. The clerk noted that clearness committees on leadings can work this out.

7-2: Meeting approves guidelines for requests for support from the Fund for Leadings.

4. Ministry and Oversight (David Matchett, clerk)

Fran Peavey is at UCSF Long Hospital and is accepting visitors. Several membership committees are underway, for Beth Bird, Kate Shafer Frankel, Carol Cruickshank, and Fred Adler. Certificates of transfer have been sent to Chico Meeting for Carin Anderson and Chris Moore-Backman. The committee clerk read a letter by Scott McCleod requesting transfer of his membership from Edinburgh, Scotland, Monthly Meeting to San Francisco.

Several clearness or support committees continue to meet. The clerk of meeting announced the passing of Norma Kohls in Seventh Month 2010. No plans for a memorial service have been set up. Friends will be kept aware of plans.

5. Meetinghouse Kitchen

Clerk Chris Mohr proposed an ad hoc committee which will create a draft work plan which will describe who will project-manage. He will provide copies of the notes from the worship sharing session and queries on the kitchen that were considered as a community.

The clerk posed the following query for consideration: Do we have unity on proceeding with renovation of the kitchen? Once reached, do we have a way to continue the process?

A period of discernment followed. A Friend suggested adding the building manager to the ad hoc committee. Another recommended that by September there be a projected completion date, having people named to the committee, and project manager, as well as a deadline for the project design.

The clerk found a sense of unity to move ahead with renovating the Kitchen, and read the proposed process again. Appreciation was expressed for the laying of the groundwork for this decision by members of the previous kitchen sub-committee of Hospitality and Committee, notably Alice Sowaal and Anne Brodzky, among others. A Friend suggested the proposal clarify if the project manager will be someone from meeting.

Meeting approved the following minute:

7-3: Meeting is in unity to renovate the meetinghouse kitchen. Meeting asks the Property and Finance and the Hospitality and Community committees to constitute an ad-hoc committee with two members from each committee and the Building Manager (at the discretion of the Property and Finance Committee). The ad hoc committee will create a draft work plan with a proposed scope of work, timeline, and budget no later than October 2010 Meeting for Business. The plan should identify who in the Meeting will serve as project manager or managers. Once approved by the two committees, the proposal will come to Meeting for Business for seasoning and then possible final approval a month later. If the ad hoc committee is not formed by the September Meeting for Business, the meeting will reconsider and revise this process.

6. Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC)

Robin Mohr reported as a representative to FWCC from PYM. FWCC has gone through changes recently—in staffing, vision, and forward-thinking plans. They are looking for a new Executive Secretary. Two major initiatives include:

1. Consultation on global change (environmental, climate, economic, and social change) and if there is a distinctive Quaker response to these changes; local “cluster meetings” can meet on these concerns. If interested, you can contact Robin or view the FWCC website (<http://www.fwccglobalchange.org>). An international gathering will be held with Friends who have theological and expertise experience with these concerns to determine if Friends have a unique response or not.
2. The sixth international World Conference of Friends will be held in Kenya in 2012 with the theme “Being Salt and Light: Friends Living the Kingdom of God in a Broken World.” FWCC is encouraging local groups to discuss this theme in advance. PYM has been invited to send four delegates to this conference. Contact Robin if you are interested or check <http://www.saltandlight2012.org>.

A new website, Voices of Friends (<http://www.voicesoffriends.org/>), is being set up to help people discover the broader palette of Friends.

7. Joys, Concerns, News, and Announcements

- Steve Leeds noted that Fran Peavey may not be able to return to her home on 19th Ave. after her time in hospital.
- Paula Joyce reported the meeting’s weekly food pantry is going smoothly. She will also be living part-time in Sonoma with her mother and will miss most weekends in San Francisco. She is working on being joyful with her sister during the care for their mother.

- Chris Mohr expressed joy in meeting Sarah Beutel, Pacific Yearly Meeting Youth Coordinator, and looks forward to working with her on this program.
- Chris Mohr asked Heidi Pidcoke to bring the meeting's loving greetings back to Nairobi Friends.

8. Meeting closed with a period of worship at approximately 2:20pm with 19 people in attendance.

In service,

Chad Stevenson, Recording Clerk

Chris Mohr, Clerk

SF Meeting Women's Retreat

Submitted by Rolene Walker

The women of San Francisco Monthly Meeting are having a retreat the weekend of Oct. 1-3 at Sierra Friends Center in Grass Valley. We are going to hang out, do some community building exercises, do some art, singing, dancing, walks in the woods, and have fun. Please join us for this chance to really get to know each other. The cost is \$95 per person, and \$25 for children. The meeting has scholarships available for Quaker functions, please call David Matchett. If you have questions, call Rolene Walker at 415 359 9297 or Sandra Schwartz at 415 831 3537. Dead-line to register is Sept. 1.

Second Hour Events at the Meeting

On Sunday, September 19, 1 pm, Peace and Social Concerns will convene a discussion on Friends and the Environment. Whales have come to a feast of krill off our shores, trees have sprouted long new branches with all the rain. It's a beautiful world we are privileged to live in--as the conscience of this wonderful biosphere, how do we live well with the web of life around us? On Sept. 19th, PSC will have a discussion about Friends and our concern for all living beings. We will be discussing the queries we wrote two years ago, including steps for recycling/reuse, buying locally, giving up privately owned gasoline autos, planting trees, etc. Contact: Rolene Walker.

On Sunday, September 26, 1 pm, Ministry and Oversight will convene a discussion of Leadings - what is a leading? how do you know if you have one? and what could the meeting do to support you if you have one? This Second Hour presentation is in response to the San Francisco Friend's unity to create a "Fund for Leading" to nurture and support faithfulness in action in our meeting. Please visit <http://www.pacificyearlymeeting.org/2009/MandLFaithfulnessInAction.pdf> to learn more about Pacific

Yearly Meeting's Subcommittee on Ministry and Leadings. They have created a helpful document which describes Friends understanding of leadings and "Faithfulness in Action." Contacts: Blake Arnall and Robin Mohr.

Newsletter Editor Needed

Submitted by David Ackerly

We are looking for a new editor for the SF Friends Meeting monthly newsletter (the one you're reading now!) starting in January 2011. If you're interested, please speak to current editor David Ackerly.

AFSC News

Submitted by Ruth Fraser

Peace and Justice

Despite media focus on a small number of violent incidents, AFSC staff and volunteers played a central role in organizing a predominantly peaceful response to the verdict handed down in the Johannes Meserle case. 800 to 1,000 citizens of Oakland made their views known in a peaceful and orderly manner.

The San Francisco office of AFSC is very happy to bring Tony Coleman back on staff. It was hard to let him go in the recent retrenchment. Tony specializes in working with youth of color on police accountability - work that is so crucial at this time. Thanks to the generosity of supporters, funds were found to bring him back for a year.

Central Valley Follow-up

You may remember some time ago I mentioned a book called "Latino Immigrant Civic and Political Participation", published by the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. It was written by Myrna Martinez Nateras, Director of the Fresno AFSC Pan Valley Institute Office, and Eduardo Stanley and was very well received.

It was so well received that there is to be a major round-table discussion on this issue in the Central Valley, involving immigrant communities, politicians and staff from all 3 of the Central Valley Offices.

Pacific Yearly Meeting

If you are going to PYM keep an eye on your program. Shan Cretin, newly appointed General Secretary of AFSC, and Laura Magnani, Director of Pacific Mountain Region will be presenting a Special Interest Group, titled "Supporting Friends' Organizations".

Other Events and Announcements

College Park Quarterly Meetings: October 15-17, 2010

Pacific Yearly Meeting: July 26-31, 2010

Fall Quarterly Meeting

October 15 to 17, 2010

Sierra Friends Center

Information and registration forms coming soon.

AVP workshops this fall in Oakland

The very active local council of the Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP/Bay Bridge) is offering a complete schedule of workshops this fall in Oakland, convenient to McArthur BART. If you've been thinking of getting involved in this positive, transformational program started by Quakers and prison inmates over 30 years ago and currently active in two dozen prisons and communities in California (including, locally, the SF County Jail), now is your opportunity! All these two-day workshops take place on two consecutive Saturdays--easier than clearing a whole weekend on your calendar:

Basic – September 4th and 11th

Advanced – October 2nd and 9th

Training for Facilitators – December 4th and 11th

(You must be available both days.) For more information or to register, see Stephen Matchett, Monique Lusse or Ruth Fraser at Meeting, or e-mail council coordinator Toby Laverty at tlaverty@gmail.com. Sliding scale, no one turned away for lack of funds. See you at the workshop!

2010 Quaker Conference on Torture and Accountability

I hope you will join us at the 2010 Quaker Conference on Torture and Accountability, September 24-26 at Ben Lomond Quaker Center. This event features human rights lawyer and author Scott Horton, School of the Americas Watch founder Father Roy Bourgeois, and prison expert Dr. Terry Kupers. Activists Chuck Fager and John Calvi of the Quaker Initiative to end Torture (QUIT) will be resource leaders. For more details, see John's letter, included in this email.

The West Coast torture connections are disturbing--as described below. Please spread the word, and come to Quaker Center to explore this concern and consider our work together.

Registration is online at <http://www.quit-torture-now.org/>

In Peace,
Susan Smith

Christian Friends Conference

Submitted by Bruce Folsom

The quarterly meeting of the Christian Friends Conference will take place on Saturday, September 25 from 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM at Berkeley Friends Church, located at 1600 Sacramento Street at the corner of Cedar, in Berkeley. BFC is two blocks north of the North Berkeley BART station. Lunch is brown bag. Beverages and bagels will be provided in the morning.

Tentative schedule:

9:00-9:30	Introductions
9:30-10:00	Bible reading in the manner of Conservative Friends
10:00-12:00	Silent waiting worship upon the Lord
12:00-1:00	Fellowship over brown bag lunch
1:00-2:30	General discussion: How does Truth prosper among you?
2:30-2:45	Break
2:45-3:00	Planning
3:00-4:00	Silent waiting worship upon the Lord
4:00-4:30	Clean up

"This is the mystery of our fellowship, and the bond of our unity, as our minds and hearts are exercised in the tendering Power of the Lord, especially in our solemn meetings and waiting together upon him, as every one keeps close unto this, and are united unto it. Oh! this is a precious state, herein stands our blessed unity and fellowship, herein we are strong, specifically as *Mount Zion*, as a three-fold cord that cannot easily be broken. . . . In this stands our joy and preservation in our meetings, and in our partings, in all times and places, as we feel our hearts and minds in unity with the Spirit of the Lord; then not convinced, reproved and condemned by it; but justified and commended. This is sweet and precious indeed, as all that are in it know full well." Meditation XLIV, William Shewen, [Counsel to the Christian-Traveler: Also Meditations & Experiences](#), 1683/2008, available from Charles Martin at www.innerlightbooks.com.

FCL Benefit Harvest Festival

On Saturday, September 25, Palo Alto and San Jose Friends Meetings host their annual Harvest Festival, benefiting Friends Committee on Legislation California. More information at: <http://www.fclca.org/harvestfest>

Call for workshop proposals, 2011 FGC

The summer is ending, which means it is time to discern whether you are going to submit a workshop proposal for the 2011 Gathering at Grinnell College, Grinnell, IA.

Proposals are due no later than October 3.

We are again encouraging Friends to submit their proposals online although we are also ready to receive your proposal by email or mail. We continue with last year's online submission process. One welcome feature is that you can save an incomplete proposal and then return later to complete and submit it.

If you did not attend the 2010 Gathering, you will want to know that the shortening of the Gathering by one day is designed to have minimal impact on workshops. Only the initial, 1 1/4 hour session has been eliminated: five full mornings of workshop time remain.

Attendees continue to report how important workshops are to their Gathering experience, and I am so thankful for the careful discernment and preparation of workshop leaders.

To read more, to submit your proposal online, or to download the proposal form, please go to <http://www.fgcquaker.org/gathering/workshops/form>

Meanwhile, please forward this email to a friend who is ready for a nudge to develop a workshop proposal!

In service,
Traci Hjelt Sullivan
Conference Coordinator

News from Sierra Friends Center

We had a busy summer at Woolman beginning with nearly 100 participants at our annual Family Work Camp in June! Sierra Friends Camp followed with three fun and exciting sessions this summer where 9 to 14 year old campers delved into the discovery of community life here on campus, the natural world here in the Sierra foothills, and their own place in each. The campers themselves gain greater self-awareness and confidence within a supportive Quaker community.

For the first time, our eight Woolman Community Interns arrived during the summer to help with our bountiful garden, and in turn, with feeding Sierra Friends Campers with veges straight from our garden. Those same interns will be continuing to tend to, and harvest from, our garden to help feed the Woolman Semester community. If you would like to get your hands in our garden, **please join us for our Harvest Day Work and Celebration on Saturday, October 23rd from 10am to 3pm.** We will spend the morning in the garden, listen to local musicians over lunch, and preserve food in the afternoon. We hope that the celebration will continue all afternoon and actually warm our hearts and bellies throughout the winter.

Woolman welcomed another new group of bright, committed and eager students from all over the country on August 19th. The students, interns, and teachers will begin the semester with a weeklong backpacking trip along the Yuba River. Once they return to campus, the students will prepare for their Food Intensive trip to farms and other food production sites from the Sierra to the Bay area.

Please visit our new interactive website, www.woolman.org, to learn more about all that happens on campus. You'll find Peace Studies documentary films, and student project information, even some of Woolman's favorite recipes. Application and registration forms for the Woolman Semester and our summer programs are also available so please our website link with young people and their families whom you think would be interested in joining us here at Woolman.

Summer Camps and Programs at Ben Lomond Quaker Center

September 10-12 **Gender, the Search for Self, and the Search for Acceptance** An exploration of the meaning of gender in society and in faith communities, led by a noted Quaker ethicist, herself trans-gender. Chloe Schwenke

September 17-19 **Clerking and Friends Business Practices** Learning the skills of spirit-guided leadership and Friends business practices with two experienced facilitators. A family-friendly program, with childcare and children's activities. Elizabeth Boardman and Eric Moon

October 1-3 **The Quiet Eye: Photography as a Spiritual Discipline** A hands-on workshop with a gifted Quaker photographer who will teach contemplative photography – how to glimpse the divine within the ordinary and then use photography to convey the spirit of the encounter. Sharon Driscoll

November 5-7 **Silent Retreat** A weekend for silence, reflection, and renewal, facilitated by a skilled and compassionate Quaker couple who have developed their own daily spiritual discipline over many years. Robin and Terrill Keeler

November 19-21 **Spiritual Exploration through Drama, Movement, and Improvisation** Finding new ways of exploring spiritual and religious beliefs, with the guidance of a skilled and experienced theater professional. For persons 14 and older. Victoria Shaskan

December 3-5 **A Music and Dance Weekend** In response to many requests we are happy to repeat a joyful weekend of music and dance at Quaker Center. Gretta & Jacob Stone will host, joined by many participant-leaders

December 27-January 1, 2011 **Year-End Retreat** Farewell to the old year, welcome to the new! Leader and theme to be announced.

Google Groups for SF Quakers

This is the group to send your late breaking announcements or share other news with the meeting community. You can sign up via the web: <http://groups.google.com/group/sfquakers> You will need to create a free Google user ID and password, if you don't already have one.

Visit <http://groups.google.com/group/sfquakers/about> to join or learn more.

A group for young adult Friends in San Francisco is at <http://groups.google.com/group/youngsfmeeting>

A group for parents in the San Francisco Meeting is at <http://groups.google.com/group/sf-crec-parents>

A Google Group for Bay Area Quakers is now available at <http://groups.google.com/group/bayareaquakers>. The group is for Bay Area Quaker meetings, churches, and organizations, as well as individual Friends, to share news of events and activities that would be of interest to Quakers and the general public. Events do not need to be strictly Quaker. For more information, contact Tom Yamaguchi, tomyamaguchi@mac.com

Help on using Google Groups is also available at: <http://groups.google.com/support>

Submissions to the newsletter are due by the next-to-last First Day (Sunday) of each month in the News Committee mailbox at the meetinghouse, or by e-mail to news@sfquakers.org. This newsletter is also available for reading or downloading on our website at <http://www.sfquakers.org/news.html>.

Members of the News Committee are David Ackerly (clerk, editor), Eli Bishop (web servant), Jim Pilliod (newsletter production), and Amy Aucutt.

Calendar of Events for September 2010

(all events at 65 9th St., unless noted)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 11a Meeting for Worship	30	31	1 6p Meeting for Worship	2 12p Peace Vigil* 7p Potluck & Quaker Study	3	4 11-2 Food Pantry
5 <i>NO Bible Study</i> 11a Meeting for Worship 12p Community Potluck 6:30p Storytelling	6 7p Ministry & Oversight Mtg	7	8 6p Meeting for Worship 7p Property & Finance Mtg	9 12p Peace Vigil* 7p Potluck & Quaker Study	10	11 11-2 Food Pantry
12 10a Hymn Singing 11a Meeting for Worship 1p Meeting for Business	13	14	15 6p Meeting for Worship	16 12p Peace Vigil* 7p Potluck & Quaker Study	17	18 11-2 Food Pantry
19 9:30a Bible Study 11a Meeting for Worship 1p Discussion: Friends and the Environment Deadline for October Newsletter	20	21	22 6p Meeting for Worship	23 12p Peace Vigil* 7p Potluck & Quaker Study	24	25 11-2 Food Pantry
26 11a Meeting for Worship 1p Discussion: Leadings	27	28	29 6p Meeting for Worship	30 12p Peace Vigil* 7p Potluck & Quaker Study	1	2 11-2 Food Pantry

*Federal Building, Golden Gate Ave. and Larkin St.

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