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# SAN FRANCISCO FRIENDS MEETING

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

## December 2011 Newsletter

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

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

### Table of Contents

Advices and Queries for Twelfth Month .....	1
San Francisco Monthly Meeting Meeting for Business 11/13/2011 .....	2
Meeting News and Announcements .....	3
Writings on Peace .....	4
News from Heidi Pidcoke .....	4
AFSC News .....	5
News from Friends .....	5
Care of Community Survey .....	7
Calendar of Events for December 2011 .....	8

### Advices and Queries for Twelfth Month From Pacific Yearly Meeting's *Book of Faith and Practice*

#### THE MEETING COMMUNITY

##### ADVICES:

Meetings for Worship and Business are the center of our spiritual community. There, as we come to know each other in the Spirit, we build the "beloved community."

Mutual respect and care in the Meeting form the foundation from which we can test, support, and exercise leadings of the Spirit. At its best, the Meeting community provides a framework for us to learn and practice mutual care, which strengthens us as we act in the world.

All members of the Meeting community should share in the care of one another. While respecting privacy, we must be aware of and sensitive to each other's needs. We must also be willing to ask for assistance when we are in need.

##### QUERIES:

Do I strive to be inclusive in my relationships within the Meeting?

Do I care for the reputation of others, refraining from gossip or disparaging remarks?

Am I committed to the difficult work of forgiveness, and affirming God's love for the whole community?

*How are love and unity maintained among us?*

*Do we practice the art of listening, even beyond words?*

*How have we been sensitive to the personal needs and difficulties of members and attenders, young and old?*

*Do we visit one another in our homes and keep in touch with distant members?*

# San Francisco Monthly Meeting

## Meeting for Business

### 11/13/2011

Meeting began at 1:03 pm with a period of worship and 25 people present. A Friend asked prayers for our member Adrian Card, on the recent anniversary of the death of his husband John Tinker. John's mother also recently died, and the Friend recalled the moment during Adrian and John's wedding when their mothers offered their blessings on their union, and how he felt a strong sense of love in the Meeting at that time.

Clerk Stephen Matchett read the Advices and Queries on "Peace" from Pacific Yearly Meeting's *Faith and Practice*, and invited spoken responses, particularly to either of the queries directed to the Meeting corporately. One Friend admired the mural on the side of the building and felt it was a "gesture of peace" and a way to spread the conversation about peace. Another testified that "this house is a courageous house, this house is a loving house." Another Friend spoke to her connection to the Occupy movement and that we should be "occupied with peace, spirit, and love" and keep the connection between the inner and outer lives this way. Finally, a Friend said that "anger is a response to injustice" and that she had a "fierce love" which placed her as an instrument of love and reconciliation in her community.

11-01: Meeting approves the minutes of October 9, 2011, with changes from version that circulated in the printed newsletter, as read.

#### Quarterly Meeting Representative report

Alice Sowaal, College Park Quarterly Meeting Representative, reported that there were approximately 140 people in attendance at the October Quarterly Meeting at Sierra Friends Center. The theme was "How Are We Using Our Short, Precious Lives?" A lively teen group was present, 21 in total, and their program was combined every so often with the adult program with teens involved in many of the plenary sessions. Shared meals, games, and service were had as well as Bible study in the morning. The next Quarterly meeting will be held on Saturday, January 14, 2012, hosted by Redwood Forest Meeting in Santa Rosa.

A Friend mentioned that a goal for Quarterly has been to get more teens involved and that, to this end, a Friendly Adult Presence (FAP) training will be offered in early March. Steve Leeds can be contacted if interested in volunteering to be a FAP.

The next Pacific Yearly Meeting (PYM) will be held at Walker Creek Ranch (in Marshall, CA) during the week of August 13, 2012.

#### Ministry and Oversight Committee

Clerk David Matchett read aloud the report of the marriage clearness committee for Heidi Pidcoke and Anand Madhvani, recommending that Meeting take the marriage under its care. (Copy attached to the archived copy of these minutes.) M&O is in unity with this recommendation. The Meeting will season the matter for a month, and Friends should see M&O

during that time with any concerns. Presiding Clerk Stephen Matchett noted that should Meeting approve the recommendation, we will name an arrangements committee at that time. The couple has already set a date and place for their wedding: July 22, 2012, at Ben Lomond Quaker Center.

David reported progress on the survey questionnaire announced last month regarding different kinds of practical support Friends are available to provide one another in our community, and that it will soon be ready for distribution at Meeting.

#### Membership Transfer Request

Stephen Matchett read a request from Keith Wedmore that his membership be transferred to Marin Meeting. The request is referred to Ministry and Oversight Committee, as provided in our *Faith & Practice*.

#### Request For Release From Nominating Committee

Stephen reported that Paula Stinson is in the middle of a two-year term on the committee and due to anticipated conflicts with her work schedule she has requested to be released. Naming committee has been notified of this and is prepared with a replacement for her.

11-02: Meeting releases Paula Stinson from Nominating Committee effective Jan. 1, 2012.

#### Naming Committee

Convener Ruth Fraser spoke to her great joy in working with the committee and their "spirituality and depth." The committee brought the following nominations for the Nominating Committee: Sally Garepis-Holland, Dan Nakamura, and Sandra Schwartz, each for a two-year term, and Larry Pettit for a one-year term, all commencing January 1; and continuing member Charles Martin as clerk for the coming year. (The other continuing member is Dawn Moore.)

#### Property & Finance Committee

Clerk Philip Gerrie reported for the committee that they are excited to have the sidewalk repair completed--sealing the joints and completing the top--which will help with water leakage into the basement. Also, donation letters have been sent to members for annual monetary contributions.

Philip handed out the committee's proposed 2012 Meeting budget. (Copy attached to the archived copy of these minutes.) There was discussion of various highlighted items, including individual contributions, which have been increased to more accurately reflect our expectation based on experience.

Higher PYM assessment figure reflects merging of Youth Program Coordinator (YPC) expense, formerly handled separately as a balance sheet transaction, into the assessment. The additional amount is already set aside in a fund we set up to cover our share of the YPC costs over the position's first three years (of which this is the third). Fire alarm increase is due to an increase in the city's permit charge. Bookkeeping increases include Meeting's current employment of a bookkeeper. Bruce Folsom spoke to the increase in the Library & Archive budget as restoring the Library allocation from to its former level following a period when it was reduced due to the existence of a special fund for book purchases, now exhausted. One Friend

reminded Meeting that the ad hoc Meeting Contributions committee had recommended equalizing our donations to FASE, Sierra Friends Center, and Quaker Center at \$400 each. This will be reflected in the version brought next month. It was recommended to change line item 6211 to "Food Pantry" to reflect current practices, and to include Meeting's Food Pantry expenses on that line, rather than as a balance sheet transaction. One Friend noted a summing error on the M&O expense line: this will be corrected. It was recommended that P&F look into the balances of the Gathering Fund and the Sharing Fund and allocate the fund infusion amounts based on a target balance for each fund at the outset of the year. The budget with changes will be seasoned by P&F and brought back in December to Meeting for Business.

### **Kitchen Committee**

Philip gave an update on the kitchen remodeling, which included progress on choosing from various options of cabinetry and other items, and that the general contractor will be contacted to complete the installation.

### **Leadings Fund**

Stephen Matchett reported that Heidi Pidcoke has provided an accounting for the \$5,000 that has been spent so far from the Fund for Leadings toward her work in Kenya, and he will give that to the Treasurer. He will make a fuller report next month.

### **Joys & Concerns**

Scott MacCleod spoke to the joy of ongoing process with his work with World University and School and its potential partnership with Meeting. Charles Martin expressed his joy in working with the Quaker Life Committee at the San Francisco Friends School. Ruth Fraser spoke to her joy at seeing San Francisco Friends School complete a fire drill in total silence. Stephen Matchett spoke to a joy he had at an Alternatives to Violence Project meeting where he witnessed that more formerly incarcerated facilitators are now working in the community and there is a sustained level of enthusiasm for AVP.

Meeting closed with worship at 2:10 with 21 people in attendance.

Respectfully submitted,

Chad Stephenson, Recording Clerk

## **Meeting News and Announcements**

### **Community Care Surveys**

A Care of Community Members survey has been included in the newsletter. Please fill one out and return to the Meeting Clerk or Clerk of Ministry and Oversight

### **AVP Basic workshop in Oakland 12/3-4**

Explore your relationship to conflict in an atmosphere of community and trust,

and learn tools to be a powerful peacemaker, at an Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) all-volunteer, team-facilitated experiential workshop!

Structured activities, role plays, lively games and lots of opportunities for personal sharing are all part of the unforgettable mix. Check it out by signing up for the next AVP Basic, happening in Oakland the first weekend of December. Workshop runs from 9-6 on Saturday and Sunday. Sliding scale donation of \$35-\$125. No one turned away for lack of funds. E-mail [avpbaybridge@gmail.com](mailto:avpbaybridge@gmail.com) or call (510) 394-2622 for more information, or talk to Stephen Matchett, one of a number of trained AVP facilitators in SF Meeting. Find out what the buzz is about!

### **Get Involved in OCCUPY**

Peace and Social Concerns Committee has been following the OCCUPY movement closely. Committee members Jan and David Hartsough and Larry Pettit all visited Occupy Washington DC Freedom Plaza in early October. Local Quakers have been involved at both San Francisco and East Bay occupy sites. SF Meeting is inviting Bay Area Quakers to join us in a second hour discussion of the Occupy movement and how we can be supportive of it on Sunday December 4<sup>th</sup> at 1 PM at our meeting-house. Come and learn how you can become part of the vocal 99% in this country.

There are a number of groups that have formed and would welcome your *involvement*:

The SF Interfaith Allies of Occupy is currently meeting on Tuesdays at 1pm. *Among activities: mobilizing congregations in support of Occupy, organized a Council of Elders of people from the Civil Rights and other movements, to speak to the younger people in Occupy about nonviolence and their own experiences in building social movements, help organized a day after Thanksgiving Feast at the camp called "This is What Democracy Tastes Like". Contact (either you or I ?) if you want to work with this group. Website: [www.sf-iao.org](http://www.sf-iao.org)*

The SF 99% Coalition meets on Monday evenings and is trying to bring together labor, church and student groups to work in support of Occupy locally. An early action of this group was arranging for porta-potties at Justin Herman Plaza (very important).

The SF Action Council meets on Sunday afternoons at 2pm at Occupy SF and is encouraging people to spread this movement by self-organizing our own action group in churches, workplaces, neighborhoods, etc; and develop a proposal for mass actions and mobilizations that can be brought before the Council, where others can learn about it and potentially join in. There are currently mass actions every Saturday afternoon at 3PM – info can be found at [www.occupySF.com](http://www.occupySF.com).

The Occupy Be the Change Pledge Caucus is organizing around a pledge of nonviolence, and hopes to organize local actions that are clearly committed to nonviolence. Find more info on this at: [wade@wadehudson.net](mailto:wade@wadehudson.net).

Nonviolent Training/organizing began in earnest on Nov. 18-19 with a Training for Trainers that involved many Quakers and was held at Berkeley Friends Church. They are working on a schedule to offer nonviolent trainings in northern California

A CALL TO SHALOM – An Open Letter from Concerned Clergy of the SF Bay Area is being circulated for signatures. P&SC would like our business meeting to consider signing this letter as a corporate witness of SF Monthly Meeting. P&SC will put the text onto SF Quakers google site for your review before Dec. business meeting.

## Writings on Peace

Many thanks to Markley Morris for sharing Fran Johns' writing with the Meeting, and gaining permission from her to have these essays reprinted here.

### **A long, small plea for peace**

In case you missed it, the tenth anniversary of the beginning of the war in Afghanistan came and went a couple of weeks ago. October 6, to be precise. The date marked another anniversary: a small group of people have been occupying not exactly America, but the corner of Golden Gate and Larkin at the Federal Building in San Francisco, every week for these ten years. I personally think they're saints. I mean, some of us write letters or work on campaigns or grumble a lot; these folks -- sometimes a few dozen, sometimes just 5 or 6 -- have been standing on the corner by the Federal Building every Thursday, rain or shine, drizzle or fog, from noon to 1 PM for ten years, mostly just standing there holding signs, occasionally handing out leaflets or engaging passersby in conversation.

My personal favorite sign is "Why not a Department of Peace?" Officially, it is the Quaker Vigil for Peace & Justice. Unofficially the vigilers include Episcopalians, Buddhists, Presbyterians, Jews, Lutherans and agnostics. Probably others. Along with the American Friends Service Committee it is sponsored by the Buddhist Peace Fellowship, the Episcopal Peace Fellowship and the San Francisco Friends Meeting. In a burst of righteousness, I joined them for the weekly vigil on the anniversary date. What I learned was that I don't do street corners very well. Even though most passing drivers waved, honked or flashed peace signs, I felt like sinking into the sidewalk for the better part of the time.

All of which increases my admiration for vigilers, and occupiers. I do suspect some occupiers are out there for the fun of it or for nefarious other purposes, and some of them aren't sure what they're occupying about, but at least they are showing up. With frustration levels as high as they are for most Americans these days, having a few folks just show up somewhere, venting, is a plus.

There is very little venting at the corner of Golden Gate and Larkin on Thursdays. The vigilers, though, know exactly why they're there. They want war to stop. They admit it's not an easy task. But they point out that since the

first vigil in October, 2001, more than 225,000 human beings have been killed in Iraq and Afghanistan including deaths on all sides, and that we've dropped more than three trillion dollars into the fray. They hold signs urging peace and justice, they chat with each other or stand silently. But there they are, showing up.

( [http://open.salon.com/blog/fran\\_moreland\\_johns/2011/10/23/a\\_long\\_small\\_plea\\_for\\_peace](http://open.salon.com/blog/fran_moreland_johns/2011/10/23/a_long_small_plea_for_peace))

### **Signs of Our Protesting Times**

I wrote a small blog for **Open Salon** recently, having been invited to blog about the Occupy America movement. Maybe the movement will go somewhere, maybe not. I hope it doesn't go where Libya seems to be going, what with today's news of the new leaders' commitment to Shariah law -- which leans heavily toward amputations and floggings and stonings and men having up to four wives. None of those sound particularly attractive to me.

My preference among all the occupying movements remains with a tiny group in San Francisco officially known as the Quaker Vigil for Peace & Justice (sfvigil@mac.com.) During a brief foray into vigiling for peace I discovered I'm not good at it at all, but I did love the signs. So here, for the record, are a few of them:

AN EYE FOR AN EYE MAKES THE WORLD BLIND.

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE PREVENT TERRORISM.

WAR IS NOT HEALTHY FOR CHILDREN & OTHER LIVING CREATURES.

HISTORY BENDS TOWARD JUSTICE.

IMAGINE A DEPARTMENT OF PEACE.

WAR IS A LUXURY WE CANNOT AFFORD.

I concede that the Vigilers might be too idealistic, and those ideas more persuasive than practical. Still, we've been at war in Afghanistan for ten years. They've been out on the street keeping quiet vigil every Thursday, rain or shine, for the same period. Wouldn't it be nice just to pay attention to their signs?

<http://www.franjohns-boomersandbeyond.com/2011/10/signs-of-our-protesting-times.html>

## News from Heidi Pidcoke

Hello my dear Friends!

It was wonderful to be with you 3 weeks ago! I so enjoyed our time and as always being in Meeting and worship together. We returned to Nairobi on November 1st to a city that is much more nervous about terror threats. Going into any shopping center now requires your purse or bags to be checked as well as a metal wand over your body. It was a hard re-entry to come back to after being loved-up for a month by our friends and family. We also heard some sad news that one of our facilitators died two days before we returned.

The AVP and HROC programs continue to strengthen. We are currently starting conversations with AFSC to reach out to Somalis. The security around Dadaab Refugee Camp in NorthEast Kenya has been worsening as some of you may have read in the news. Kenya has sent its army into Somalia for the first time in the history of the two neighbors to try and contain the activities of the terrorist group Al Shabab, which has been behind the kidnapping of several people in Kenya. So, though AVP and HROC are very much needed at present, we're not sure the situation is secure enough for facilitators to put on workshops in the refugee camps or in cities close to the border. AFSC has given AVP Kenya Trust funding to work with the Somali community here in Nairobi which will be starting soon.

Please pray peace,  
Love,  
Heidi

## AFSC News

### **The Occupy Movement**

AFSC is very focused on this movement right now both in this region and across the nation. The main concern is that it should continue to be peaceful and non-violent. To support this endeavor AFSC is co-operating closely with David Hartsough and the Non-Violent Peace Force. They will be participating in training sessions throughout the Bay Area to develop trainers in non-violence who can then take the skills to the various Occupy Camps and community meetings. Individual staff members are taking part in their own time, as they feel led. If you would like to know more about the training contact David Hartsough at 415-751-5708 or davidhartsough@igc.org.

### **Major Changes to AFSC**

Lengthy consideration the AFSC Board has decided to consolidate the existing 9 AFSC Regions into 4 in order to reduce administrative costs and focus finance and energy on program. Here on the West Coast it means the 3 West Coast Regions [Pacific North West, Pacific Mountain Region and Pacific Southwest] and Denver will combine into a new Region, whose name will be announced soon. These changes will be implemented over the next six months.

For those of you who support AFSC and make end-of-year -contributions to programs of your choice there is no change. Your gift can be directed just as it always has been.

Holiday greetings

As your 'AFSC News Hound' I would like to say what a pleasure it has been to write these paragraphs.

May the Holiday Season bring you peace and joy, with the company you enjoy the most.

Ruth Fraser

## News from Friends

### **Elizabeth Fry, in Berkeley?**

Fresh off our recent visit from Elias Hicks (movingly channeled by Paul Buckley during second-hour at San Francisco Meeting on 11/19), what's next? Why, over in Berkeley, on the evening of Sunday, January 15, Roena Oesting, of La Jolla Meeting, will reprise her portrayal of Elizabeth Fry, famed 19th Century English Quaker prison reformer, which got a warm reception at Pacific Yearly Meeting last summer. The presentation will be followed by a discussion of present-day Quaker efforts in California prisons, including contributions by Laura Magnani, of Berkeley Meeting and the American Friends Service Committee, and San Francisco Meeting's Stephen Matchett wearing his Alternatives to Violence Project hat.

The event takes place at 7 pm on Sunday, January 15, 2012. Berkeley Meetinghouse is located at Walnut and Vine Streets. That's a slightly-over-a-half-mile walk from the downtown Berkeley BART, or you can catch a number 18 bus. Hope to see you there.

### **December 2011 News from Ben Lomond Quaker Center**

Our big news this month is that the Ben Lomond Quaker Center board approved the following new mission statement, which has been under discernment since our visioning program last June:

"Quaker Center seeks to nurture the spiritual growth and faithfulness of Friends and others, while strengthening Quakerism and its witness in the world. We offer programs and personal retreats exemplifying Friends' testimonies of community, integrity, simplicity, peace, and equality. We strive to live in right order with all creation, especially with the redwood forest that sustains us here in the Santa Cruz mountains."

In early November, we hosted small group of people who enjoyed a nourishing weekend with John Calvi for the Goodness Workshop. We have enjoyed the presence of sojourners here for personal and group retreats from faraway places including Portland, Oregon and Lexington, Virginia, as well as from in and around California. Coming up, we look forward to co-leading the Year-

End Retreat with Janet Leslie and Jim Anderson from December 27 through Jan. 1st when we'll focus on the themes of letting go, transformation, forgiveness, renewal, taking hold and looking ahead. Please join us! Register online at [www.quakercenter.org/programs/register/](http://www.quakercenter.org/programs/register/).

### **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](mailto: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](mailto: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 Kate McCarley (clerk, editor), Eli Bishop (web servant), Jim Pilliod (production), and Amy Aucutt (distribution)

# CARE OF COMMUNITY MEMBERS

## SAN FRANCISCO FRIENDS MEETING

At times Ministry and Oversight Committee receives requests from individual members or attenders of our meeting for various kinds of help. We are creating a list of people willing to be called upon to provide such help when we become aware of members or attenders in need. Please indicate what kind of help you could provide, and return this to the Meeting Clerk or Clerk of Ministry and Oversight:

- phone calls to the individual
- cards or letters to the individual
- visits to the individual's home for conversation
- visits to the individual's home for meeting for worship
- visits to the individual in a hospital or other institution
- assistance with laundry
- assistance with errands
- assistance with cooking
- delivery of meals to the individual's home
- childcare
- transportation to meeting for worship
- transportation to other destinations
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**SCHEDULE:**

Most likely time you might be available to provide help. Circle all the days and times of day that you might be available:

DAY	TIME OF DAY		
Sunday	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Monday	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Tuesday	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Wednesday	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Thursday	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Friday	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Saturday	Morning	Afternoon	Evening

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number or phone numbers: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

## Calendar of Events for December 2011

(all events at 65 9th St., unless noted; \*see details elsewhere in newsletter)

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
27 11a Meeting for Worship	28	29	30  6p Meeting for Worship	1  12p Peace Vigil‡  7p Potluck & Quaker Study	2	3  10:30a-1p Food Pantry
4 9:30a Bible Study  11a Meeting for Worship, Community potluck following  6:30p Storytelling	5	6  7p Property & Finance Mtg	7 8:45a SFFS Community Mtg for Worship† 6p Meeting for Worship 7p Ministry & Oversight Mtg	8  12p Peace Vigil‡  7p Potluck & Quaker Study	9	10  10:30a-1p Food Pantry
11 11a Meeting for Worship 1p Meeting for Business	12	13	14  6p Meeting for Worship	15  12p Peace Vigil‡ 7p Potluck & Quaker Study	16	17  10:30a-1p Food Pantry
18 9:30a Bible Study 11a Meeting for Worship	19	20	21  6p Meeting for Worship	22  12p Peace Vigil‡ 7p Potluck & Quaker Study	23	24  10:30a-1p Food Pantry
25 11a Meeting for Worship	26	27	28  6p Meeting for Worship	29  12p Peace Vigil‡  7p Potluck & Quaker Study	30	31  10:30a-1p Food Pantry

‡Federal Building, Golden Gate Ave. and Larkin St. †San Francisco Friends School, 250 Valencia St.

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