
SAN FRANCISCO FRIENDS MEETING

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<http://sfquakers.org/>

February 2012 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 Second Month

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

SPIRITUAL LIFE

ADVICES:

The life of the spirit gains depth and vigor through devotional practices, prayer, study and meditation. Take time regularly for individual and family worship, discussions, readings from sacred texts, and other spiritual refreshment in order to live a more centered life and to bring a deeper presence to the Meeting for Worship.

Friends believe that the spiritual path is best found in community. Create opportunities in your Meetings for people of all ages to explore and express their evolving relationship with the Divine, their spiritual highs and their doubts. If different metaphors and language interfere with communication, listen more deeply, honoring the Spirit in which the thought and words have their beginnings.

QUERIES:

Do I live in thankful awareness of God's constant presence in my life?

Am I sensitive and obedient to the leadings of the Holy Spirit?

When do I take time for contemplation and spiritual refreshment?

What steps am I taking to center my life and to stay open to continuing revelation?

Do we share our spiritual lives with others in the Meeting, seeking to know one another in that which is eternal?

San Francisco Monthly Meeting Meeting for Business 1/8/2012 (First Month 2012)

Meeting began at 1:10pm with a period of worship and 19 people present. Clerk Stephen Matchett read the Advices and Queries on "Meeting for Worship" from Pacific Yearly Meeting's *Faith and Practice* and invited spoken responses, particularly to the queries directed to the Meeting corporately. A Friend spoke to the phrase "living silence" and its power to accommodate sound within Meeting for Worship, that when one is well centered, even what might appear as disruptions can deepen the experience of Meeting for Worship. Another Friend spoke to the use of "holding in the Light" those who have experienced loss within Meeting and the power of this as a regular part of Meeting for Worship. Another Friend shared his connection to this practice and its value among Friends.

Approval of Minutes of Dec. 11

01-01: Meeting approves the minutes of December 11, 2011, as presented.

Children's Religious Education

Committee co-clerk Neil Fullagar reported that more volunteers are needed to work with the children in the First Day program. Contact the committee co-clerks with dates which are available to you.

Peace and Social Concerns

Committee co-clerk Jan Hartsough reported on activities of the committee in five areas. 1) Campaign finance reform: Friends had an opportunity to write letters after Meeting for Worship today in support of state Assembly Bill 1148, which would mandate reporting of the five biggest donors to all political campaigns and ads; committee co-clerk Rolene Walker was attending a meeting this afternoon at the public library on the same measure. 2) Corporate personhood: Jan announced activities in support of a constitutional amendment specifying that corporations are not people, with events timed to coincide with the approaching anniversary of the U.S.

Supreme Court's *Citizens United* decision on 1/21. 3) Torture: Our Meeting having joined the National Campaign Against Torture, Dirk von der Horst has been attending their meetings and representing us. As part of a "day of action against Guantanamo" on 1/18, the tenth anniversary of the opening of the prison, the committee is cosponsoring a vigil with the American Friends Service Committee at the S.F. Federal Building on Mission St. 4) The Occupy movement: The committee sponsored a dialogue on the Occupy movement and Friends' responses following Meeting for Worship on 12/4, and, as reported there, committee members continue to be involved with Interfaith

Allies of Occupy S.F.; nonviolence trainings have been organized in anticipation of the upcoming Occupy Wall St. West action on January 20th. Some San Francisco Friends who participated in the beginning of the Occupy Freedom Plaza action in Washington DC last fall are hoping to return for additional activities there later this year. 5) The food pantry has nearly 100 people relying on it weekly, and the committee needs anchor people from Meeting to be coordinators and to open and close the building.

Gatherings Assistance Fund proposal

The Clerk reported that this fund is used to support Meeting members' and attenders' attendance at Quaker gatherings which require a registration fee or other expenses. The committee to review applications for fund use includes the Clerk and Assistant Clerk of Meeting and the Clerk of M&O. Assistant Clerk Krista Bernard presented the committee's proposal to use \$1,000 of the Gatherings Assistance Fund to purchase an "Annual Pass" that would allow one Meeting member or attender to attend each of the scheduled programs at Ben Lomond Quaker Center free of charge for the next twelve months. She noted this would use half of the \$2,000 balance in the fund. The Gatherings Assistance Fund committee would receive and respond to applications for use of the pass just as it does other assistance requests. Krista mentioned that each program at Quaker Center currently costs approximately \$200 per person and that with five visits it would meet the annual cost. (An individual can buy a pass for \$500 per year, and a Friend asked if Meeting could support members to purchase these via the Gatherings Fund to be repaid over time. This was not taken up at that time.) There was general support for the idea, as a way to encourage our members' and attenders' attendance at Quaker Center programs as well as helping Quaker Center populate its programs, which occasionally must be cancelled for low signups. A Friend expressed concern that, having recently been at pains to equalize our donations to the three corporations of the Quarterly Meeting (Quaker Center, Sierra Friends Center, and Friends House), we would be in effect significantly raising our donation to Quaker Center by this action; and that \$1,000 was a substantial sum of money to be directing to this purpose in hard economic times. These concerns were at least partially addressed by other Friends' noting that this would be a purchase separate from our annual donation, that outlays for Quaker Center programs from the Gatherings Assistance Fund are nothing new, and that the proposed purchase of admission to multiple programs represented a savings.

01-02: Meeting approves the one-time use of \$1,000 from the Gatherings Assistance Fund to purchase a Ben Lomond Quaker Center annual pass, good for attendance by one San Francisco Meeting member or attender at each of Quaker Center's 15 scheduled workshops, retreats and camps in 2012. The Gatherings Assistance Fund Committee (consisting of the Clerk, Assistant Clerk, and Clerk of Ministry & Oversight Committee) will oversee use of the pass in the same way it routinely handles requests for assistance from the Fund, and

will be responsible for providing Quaker Center the name of the user for each program. A user of the pass who would not otherwise be seeking a full scholarship will be asked to contribute to Meeting the portion of the registration cost they can afford to pay, to replenish the Fund.

Ministry & Oversight Committee (David Matchett)

David Matchett read aloud a letter from Larry Pettit applying for membership. Tony Williams will convene Larry's clearness committee.

Correspondence

The Clerk read from or referred to several pieces of correspondence to Meeting. These included: a postcard from Peru from our member Robin Mohr, which he read aloud; a letter from Pacific Yearly Meeting's Unity with Nature Committee, included pamphlets from Quaker Institute for the Future (<http://www.quakerinstitute.org/>) along with queries to consider and a PYM minute on nuclear power and energy needs, which the Clerk was referring to the Peace and Social Concerns committee; a letter from a member of Palo Alto Meeting's Peace and Social Concerns committee concerning restoration of the damaged Mito (Japan) meeting house and children's center; a letter from William Penn House in Washington DC, briefly describing their sponsorship of an ongoing program of work camps open to Quaker and other youth in the Quaker service tradition; and, finally, a letter from QuakerSingles.com (<http://quakersingles.com/>), describing their services and inviting participation.

Following announcements and the sharing of Joys and Concerns, the meeting closed with a period of worship at 2:45pm with 15 people in attendance.

Respectfully submitted,

Chad Stephenson, Recording Clerk
Stephen Matchett, Clerk of Meeting

News from Heidi Pidcoke

Dear Friends,
Happy New Year! May you each feel blessed and excited about the possibilities in the year ahead. I've had a wonderful month. My mother and stepfather were here for Christmas and we had a nice time with friends and going to a beautiful National Park that looks like the Scottish moorlands. My efforts this past month have been going towards writing (and re-writing) a proposal that

AFSC has invited us to submit to put on HROC workshops in Dadaab, the biggest refugee camp in Africa, which is on the border of Kenya and Somalia. This weekend I'm taking a workshop in learning how to be a trainer in Infant Massage, which puts a smile on my face. It feels like learning how to help put in prevention techniques that help children grow up healthy rather than just focusing on those who are suffering from some kind of dysfunction. Anand and I are very pleased that our marriage is under the care of the Meeting and are busy with the wedding planning.

Please keep us in the light.

Lots of love,
Heidi

AFSC News

Well Worth a Read

So that new and potential employees and supporters, who are not Quakers, may understand the faith basis of the work that AFSC does, a new booklet has been produced. Titled *An Introduction to Quaker Testimonies*, it is a beautifully produced work. The text expresses the Testimonies in simple, clear language and the illustrations are simply beautiful. I have a feeling this booklet deserves a wider audience than AFSC supporters and staff. You can see the booklet on line at AFSC.org/testimonies

Changing the Conversation

With an ever-increasing focus on immigrants and immigration, as an election looms on the horizon, there is no more important time than now to engage the conversation on these issues and change the narrative in the wider community.

AFSC Staff in the Central Valley, especially Stockton and Farmersville, have always been actively involved in immigration issues and the challenges migrant workers face. They recently gathered with other AFSC staff from throughout the country, who also work on these issues, to share stories of their work and experiences in their communities with the goal of sharing new and better ways to change the conversation.

Already the AFSC phrase "No Human Being is Illegal" has brought concrete results. There is a signature "*Drop the 'I' word*" campaign circulating on the web colorlines/droptheiword.com that is well worth looking at

Submitted by Ruth Fraser
Your AFSC Newshound

Quarterly Quick Notes

Winter Quarterly – January 14, 2012, at Friends House in Santa Rosa

This one-day gathering of CPQM was one of the largest winter gatherings in years. 148 people attended, of whom 13 were teens and 12 children. *These "quick notes" are to be announced, posted and/or circulated on line by the Monthly Meeting rep* so as to provide timely highlights for those many Friends who were not able to be present. Detailed minutes will reach the Meetings later.

The theme of Winter Quarter 2012 was "growing and grounding our monthly meetings." At one plenary, many Friends took advantage of an "open mic" to tell of ways Meetings have recruited new members or attained greater depth. Our teenagers shared with adults in worship sharing sessions held in Friends House apartments where we pondered queries on this theme: *How can I personally be effective in helping to grow the Religious Society of Friends? What has worked for me personally to promote my own personal spiritual growth? How can I help my Meeting reach greater spiritual depth?*

A number of staff and board representatives from Friends House were present. Tom Whiteman, assistant to the clerk of the Friends Association of Services for the Elderly (FASE), gave the annual report, explaining the process being used to negotiate a management contract with Pacific Retirement Services (of Medford, Oregon). The full report will be available shortly on the Friends House and the Quarterly Meeting web sites.

With the help of nominating committee, five new members were chosen for the Ben Lomond Quaker Center board. Monthly Meetings or individuals can buy a yearlong pass to events at Quaker Center – check their web site.

PYM's war tax affinity group sponsored an interest group encouraging Friends to "Pay Under Protest" this year. Even those who are not required to pay taxes can participate. Invite us to come and explain this and other options. Most Meetings have a PUP campaign representative. Or contact eboardman@sbcglobal.net.

Another interest group attracting much attention focused on the theory and practice of non-violence. A third group discussed abolition of the death penalty.

Ministry and Oversight Committee reps are working with Southern California and PYM M&O on imaginative options for a sustainable future for west coast Quaker organizations. Is Southern California Quarter too small, College Park too big? Would there be advantages to dividing CPQM into two or three smaller clusters? Or having the Annual Gathering of PYM become a biennial gathering? Teens want to meet more often – how could this be facilitated? A PYM subcommittee is exploring these and other options.

Most teens stayed on after Quarterly for an overnight and worship with Redwood Forest Friends. Their evening brainstorm session was facilitated by Alyssa Nelson (Youth Programs Coordinator for PYM) and focused on how the teen program might reach more young people. Alyssa utilized ideas from *Build It!*, the guide book for intergenerational activities now being given to all Meetings. Contact Alyssa at _pym.youthcoordinator@gmail.com for more information about this and other resources and up-coming programs. .

This year Spring Quarterly will meet at Quaker Center in Ben Lomond, May 18-20, 2012.

Quarterly Quick Notes, January 18, 2012, by Elizabeth Boardman, Quarterly M&O.

News from Friends

February 2012 News from Quaker Center

Winter is still a time for the growth and the warmth of community at Quaker Center despite the colder temperatures. We brought in the new year with 27 companions for the Year End Retreat and we just hosted 26 people last weekend for an enriching look at the radical Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and his nonviolent approach to social transformation. One of the leaders, Be Scofield, has an incredibly resource rich web-site, www.godblessthewholeworld.org with awesome video clips of King, some of which are recently released. Please check out the website and enjoy!

We are looking forward to more nonviolence training as we host Dorothy Henderson, Head of School at the Woolman Semester, who will facilitate our learning of Nonviolent Communication and how we can answer to that of God in others during everyday interactions, and also in our meeting communities where conversations can sometimes be quite challenging. Please have a look at <http://www.quakercenter.org/programs/speaking-my-truth/> to find out more about "Speaking My Truth, Hearing Yours" and then register online.

Finally, we are still selling the new Ben Lomond Quaker Center Annual Pass to meetings for \$1000 and to individuals for \$500. The annual pass allows you to pay once and then attend all programs offered here at Quaker Center for one year from the time of purchase. If you come to three or more programs, it will pay for itself and more! The individual Annual Pass is not transferable to others but the Annual Pass for meetings is, so meetings can send a different person to each Quaker Center program for one year, which will easily pay for itself. Contact Quaker Center Co-Directors, Kathy and Bob Runyan, via mail@quakercenter.org with any questions. We hope to see you soon and often in 2012!

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 Kate McCarley (clerk, editor), Eli Bishop (web servant), Jim Pilliod (production), and Amy Aucutt (distribution)

Calendar of Events for February 2012

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

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

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

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