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**PALO ALTO FRIENDS NEWSLETTER**

Fourth Month, 2012

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**Advices and Queries for Fourth Month: Stewardship and Vocation**

John Woolman said, "As Christians all we possess are the gifts of God... To turn all the treasures we possess into the channel of Universal Love becomes the business of our lives." The principle of stewardship applies to all we have and are. As individuals, we are called to use our time, our various abilities, our strength, our money, and our material possessions with care, managing them wisely and sharing them generously.

From the indwelling Seed of God, we discover our particular gifts and discern the service to which we are called. In making choices about occupation or education, consider the way that offers the fullest opportunity to develop your individual abilities and contribute to the world community while providing for yourself and your family. In daily work, manifest a spirit of justice and understanding, and thus give a living witness to the truth.

Be ready to limit engagements, to withdraw for a time, or even to retire from an activity that inhibits your ability to follow a higher call. Try to discern the right moment to accept new responsibilities as well as to relinquish responsibility that can pass to others. Be open to your calling in different stages of life. Meetings need the strength and vigor of young people as well as the experience and wisdom of elders. Although they may not be able to contribute great financial support, their energy and insight invigorate the community. As people begin careers and families, they may need the spiritual and experienced help of the Meeting. Later, when families are growing up and careers are established, greater participation in the Meeting and greater financial support may become possible. Welcome the approach of old age, your own and others', as an opportunity for wisdom and greater attachment to the Light. Meetings should be ready with material and spiritual support for those suffering from unemployment or facing difficult vocational decisions.

How have I been faithful to the leadings of the Spirit in choosing work or vocation?

What am I doing with my talents, time, money, and possessions? Am I sharing them according to the Light I am given?

Is my conduct at the workplace consistent with my life as a Friend?

How does my daily work enhance my spiritual life?

How does the Meeting help and support members who are in job transitions?

**SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE**

- 9:00 to 10:00 am Adult Education, New Meeting House (NMH), 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> First Days & on 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> First Days by arrangement.
- 10:00 to 10:25 Hymn Singing at NMH.
- 10:30 to 11:30 Meeting for Worship at New Meeting House.**
- 10:30 to 11:15 First Day School for children in Old Meeting House (OMH – n.b., also now known as the "School House").
- 11:15 to 11:30 Children join adults for Meeting for Worship in NMH
- 11:30 to 11:45 Introductions and announcements

MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS is held on the second First Day of the month, following light refreshments after Meeting for Worship. The next Business Meeting is on April 8, 2012.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE (in NMH): Meeting for Worship – each First Day at 10:30 AM.  
Mid-Week Evening Worship – each Wednesday at 6:00 PM.  
Mindfulness Meditation – each Thursday at 7:15 AM

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**MAR**

- 25 Sun 10:30 - 11:30 am Meeting for Worship – NMH.**
- 25 Sun noon Fourth First Day Provided Lunch this month – (see note below).
- 27 Tues 7:00 pm Caregivers Group meeting – Schoolhouse (see note below).
- 28 Weds 6:00 pm Midweek Meeting for Worship – NMH.**

## APR

- 1 Sun 9:00 am Adult Ed. – Reading & Discussion – NMH.  
1 Sun 10:30 - 11:30 am Meeting for Worship – NMH.  
1 Sun 12:15 pm Adult Ed. Series on “To Be Broken and Tender” – NMH (see note below).  
4 Weds 6:00 pm Midweek Meeting for Worship – NMH.  
4 Weds 7:30 – 9:00pm Meeting of Spiritual Formation Group – NMH. ?  
5 Thurs 7:15 am Mindfulness Meditation – NMH (see note below).  
8 Sun 10:30 - 11:30 am Meeting for Worship – NMH.  
8 Sun noon Light lunch provided prior to Meeting for Business - OMH.  
8 Sun 12:15 pm Meeting for Business – NMH (see note above).  
11 Weds 6:00 pm Midweek Meeting for Worship – NMH.  
12 Thurs 7:15 am Mindfulness Meditation – NMH (see note below).  
15 Sun 9:00 am Adult Ed. – Reading & Discussion – NMH.  
15 Sun 10:30 - 11:30 am Meeting for Worship – NMH.  
15 Sun 11:45 am Collection for Ecumenical Hunger by Community Service Committee – NMH (see note below).  
15 Sun [Deadline for submittal of Newsletter articles - if email send to [moriii@yahoo.com](mailto:moriii@yahoo.com).]  
18 Weds 6:00 pm Midweek Meeting for Worship – NMH.  
18 Weds 7:30 – 9:00pm Meeting of Spiritual Formation Group – NMH. ?  
19 Thurs 7:15 am Mindfulness Meditation – NMH (see note below).  
19 Thurs 7:00 pm Care and Concerns Committee Meeting – Library (see note below).  
22 Sun 9:00 am Adult Ed. – Study Series “Salt and Light” – NMH (see note below).  
22 Sun 10:30 - 11:30 am Meeting for Worship – NMH.  
22 Sun noon Fourth First Day Provided Lunch this month – (see note below).  
24 Tues 7:00 pm Caregivers Group meeting – Schoolhouse (see note below).  
25 Weds 6:00 pm Midweek Meeting for Worship – NMH.  
26 Thurs 7:15 am Mindfulness Meditation – NMH (see note below).  
29 Sun 9:00 am Adult Ed. – Reading & Discussion – NMH.  
29 Sun 10:30 - 11:30 am Meeting for Worship – NMH.

## CALENDAR EXPANSION – DETAILS

\*\*\* STANFORD QUAKER ACTIVITIES: Stanford students interested in on-campus Quaker activities should contact Daniel Steinbock <[daniel@steinbock.org](mailto:daniel@steinbock.org)>. Meetings are held in the CIRCLE sanctuary on the 3rd floor of Old Union. Contact Daniel for current schedule. The group has shelf space in the CIRCLE Library and we would love to add your favorite Quaker book to the shelf. Books we have already received: <http://bit.ly/qbooklist>.

\*\*\* ADULT EDUCATION DISCUSSION: **Reading and Discussion** led by Henry Jason each 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday at 9 am – NMH. We are reading and discussing a 1648 book written by Robert Wilkinson entitled The Saint's Travel to the Land of Canaan: Wherein are Discovered Seventeen False Rests Short of the Spiritual Coming of Christ in the Saints: Together with a Brief Discovery of What the Spiritual Coming of Christ is, Who is the Alone Rest and Centre of Spirits. All are welcome No preparation is necessary. A pdf of the work is available; please inquire if interested in acquiring a copy. Contact Henry Jason.

recent addition to the Defense Authorization Bill, a matter that concerns all of us. Discussion and letter writing will follow.

**9 am study series on fourth Firstdays – “Salt and Light:** “To turn all we possess into the channel of universal love becomes the business of our lives” – John Woolman. Explore the spiritual foundation of our faith with our understanding of the basis of our work in the world with readings and queries on the World Conference theme “Being Salt and Light: Friends living the kingdom of God in a broken world.” See <http://www.saltandlight2012.org/materials.html> for the online version. Readings are encouraged but not required for attendance. Our upcoming sessions in March will be: Friends Diversity and Ecumenism.

**Series on “To be Broken and Tender”** by Marge Abbott: The series will be held 12:15- 1:45 (though you can leave early if you need to) on the first First Day of each month. It will be six sessions: Apr. 1, May 6, Jun. 3, Jul. 12, Aug. 5, Sep. 2.

Session 1, April first: Waiting and attending in an active life. themes and exercises: listening and being vulnerable, waiting and attending, Expectant attention as the foundation beneath “doing” our lives

Please bring a journal, notebook, or some other way to write reflections. Our sessions will include experiential exercises, journal writing, and worshipful sharing, although there will be some presentation. Reading will be Margery Post Abbott's book, *To Be Broken and Tender: A Quaker Theology for Today*, available in the office for \$20 (ask Diane Pasta or Tom Farley). If you want the book, but cannot afford it, talk to Diane or inquire at Care and Concerns for a subsidy.

\*\*\* SPIRITUAL FORMATION GROUP: There is a spiritual formation group that meets on Wednesdays about twice a month. For more information talk to Jerry McBride, Susan Murphy, or Jennifer Summit.

\*\*\* COLLECTION FOR ECUMENICAL HUNGER PROGRAM (EHP): Community Service Committee the EHP after the rise of Meeting each third First Day – at the front door. EHP is a vital part of the local safety net providing emergency food, clothing, case management, household essentials, and resource referrals to families in need in East Palo Alto, Menlo Park, and Palo Alto.

Second Harvest brings a truckload of fresh produce 12 times a year, on the first Tuesday. Meeting collected \$249 in contributions for EHP in March.

\*\*\* HOMELESS MEALS - OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE – We help prepare the food and serve it to the Homeless at the First Methodist Church in Palo Alto as part of the Urban Ministry meal program. Scheduled dates for 2012 are 4/9, 5/14, 6/18, 7/23, 8/27, (none for Sept.), 10/1, 11/5, 12/10. Contact Marie Simirenko for more info - 650-961-1724.

\*\*\* THURSDAY MORNING MINDFULNESS MEDITATION: We welcome newcomers to Thursday morning meditation. Doors open at 7:15 am with quiet music. At 7:30 am, we have a short Buddhist guidance, and a half-hour meditation. Afterwards, we discuss how the meditation was for us, finishing at 8:15 or 8:30. We are following the teachings of the Vietnamese Buddhist monk, Thich Nhat Hanh, similar to Quaker philosophy but with additional insights. We discuss meditation technique, which is also helpful to people on Sunday!

\*\*\* FOURTH FIRST-DAY PROVIDED LUNCH: PAFM provides a lunch on **fourth** First Day. This allows Friends an opportunity to get to know each other better. Friends, attenders, visitors, and newcomers are all welcome.

A special table is set aside for newcomers to meet with Friends and find out more about Quakerism and about our Meeting, its members & activities, as well as an opportunity for us to know you better. A member of Care & Concerns will be at the table. All newcomers are welcome - as are any Friends who might be inclined to join the gathering. The term "newcomers" includes those who have recently begun attending, as well as those who feel "new" to the Meeting, regardless of how long they have been attending.

\*\*\* WORSHIP SHARING FOR CAREGIVERS: This is a group sponsored by Care and Concerns and open to anyone caring for a loved one of any age – infant to adult – who would like to explore how our Quaker beliefs and experiences can be a part of this loving undertaking. The group has changed its meeting time back to fourth Tuesdays. The group meets in the Schoolhouse. Contact Arden Pierce at 650-494-1631 or ardenhram@aol.com or Mary Lou Moses at 650-424-4342 for info. All are welcome.

\*\*\* SUPPORT: If you have wondered what Friends do when we are in distress or need help, given that we do not have a minister - the answer is that we turn to members of the Care and Concerns committee. Be advised that the greeters you see each First Day are on the Care and Concerns Committee. Please feel free to talk to a member of Care and Concerns about such concerns...after meeting,...or call or email them.

\*\*\* Friends are reminded that there are those among us who have allergies, often severe. We must avoid certain food products especially in the School House because of the allergies of children attending Friends Nursery School. Some among us are also allergic to artificial fragrances (perfumes, colognes, after-shaves).

\*\*\* With rainy days upon us, please take into consideration your ability to move quickly relative to other members of the meeting when you are choosing a parking spot, and try to leave a few close spots for members who may not be able to dodge raindrops as well as yourself.

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## **NEWS OF PEOPLE AND EVENTS**

**QUAKER QUEST:** For Friends who want to know more about the Quaker Quest program being explored in Meeting - [www.friendsjournal.org/quaker-quest](http://www.friendsjournal.org/quaker-quest) is a link to the article that was distributed in M4B in January. In addition, [www.quakerquestfgc.org](http://www.quakerquestfgc.org) has a variety of materials that may answer some questions.

The first step is information gathering to determine if we want to do a full day workshop with a Quaker Quest Travel Team. Meg Givens, Ray Richspater and Talley Kenyon are a working group under Worship and Ministry for this first step. If you have questions, please let one of them know.

### **B&G 3/3/12 WORKDAY REPORT:**

#### **TASKS ACCOMPLISHED:**

- Butterfly bush by handicap parking space pruned.
- Weeding along parking lot fence.
- Brown seed-pods stripped off Redbud tree.
- Coyote bush obstructing Bicycle rack pruned back.
- Dead shrubs cleaned out.
- Graffiti on fence cleaned up.
- Yard waste hauled off in 'friendly' green bins using Arden's pick-up.
- Lights along path repaired.
- Library windows washed.

Met with Robert Lee, boy scout neighbor, who is co-ordinating troop service project to restore walkway around Zen-garden side of meeting house. Kate is resource person.

Many thanks to volunteers: Kate, Lynn, Richard, Bob C., Talley, Marie S., Eric S., George Heaton, Dottie Vera-Weiss, Mary Klein, Susan Murphy, Judith Bush, Hulda Muaka.

Next B&G WORKDAY: Saturday, May 5.

STILL TO BE DONE

OUTSIDE:

- Clean out roof eaves with broom
- Weeding: front of OMH boulevard strip
- Pruning
- Begin removal of all privet from redwood grove.
- In front bed by FRIENDS sign, remove 1 shrub, 4 stumps
- Clean out Shed if accessible (Eric S.)
- Schoolhouse downspout by kitchen door? (Richard?)
- NMH gutter drip on North corner
- Investigate NMH gutters/ drip on North corner.

CONSIDER AND PLAN:

- BENCHES!
- Assess both compost bins. Move many leaves to bins?
- Decide front fence for/with FNS? (15' set back from street)

INSIDE JOBS:

- W&M committee: Lobby: display boards, 'storage'?
- Sort Hall Closet
- Assess/sort broom closet

**NEWS FROM QUAKER CENTER:** The Racial Justice Subcommittee of Pacific Yearly Meeting will work with Seventh Generation founder and **former AFSC Director, Wilson Riles and Patricia St. Onge** to present, ***Partners in Healing: Racial Dynamics Among Friends*** from **April 20th -22nd**. Please register online at <http://www.quakercenter.org/programs/partners-in-healing/>. We must have 20 people registered by April 10th to go forward and we currently have 10 registrants.

Our next workshop, ***Celebrating Aging and Facing the Inevitable*** will be held from **June 1st - 3rd**. **Claire Gorfinkel and Mary Ann Percy** from Southern California Quarterly Meeting will lead us in celebrating the spiritual and other gifts of aging, sharing information resources for support including: Advance Care Planning, recognizing the inevitable, and building more caring communities that will help us all enjoy the diverse adventures of growing older so that we can age wisely and well. Please register online at <http://www.quakercenter.org/programs/register/>

Finally, each monthly meeting's Quaker Center liaison, and any other interested Friends, are invited to attend our annual corporate meeting as observers. This meeting will be held on Saturday, April 14, 2012 from 9:30 am-3:00 pm at Ben Lomond Quaker Center, 1000 Hubbard Gulch Road, Ben Lomond, CA. Please call 831-336-8333 if you plan to attend.

**AFSC NEWS:** AFSC News.. Occupy – Street Spirit Contribution Many Friends and their Meetings are working within the Occupy Movement. All have a deep concern that the movement be both effective and non-violent. 'Street Spirit', the street paper edited by AFSC staff, is making a valuable contribution to that effort. Through its wide circulation Street Spirit is stimulating thoughtful conversation on these issues. The March edition carries two very important interviews.

"Discovering the Unexpected Power of Nonviolence" is an interview with Erica Chenoweth, a long time researcher who has studied and compared success rates of violent and non-violent social change movements.

"The Occupy Movement Stands at a Crossroads" is a conversation with George Lakey, known to many of us – "one of the foremost strategists for building effective and powerful nonviolent movements that I know is the world" - David Hartshough, Peaceworkers. - Street Spirit is available from vendors throughout the East Bay or can be read on line at [www.thestreetspirit.org](http://www.thestreetspirit.org)

Death Penalty There is a strong possibility that a proposition to abolish the death penalty will be on the Ballot this autumn.

Hunger Strikes Bear Fruit The two rounds of hunger strike that were widespread in the prison population of Pelican Bay and prisons across the state last year have borne some fruit. The Department of Corrections have committed to re-writing the procedures for 'validating' prisoners as gang members – defining and codifying the criteria for making that decision, which lands prisoners in solitary confinement for indefinite periods, and creating paths through which this confinement can be limited or ended. AFSC staff, who were deeply involved in the mediation process, will be keeping a close eye on this process and its result.

Director for New AFSC Western Region The application period for this new position has closed and applicants will be interviewed in April. The interview panel will consist of 2 people from each of the merging regions [Pacific Mountain, Pacific South West, Pacific North West and Colorado] and is being staffed by two members from the region. Final selection will be recommended to Philadelphia.

**NEWS FROM FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION OF CALIFORNIA:** Contact: Kevan Insko, [kevan@fclca.org](mailto:kevan@fclca.org); (916)443-3734

- Thank you and congratulations! Together we have gathered 800,000 signatures and put the SAFE California initiative to replace the Death Penalty on the November 2012 ballot. More info: [www.safecalifornia.org](http://www.safecalifornia.org)
- FCLCA continues to work with its coalition partners to pass Senate Bill 9, the Fair Sentencing for Youth Act; almost 2,500 people have signed our online petition in support of SB 9. <http://signon.org/sign/youth-deserve-a-second>
- FCLCA is supporting [Assembly Bill 1270](#) introduced by Tom Ammiano, to allow greater access to prisoners by the news media. This bill comes out of hearings in response to the hunger strike by prisoners in the Secure Housing Units.
- FCLCA grassroots activism surges: since the beginning of this legislative session in January 2011, FCLCA supporters have sent over 1,265 individual messages to their legislators on issues of importance to Friends!
- See more about bills we support and receive timely Action Alerts: sign up for our Action Network at <http://www.capwiz.com/fclca/home>.

**PACIFIC YEARLY MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT:** John Calvi will address PYM at the annual session at Walker Creek Ranch, August 13-18, 2012. He is a healer, has done extensive work on torture, founding Quaker Initiative to End Torture (QUIT), and works from a position of humility, that is, he accepts whatever remuneration a group can provide. His writings include a pamphlet, *The Dance Between Hope and Fear*, an address that he gave to Southeastern Yearly Meeting in 1992. It is also called the Annual Walton Lecture and was reprinted in 2001. He is a member of Putney Monthly Meeting in Vermont and lives with his partner of many years, Marshall Brewer. For more information about Calvi's ministry, see his website: <http://www.johncalvi.com>

**CHILDCARE DURING MEETING FOR BUSINESS:** During monthly Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business, childcare will be provided for all age children from 12:15 to 1:45 pm in the School House. The regular staff for the preschool program, Jadranka Tanovic and Sangeta Tamang, provide the childcare. Advance sign-up is not required, but children should be in the program by 12:30. (If no children show up, the staff will leave at 12:45.)

**RIDES TO/FROM MEETING:** Care and Concerns Committee keeps a list of people seeking rides and a list of people who are willing to offer rides to and/or from Meeting on either a regular or occasional basis. Contact anyone on the committee if you or someone you would like to be on either list.

**THE PENINSULA PEACE AND JUSTICE CENTER:** The Center's Calendar is at: <http://www.peaceandjustice.org>

**SOUTH BAY SANCTUARY COVENANT:** Invites you to join us for highlights from our 2012 delegates focused on protecting Salvadoran Human Rights and the Environment and Jose Artiga, Executive Director of SHARE Foundation: Campaign for Permanent Residency for those with Temporary Protective Status – TPS. Delicious Salvadoran pupusa and enchilada dinner. Salvadoran crafts for sale. Sunday, April 29, 2012 at 4:00 PM First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall, 1140 Cowper Street, Palo Alto 94301. Suggested donation for program including dinner: \$20/adult & \$5-\$15/student (No one turned away for lack of funds) Please call 650-494-8340 or email [steering@southbaysanctuary.org](mailto:steering@southbaysanctuary.org) to RSVP.

**HELP CENTRAL AMERICAN REFUGEES WHILE YOU HELP YOURSELF:** Reliable, hard-working men and women need jobs while they rebuild their lives. SBSC Job Hotline: (650) 494-8340.

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To Submit Newsletter Items: See the Schedule on page 2 for the deadline for the next issue. You may *e-mail* Newsletter submissions to [newsletter@pafm.org](mailto:newsletter@pafm.org) or [moriii@yahoo.com](mailto:moriii@yahoo.com) If you wish to receive the newsletter by email - or wish to discontinue - please visit <http://lists.pafm.org/listinfo.cgi/newsletter-pafm.org>. [Ed.'s note: If you sign up to receive the Newsletter by email, make sure to put the following address in your email address book: [moriii@yahoo.com](mailto:moriii@yahoo.com). The NL is sent out from that address. Some email "Spam" filters may reject such a message if the sender address is unknown.]

If you have an e-mail address, please join our Meeting's e-mail discussion list. To subscribe - visit <https://mailman.stanford.edu/mailman/listinfo/pafriends>. To post a message to all on the list, send the message to [pafriends@lists.stanford.edu](mailto:pafriends@lists.stanford.edu). If you have any questions, contact Jerry McBride [jlmcbridemail@yahoo.com](mailto:jlmcbridemail@yahoo.com) 964-2869.

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### ADDRESS CHANGE

Jamie and Marion Newton have a new address.

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