



PALO ALTO FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

Fourth Month, 2013

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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?

† Some queries are intended for individuals.

Italicized queries are intended for the Meeting collectively.

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

- 9:00 to 10:00 am Adult Education, New Meeting House (NMH), 1st & 3rd First Days & on 4th & 5th 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 will be on April 14, 2013.

- 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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CALENDAR

MAR (3RD MONTH)

- 24 Sun 10:30 - 11:30 am Meeting for Worship – NMH.**
24 Sun noon Fourth First Day Provided Lunch – (see note below).
27 Weds 6:00 pm Midweek Meeting for Worship – NMH.
28 Thurs 7:30 am Mindfulness Meditation – NMH (see note below).

APR (4TH MONTH)

- 3 Weds 6:00 pm Midweek Meeting for Worship – NMH.**
4 Thurs 7:30 am Mindfulness Meditation – NMH (see note below).
7 Sun 9:00 am Adult Ed. – Reading & Discussion – NMH (see note below).
7 Sun 10:30 - 11:30 am Meeting for Worship – NMH.
10 Weds 6:00 pm Midweek Meeting for Worship – NMH.
11 Thurs 7:30 am Mindfulness Meditation – NMH (see note below).
14 Sun 10:30 - 11:30 am Meeting for Worship – NMH.
14 Sun noon Light lunch provided prior to Meeting for Business - OMH.
14 Sun 12:15 pm Meeting for Business – NMH (see note above).
17 Weds 6:00 pm Midweek Meeting for Worship – NMH.
18 Thurs 7:30 am Mindfulness Meditation – NMH (see note below).
18 Thurs 7:00 pm Care and Concerns Committee Meeting – Library (see note below).
21 Sun 9:00 am Adult Ed. – Reading & Discussion – NMH (see note below).
21 Sun 10:30 - 11:30 am Meeting for Worship – NMH.
21 Sun 11:45 am Collection for Ecumenical Hunger by Community Service Committee – NMH (see note below).
21 Sun [*Deadline for submittal of Newsletter articles - if email send to moriii@yahoo.com.*]
24 Weds 6:00 pm Midweek Meeting for Worship – NMH.
25 Thurs 7:30 am Mindfulness Meditation – NMH (see note below).
28 Sun 10:30 - 11:30 am Meeting for Worship – NMH.
28 Sun noon Fourth First Day Provided Lunch – (see note below).

CALENDAR EXPANSION – DETAILS

*** STANFORD QUAKER ACTIVITIES: Stanford students interested in on-campus activities may contact Talley Kenyon at talleykenyon@gmail.org. 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 1st, 3rd, and 5th 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.

Open Dates: The Adult Education Committee has the following dates open for anyone who would like to run a session from 9-10:00 a.m. in the morning before Meeting on the Fourth First Day. These are the dates that are free - April 28th, May 26th, June 23. If you would like to present a topic on this date please contact me, Claire Arnold, clairea_2006@hotmail.com and I will schedule it for you. In Peace, Claire.

*** 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 \$160 in contributions for EHP in March.

*** VOLUNTEER MEAL PREPARATION FOR HOMELESS - OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE: We help prepare the food and serve it to the Homeless at the First Methodist Church in Palo Alto (corner of Hamilton & Webster) one Monday a month from 3:00 to 6:30 p.m. 2013 schedule: April 29, May none, June 3, July 8, Aug. 12, Sept. 16, Oct. 21, Nov. 18, Dec. 23. Please contact Marie Simirenko at (650) 961-1724 if you wish to volunteer. Thanks!

*** THURSDAY MORNING MINDFULNESS MEDITATION: Thursday morning meditation - newcomers welcome. Doors open at 7:30 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.

*** **SUPPORT & CONCERNS:** 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, by phone, or email. You may also join us to express concerns during the first segment of our usual meeting on the third Thursday of the month at 7 pm in the Meetinghouse Library. Please contact the clerk Mary Pat O'Connell (650-941-8287, mpoconnell@stanfordalumni.org) to confirm that there are no meeting changes and ensure time on the agenda.

*** 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. Try to leave a few close spots for members who may not be able to dodge raindrops as well as yourself.

NEWS OF PEOPLE AND EVENTS

EL SALVADOR SERVICE LEARNING TRIP: Plans for this summer's El Salvador trip (sponsored by PAFM) are well underway. Information packets are available by email request to: quakeryouthtrips@yahoo.com Rough details: July 3-18, \$1200 for ground costs, airfare extra; early bird discount of \$100 if fully registered and paid by April 1. Open to teens, college students, young at heart adults.

PASS FOR BEN LOMOND CENTER'S QUAKER WORKSHOPS: *Care and Concerns* has bought an annual pass to Ben Lomond Center's Quaker workshops out of the Education Fund. The intent of this pass purchase is to support attendance at Ben Lomond Center's Quaker events for those who would not be able to attend due to cost. While the pass supports just one registration per event, the fund may be used as well for these events. We will review your requests for assistance up to thirty days in advance, ideally at our regular meeting. If no one requests financial assistance, we will use the pass for those in our community who have let the committee know of their intent to register, splitting the pass with up to two registrations.

APRIL 2013 NEWS FROM BEN LOMOND QUAKER CENTER: Do you need easy access to the wisdom of weighty Friends? The Quaker Center website and Facebook page now have a Friend's "quote of the week". Visit <http://www.quakercenter.org/> and click on the link that will take you to the original text. If you want these messages to come to you each week, click "like" on our Ben Lomond Quaker Center Facebook page where these quotes will also be posted with a link to their original context.

Spaces are still available to committed couples for our ***Couples Enrichment*** weekend, which will be offered by Kathy and Jeff Richman from **April 19-21**. Come celebrate your relationship journey together and deepen your communication in an environment of trust and support. **Please register by April 15th** at <http://www.quakercenter.org/programs/couplesenrichment/>

Join us from **May 31st - June 2nd**, to learn more about ***Unity, the First Testimony***. Eric Moon will guide us in an exploration of the centrality of "unity" in Friends' understanding of ourselves. We will share practices of seeking and identifying unity and the possibility of God working through us. More information and registration can be found at <http://www.quakercenter.org/unity-the-first-testimony/>

Friends Fiduciary Fund: Palo Alto Meeting has invested about \$100,000 of its reserves in the Friends Fiduciary Fund. Friends Fiduciary has always been dedicated to reflecting Quaker values in its work through socially responsible investing (SRI). Friends who are interested in learning more about this fund are encouraged to subscribe to SRI E-Bulletins by contacting the fund managers at info@friendsfiduciary.org.

THE PEACE AND JUSTICE CALENDAR: A service of the Peace, Earthcare, and Social Witness Committee of Strawberry Creek Friends Meeting, this calendar is posted for easy reference: <http://groups.google.com/group/bayareaquakers>

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>

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.

DIRECTORYCHANGES

The details are posted in the office.

Sita de Leeuw new email

Marcia Anderson new email

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 or 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. 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. If you have any questions, contact Jerry McBride jlmcbridemail@yahoo.com 964-2869.
