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**PALO ALTO FRIENDS NEWSLETTER**

Twelfth Month, 2011

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**Advices and Queries for Twelfth Month: The Meeting Community**

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.

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 & old?*

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

**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 December 11, 2011.

- 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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**NOV**

- 27 Sun 10:30 - 11:30 am Meeting for Worship – NMH.**
- 27 Sun noon Fourth First Day Provided Lunch – (see note below).
- 29 Tues 7:00 pm Caregivers Group meeting – Schoolhouse (see note below).
- 30 Weds 6:00 pm Midweek Meeting for Worship – NMH.**
- 30 Weds 7:30 – 9:00pm Meeting of Spiritual Formation Group – NMH.**

**DEC** [EDITOR’S NOTE: Some activities during Christmas week may be cancelled – any cancellations that have been reported have been deleted from this calendar, check with the appropriate contact person if in doubt.]

- 1 Thurs 7:15 am Mindfulness Meditation – NMH (see note below).
- 2 Fri 12:15 pm Quakers at Stanford lunch discussion/sharing. – (see note below).

- 4 Sun 9:00 am Adult Ed. – Reading & Discussion – NMH.  
**4 Sun 10:30 - 11:30 am Meeting for Worship – NMH.**  
 7 **Weds 6:00 pm Midweek Meeting for Worship – NMH.**  
 8 Thurs 7:15 am Mindfulness Meditation – NMH (see note below).  
 9 Fri 12:15 pm Quakers at Stanford lunch discussion/sharing. – (see note below).  
**11 Sun 10:30 - 11:30 am Meeting for Worship – NMH.**  
 11 Sun noon Light lunch provided prior to Meeting for Business - OMH.  
**11 Sun 12:15 pm Meeting for Business – NMH (see note above).**  
**14 Weds 6:00 pm Midweek Meeting for Worship – NMH.**  
**14 Weds 7:30 – 9:00pm Meeting of Spiritual Formation Group – NMH.**  
 15 Thurs 7:15 am Mindfulness Meditation – NMH (see note below).  
 16 Fri 12:15 pm Quakers at Stanford lunch discussion/sharing. – (see note below).  
**18 Sun 10:30 - 11:30 am Meeting for Worship – NMH.**  
 18 Sun 11:45 am Collection for Ecumenical Hunger by Community Service Committee – NMH (see note below).  
 18 Sun 12:15 pm Adult Ed. – “Quakers and the state” – talk by Paul Seaver – NMH (see note below).  
 18 Sun noon Christmas Lunch provided by First Day School committee – (see note below).  
 18 Sun [*Deadline for submittal of Newsletter articles - if email send to [moriii@yahoo.com](mailto:moriii@yahoo.com).*]  
**21 Weds 6:00 pm Midweek Meeting for Worship – NMH.**  
 22 Thurs 7:15 am Mindfulness Meditation – NMH (see note below).  
 25 Sun 9:00 am Adult Ed. – Study Series “Salt and Light” – NMH (see note below).  
**25 Sun 10:30 - 11:30 am Meeting for Worship – NMH.**  
 25 Sun noon No 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.**  
**14 Weds 7:30 – 9:00pm Meeting of Spiritual Formation Group – NMH.**  
 29 Thurs 7:15 am Mindfulness Meditation – NMH (see note below).  
 30 Fri 12:15 pm Quakers at Stanford lunch discussion/sharing. – (see note below).

## **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>.

Discussion Series: Quakers at Stanford lunch discussion/sharing. Oct. 28, Nov.4, 11, and 18 and December 2. 12:15 at the picnic tables outside Tressider near the Treehouse. Open to all Friends and interested inquirers.

\*\*\* 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". No preparation is necessary. All are welcome. Contact Henry Jason.

Paul Seaver is delivering a talk December 18th at 12:15 p.m. titled "Quakers and the State: navigating the tension between our Testimony on Social and Civic Responsibility and the Peace Testimony." This talk is sponsored by the Adult Education Committee and all are welcome to attend. It will be in the form of a lecture with discussion time at the end.

Adult Education has two other series right now. The series on **The Habit of Prayer and Reflection** continues after worship on Third Firstdays. The series on **Quaker Practices and our Meeting** is on Fourth Firstdays at 9 a.m. If you have ideas or questions on the Reflection series, talk to Claire Arnold; for the Practices series, talk to Diane Pasta.

**9am study series on fourth Firstdays – “Salt and Light..”** starting October 23 at 9 a.m. and continuing November 27, 9 a.m. *“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.” By the end of September the online version will be available at <http://www.saltandlight2012.org/materials.html>. Hard copies will be available, too. Readings are encouraged but not required for attendance.

The theme draws inspiration from several Bible passages, including Matthew 5:13 (“You are the salt of the earth...”), Matthew 5:14-16 (“You are the light of the world...”), Matthew 6:33 (“Seek ye first the Kingdom of God...”), Matthew 6:9-13 (the Lord’s Prayer), Micah 4:4 (“They shall sit under their own vines and fig trees and no one shall make them afraid.”), and Micah 6:8 (“... And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”). The theme is supplemented by a passage from Luke, 17:20-21. “The Kingdom of God is not coming with things that can be observed ... the Kingdom of God is among you.”

\*\*\* FDS will host a Christmas lunch on the 3rd Sunday in December. We welcome all to come and enjoy a combined lunch, followed by Christmas activities, singing and entertainment. The lunch on Dec18th will replace the 4th Sunday lunch.

\*\*\* 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 \$60 in contributions for EHP in October.

\*\*\* HOMELESS MEALS - OPPORTUNITY FOR COMM-UNITY 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 the balance of 2011 are: 11/21 and 12/26. Contact Marie Simirenko for more info - 650-961-1724.

\*\*\* THURSDAY MORNING MINDFULNESS MEDITATION: The Thursday morning meditation group meets in the New Meeting House at 7:15 am; practice time goes from 7:30 am to 8:30 am. All are welcome, including those new to meditation or experienced. Linea Stewart and the regular Thursday participants share the facilitation of the meditation group. For more info and a schedule of the practices, you may contact Trudy Reagan after meeting for worship on First days or by email, [trudymyrrh@earthlink.net](mailto:trudymyrrh@earthlink.net).

\*\*\* 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 and 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 is changing its meeting time back to fourth Tuesdays, starting in December. The group meets in the Schoolhouse. Contact Arden Pierce at 650-494-1631 or [ardenhiram@aol.com](mailto:ardenhiram@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.

## **NEWS OF PEOPLE AND EVENTS**

**HOTEL DE ZINK:** See sign-up sheets in the foyer for opportunities to provide assistance to our annual hosting of the Urban Ministry homeless shelter – Hotel de Zink. You can also sign up on-line at [www.pafm.org/dezink](http://www.pafm.org/dezink).

**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](mailto: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*

**FWCC EVENTS: Next Quaker Youth Pilgrimage planned for 2012:** The Pilgrimage is an opportunity to promote loving understanding within the Quaker worldwide family. Please encourage young Friends to consider this life-changing opportunity for spiritual growth. Check <http://fwccamericas.org/events/index.shtml> for application forms and other important information soon.

**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>

**NEWS FROM BEN LOMOND QUAKER CENTER December 2011:** 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/).

**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 [jlmcbriemail@yahoo.com](mailto:jlmcbriemail@yahoo.com) 964-2869.

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### Directory Changes

The details will be posted in the office as usual.

Joel Gazis-Sax  
Nancy Cardinale  
Catherine Vanderwaart

new email address  
new address  
new address

**Judith Bishop** died on Monday the 21st at 5 pm. Laughing Coyote writes that graveside services are scheduled for Friday, Dec 2nd, 1 pm at Academy Cemetery, east of Fresno. Dinner at their house will follow, a 40-minute drive up the mountain. (34329 Shaver Springs Road, Auberry, CA 93602)

**- DRAFT - Minutes for Meeting for Worship for Business  
Eleventh Month 13<sup>th</sup> Day 2011**

Present: 28 people

**See attachment 11-2011-A for a list of attendees.**

Those gathered settled into silence at 12:25 p.m. Eric Sabelman, presiding clerk, read the queries on peace.

I have been hearing the query about taking away occasion for all war in my mind. The query asks if we are doing something to change the world, not just a current event. Am I living life in a way to remove all occasions for war?

The peace testimony has always felt different to me than others that Quakers hold. I am not well convinced human beings could ever be able to not have war. It is important to have windmills to tilt at, but not sure this is one of them for me.

The query on confronting violence wherever it occurs brought to mind listening to a sports radio program last night where the vocabulary and comments about the scandal at Penn State were distasteful and violent in nature. While I live relatively isolated from those who speak in such a manner, I wonder if we as Quakers could find a way to add our voice during call-in talk shows when we hear violent language.

I ask myself what are the foundations for war inside of me? Judgment came to mind. How easy it is to go there. Has my spiritual practice made me more compassionate? Learning to be more compassionate is the first level of removing the cause for war.

I am reminded of the story of an Indian King who expanded his empire by use of brutal force. And at one point moved from being a violent ruler to a compassionate one after being exposed to the teaching of Buddha and looking over the destruction at the end of a great battle and wondering – is this right?

The division of queries into monthly segments might suggest that we achieve wholeness one-twelfth at a time. In reality we have to consider all of them all of the time. But division makes them seem more achievable. All the queries can be compressed to a single commandment to live rightly.

12 months, 12 queries and peace is in 11<sup>th</sup> month with other holidays related to war– Armistice and Veterans' Days. I hope the next time Faith and Practice is reviewed that Friends don't feel bound by the calendar in terms of number of queries and advices and their arrangement throughout the year.

**MINTUES OF 10<sup>th</sup> month** – Talley Kenyon, recording clerk, announced some minor changes in the numbering of attachments and grammatical changes. Reports from Finance Committee, Adult Education and Buildings and Grounds were rewritten to make them more accurate and readable. No substantial changes in meaning were needed.

**Minute 2011-11-1– Minutes for 10<sup>th</sup> month were approved with corrections.**

The clerk reviewed the agenda and it was accepted with 2 additions.

**CLERK'S REPORT** - Eric shared correspondence including a mailing from a Sacramento Friends Meeting on Anti-human Trafficking and Fair Trade Interest Group with information about how Friends can increase their Fair Trade purchases. We received a thank you note from Friends Committee on Legislation, California for our donation from Harvest Festival. He then reported the total amount donated is 8466.72

**ATTACHMENT 11- 2011-B** – 2011 Harvest Festival Financial Report.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Finance** – Stratton Jaquette, clerk reported on the allocations of donations to Quaker organizations, presented the proposed 2012 budget and shared a Finance Committee Minute on the suggestion to double the amount in the budget for donations to Quaker organizations

The work of the Ad Hoc Committee was presented now so Friends can, if they wish, use it for guidance when making personal donations. Stratton noted that the committee has provided detailed information on

how they did their work. The number of organizations receiving donations has been considerably reduced this year, which the group was authorized to do. If there are concerns about these changes, those will have to be considered in 2012.

Stratton then presented the proposed 2012 budget and directed us to two significant changes. The Major Maintenance line has increased from \$5,000 to \$7,500. The other major change is in the line amount for Dues and Subscriptions which is reduced from \$5,000 to \$3,000. This is related to the dates subscriptions for 2010 and 2011 were actually paid. Other changes in the proposed budget are small.

A Friend asked for clarification regarding the changes over the past few years in the Pacific Yearly Meeting contributions line and the dues and subscription lines. Stratton explained that PYM contributions used to be grouped with dues and subscriptions but are now separate.

One Friend would like the amount budgeted for major maintenance to match the projections the committee has presented, but realizes that in past years when contributions exceeded need, Meeting has sometimes directed extra revenue toward Major Maintenance. Stratton clarified that in the past excess contributions have also gone to other places including Special Needs Fund, General Reserves, etc.

A Friend was concerned that the amount of budgeted contributions has been increased even though there was a shortfall in actual contributions in 2010. Stratton reported the Committee is aware of this and shares the concern.

The Presiding Clerk said the work of finance in preparing information on the justification of amortization is not something he has seen and may be helpful to other Meetings. He also wondered if Finance might want to ask other Meetings how they have handled the challenge of major maintenance needs.

The Clerk also noted that our donations may seem to rely on persons being advocates for organizations and wants the process of deciding where our donations are directed to be transparent enough that all know how the decisions are made and that the community will know not only squeaky wheels are heard. He then thanked the Ad Hoc Committee on Donations to Quaker Organizations for their work and the committee was laid down.

**Attachment 11-2011-C** – Report from Ad Hoc Committee on Quaker Donations 2011

**Attach 11-2011-D** – Proposed 2012 Budget

**Attach 11-2011-E** – Major Maintenance reserve projections

Stratton then presented the following Minute, which the Finance Committee has approved and wished to share with Meeting for Business.

**On Doubling Contributions to Quaker Organizations – Palo Alto Friends Meeting Finance Committee:**  
Finance Committee concludes that a onetime doubling of our contributions to Quaker Organizations would not place the meeting in immediate financial peril. However, continuing the doubled contributions on an ongoing basis would quickly lead to undue financial risk. Therefore Finance Committee does not recommend doubling the meeting's outreach contributions to Quaker organizations unless additional reliable income can be found.

Stratton C. Jaquette - Clerk

Stratton advised Meeting that Finance Committee meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday in 12<sup>th</sup> month at 7:20 p.m. at his house if anyone wishes to attend. The annual letter to attenders and members has been delayed due to mechanical questions but the committee hopes to have it sent out soon.

**Peace and Social Action** – Eric said the Committee is looking at their original suggested minute on increasing donations to Quaker organizations. He said there is need for tenderness and care for those doing that work on that Committee.

**Report from the Working Group on the Question of Increasing Donations to Quaker Organizations -** George Mills, clerk, reported. He provided copies and read aloud the report. The group presented options for Meeting which included: designating any excess 2011 revenues to be added to the “Donations for Quaker Organizations” budget line, Meeting consider making smaller, regular donation disbursements and that members consider making their contributions to PAFM in smaller, regular amounts.

**See Attachment 11-2011-F** for the full report.

The following comments and questions were raised.

Is there a critical factor for a decision to be made today or can it bring brought in December? George said only if it may affect how contributions are disbursed.

I feel passage of first recommendation may be an incentive for increased contributions and that we might see the delay in the sending of the annual Finance Committee letter as a gift to add wording about this.

Hubert Morel-Seytoux shared alternative ideas including that Meeting can decide this year and in the future, how to allocate any excess revenue. He also suggested that we could seek "pledges" from Members to be called upon if there is a cash flow problem in the future relative to major maintenance items. The Clerk said this is a new proposal that needs more discussion and seasoning and would ask it not be taken up today.

One Friend noted that the recommendations of the Working Group does not say how any increase in revenue would be distributed and is concerned that many good groups were left off the list of donations for this year.

A Friend was unclear if Hubert's suggestions are for seasoning by Meeting for Business or the working group. Eric said it can be considered and seasoned by each Friend independently and if Meeting later wishes it to be seasoned by Finance Committee or a Working Group, that can be done.

Another Friend said she feels the first recommendation is worth trying and it will give us more information as we move forward in thinking about increasing donations and our ability to do so.

A Friend said she would feel easier if funds collected in 2011 were disbursed in 2011 rather than being added to the 2012 budget as the first recommendation indicates. The Treasurer said there is no budget mechanism for transferring contributions in 2011 to the 2012 budget, so they would be considered part of the 2011 budget. Funds can be disbursed whenever we wish.

Eric noted that the possibility of changing the fiscal year has been previously raised as a way to simplify understanding disbursements.

A member of Finance Committee appreciated the work of the group and appreciates that changes do create new challenges. She said excess contributions could be possibly be disbursed in the first quarter.

A Friend said he has the sense that Meeting approves the suggestion that excess contributions go to Quaker organizations. He suggested that the mechanics could be handled by Finance Committee or some other mechanism other than Meeting for Business.

Stratton reminded us that there are cash flow commitments early in the year such as Pacific Yearly Meeting contributions, insurance, etc. So when funds are disbursed may be restricted. He pointed out that the funds for Special Needs and Concerns are low and may be worthy of extra funds when available.

Another Friend said she also holds concerns about deficits and about transferring the immediate needs facing Quaker organizations to our shoulders with cash fall deficits now or in future.

The Clerk called for an end to this discussion for today. He said we could have a called Meeting for Business prior to December 11 if the Working Group wishes to do so. He then asked the Working Group to continue and asked if others wish to join to be in touch with George Mills or himself. He also noted that some in the current group are ready to step aside and may do so.

**Worship and Ministry** - Carol Chatfield, reported the Committee is looking to find better ways to both nurture community building and respect the desire by some for a more worshipful time following the close of Meeting.

See **Attachment 11-G** for the full report.

A Friend asked if on 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday the Committee is suggesting that we eliminate all parts of announcements including visitor introductions, birthdays and First Day School reports? She feels we must remember than not everyone, especially visitors, attend lunch.

Is the Committee giving consideration as to whom, when, and how to prepare a written announcement sheet if that is to be replace verbal announcements. The Clerk said they are aware of the challenges.

Carol asked that anyone with additional thoughts or questions bring them to a Committee member or to their next meeting on the first Friday in December.

**Care and Concerns** – Chula Morel-Seytoux shared the following report. At our last meeting we reflected on the work the committee has done over several years. We have learned about how the name "Oversight" is a barrier to full participation in community for some people, how members of our community find the word troubling and offensive, and how other Meetings have addressed the issues of privilege when considering the traditional name for the work of the committee. The committee remains clear that the name "Oversight" should be replaced. We are now six months or so into the experiment of "trying out" the name change. Care and Concerns welcomes hearing your experience with the experiment. Please feel free to join us in the open time of our meeting, usually the third Thursday of the month in the Library. Our next meeting is this coming Thursday, and we want Friends to feel particularly invited to bring stories of their experience to share with us. If the evening meeting time is a difficulty, you can email or call Judith Bush (Monday or Tuesday evening between 6-9pm would be best), clerk of the committee. You may also bring your experience to any of the committee members.

**El Salvador Projects** – Mary Pat O'Connell, clerk, asked the Meeting serve as fiscal agent for a service-learning trip in summer, 2012. Meeting has done this before and Barbara Babin and Robert Broz need to know if this will be approved before moving forward with planning. A Friend asked if service-learning trips are becoming regular enough that it can be part of annual planning. Mary Pat said the committee has not taken this up and today is asking only for next year.

**MINUTE 11-2 - Palo Alto Friends Meeting will serve as a fiscal agent for a service- learning trip to El Salvador planned for the summer of 2012.**

**Hotel de Zink** – Mary Pat reported that last year they saw a decline in the number of people who provided meals and a concern was expressed to the Committee that cost can be prohibitive. Today the Committee is asking for Meeting to approve up to \$50 reimbursement for any individual who would like to provide a meal but finds cost an obstacle. She said last year the Committee used some of the monetary donations from Friends to help defray costs when asked.

A Friend asked if the Committee is asking for approval to continue what was done last December or for Meeting to approve money to do reimburse people this year? Mary Pat said it is asking for approval of funds since asking for some people is awkward so they simply don't sign up and the Committee hopes this would be more transparent. Another suggestion was that the Committee ask that Care and Concerns disburse up to \$50 from the Sharing Fund to meet such needs. The Meeting was comfortable with this.

Another Friend said that if the Fund for Concerns was funded again, this would be another source of financial assistance.

It was suggested that Friends who have funds but are not physically or geographically able could team up with someone in the reverse situation.

Mary Pat also hoped that in the near future, Finance Committee would consider designating a regular budget amount of between \$200 and \$300 for Hotel deZink.

**Retreat** - Ray Richspater reported on the August retreat at Ben Lomond when 15 stayed the entire weekend with 30 present on Saturday. The weekend was predominantly unprogrammed which people seemed to enjoy. The Meeting provided about \$200 in scholarships but the total cost was still \$300 over budget. This raises a query for the Meeting to consider: "To what degree should the Meeting subsidize retreats for all attendants as opposed to providing scholarships for those who need them?" He and Meg Given are looking to improve the planning to try to balance the cost and the income for the 2012 retreats. The spring retreat is for one day on March 17, 2012 at Hidden Villa in Los Altos Hills.

**CLOSING WORSHIP and CONCERNS**

Speaking for the members of the Ad Hoc Committee on Donations, a Friend asked that we remember that the time and service we each give enriches individuals, our meeting and organizations.

A Friend is concerned that if we keep procrastinating in making decisions this can lead to personal cost for individual members who may stop participating in Meeting and in a loss for Meeting in losing their voices and presence.

It is hard to have a vision of something different than what we have at present and to make it into a reality so I appreciate those who keep trying.

Meeting rose at 2:45 p.m.