

PALO ALTO FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

First Month, 2010

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QUERIES FOR FIRST MONTH: MEETING FOR WORSHIP

The heart of the Religious Society of Friends is the Meeting for Worship. In direct communion with God, we offer ourselves for God's will. Our daily lives are linked with the Meeting for Worship, the Meeting for Worship with our daily lives.

Come regularly to Meeting for Worship, even when you are angry, tired, or spiritually cold. Bring your joys and your hurts, and the needs of other people. Accept and support each other in the community where God dwells among us. As you do so, you may find the grace of prayer.

At times the Spirit may prompt you to speak in Meeting. Wait patiently to know that the sense and the time are right. When you are sure, have *confidence* that the words will be given to you. Listen to the ministry of others with an open spirit. If it is not God's word for you, it may be for others. After a message has been given, allow time to ponder its meaning and to let the Meeting return to silent worship. In speech and in silence, each person contributes to the Meeting.

- Do I come to Meeting with heart and mind prepared for worship?
- In both silent and vocal ministry, do I respond to the leadings of the Holy Spirit, without pre-arrangement and in simplicity and truth?
- Am I careful not to speak at undue length or beyond personal spiritual experience?
- *Do we meet in expectant waiting for the promptings of the Divine Spirit?*¹
- *Are we drawn together in a living silence by the power of God in our midst?*

1. 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 Meeting for Business will be January 9, 2010.

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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MEETING LIBRARY: Members, attenders, and visitors are welcome to check out materials from the library. Record your check-out on the card provided in the book and leave it in the file on the cabinet just inside the door. If you are not listed in the directory, we ask that you leave your phone number on the card, as well.

DEC

27 Sun 10:30 - 11:30 am Meeting for Worship – NMH.

27 Sun noon Fourth First Day Provided Lunch – (see note below).

28 Mon 7:00 pm PAFM Women's Group – NMH (see note below).

30 Weds 6:00 pm Midweek Meeting for Worship – NMH.

30 Weds 7:00 pm 4th Day Worship Sharing – “Called public Meetings for Worship” – Library (see note below).

31 Thurs 7:15 am Mindfulness Meditation – NMH (see note below).

JAN

2 Weds 6:00 pm Midweek Meeting for Worship – NMH.

3 Thurs 7:15 am Mindfulness Meditation – NMH (see note below).

- 3 Thurs pm Worship and Ministry Committee Meeting.
- 3 Sun 9:00 am Adult Ed. – Reading & Discussion – NMH (see note below).
- 3 Sun 10:30 - 11:30 am Meeting for Worship – NMH.**
- 6 Weds 6:00 pm Midweek Meeting for Worship – NMH.**
- 7 Thurs 7:15 am Mindfulness Meditation – NMH (see note below).
- 10 Sun 9:15 am Community Service Committee Meeting – NMH (see note below).
- 10 Sun 10:30 - 11:30 am Meeting for Worship – NMH.**
- 10 Sun noon Light lunch provided prior to Meeting for Business - OMH.
- 10 Sun 12:20 pm Meeting for Business – NMH (see note above); child care provided (see note below).
- 11 Mon 3 - 6:30 pm PAFM / Urban Ministry Meal Preparation – (see note below).
- 11 Mon 7:00 pm PAFM Women's Group – NMH (see note below).
- 13 Weds 6:00 pm Midweek Meeting for Worship – NMH.**
- 14 Thurs 7:15 am Mindfulness Meditation – NMH (see note below).
- 14 Thurs 7:00 pm Oversight Committee meeting – Library.
- 16 Sat 8:15 am-5:00 pm College Park Quartely Meeting – Berkeley Friends Meetinghouse – (see note below).
- 17 Sun 9:00 am Adult Ed. – Reading & Discussion – NMH (see note below).
- 17 Sun 10:30 - 11:30 am Meeting for Worship – NMH.**
- 17 Sun 11:45 am Collection for Ecumenical Hunger by Community Service Committee – NMH (see note below).
- 17 Sun 12:20 pm Adult Ed.: Lecture and Discussion – NMH (see note below).
- 17 Sun [Deadline for submittal of Newsletter articles - if email send to moriii@yahoo.com.]
- 20 Weds 6:00 pm Midweek Meeting for Worship – NMH.**
- 21 Thurs 7:15 am Mindfulness Meditation – NMH (see note below).
- 24 Sun 10:30 - 11:30 am Meeting for Worship – NMH.**
- 24 Sun noon Fourth First Day Provided Lunch – (see note below).
- 24 Sun 12:50 pm Adult Ed.: Lecture and Discussion – NMH (see note below).
- 25 Mon 7:00 pm PAFM Women's Group – NMH (see note below).
- 27 Weds 6:00 pm Midweek Meeting for Worship – NMH.**
- 27 Weds 7:00 pm 4th Day Worship Sharing – “Called public Meetings for Worship” – Library (see note below).
- 28 Thurs 7:15 am Mindfulness Meditation – NMH (see note below).
- 31 Sun 10:30 - 11:30 am Meeting for Worship – NMH.**
- 31 Sun noon Fifth First Day Informal Lunch for "Newcomers" – (see note below).

CALENDAR EXPANSION – DETAILS

*** STANFORD QUAKER ACTIVITIES: Stanford students interested in on-campus Quaker activities should contact Hannah Muenke, hmuenke@stanford.edu, 650-644-5130.

*** MIDWEEK DISCUSSION AND WORSHIP-SHARING: – On Dec 30 from 7 to 9 pm in the library Eric Sabelman will review the series of 8 called public Meetings for Worship in 2004, 2005 and 2006. Palo Alto Friends Meeting for Business on 11th Month, 9th day, 2003, approved the following Minute 0311-1: "As a part of Palo Alto Meeting witness for peace, we would like to establish a one-time or repeated Meeting for Worship in a public place, and ask Worship & Ministry Committee to take this under its care." We held outdoor worship on the streets and plazas of Palo Alto and Stanford with concerns for Peace, Grieving (on Memorial Day), "Tolerance, Forbearance and Forgiveness," Ending War, "the President and the Presidency", remembering the atomic bombing of Nagasaki, Freeing of Captives, and "the Principles Guiding our Country" (on July 4). What concerns do we have now that would motivate us to call for worship in public?

*** ADULT EDUCATION DISCUSSION: **Reading and Discussion** led by Henry Jason each 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sunday at 9 am – NMH. We are reading Robert Barclay's Quaker "Catechism and Confession of Faith." No preparation is necessary. All are welcome. Contact Henry Jason.

Adult Education Programs

Adult Education Programs

Dec 27, No Program Planned.

Jan 17, 12:20 in the NMH: Discussion - Exploring the Vision of PYM led by Hubert Morel-Seytoux, PAFM Rep to PYM. The Futures Sub-committee of Pacific Yearly Meeting is asking Monthly Meetings to engage in a process of exploring and articulating their visions of the purpose of PYM. This visioning process is to feed into a consideration of recommendations being developed by the sub-committee regarding the structures and practice of the yearly meeting. Changes include possible strengthening of the role for Representative Committee and change in the organization of sessions at the annual gathering. Please join us for this important discussion affecting the future of Pacific Yearly Meeting.

Jan 24, 12:50 PM in the NMH, following Lunch: Book Discussion and **Sat, Jan 30**, 3:30 pm at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Los Altos: Discussion & Pot Luck. An American in Gandhi's India: The Biography of Satyanand Stokes led by Richard Willits with author Asha Sharma. Samuel Stokes, son of a Philadelphia family of Quaker heritage, went to India in 1904 to work in a home for lepers. Disillusioned with the foreign missionary community, he began a new spiritual quest, adopted Indian dress

and founded a religious mendicant brotherhood. Later he married an Indian and founded and ran a school for the poor. In the early 1920's he fought for an end to impressed labor and was a public leader in Gandhi's independence movement for which he spent 6 months in prison. These are just a few highlights of a remarkable life of selfless service. Stokes was a deeply religious man and a deep thinker who brought together Christianity and Hinduism while transcending both. He never feared to go where his noblest visions led him. "The struggle for right and fair play in the relations of men is a fight worth fighting."

Granddaughter Asha Sharma has written a moving account of the life of this fascinating man. She will join us for the discussions. Meeting member Megan Stokes Holt is also a relative.

Two discussions of the book are scheduled. The first, at PAFM on Jan 24, may focus more on Stokes's Quaker heritage and how his example resonates with our Quaker values. The second, on Jan 30, is being organized by Immanuel Lutheran Church of Los Altos. They have invited members of several faith communities for discussion at 3:30 followed by a "multi-faith potluck dinner" starting at 5:00. The church address is 1715 Grant Road, Los Altos.

Contact George Mills to participate in a group order of the book. Our library also has a copy.

*** PAFM WOMEN'S GROUP: Conversations that Matter. The Palo Alto Friends Meeting Women's group meets the second and fourth Monday in the Library at the New Meeting House 7-9 pm. The group chooses different topics, readings, or spiritual exercises as the starting point for our discussions but no prior reading is required to join and enjoy the discussion. To be added to the distribution list for this group, please send an email to kmcclellx@comcast.net.

*** COLLECTION FOR ECUMENICAL HUNGER PROGRAM (EHP): Community Service Committee collects a monthly offering of cash donations to be given to the EHP after the rise of Meeting each third First Day – at the front door. EHP provides emergency food, clothing, case management, household essentials, and resource referrals to families in need in East Palo Alto, Menlo Park, and Palo Alto.

*** THURSDAY MORNING MINDFULNESS MEDITATION: The Thursday morning meditation group meets in the New Meeting House, which is opened by 7 am; the group begins at 7:15 am, ending at 8:30 am. Susan Murphy leads the meditation group. All are welcome, including those new to meditation or experienced. Susan will draw on her background in both Buddhist meditation and Christian contemplation practices. For more information and a schedule of the practices, contact Susan Murphy, and somurphy@earthlink.net.

*** WEDNESDAY WORSHIP/SHARING OR DISCUSSION GROUP: Every Wednesday following the Meeting for Worship from 7-8:30. This time is available for any individual in the Meeting community to propose a topic for sharing or discussion. Those wishing to convene a group should first contact Worship & Ministry Committee, which will help with advance preparations. Eric Sabelman is clerk of W&M <esabelman@aol.com>, 650-322-2455.

Midweek discussion and worship-sharing – On Dec 30 from 7 to 9 pm in the library Eric Sabelman will review the series of 8 called public Meetings for Worship in 2004, '05 and '06. Palo Alto Friends Meeting for Business on 11th Month, 9th day, 2003, approved the following Minute 0311-1: "As a part of Palo Alto Meeting witness for peace, we would like to establish a one-time or repeated Meeting for Worship in a public place, and ask Worship & Ministry Committee to take this under its care." We held outdoor worship on the streets and plazas of Palo Alto and Stanford with concerns for Peace, Grieving (on Memorial Day), "Tolerance, Forbearance and Forgiveness," Ending War, "the President and the Presidency", remembering the atomic bombing of Nagasaki, Freeing of Captives, and "the Principles Guiding our Country" (on July 4). What concerns do we have now that would motivate us to call for worship in public?

*** 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.

*** NEWCOMERS LUNCH ON THE FIFTH FIRST DAY OF MARCH - All newcomers to the meeting are cordially invited to an informal lunch on Sunday, January 31, in the Front Meeting House following Meeting for Worship. 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. This is an opportunity to learn more about the Meeting, its members and activities, as well as an opportunity for us to know you better. The lunch is sponsored by the Oversight Committee; if you are a "regular" attender or a member and would like to help with the lunch, please contact Chula Morel-Seytoux or any member of Oversight.

*** 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). Flu season is here - Use of hand disinfectant (provided in restrooms) is recommended before shaking hands. If you find yourself contagious with the flu or a cold, please consider carefully the impact on others if you come to Meeting. For cheerful and humorous instructions in preventing spread of disease by coughing, see <http://www.coughsafe.com/media.html>. ***

NEWS OF PEOPLE AND EVENTS

COLLEGE PARK QUARTERLY MEETING WINTER GATHERING - First Month 16, 2010, at Berkeley Friends Meetinghouse, 2151 Vine Street. The theme for this Quarterly gathering is "Cleaning Out Our Attics." One meaning of this theme is to examine the dusty old beliefs and practices hidden away within us and bring them into the Light. Another meaning is to find the stored-away records of the history of our Quarter, Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups. If you can, bring a document or artifact that dates from the founding of your Meeting or Worship Group to share with the gathering.

Registration begins at 8:15, followed by family worship, with closing worship ending before 5:00. Lunch is included in the \$15 adult registration fee. There is an overnight program Saturday for teens, ages 13 to 18. For information on housing, carpooling and additions to the program, contact CPQM Clerk, Eric Sabelman, 650-322-2455 <esabelman@aol.com >.

FIRST DAY SCHOOL: FDS is always looking for second adult helpers each First-day. We do have lead teachers with planned curricula through 6th month. However, it is good practice to have a second adult. This is a great way to get to know the kids a little better and to support FDS and all you need to do is be present from 10:25-11:15 in the schoolhouse and help the lead teacher. To sign up please contact Tom Farley, clerk, <farley@spont.com> 650-366-1818.

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 Old Meeting House. The regular staff for the preschool program, Jadranka Tanovic and Sangeta Tamang, will 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.)

OPPORTUNITY FOR MEETING SERVICE: Our Meeting has volunteered to work on one Monday each month from 3 to 6:30pm to help Palo Alto Urban Ministry prepare an evening meal. First Methodist Church - Hamilton & Webster Aves. Contact Marie Simirenko or sign up on the bulletin board.

RIDES TO/FROM MEETING: Oversight will keep 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.

MILITARY/DRAFT COUNSELING: Contact CCCO – West 405 14th Street, #205 Oakland, CA, 94612.

GREEN THOUGHTS OF THE MONTH - *from Unity with Nature Committee*

A Sand County Almanac (Aldo Leopold, 1949)

- Conservation is getting nowhere because it is incompatible with our Abrahamic concept of land. We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect. There is no other way for land to survive the impact of mechanized man, nor for us to reap from it the aesthetic harvest it is capable, under science, of contributing to culture.
- A conservationist is one who is humbly aware that with each stroke [of the axe] he is writing his signature on the face of the land.
- The problem, then, is how to bring about a striving for harmony with land among a people many of whom have forgotten there is any such thing as land, among whom education and culture have become almost synonymous with landlessness. This is the problem of conservation education.

Small changes in eating habits.

We are surprisingly attached to our food habits—it is a significant issue in the compatibility of couples, for example. A radical change may be a good thing; for various reasons we may decide we want to reform: because of the impact that our diet has on world hunger, the environment, or animals. It has been said that Vegans with an SUV do less environmental damage than meat-eaters with a Prius, and that God's original was for us to be vegetarians (see Genesis opening chapters).

Nonetheless, let's start where most of us are (me included) by looking at some easy changes that do not completely uproot our eating patterns. In Seattle I belonged to Puget Sound Cooperative and they screened my food and other items for me—they looked at worker's conditions, environmental impact, and all the other politics of food. When I moved to California I found it less convenient to do my shopping responsibly. One of the easiest "fixes" for me was joining Full Belly, a local Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) group that provide produce weekly (I do alternate weeks) that is local, organic, seasonal and priced within my budget. For a relatively easy way to eat "green," check them out at:<http://www.fullbellyfarm.com/csa.html>

Diane Pasta, PAFM

NEEDS, OFFERINGS, OPPORTUNITIES, & ENTHUSIASMS

THE WESTERN YOUNG FRIENDS' NEW YEAR'S GATHERING: The Gathering is being held at Cazadero Arts Camp in Cazadero, CA from Dec. 28, 2009 to Jan. 2, 2010. The gathering is open to Friends of all ages (although pre-teens must attend with a parent) from anywhere in the world. The website has all the information on the gathering including how to register: <http://www.newyearsathering.org/>

YOUTH PROGRAM COORDINATOR: Pacific Yearly Meeting seeks fulltime Youth Program Coordinator to enhance the spiritual development and nurture of our pre-teens through young adults. Coordinator provides program support and coordination of youth activities; assists Monthly and Quarterly Meetings in engaging and educating their young people; develops an infrastructure that brings Friends together as a faith community; and provides a role model experienced in Friends' worship and practices. Frequent travel required. Expenses reimbursed. \$18 an hour plus overtime, starting with two-weeks' vacation, holidays, sick leave and benefits. Quaker meeting membership required. By January 12th email letters of interest and résumés to Lanny Jay at landbird@comcast.net.

2010 MIDWINTER GATHERING OF FRIENDS FOR LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, AND QUEER CONCERNS: All Friends are warmly invited to the 2010 Midwinter Gathering of Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Concerns at the Graymoor Spiritual Life Center in the Hudson Valley of New York State. Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Concerns is a North American Quaker faith community that affirms that of God in all people. Gathering twice yearly for worship and play, we draw sustenance from each other and from the Spirit for our work and life in the world. We are learning that radical inclusion and radical love bring further light to Quaker testimony and life.

Midwinter Gathering will be Friday, February 12 to Monday, February 15, 2010 with the theme "Stitching our quilts - Waving our banners". Join us!

We intend our theme of "Stitching our quilts, Waving our banners" to be an opportunity for us to explore the diverse ways we build relationships and communities, how we build and claim pride in that diversity, and how we build mutual support and accountability with our wider communities. We will have a keynote speaker and a panel to speak about the variety of our relationships and how our Meetings support us in that diversity. There will also be a threshing session and time in our Meetings for Worship for Business to consider how to bring to life the FLGBTQC Midwinter Gathering 2009 epistle, which speaks of "bringing Quakers together to help us all understand what is meant by 'that which God joins together.'"

The weekend will also include the opportunity to participate in small-group worship sharing each morning, workshops and interest groups, evening social activities, free time to relax and explore the beautiful grounds, and all-community worship each day.

Details on childcare, financial aid, transportation, our program, and the site are available online at <http://sites.google.com/site/midwinter2010> or by contacting us at nymidwinter@gmail.com, 410-236-3372. Registration materials are also available at that website. Register early to ensure on-site housing!

WITHIN PAFM YOU CAN CONTACT JUDITH BUSH (SEE THE DIRECTORY).PENDLE HILL PAMPHLETS NEEDED: The Library Committee is looking to complete our collection of Pendle Hill Pamphlets. If you have Pendle Hill Pamphlets numbered 350 and above and want to see them on their way to a good home, please contact a member of the Library Committee and we'll happily see them on their way to our collection for all to use.

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 has a Job Hotline (650) 494-8340. Workers can do: child care • elder care • gardening • window washing • moving • professional painting • cleaning of homes and offices • errands • carpentry • roof repair • gutter cleaning. (650) 494-8340. **DONATIONS NEEDED:** washing machine • single bed • vacuum cleaner • dresser clothes • toys and books for 8-year-old girl.

KITTEN AVAILABLE: 5 months old. Rescued from RR tracks, bottle fed and fostered by Diana Egly. Male, neutered, FIV/FelV negative, shots, very loving, indoors. Black with some white. Contact Diana Egly for more information: egly53@mindspring.com.

BOOKS FOR STANFORD STUDENT GROUP: The group has a couple feet of shelf space in the Religious Groups Library of the Old Union at Stanford, and would love add your favorite Quaker book to the shelf. Here is a list of books we have already received. This list is currently very short, but will be updated as more books are donated.: http://spreadsheets.google.com/pub?key=pEJ3Q-pGqqEnf_0LgUUVLGA

AFSC EVENT: January 30, 2010 A Sweeter Music. Bay Area pianist, writer, and producer Sarah Cahill will perform a benefit multimedia concert for AFSC's Pacific Mountain Region at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. Sarah Cahill's peace-themed performance will start at 8:00 pm at the state of the art Concert Hall. San Francisco Chronicle music critic Joshua Kosman's description of her is "a reigning diva of avant-garde pianism."

Sarah Cahill will perform "A Sweeter Music," a collection of works she commissioned by prominent modern composers, with inspiration from Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech quote: "We must see that peace represents a sweeter music, a cosmic melody, that is far superior to the discords of war."

Tickets are \$25 per person (general admission) or \$50 (reserved seats and post-performance reception with the artist). For reserved seats, please call Julia Parish at AFSC 415-565-0201 x 16.

Purchase online tickets (\$25 plus small service charge) at: <http://www.afsc.org/pacificmtn/ht/d/Events/pid/82363>
Perfect Yearend Gift! Tickets On Sale Now
Stephen McNeil AFSC Assistant Regional Director for Peacebuilding. 415-565-0201 x 12. www.afsc.org

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.

Corrections to the Directory

Dear friends, We have decided that the newsletter will be posted on our new website. Therefore, we will no longer print full corrections in the newsletter, only the names of those whose information has changed. The full corrections will be posted in the office or you can get the information from Arden at ardenhiram@aol.com, or by phone at 650-494-1631 or through regular mail ; Arden Pierce, 3498 South Ct., Palo Alto, CA 94306.

This month:

Susan Keeney has a new address:

Add: George Riblet who was born in October. He joins Henry who was born in November 2007 and parents, Anne Hruska and Christian Riblet.

Editor's Note: In response to concerns about the rising costs of Newsletter production and distribution, Worship and Ministry has recommended that we publish a condensed summary of the Meeting for Business Minutes in the Newsletter. Copies of the Minutes with Attachments will be made available separately at the Meetinghouse. Contact a member of W&M if you don't find a copy. A complete copy of the Minutes will continue to be included with the email edition of the Newsletter. (In the interest of minimizing use of precious resources, if you wish a printed copy, please consider getting one from W&M rather than printing it out from the email edition since the hard copies we make will be printed on both sides.) Your comments and patience are welcome as we make this change.

The summary Minutes follow:

MEETING FOR BUSINESS- DEC. 13, 2009

Summary Minutes [Full minutes and attachments are available on line and in the Meetinghouse library.]

Presiding Clerk, Stratton Jaquette [subbing for Diane Pasta]

Recording: Sandy Farley

In response to the queries on community we heard:

--Look for opportunities to connect with Friends outside of meeting and embrace the business encounters. Sometimes you find out about discomforts unspoken on First Days.

--Work on finance committee led a friend to read up on Friendly finances. One book advises us to maintain our physical assets and we should pay as we go to keep in touch with our needs. Thrift is a strong value, but micro-managing money drives us away from spiritual principles.

Tenth Month Minutes were approved
Eleventh Month Minutes were approved

Oversight Committee: Talley Kenyon

Kate McClellan has requested membership.

Talley read the report of the clearness committee for Katrina Smathers during her final illness. Text attached to the full minutes. Submission to Western Friend was suggested.

The Memorial minute for Katrina Smathers, heard last month, was approved

Nominating Committee Report: Brian Vura-Weis

First reading:

Additions to Hospitality Committee: Ed Boling, Nancy Brink, Henry Jason, Linda Kamas.

Addition to Visiting and Caring Committee:

Marylou Moses.

2010 Harvest Festival Steering Committee:

Catherine Vanderwaart, Amy Fox, co-clerks

Megan Stolz-Holt, Brian Vura-Weis, Sandy Farley

We accepted the resignation of Mary Lou Moses from First Day School committee.

Talley Kenyon was approved for Clerk of Oversight

Bequest Committee report: Kate McClellan

We have received a bequest of \$12,500 from Joanna Despres. The Bequest Committee makes the following recommendation:

1. \$500.00 for the Stanford Worship Group to use as they come to unity on their needs. This would be a new Reserve Fund.
2. \$6,000.00 for the Sharing Fund which has a much lower balance than in previous years.
3. \$6,000.00 for the Major Maintenance Fund with suggestion to Buildings & Grounds that it be used where possible to enhance the aesthetic and natural environment for the Meeting environment.

We approved the bequest committee's recommendations, thanked them for their work, and laid down the committee.

Question: Is the Stanford Student Group actually a "Worship Group?" [referred to Worship and Ministry.]

Quaker Organizations Donations '09: Stratton Jaquette

He reviewed the summary report and the thinking of the committee divvying up donation funds to Quaker Organizations. **Meeting accepted the report. It is attached.** The ad Hoc committee was thanked for their work.

Finance Committee: 2010 budget: Jim Stimmel

The committee has not reached clearness on changes to the proposal of record offered in 10th month. **We agreed to proceed without a budget for the next month. The treasurer remains authorized to pay bills until a budget is approved.**

Worship and Ministry: Eric Sabelman

Eric reported on the fall retreat. A spring retreat is planned for April 23 – 25 2010. Catherine Vanderwaart will be registrar.

Worship & Ministry hopes to address ministry in worship by inviting “ministers” to a special session January 24 in the evening. Should non-ministers also meet?

Could our “Joys and Concerns” become a blog on our website?.

The committee is experimenting on the use and reading of our queries.

Wednesday 7pm – 9pm is being set aside as a worship sharing time slot for when topics arise and conveners step forward.

Daniel Steinbock wants to record a worship sharing group—a called meeting. This will be part of a research project.

Our print newsletter will include only a summary of minutes. The full text version will be available on line and separate minutes will be available in the meetinghouse.

Eric reported discussion on whether we could have small regional worship groups—how might they meet?

Hospitality Committee: *Claire Arnold*

She thanked nominating committee for enlarging her committee. We value the noshes and the socializing opportunity that the snack time provides.

First Day School Committee: *Tom Farley*

He reminded Nominating Committee that a space is vacant on First Day School committee. Fifth First Day in January is open for a committee that could share its work with our youth.

March 19 -21 we have scheduled a middle school retreat which will be open to neighboring meetings.

March 27 the Religious Education Committee for Children of Pacific Yearly Meeting will be putting on a workshop day for First Day School teachers, and we're hosting it.

Peace and Social Action Committee: *Carin Pacifico*

She presented a list of donations to Non-Quaker groups who share our goals and values. There were four priorities this year: torture, wars and war funding, health care, and some way forward for Peace in the middle east. The list is attached to the full minutes.

Community Service Committee: *Marie Simirenko*

She presented their local outreach funding request

\$900—Peninsula Interfaith Action

\$300—Invision: Opportunity Center

Question: Is the meeting a member of PIA?

Clerk's Business and Announcements: Stratton Jaquette

The annual corporation meeting will be in conjunction with our February meeting for business.

The Information Technology Committee is still working on the new website. The new system wasn't compatible with the clerk's resources page.

Relationships with the Moravian group sharing our meetinghouse are working along. We may arrange a joint meeting.

Directory updates are posted in the office near the calendar [rather than in the electronic newsletter].

A thank you letter was received from Ben Lomond Quaker Center for use of a projector.

Is there someone who would read and digest newsletters from other meetings?—This is a piece of the Associate clerks's job. Nancy McLaughlan does something similar for

Western meetings to which you can subscribe on line. Tom Farley will send out the link.

Concerns:

A member clarified the purpose of our sharing fund. It is under care of Oversight. They make loans and grants to families and individuals in need within the meeting. The uses are usually confidential. She expressed appreciation for the support she received during a difficult moment.

We heard thanks for the work on improving the assisted listening system.

A nominating committee member expressed thanks to everyone who does so much for the meeting. Our community involvement is wide and deep.

Meeting closed with a brief silence at about 2:30 pm.