

PALO ALTO FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

First Month, 2012

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ADVICES AND 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), 1 st & 3 rd First Days & on 4 th & 5 th 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 January 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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DEC

- 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).

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- 1 Thurs 7:15 am Mindfulness Meditation – NMH (see note below).
- 1 Sun 9:00 am Adult Ed. – Reading & Discussion – NMH.
- 1 Sun 10:30 - 11:30 am Meeting for Worship – NMH.**
- 4 Weds 6:00 pm Midweek Meeting for Worship – NMH.**

- 5 Thurs 7:15 am Mindfulness Meditation – NMH (see note below).
 6 Fri 12:15 pm Quakers at Stanford lunch discussion/sharing. – (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.
 11 Weds 7:30 – 9:00pm Meeting of Spiritual Formation Group – NMH.
 12 Thurs 7:15 am Mindfulness Meditation – NMH (see note below).
 14 Sat 8:00 am College Park Quarterly Meeting – Santa Rosa (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 12:15 pm Adult Ed. – “Torture and Impunity: Keeping the issue alive “ – NMH (see note below).
 15 Sun [Deadline for submittal of Newsletter articles - if email send to moriii@yahoo.com.]
 18 Weds 6:00 pm Midweek Meeting for Worship – NMH.
 19 Thurs 7:15 am Mindfulness Meditation – NMH (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.
 25 Weds 7:30 – 9:00pm Meeting of Spiritual Formation Group – 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>. 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 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. No preparation is necessary. All are welcome. A pdf of the work is available, please inquire if interested in acquiring a copy. Contact Henry Jason.

January 15th, 12:15, Torture and Impunity: Keeping the issue alive. January 20th will mark the 10th anniversary of the Guantanamo Detentions. Trudy Reagan will report on actions taken in Northern California to keep the issue of torture alive (think positive!), and tell more about the ominous recent addition to the Defense Authorization Bill, a matter that concerns all of us. Discussion and letter writing will follow.

9am 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.” The online version is available at <http://www.saltandlight2012.org/materials.html>. Readings are encouraged but not required for attendance. We spent two sessions on salt and light.

Our upcoming sessions will be:

- January: the Kin-dom of God (aka Realm, Kingdom)
- February: this Broken World
- March: Friends Diversity and Ecumenism

Quakerism 101: A Basic Course Six or seven evening sessions in February and March, 2012. Night TBD, but it will be either Sundays or Wednesdays depending on signups. This study series will cover the basic history, beliefs and practices of Quakerism. It is intended for those relatively new to Quakerism or to this Meeting, but is open to anyone who wishes to deepen their understanding of the material covered. Participants in past series had this to say in their course evaluations:

- I was looking for more connection with Quaker thought, historical and present day, and with this particular meeting. It did all that and more; I had many spiritual insights from the readings and discussions.
- The readings were excellent, and the discussion and use of guests from the meeting both helped clarify the readings and broaden my exposure to people in the meeting.

- I appreciated the varieties of formats - lectures, small group discussions, the role play town hall.
- This course has meant a lot to me - having a better understanding of Quaker history, traditions and form of worship is already deepening my experience in Meeting.

The six or seven sessions, adapted from the curriculum from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, cover The Experience of Early Friends, The Light Within, Quaker Universalism, Worship and Ministry, Quaker Witness and Community, and Getting Down to Business. A course flyer will be available soon with more information. Contact George Mills (GeorgeHMills@sbcglobal.net, 494-1606) or Seth Raphael (seth@magicseth.com) if you have questions or to indicate your interest in registering for the series and obtaining the readings. If you're thinking of registering, please contact us SOON (by January 8) to let us know if you prefer Sundays or Wednesdays.

*** 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 \$140 in contributions for EHP in November and \$191 in December.

*** 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. Next scheduled date is 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.

*** 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 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.

*** COLLEGE PARK QUARTERLY MEETING: Winter 2012 meeting on January 14 in Santa Rosa. The announcement is posted on the quarterly meeting website and can be accessed by clicking here: <http://collegepark.quaker.org>.

*** 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 due to be 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

SAVE THE DATE: Feb. 25, Saturday: "Aging as an Adventure" Workshop: 9:30-4:30 at the Meeting House (Claire Gorfikel, guest leader) .

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.

AFSC NEWS: Long-time AFSC Volunteer Featured - Many of us know and respect Bill Lovett of Visalia and his commitment to peace and justice. He and his wife are owners of Quaker Oaks farm and long-time advocate for farm workers of the Central Valley, which has been a driving force in his volunteer work with Visalia AFSC over many years. The local paper, Visalia Times Delta, published a lengthy article about Bill on December 10th, featuring his commitment to peace and justice in the farming community. You may be able to find the article on their web site; <www.visaliatimesdelta.com>

The Mural on the Meeting House is now Protected You will be happy to know that the removal of graffiti and the application of a protective coat from the mural on the Meeting House north wall is now completed. The members of the Youth in Militarism Program stepped up to the plate once again and, over the Thanksgiving Weekend, managed to do all the work. Their commitment is remarkable. It was even possible to do it within the budget. The coating is not only a protection but seems to have brought the colors even more vividly to life than they were before.

The Occupy Movement: Throughout the region AFSC staff have been involved with the Occupy Movement in different ways. In the places where camps exist the focus is on encouraging peaceful methods and strategies as they move forward. Where there is no Occupy Camp they are taking part in discussions and planning. The AFSC publication, Street Spirit, has devoted much of the last 3 issues to the movement and the concerns they address www.streetspirit.org
– 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 January 2012: The Music and Dance Retreat was great fun once again and well-attended so we're planning on making it an annual event the first weekend of every December. Our 2012 program calendar is now on our website, www.quakercenter.org, where you can register online. Registration is currently open for "The Radical King: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Nonviolent Work for Social Transformation" with David Hartsough, Be Scofield, and Chris Moore-Backman from January 20th-22nd. You can also register now for "Speaking My Truth, Hearing Yours: Nonviolent Communication and Quakerism" with Dorothy Henderson from February 24-26th.

If you'd like to attend all of Quaker Center's programs for a fraction of the cost, please buy our new 2012 Annual Pass. The cost is \$1000 for Monthly Meetings, who can then send a different person to each program! Individuals can purchase a 2012 Annual Pass for \$500, and come to each of our programs. It pays for itself if you come to about three programs and is a great deal if you come for more! We are hoping the Annual Pass will increase attendance all programs.

PEACE AND SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE CONTRIBUTIONS: P&SA has allocated its budget for donations to outside organizations and offers this description of its rationale: "We see our responsibility as two-fold: 1) to make an effort to have our donations reflect the concerns expressed by members and attenders over the course of the year by extending a helping hand to organizations with which PAFM is happy to be allied in working for a more peaceful world; 2) to maintain some continuity of contact with organizations we support in order to be seen as a reliable friend of their work. The latter goal makes it impossible, really, to make larger contributions to a small list of organizations or to dedicate all our funds to this year's "hot topic." Like many things in life, the two goals exist in creative tension. A perfect example is Janet's work with the National War Tax Resisters, who know her and PAFM by name." Following is the list of PAFM donations for 2011 as recommended by P&SA. Each organization is to receive a donation of \$100.

Peace Action West
California People of Faith Working Against
the Death Penalty
The Center for Justice and Accountability
SOAW (School of the Americas Watch)
American Muslim Voice
FOR (Fellowship of Reconciliation - Columbia)
OCCUPY (Palo Alto, Stanford)
National War Tax Resistance Coordinating
Committee

The Rebuilding Alliance
Resource Center for Nonviolence
Nonviolent Peace Force
Global Partners
Jubilee Partners -Georgia
The Center for Constitutional Rights
If Pigs Could Fly

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.

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.

Judith Bishop died on November 21, 2011. There will be a Memorial Meeting at 2:00 on January 21, 2012, in the Meeting House, with fellowship following.

**DRAFT – Palo Alto Friends Meeting - Minutes for Meeting for Worship with the Intention of Business
- Twelfth Month 11th Day 2011**

26 people were present. See attachment **12-A-2011** for a list of attendees.

We gathered at 12:25 p.m. Eric Sabelman, presiding clerk, read the advices and queries on community. I feel I have more intentions of visiting that I actually complete and hope I can do more. Our middle school children are welcoming to new members of their group and are tender and caring of each other. With my unexpected recent illness I have been a full recipient of the care, encouragement and kindness of the whole meeting. In discussing altruism at home we have searching for the reason behind our actions and feel I now understand that we are communal creatures and it makes others feel good as well as ourselves.

Minute 2011-12-1 – With two minor changes, minutes for the Eleventh Month were approved.

Minute 2011-12-2 - After adding one additional item, the agenda was approved.

Clerk's Report – Eric announced three upcoming Memorial Meetings for Worship. Two will be held at our Meeting House. On January 15th at 2 p.m. there will be one for Heather Raitt who passed away in October 2011. On January 21st at 2 p.m. there will be one for Judith Bishop. Grass Valley Friends Meeting will be hosting one on Saturday, January 7th at 2 p.m. for _____ .

He also said there were donation requests and thank you notes for donations. On a future agenda, he will put a discussion item on how to maintain a relationship with Quaker Earthcare Witness and Hidden Villa. The Unity with Nature committee used to be in contact with them but not in the past couple of years.

Treasurer's REPORT – Forest Preston, treasurer, reported that he received a thank you note from Mito Friends Meeting in Japan along with pictures and he will send these out to the PA Friends list.

Forest requested that Meeting approve a minute to authorize Forest Preston, treasurer, Stratton Jaquette, clerk of Finance Committee, Bill Bauriedel, treasurer of the El Salvador Projects Committee, and Kate McClellan, assistant treasurer to be signatories on our ScotTrade account which is used when we receive donations of stock. Below is the minute wording as required by ScotTrade, which was approved with the above names added.

Minute 2011-12-3 CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY: BE IT RESOLVED That any of the following person(s) listed below are authorized to enter into an Account Agreement and open a Brokerage Account in the name of the above named organization with Scottrade, Inc. This authority includes the authority to buy and sell securities and enter instructions for such transactions in the account; to assign and endorse for transfer, certificates representing stock, bonds or other securities at any time registered in the name of the Association/Organization to withdraw any and all monies, securities or other property in said account and to give any other necessary or appropriate instructions with respect to said account.

That Palo Alto Friends Meeting agrees that Scottrade, Inc. be indemnified and held harmless for any loss, damage, cost or claim that may arise from any authorized or unauthorized use of the assets of the Association/Organization in connection with holdings in the said account.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance – Stratton Jaquette, clerk, returned the proposed 2012 budget, which was first presented in November. With some clarifications, the budget was approved.

Minute 2011-12-4 – The budget for 2012 as prepared by the Finance Committee was approved.

Community Service – Hubert Morel-Seytoux, clerk reported on the donations the committee has made for 2011. The committee hopes to make the 2012 donations earlier in the year, so if anyone has suggestions on which organizations the committee should consider, contact the committee soon.

Here is the distribution of the Community Services 2011 budgeted \$ 1,250.00 to local organizations that provide services to the community:

\$ 600.00 Peninsula Interfaith Action	\$ 100.00 Hidden Villa with a memo note for the Camp scholarships
\$ 250.00 Inn Vision with a memo note for the Opportunity Center	\$ 100.00 Support Network for Battered Women
\$ 100.00 Inn Vision (general; no memo note)	\$ 100.00 Catholic Worker of Redwood City

Worship and Ministry – Carol Chatfield, clerk, reported that the committee is working on the announcement sheet. It will be available for comments.

Attachment 12-2-2011 – Proposed new announcement sheet

Working Group 2 on Donations to Quaker Organizations – George Mills, clerk, reported. He distributed copies of the most recent report that contains thoughts from some individual members of the working group. Eric asked that all read it and that we take go in to worship sharing.

Attachment 12-3-2011 – Report from the 2nd Working Group on Increasing Donations to Quaker Organizations. I know this struggle is difficult for Diana and for her to have written the statement she did with a call for us to be a community of love speaks to me. If our primary mission is love and community, perhaps when donations come “as gifts given”, they are then given out. The hard part is how to encourage and allow others to follow their leadings when they are ours only through love and community. Being

called to see ourselves as a meeting of love rather than a meeting of wealth or influence is a challenge for us to embrace. Reframing this as coming from a community of love means that those who give energy and love are equal with those who give money.

The minute by Peace and Social Action Committee did not ask for increased fund raising and that is how we continue to talk about funding the requested increase in donations. The request was for the Meeting, as an act of love, to divest itself of some of its possessions to meet a goal they feel is one of love and care. We talk of our Meetinghouse as a resource given to ourselves and others. Are we using our resources as well as we might?

I wonder if consideration has been given to using some of the money we hold in Friends Fiduciary and _____. Is this a source that is available? A member of Finance Committee explained that these are the funds they feel can be tapped on a one time basis, but to rely on them every year to meet a doubled amount of contributions is not financially feasible.

The clerk then asked if the Meeting had a sense of action or non-action they wished to take at this time. It was asked if the original proposed minute was available? George Mills read it aloud.

Attachment 12-4-2011 – Proposed Minute from Peace and Social Action Committee dated January 2011.

The meeting then entered a time of discussion. One member said she would stand aside if donations were given to lobbying groups. Another member said that if we look at the total figures of funds that come into and out of our Meeting each year, including donations to the El Salvador Projects, that total is about \$34,000. He felt that perhaps we have been hiding this total under a bushel and finds the implication that we have not done enough to be misleading or incomplete or specious and feels adopting the proposed minute or increasing our donations is unnecessary.

Seeing organizations such as AFSC or Right Sharing of World Resources struggling to survive, I fear that the concern of our own stewardship may lead to losing organizations that are important for doing our work. I believe those of us here have the power to modify the minute to say we will increase donations on a one-time basis and delete language we feel is unnecessary.

This issue has been around for a year without unity or clarity. Feel it should rest. Another would like to send donations to groups who have had falling donations and falling reserves. Finds the some of the language of the proposed minute leaves me with a sense of being asked to increase donations out of a sense of guilt and wants to give out of a sense of joy.

The clerk stated that there is sense of care and concern for the needs of Quaker organizations that are important to us coupled with a sense that we are not accurate in looking at the totality of what we already do to support them. Also seems to be a sense that rather than a lump sum number, Meeting may be better served by considering organizations individually. One member proposed sending AFSC \$5,000 from reserve funds. The clerk said he did not see strong support for this.

Appreciation was expressed for the clerk and the member suggesting we look at organizations individually so we don't feel locked in to this "doubling" language.

One member said she had heard a concern about our ability to be "quakerly" with each other and improving our skills could be done in a workshop format using the advices and queries of this month as a starting point. These skills may be useful in many situations that arise in our community. Another felt we might want to look at learning about how to write minutes with clear intentions and with well thought out details of how to achieve the intent of the minute. We might also look at how minutes are seasoned before they come to Meeting for Business.

The clerk said that we let this issue rest until a standing committee requests it be returned to the agenda.

NOMINATING – Robin Severns, clerk, reported that the committee had a request from Carin Pacifico to step down as clerk and member of Peace and Social Action as she was living in New York City because of her work. The Committee brought forth the name of Mary Klein to serve as member and clerk of the Peace and Social Action Committee. This will mean she will leave the Care and Concerns Committee.

The clerk then asked we return to worship and anyone with concerns might express them.

We have heard positive things today including that we consider individual needs rather than blanket requests. That we work on how we work together in a quakerly manner which may strengthen both our 1-1 relationships and our community and that we spend time learning how to write minutes in such a way that come to Meeting for Business with greater clarity, detail, and after seasoning, perhaps by those outside of the presenting committee.

I heard how words we have heard instilled a sense of guilt as if it was unchristian. Was that not what Jesus did when he asked a man to "sell all your have and follow me" was that not likely to be a challenge?

I feel part of a community that looks at a common proposal while sitting behind many different sets of eyes. The story of the elephant and the blind man comes to mind and seeing and hearing those different perceptions is valuable to me.

I continually relearn the lesson that we can't have leadings for other people. There is such a thing as a collective leading and when present we feel a nudge and a rightness about a decision. The question is not what is the right thing to do, but what are we collectively led to do?

Meeting rose at 2:50 p.m. Respectfully submitted: Eric Sabelman, Presiding Clerk; Talley Kenyon, Recording Clerk