



**PALO ALTO FRIENDS NEWSLETTER**

Sixth Month, 2012

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**Advices and Queries for Sixth Month: Social and Civic Responsibility**

In the words of William Penn, "True godliness doesn't draw men out of the world, but enables them to live better in it and excites their endeavors to mend it." Elsewhere he commented: "It is a reproach to religion and government to suffer so much poverty and excess."

Poverty within a wealthy society is unjust, cruel, and often linked to skin color, gender, and language. We must examine our own privilege and role in the economic order that deepens this disparity. Friends should be alert to oppression and injustice, and persistent in working against them.

We value our part in shaping the laws of our country. Our task is to see that laws serve God's purposes and build a just social order. Our first allegiance should be to God, and if this conflicts with any compulsion of the state, we serve our country best by remaining true to our higher loyalty.

If, by divine leading, our attention is focused on a law that is contrary to God's law, we must proceed with care. Before acting, Friends should pray for further guidance and speak with the Meeting, family members, and all those who might be affected by the decision. If a decision involves disobedience to the law, we should make the grounds of our action clear to all concerned and be prepared to suffer any penalties without evasion. As a community, we must care for those who suffer for conscience's sake.

- *What am I doing to carry my share of responsibility for the government of our community, nation, and world?*
- *Am I persistent in my efforts to promote constructive change?*
- *How do we attend to the suffering of others in our local community, in our state and nation, and in the world community?*
- *Do we try to understand the causes of suffering, and do we address them as a Meeting?*
- *How do we, individually and as a Meeting, support the organizations that work to bring the testimonies of Friends into reality in our society?*

**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 June 10, 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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**MAY**

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

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

## **JUNE**

- 3 Sun 9:00 am Adult Ed. – Reading & Discussion – NMH.  
 3 **Sun 10:30 - 11:30 am Meeting for Worship – NMH.**  
 3 Sun 12:15 pm Adult Ed. Series on “To Be Broken and Tender” – NMH (see note below).  
 6 **Weds 6:00 pm Midweek Meeting for Worship – NMH.**  
 7 Thurs 7:30 am Mindfulness Meditation – 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 12:15 pm Meeting for Business – NMH (see note above).**  
 13 **Weds 6:00 pm Midweek Meeting for Worship – NMH.**  
 14 Thurs 7:30 am Mindfulness Meditation – 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 [Deadline for submittal of Newsletter articles - if email send to [moriii@yahoo.com](mailto:moriii@yahoo.com).]  
 20 **Weds 6:00 pm Midweek Meeting for Worship – NMH.**  
 21 Thurs 7:30 am Mindfulness Meditation – NMH (see note below).  
 21 Thurs 7:00 pm Care and Concerns Committee Meeting – Library (see note below).  
 24 **Sun 10:30 - 11:30 am Meeting for Worship – NMH.**  
 24 Sun noon Fourth First Day Provided Lunch this month – (see note below).  
 26 Tues 7:00 pm Caregivers Group meeting – Schoolhouse (see note below).  
 27 **Weds 6:00 pm Midweek Meeting for Worship – NMH.**  
 28 Thurs 7:30 am Mindfulness Meditation – NMH (see note below).

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

**Series on “To be Broken and Tender”**: The series will be held 12:15- 1:45 (though you can leave early if you need to) on the first First Day of each month. It will be four more sessions: Jun. 3, Jul. 1, Aug. 5, Sep. 2. Reading will be Margery Post Abbott's book, *To Be Broken and Tender: A Quaker Theology for Today*, available in the office for \$20 (ask Diane Pasta or Tom Farley). If you want the book, but cannot afford it, talk to Diane or inquire at Care and Concerns for a subsidy.

**A Reflection on “Salt and Light”**: Hulda Muaka will be reflecting on the "Salt and Light: Friends living the kingdom in a broken world" theme on June 17th in the New Meeting House at 12:15 PM. This was a theme for the the 6th Friends World Conference for consultation, FWCC, that took place last month in Kabarak, Kenya. It was attended by about 1000 Friends from all over the world. It was my first ever Friends Meeting of that magnitude to attend. I felt humbled and counted by blessings as I interacted with the delegates. I received a great spiritual boost and visiting family and friends and Kenyan Friends that I worshiped with prior to coming to the United States was a huge bonus. Come one, come all, let us light our lamps and illuminate the world.

\*\*\* 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.

\*\*\* 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 2012 are 5/14, 6/18, 7/23, 8/27, (none for Sept.), 10/1, 11/5, 12/10. Contact Marie Simirenko for more info - 650-961-1724.

\*\*\* THURSDAY MORNING MINDFULNESS MEDITATION: Thursday morning meditation - newcomers welcome. Doors open at 7:30 am with quiet music. At 7:30 am, we have a short Buddhist guidance, and a half-hour meditation. Afterwards, we discuss how the meditation was for us, finishing at 8:15 or 8:30. We are following the teachings of the Vietnamese Buddhist monk, Thich

Nhat Hanh, similar to Quaker philosophy but with additional insights. We discuss meditation technique, which is also helpful to people on Sunday!

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

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

\*\*\* **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 & CONCERNS:** If you have wondered what Friends do when we are in distress or need help, given that we do not have a minister - the answer is that we turn to members of the Care and Concerns committee. Be advised that the greeters you see each First Day are on the Care and Concerns Committee. Please feel free to talk to a member of Care and Concerns about such concerns after meeting, by phone, or email. You may also join us to express concerns during the first segment of our usual meeting on the third Thursday of the month at 7 pm in the Meetinghouse Library. Please contact the clerk Judith Bush (650-962-1318, judith@grey-cat.com) to confirm that there are no meeting changes and ensure time on the agenda.

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

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## **NEWS OF PEOPLE AND EVENTS**

**JUNE 2012 NEWS FROM QUAKER CENTER: IT'S SUMMER CAMP TIME!!!** Quaker Center Summer Youth Camps will once again be directed by Stephen Myers but we've made some adjustments to better meet the needs of campers. Please note the **new age ranges** for all the camps and the **new theme of the older teens camp**.

- **June 23rd - 30th: Quaker Camp:** for rising 4th, 5th, or 6th graders to explore Quaker testimonies experientially. Activities include: community building games, swimming, hiking around Quaker Center, campfires, music, story-telling, community service, and a field trip to the beach.

- **July 7th - 15th: Service Camp:** for teens entering 7th, 8th, or 9th grade to serve others while having a good time. We will be of service in the local community and go on hikes in the area, including some of both at Quaker Center. We'll also take field trips to a local Friend's pool and to the beach.

- **July 22nd - 28th: Peace Action Camp:** at La Jolla Friends Meeting for rising 10th- 12th grade teens to explore inward and outward nonviolence, including nonviolent direct action, community service, and outdoor adventure with Jim Summers as a San Diego area resource.

**New campers receive a \$50 discount!** Or, bring a new camper and share a \$100 savings on both campers' registration fees. Sibling discounts are also available. **For more information visit [www.quakercenter.org](http://www.quakercenter.org) or call Quaker Center at 831-336-8333.**

**Family Work Camp** welcomes **all ages** from **July 29th - August 5th**. Join us for a joyful week of life in intergenerational community as we learn, work, eat, worship, play, and take hikes together in the beautiful redwoods, all in exchange for just your labor and **the cost of your food. No special skills necessary.**

Register early online for all summer camps at <http://www.quakercenter.org/programs/register/>

**SAVE THE DATE:** The Christian Friends Conference will be held June 2, 9-5 in the Schoolhouse.

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

**AFSC NEWS: Death Penalty in California** - As you have undoubtedly heard, there will be an initiative on the November ballot in California to abolish the death penalty. AFSC is helping to gather support from the faith community, including denominations which can officially endorse the initiative. As we work on this with Quarterly Meetings and Pacific Yearly Meeting, Friends are encouraged to reach out to contacts they have in other denominations who might be able to take a position. Contact Eric Moon, [ericmoon@afsc.org](mailto:ericmoon@afsc.org), if you can help.

**Middle East** At its General Conference last week, the United Methodist Church (UMC) took a strong stand calling for an end the Israeli occupation of Palestine and supporting justice in Palestine. Led by human rights activists within the UMC and supported by dozens of activists from all around the world, the General Conference passed a resolution urging the U.S. government to “End all U.S. military aid to the region” and calling on states to prohibit “the import of products made by companies in Israeli settlements on Palestinian land” as well as “any financial support by individuals or organizations for the construction and maintenance of settlements.”

The resolution at the General Conference - the highest decision-making body of the Church - is a major step forward in recognizing the rights and dignity of Palestinians, and also encourages other denominations to call for the end of the Occupation. The UMC resolution initiative was led by [United Methodists Kairos Response \(link here\)](#) working together with other activists, including Jewish human rights activists ([link here](#)), Palestinian Christian activists, and the AFSC.

However, the General Conference did not adopt a resolution calling for divestment from Caterpillar ([link here](#)), Motorola Solutions ([link here](#)), and Hewlett-Packard (HP) ([link here](#)) - three companies that are complicit in the Israeli occupation and in serious violations of international law and human rights.

Despite this, pressure continues to mount on these three companies through the "[We Divest](#)" campaign ([link here](#)) urging financial giant TIAA-CREF to divest from companies involved in the Israeli occupation. The Presbyterian Church in the US will be meeting this July to consider resolutions on boycotting settlement products, and divesting from Caterpillar, Motorola, and HP. To join Jewish Rabbis calling for church divestment, click [here](#). To endorse the Presbyterian initiative, go to [http://salsa.democracynaction.org/o/641/p/dia/action/public/?action\\_KEY=9306](http://salsa.democracynaction.org/o/641/p/dia/action/public/?action_KEY=9306).

**Counter NATO** As NATO will meet in Chicago next week, AFSC and the Network for a NATO Free Future will bring together peace and justice activists to map out an alternative path. The counter-summit includes plenary speakers and 28 workshops on NATO's role and other peace and economic security issues. For more about the May 18-19 event, including a sampling of speakers, visit AFSC at <http://www.afsc.org/>. — Peter Lin

**THE PEACE AND JUSTICE CALENDAR:** A service of the Peace, Earthcare, and Social Witness Committee of Strawberry Creek Friends Meeting, this calendar is posted for easy reference:

<http://groups.google.com/group/bayareaquakers>

Other events calendars of interest are available at:

IndyBay Calendar: <http://www.indybay.org/calendar/>

Global Exchange: <http://www.globalexchange.org>

KPFA: <http://kpfa.org>

Political Events Calendar: <http://www.politicaeventscalendar.org>

Ecoevents: <http://www.ecovevents.com>

Ecology Center: <http://www.ecologycenter.org>

The Squid List: <http://laughingsquid.com/squidlist/events/>

NEW ITEM: The Mt. Diablo Peace Center Calendar can be found at: <http://mtdpc.org/calendar.php?act=calendar>

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS AT WOOLMAN:**

**Graduation**, 9:00am, May 26, Woolman Campus

**Sierra Friends Camp—Session 1:** July 1-13th;

**Session 2:** July 15 - 27<sup>th</sup>; **Session 3:** July 29 - Aug 4

**Teen Leadership Camp—First Session:** July 1-15th;

**Session 2:** July 21-Aug 4

**Family Work Camp, June 17-24**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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