

# PALO ALTO FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

Third Month, 2010

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## Queries for Third Month: Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business

Come to Meeting with hearts and minds prepared to be open and faithful to the leadings of the Spirit. Then the conduct of business will lead to truth, unity, and love.

When a matter is before the Meeting for Business, each person present contributes to the corporate search for a decision that accords with the will of God. Inaction is a form of action. Silent worship in the Meeting for Business contributes to the process of achieving unity.

Listen attentively to others' words and use the silence between messages to reflect carefully on what you might contribute. When you are clear, speak simply what is in your heart, without repeating what has already been offered. While making your insights clear, lay aside personal opinions and attend to what God requires.

- Do I attend Meeting for Business regularly?
- Do I speak in Meeting for Business only when I am led to speak?
- Is the Meeting for Business held as a Meeting for Worship in which we seek divine guidance for our actions?
- Are we tender and considerate of different views, coming to a decision only when we have found unity?
- Do we give prayerful support for our clerks that they may be sensitive to the movement of the Spirit among us?

### 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 Meeting for Business will be March 14, 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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### INPUT FROM ALL IS BEING ACTIVELY SOUGHT

Diane Pasta, clerk; Talley Kenyon, clerk of Oversight Committee; and Brian Vura-Weiss, clerk of Nominating Committee; met to consider their concerns about the symptoms of stress and burn-out that the Meeting members, attenders, and children have been exhibiting. The Nominating process is beginning and we need to discern and act on Spirit-led priorities rather than just move people to fill gaps one place, only to create new gaps elsewhere. At our next business meeting, on the 14th day of third month, Business Meeting will explore how you can get more of what you want from Palo Alto Friends Meeting. From this we may identify where we want to focus, and what else might we might lay down or combine so that we can do less, better. In preparation, please consider these queries:

- What is the core of your positive experience of our Meeting?
- Which aspects of Meeting delight you, support your persistence in living Quaker values, and/or are priorities for you?
- What opportunities do you want to retain, make better, and/or expand?

## **FEB**

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

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

28 Sun 12:50 pm Adult Ed.: Lecture and Discussion – NMH (see note below).

## **MAR**

### **3 Weds 6:00 pm Midweek Meeting for Worship – NMH.**

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

7 Sun 9:00 am Adult Ed. – Reading & Discussion – NMH (see note below). [No meeting 3/7/10]

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

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

8 Mon 3 - 6:30 pm PAFM / Urban Ministry Meal Preparation – (see note below).

### **10 Weds 6:00 pm Midweek Meeting for Worship – NMH.**

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

14 Sun 9:15 am Community Service Committee Meeting – NMH (see note below).

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

14 Sun noon Light lunch provided prior to Meeting for Business - OMH.

14 Sun 12:20 pm Meeting for Business – NMH (see note above); child care provided (see note below).

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

### **17 Weds 6:00 pm Midweek Meeting for Worship – NMH.**

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

18 Thurs 7:00 pm Oversight Committee meeting – Library.

19 Fri 7:00 pm Retreat for 5<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Friends –(see registration page 10).

21 Sun 9:00 am Adult Ed. – Reading & Discussion – NMH (see note below).

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

21 Sun 11:45 am Collection for Ecumenical Hunger by Community Service Committee – NMH (see note below).

21 Sun 12:20 pm Adult Ed.: Lecture and Discussion – NMH (see note below).

21 Sun 2:00 pm **A Quaker Meeting Called in Hope of Peace** – Lytton Plaza, Palo Alto (see note below).

21 Sun *[Deadline for submittal of Newsletter articles - if email send to [moriii@yahoo.com](mailto:moriii@yahoo.com).]*

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

### **24 Weds 6:00 pm Midweek Meeting for Worship – NMH.**

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

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

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

28 Sun 12:50 pm Adult Ed.: Lecture and Discussion – NMH (see note below).

## **CALENDAR EXPANSION – DETAILS**

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

\*\*\*A QUAKER MEETING CALLED IN HOPE OF PEACE: 2:00 pm, Sunday, March 21, 2010. Lytton Plaza, 202 University at Emerson, Palo Alto, California. We will begin with singing, followed by reading of letters written by children of Palestine, Israel, Pakistan, and elsewhere. Then we will settle into the silence of worship as practiced by the Religious Society of Friends, wherein anyone moved by the Spirit may rise to speak. Silence follows each spoken message, to allow its full meaning to sink into our hearts. co-sponsored by Multifaith Voices for Peace & Justice <[www.multifaithpeace.org](http://www.multifaithpeace.org)>

\*\*\* 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 Robert Barclay's Quaker "Catechism and Confession of Faith." No preparation is necessary. All are welcome. Contact Henry Jason.

### **Adult Education Programs in February**

**Feb 28, 12:50 PM in the NMH, following Lunch. Sharing Session on 2010 State of the Meeting. Worship & Ministry Committee.** Insights from this meeting will form the basis for the ongoing work of the Worship & Ministry and Oversight committees throughout the coming year, as well as for our State of the Meeting report .

### **Adult Education Programs in March, 2010**

**Mar 21, 12:15 in the NMH: Presentation and Discussion. "Accountability Now Stops Torture Later."** Trudy Reagan, Katoko Sax and Peace & Social Action Committee. Some of the same practices called torture are being practiced in our prisons, and now at ICE detention facilities for arrested undocumented immigrants. The ICE facilities' locations are secret, and relatives of the detained are frantic to find loved ones. As long as Americans turn a blind eye to the blatant torture they know happened in Iraq and Guantánamo, there is a tacit permission to use it. Hear about corrective measures already being taken. A national conference on The Accountability Project against torture will be held at Quaker Center in September. We could be involved.

**Mar 28, 12:50 PM in the NMH, following Lunch.** "Reinventing the Sacred: A New View of Science, Reason, and Religion." by Stuart Kauffman discussion led by Bob Chatfield, In the book Reinventing the Sacred biologist and complexity theorist Stuart Kauffman proposes a natural divinity based on an emerging, scientifically based world view. He argues that the qualities of divinity that we hold sacred -- creativity, meaning, purposeful development across the entire sweep of time and history -- are in fact emergent properties of our own universe that can be explored using our experience and reason.

Bob Chatfield and others who have read this far-ranging and thought-provoking book will outline the sweep of the book and introduce its main ideas. These ideas can put words to our own 21st-century outlooks on the cosmos and history. Are these understandings theist or non-theist? To Kauffman and to Bob, that old-school dichotomy is less important than our personal light of understanding focusing more directly on the sacred.

Reinventing the Sacred is now available in paperback at Kepler's Books for those who wish to sample it in advance.

\*\*\* PAFM 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](mailto: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.

\*\*\* HOMELESS MEALS - OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE - March 8, April 5, May 3, May 31, June 28, July 26, and August 23 are our scheduled days to 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. Contact Marie Simirenko for more information - 650-961-1724.

\*\*\* THURSDAY MORNING MINDFULNESS MEDITATION: The Thursday morning meditation group meets in the New Meeting House, which is opened by 7:15 am; the practice time goes from 7:30 am to 8:30 am. All are welcome, including those new to meditation or experienced. Susan Murphy and Linea Stewart share the facilitation of the meditation group. Susan and Linea will draw on their backgrounds in both Buddhist meditation and Christian contemplative practices. For more information and a schedule of the practices, contact Susan Murphy, at [somurphy@earthlink.net](mailto: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](mailto:esabelman@aol.com)>, 650-322-2455.

\*\*\* 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.

\*\*\* 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>. \*\*\*

The Friends Committee on Legislation of California Education Fund invites you **to a very special event on Friday, March 26, 2010, in Sacramento** to benefit the FCL Education Fund and Death Penalty Focus. Our third **Capitol Awards Banquet** will honor three outstanding activists for criminal justice reform and the abolition of the death penalty.

**Christine Thomas, Federal Defenders Office; Sister Catherine Connell, Sisters of Social Service; Pat Hardy, Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) California**

The banquet will be hosted by DPF's Mike Farrell and the proceeds used to support the work of our two organizations.

**VIP Sponsorships and tickets are available as well as individual tickets at \$75.00. For more information and an order form, please visit our website at [fclca.org](http://fclca.org), call us at (916) 443-3734, or order tickets on line at [www.deathpenalty.org/sactodinner](http://www.deathpenalty.org/sactodinner), and indicate that you heard about the banquet through FCLCA.**

## **NEWS OF PEOPLE AND EVENTS**

**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](mailto:farley@spont.com)> 650-366-1818.

**SAVE THE DATE:** 3/19 to 3/21 Weekend Retreat for 5<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> grade Friends at Palo Alto Friends Meetinghouse. See registration form at end of newsletter – page 10.

**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.)

**SAVE THE DATE:** The annual spring retreat will be from April 23 - 25 at Ben Lomond Quaker Center. Keep an eye out for more information and registration materials.

**CLASSICAL MUSIC IN THE MEETINGHOUSE :** On Sunday evening, April 25, 2010, at 8 pm, the meeting will host a concert entitled "Les Nations et une Apothéose" to benefit the Friends Committee on Legislation (FCL), the latest in a series of concerts beginning in 1997. The size and acoustics of the Meetinghouse are ideal for hearing and seeing chamber music played by professional musicians.

Violinists Anthony Martin and Tyler Lewis, with gambist William Skeen, will play trios and solos from six nations, composed in the 1600s by Lully, Corelli, Buxtehude, da Selma, Schmelzer and Purcell. The concert will close with Couperin's 1725 "Apotheosis of Lully" performed by an ensemble of violins, viol, harpsichord, and lutes.

Quakers of the time, of course, would have shunned such popular music as a distraction from their earnest search for Truth. No less earnest, today's Quakers have an opportunity to hear what their predecessors missed.

Suggested donation: adults: \$25, ages 4-16: \$10. All proceeds go to FCL.

**PICK-A-PARTY IS COMING!:** Sign up now to host an event or activity as part of this benefit for the Friends Committee on Legislation (FCL). See the attached flyer and sign-up form for more information.

**HAITI AND SOME CARIBBEAN NEIGHBORS – A FEW STATISTICS** (All population figures based on July 2003 estimates)

**Haiti**

Population: **7,527,817** (now 8 mil)

Size: 27,560 sq km or 10,714 sq mi. (slightly smaller than Maryland)

**Dominican Republic**

Population: **8,715,602**

Size: 48,380 sq km or 18,815 sq. mi. (slightly more than twice the size of New Hampshire)

**Cuba**

Population: 11,263,429

Size: 110,860 sq km

**Costa Rica**

Population: **3,896,092**

Size: **51,100** sq

Laura Magnani told us that 75% of Haitian government workers lost their lives.



*After the Quake – The road to Leogane.*

**NEWS FROM SIERRA FRIENDS CENTER:** We recently welcomed 11 students to our spring 2010 semester. The student body is composed of teens from CA, NV, MA, NE, NY, VT, VA, WA, and Wales. If you'd like to keep abreast of Woolman Semester activities, please sign up for our monthly electronic newsletter on the home page of our website, [www.woolman.org](http://www.woolman.org) and if you just can't wait to hear the latest, check out our blog, <http://sierrafriends.wordpress.com/>

We are already preparing for summer activities here on campus. Malaika Bishop is leading our Community Interns in preparing beds and planting seeds in the garden. The camp staff is accepting applications for camp counselors (due on March 15<sup>th</sup>), and we are beginning to consider projects for Family Work Camp, which will be June 13-20 and led by Jim Anderson and Bob Runyan. We are also adding a new program this summer. Our own, Dorothy Henderson and Doug Hamm are preparing to lead the first ever Woolman Sustainability Intensive. Dorothy felt led to begin this program due, in part, to our never-ending requests to have a Woolman Semester for adults. This weeklong intensive will be aligned with our work for peace, justice and sustainability and will integrate the learning and practice of Nonviolent Communication and concepts of Permaculture and sustainability. The first session will be held June 20-25. Contact Dorothy at [dorothyh@woolman.org](mailto:dorothyh@woolman.org) or 530-273-3183.

Of course summer wouldn't be the same without Sierra Friends Camp for 9 to 14 year olds. We'll once again offer three sessions beginning July 5<sup>th</sup> and run through August 1<sup>st</sup>. More information and applications for camp are available at <http://www.sierrafriendscamp.org/>

Finally, we have a request as we are seasoning a proposal to reclaim Woolman as the name of our organization. It seems to us that the name Sierra Friends Center has been more confusing than helpful and that most people think of this place as simply Woolman. Our board is considering the names, "The Woolman Center for Peace, Justice and Sustainability" or just WOOLMAN" with each of our programs following that name (such as Woolman Semester, Woolman Intensive, etc.) and with sub-text of: "A Learning Community for Peace, Justice and Sustainability". Please send us your thoughts before our March 13<sup>th</sup> board meeting.

**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.

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### ***The US Census: It Means Social Justice***

*The Census guarantees a portrait of the full diversity of the country and an equitable distribution of resources to our region. Please promote full participation!*

### **GREEN THOUGHTS – from Unity with Nature Committee**

Jim Corbett the rancher wrote with a thought-provoking passion:

"Cease to eat anything defiled by violence; make your table the high altar of your daily religion; serve nothing that is produced by harming the land and its life or by any kind of cruelty, then the rest follows."

"If our bedrock reality is the all-inclusive communion, then God is Nature, but not the object nature invented to relegate the sacred to an imagined realm out beyond the sky. If communion is reality's bedrock, then God is also Love, but not just the nurturing love of a mother. Natural communion includes the devouring love of the wolf."

(Like many native Americans..) "I avoid eating anything that I haven't loved or cherished."

"Whatever our addictions and enslavements, there's still hope for humanity, not because we're likely to become self-sacrificing saints, but because our fullest liberty comes from co-creativity. As active communication, power redeems."

"The ability to live by fitting into Nature rather than a human hierarchy is still the foundation of freedom, because freedom is personal co-creativity that is born of harmonious wholeness."

James Corbett, 1993-2001, Pima Meeting, Tucson, Arizona collected in the book "EarthLight Spiritual Wisdom for an Ecological Age."

### **NEEDS, OFFERINGS, OPPORTUNITIES, & ENTHUSIASMS**

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

Details available at <http://sites.google.com/site/midwinter2010> or by contacting us at [nymidwinter@gmail.com](mailto:nymidwinter@gmail.com), 410-236-3372. Registration materials are also available at that website. Register early to ensure on-site housing!

**NEED FOR TEMPORARY HOUSING:** Katt Jones, Lee Knutsen's cousin, is a graduate student at Cal State LA in the Special Education Program working with people with Visual Impairments. For the final quarter of her Masters program (March 29 to June 11), she will be interning at the VA Medical Center in Palo Alto. She would like to rent a room that is close enough to walk/bike/bus to the Center. She is willing to live in a small space to get the rent as low as possible (\$500/month or less). Contact Katt at [kjones5@calstatela.edu](mailto:kjones5@calstatela.edu) 626.590.4781.

**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](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.

**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](http://spreadsheets.google.com/pub?key=pEJ3Q-pGqqEnf_0LgUUVLGA)

**AFSC EVENT: January 30, 2010** - 8:00 pm - 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 Concert Hall.

Sarah 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: \$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 tickets online (\$25 plus small service charge) at: <http://www.afsc.org/pacificmtn/ht/d/Events/pid/82363>  
Stephen McNeil AFSC Assistant Regional Director for Peacebuilding. 415-565-0201 x 12. [www.afsc.org](http://www.afsc.org)

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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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### **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 [ardenhram@aol.com](mailto:ardenhram@aol.com), or by phone at 650-494-1631 or through regular mail ; Arden Pierce, 3498 South Ct., Palo Alto, CA 94306.

This month:

Megan Stokes Holt moved a while back. Her new address is posted in the office.

Alice Burks died Jan 2, 2010. A Memorial Meeting will be held for her on Saturday, March 20, at 2:00 in the library at Friends House in Santa Rosa. Refreshments will follow.

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### **Membership: a report on the adult education session**

When Oversight sponsored an adult education session at Palo Alto Meeting on membership, the participants perceived that each benefit one gets from the Meeting carried a parallel duty for the individual, and each duty was associated with a benefit. We want to offer strong commitment to the other members of our community, but who experiences that relationship relates more to level of involvement rather than 'recorded membership'.

The benefits/duties that arose in our discussion and made it to the whiteboard were various. We saw how the Meeting, through its individual members and attenders, includes newcomers, makes Memorial arrangements, and creates opportunities for service in a larger community. PAFM also provides care and support: emotional, practical, financial, and educational, including opportunities for learning, spiritual growth and fellowship We agreed that we are called to make these things happen, by providing support to one another, by serving on committees, by giving financially, and by letting down our information privacy walls to reduce barriers to real

community .We valued that Meeting provides accountability, perhaps helping to guide us in practical integrity; and in turn we expect to accept and respond to the feedback. One interesting gift of Meeting comes through nominating committee, which helps discern gifts and abilities and provide opportunities to grow, sharing changing views of the member or attender.

Oversight committee also provided Pendle Hill Pamphlet 371 to stimulate thought: **Members one of another, the dynamics of Membership in Quaker Meeting** by Thomas Gates. It is available in the office and Talley has a couple of extra copies if you want one. The pamphlet posits that the meeting and the individual Quaker have a relationship of mutual dependence, a dynamic and supportive reciprocal interaction, and Gates describes three layers of membership and their challenges. 1- Meeting seems to be a place of acceptance but is at risk of ‘pseudo community’ if we avoid conflict and ignore differences. 2- Meeting becomes a place of shared values with the risks of disappointment to attenders/members when we do not live up to the ideals, or when we lose sight of where God is in all this. 3- Meeting ultimately is a place of uncomfortable transformation, challenging us, calling us beyond our past certainties. Gates names opportunities for such transformation such as testimonies, spiritual discipline and practice and following leadings and asking God for help.

According to Gates, challenge and transformation are central to how God works in our lives...and how we love one another. Thus, both are central to membership. At the adult education session, we briefly explored the idea that the Meeting’s responsibility to be transformed by its members’ leadings might be related to the members’ willingness to be transformed.

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PALO ALTO FRIENDS MEETING  
Religious Society of Friends

As of 2/14/2010					
	<b>2009 Budget</b>	<b>2009 Actual</b>	<b>Draft 2010 Budget as of 10/8/09</b>	<b>2010 Budget Approved 2/14/10</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Meeting Contributions	37,500	45,334	38,000	42,500	increase to help pay for PYM Youth Programs Coordinator
Use of Meetinghouse	2,000	3,000	2,500	3,000	Encourage more revenue from Meetinghouse use
Interest Income	2,000	2,075	2,000	2,000	
Retreat Income	3,000	4,081	0	0	See retreat expense below
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>44,500</b>	<b>54,490</b>	<b>42,500</b>	<b>47,500</b>	
<b>Meeting Operations</b>					
Operations	1,500	2,971	1,500	2,000	more misc. into this budget (e.g. reps, Oversight mailing, etc.)
Maintenance/repairs (ongoing)	6,400	8,062	6,400	7,700	cleaning more expensive - \$70/month
Major maintenance	0	0	0	0	
Newsletter	2,000	2,583	2,150	2,400	more use of email, no hard-copy minutes
First Day School	3,150	2,899	3,150	3,150	
Hospitality	2,150	1,816	2,150	2,150	
Library	400	290	200	200	
Adult Education	300	399	200	400	Restore to previous levels
Insurance/Taxes/Legal	4,000	3,903	4,000	4,500	\$500 for accounting review
Telephone	500	385	500	500	
Travel for Meeting Reps	0		0	0	
Nursery School	100	100	100	100	
Retreat	3,000	4,477	0	0	Retreats need to break even
Information Technology	400	210	0	350	
Teen-Age Group	0		0	0	
Dues/Subscriptions	5,700	6,489	5,700	6,500	PYM regular assessment increase
PYM Youth Program Coordinator	0	0	3,900	4,000	New budget item
<b>Total Meeting Operations</b>	<b>29,600</b>	<b>34,584</b>	<b>29,950</b>	<b>33,950</b>	
<b>Meeting Outreach</b>					
Meeting Sharing Fund Transfer	1,500	1,500	0	0	Sharing Fund can manage for the time being
Quaker Org. Donations	10,300	10,300	9,800	10,300	
Peace & Social Action Donations	1,500	1,500	1,300	1,500	
Community Service Donations	1,350	1,200	1,250	1,250	
Unity with Nature Donations	250		200	500	One time increase of \$250 (for unspent 2009 allocation)
<b>Total Meeting Outreach</b>	<b>14,900</b>	<b>14,500</b>	<b>12,550</b>	<b>13,550</b>	29% of total budget
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>44,500</b>	<b>49,084</b>	<b>42,500</b>	<b>47,500</b>	
<b>INCOME LESS EXPENSE</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5,406</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	

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## Weekend Retreat for 5<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> grade Friends 3/19 to 3/21, 2010 at Palo Alto Friends Meetinghouse

The gathering begins with supper Friday, 3/19 and ends mid-day Sunday, 3/21. Activities will include crafts, games, stories, ice skating, worship, and service. Sleeping space will be the floor of Friends Nursery School classrooms. Cost is \$50.00 – scholarships are available. Sponsored by the Middle School Group, Palo Alto Friends First-Day School. For registration and information contact Retreat Coordinator Janet Murphy, 52 Exeter Avenue, San Carlos, CA 94070 650-594-1088 <davidp.murphy@sbcglobal.net> or FDS clerk Tom Farley, 650-366-1818 <farley@spont.com>.

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Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade(s) in school: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Meeting: \_\_\_\_\_

I plan to pay \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Scholarship requested \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I can offer a ride \_\_\_\_\_ I need a ride \_\_\_\_\_ I need a map \_\_\_\_\_

Special Diets and other needs: \_\_\_\_\_