

# PALO ALTO FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

Third Month, 2011

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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 Business Meeting is on March 13, 2011.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE (in NMH): Meeting for Worship – each First Day at 10:30 AM.  
Mid-Week Evening Worship – each Wednesday at 6:00 PM.  
Mindfulness Meditation – each Thursday at 7:15 AM

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## FEB

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

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

## MAR

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

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

5 Sat 2:00 pm Memorial Meeting for Tara NcHenry – NMH (see note below).

6 Sun 9:00 am Adult Ed. – Reading & Discussion – NMH.

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

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

9 Weds 7:30 pm Spiritual Formation Group – NMH Library (see note below).

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

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

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- 13 Sun noon Light lunch provided prior to Meeting for Business - OMH.  
13 Sun 12:15 pm Meeting for Business – NMH (see note above).  
**16 Weds 6:00 pm Midweek Meeting for Worship – NMH.**  
17 Thurs 7:15 am Mindfulness Meditation – NMH (see note below).  
17 Thurs 7:00 pm Oversight Committee meeting – Library.  
19 Sat 9:00 am Work Day – Sponsored by Buildings and Grounds.  
20 Sun 9:00 am Adult Ed. – Reading & Discussion – NMH (**Cancelled**).  
**20 Sun 10:30 - 11:30 am Meeting for Worship – NMH.**  
20 Sun 11:45 am Collection for Ecumenical Hunger by Community Service Committee – NMH (see note below).  
20 Sun 12:15 pm Adult Ed. – Reading & Discussion – NMH.  
20 Sun [Deadline for submittal of Newsletter articles - if email send to [moriii@yahoo.com](mailto:moriii@yahoo.com).]  
21 Mon 3 - 6:30 pm ? PAFM / Urban Ministry Meal Preparation – (see note below).  
22 Tue 7:00 pm Worship Sharing for Caregivers – NMH (see note below).?  
**23 Weds 6:00 pm Midweek Meeting for Worship – NMH.**  
23 Weds 7:30 pm Spiritual Formation Group – NMH Library (see note below).  
24 Thurs 7:15 am Mindfulness Meditation – NMH (see note below).  
26 Sat 8:30 am-5 pm PAFM Spring Retreat – see flyer page 8.  
27 Sun 9:00 am Adult Ed. – Series on Quaker Practices and Our Meeting – NMH (see note below).  
**27 Sun 10:30 - 11:30 am Meeting for Worship – NMH.**  
27 Sun noon Fourth First Day Provided Lunch – (see note below).  
**30 Weds 6:00 pm Midweek Meeting for Worship – NMH.**  
31 Thurs 7:15 am Mindfulness Meditation – NMH (see note below).

## **CALENDAR EXPANSION – DETAILS**

\*\*\* STANFORD QUAKER ACTIVITIES: STANFORD QUAKER ACTIVITIES: Stanford students interested in on-campus Quaker activities should contact Hannah Popick [hannapopick@gmail.com](mailto:hannapopick@gmail.com) , 650-644-5130.

\*\*\* 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 Francis Howgill's 1658 work "Some of the Mysteries of God's Kingdom Declared".  
**March 20:** 12:15 PM. PRAYER - Our Yearly Meeting's Advices suggest prayer as an element of Friends' spiritual lives. What is our concept of prayer as unprogrammed Friends? Do we believe prayer to be a state of being or a form of communication with a Supreme Being? We will examine concepts of prayer expressed in writings by authors like Douglas Steere and sources like "What Canst Though Say?" and from our own experience. For advance copies of readings, or to suggest a reading, contact Eric Sabelman (322-2455, [esabelman@aol.com](mailto:esabelman@aol.com)).

**March 27:** As part of the SERIES on QUAKER PRACTICES and OUR MEETING at 9-10am on fourth Firstdays, Dwight Clark will share his experiences starting a volunteer program in Asia and working in Burma, and how he brings his Quaker values to increasing international exchange and assistance to Burmese people, living under a military dictatorship.

**May 22:** Susan Murphy: Clearness Committee Process: a review and demonstration of the structure and process.

Here are additional topics under development for this series. If you are interested in leading one of these sessions or joining a team to do so, please email Diane ([dianepasta@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dianepasta@sbcglobal.net)): Retirement Community options for PAFM Quakers (Hubert). Separation of church and state: How does this principle apply to our legislative advocacy? This will include information about Quaker lobbying (FCL-CA and FCNL) and a voice from some of us who have reservations about it. How can or should Meeting speak out publicly as a unit on political and social issues?

Structure of the two series: Many people, but not all, expressed a desire to have advanced reading, so most presenters will provide materials or recommended reading in advance. We will start promptly with worship, include a presentation of history and ideas related to the topic, and include discussion (in small groups depending on our numbers). We plan to close on time with worship.

\*\*\* **SPIRITUAL FORMATION GROUP** Wednesday Spiritual Formation Study Group. Meets alternate weeks (approximately) at the Meetinghouse in the library at 7:30 PM. We take seriously God's call in our lives, are open to Christian spiritual transformation, and desire to live out our Quaker values in our daily lives. We will explore Christian devotional works about spiritual experience, scripture, prayer, community, Quakerism, and/ or ministry. We hope to deepen our faith and support each others' journeys. Advanced reading is assumed. The format is worship sharing on the advanced reading and our daily struggles with living our Quaker spiritual values in our daily lives. 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 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 COMM-UNITY SERVICE – We help prepare the food and serve it to the

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Homeless at the First Methodist Church in Palo Alto as part of the Urban Ministry meal program. Scheduled dates for the balance of 2011 are: 3/21, 4/25, 5/30, none in June, 7/4, 8/8, 9/12, 10/17, 11/21, and 12/26. 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. Linea Stewart and the regular Thursday participants share the facilitation of the meditation group. For more information and a schedule of the practices, you may contact Trudy Reagan after meeting for worship on First days or by email, [trudymyrrh@earthlink.net](mailto:trudymyrrh@earthlink.net).contact.

\*\*\* COLLEGE PARK QUARTERLY MEETING: Winter Quarterly Meeting is coming up on January 15 at San Francisco Meetinghouse. Theme is "Speaking Truth with Love." The announcement along with other documents and forms can also be found on the quarterly meeting website: <http://collegetpark.quaker.org>.

\*\*\* 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 Oversight 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 group has been reactivated.** It is a group sponsored by Oversight and open to anyone in the position of 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. Contact Arden Pierce at 650-494-1631 or [ardenhiram@aol.com](mailto:ardenhiram@aol.com) or Mary Lou Moses at 650-424-4342 for info. All are welcome. Arden

\*\*\* MEMORIAL MEETING: We will gather for a Memorial Meeting for Tara NcHenry at 2 pm on Saturday, 5 March. Tara, also known as Sandra Cook, died on 15 January 2011. A Memorial Minute was approved in Meeting for Business on 13 February.

\*\*\* 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 Oversight committee. Be advised that the greeters you see each First Day are on the Oversight Committee. Please feel free to talk to a member of Oversight about such concerns...after meeting...or call or email them.

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

\*\*\* With rainy days upon us, please take into consideration your ability to move quickly relative to other members of the meeting when you are choosing a parking spot. Try to leave a few close spots for members who may not be able to dodge raindrops as well as yourself.

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## **NEWS OF PEOPLE AND EVENTS**

**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.

**WESTERN FRIEND DINNER PARTY:** March 31, 7:00 pm. There are seven places at our table for a fundraising dinner on Thursday March 31. A "Western" menu will be prepared. Plan to make a donation equivalent to a "Dinner Out." The amount is up to you. We're hoping to raise \$300 to \$600 to underwrite some costs Western Friend has incurred getting a revamped and more usable web site. Call for reservations: Tom & Sandy Farley 650-366-1818.

**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.

**SPRING RETREAT:** The Palo Alto Friends Meeting Spring Retreat will be on Saturday, March 26<sup>th</sup> at Hidden Villa in Los Altos from 8:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. We will be exploring how we publicly express our Quaker testimonies and beliefs - as individuals and as a Meeting. There will be many participatory and intergenerational activities in addition to worship and

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free time. Talley Kenyon is coordinating the day, let her know how you can help and what your interests are: 650-324-3280 or [talleykenyon@gmail.com](mailto:talleykenyon@gmail.com).

**AFSC NEWS: Disappeared in America aka 'Secure Communities'.** Have you heard of "Secure Communities"? This is a new effort by Homeland Security and ICE (immigration enforcement) to stop possibly undocumented people and detain and deport them. It is a national effort that looks a lot like the Arizona law legitimizing racial profiling and criminalizing undocumented immigrants. Our three Central Valley offices, Stockton, Fresno, and Farmersville, have been scrambling to the get information out to people who might be in danger of being stopped for having a broken headlight, or driving without a license.

These stops often end up sending people without proper documents to detention facilities run by private prison companies in other states. As many of these facilities are 'unmarked' it becomes extremely difficult for friends and family - even lawyers - to locate the detainees. This is would be challenging enough if the confinement were short-term, but our experience has been that people on "immigration holds," sometimes languish in detention facilities for years, or are deported to countries they hardly know.

Once this happens, it is very difficult advocate for different responses. Local jurisdictions, which would like to opt out of these enforcement policies, are finding it very difficult - even in sanctuary cities. Talk to your Congressional representatives about what really makes us "safe", and what makes us paranoid or suspicious of our neighbors. In such hard budget times, we should not be spending even more money on prisons and deportations.

**The Voice of Youth Or The Power of The Internet:** In a recent video contest "If I Had a Trillion Dollars" Bay Area youth, working with regional AFSC staff, created the video that gained joint 3rd prize.

It is well worth a visit to <<http://afsc.org/video/winners-2010-if-i-had-trillion-dollars-youth-video-contest>> to see this and the other winners. I found myself almost in tears as I watched their altruism and vision. Your AFSC Newshound - Ruth Fraser.

**SPIRITUAL CARE AT STANFORD HOSPITAL:** The Spiritual Care Service at Stanford Hospital and Clinics seeks volunteers to visit with patients and families. These Volunteers will be given eight training sessions - five classroom sessions and three mentoring sessions - each lasting two hours. Once the training is complete, the volunteers should be willing and able to commit two hours a week for at least a year. The next training starts March 7, 2011. Please call 650-723-5101 for an application packet.

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

**PEACE EVENTS IN MARCH:** From Multifaith Voices for Peace & Justice! Sign up for e-news announcements at: [www.multifaithpeace.org](http://www.multifaithpeace.org)

**The War Goes On :** Camilo Mejia - Iraq War Veteran and Resister - the first U.S. veteran of the Iraq war to publicly refuse further service. Sunday, March 20, 4 pm. First Methodist Church, Palo Alto. "I was afraid of waking up one morning to realize my humanity had abandoned me. ... By putting my weapon down, I chose to reassert myself as a human being." -- Camilo Mejia. Responding to Mejia's talk will be a panel including Karen Meredith - mother of 1st Lt. Ken Ballard who was killed while serving in Iraq, Paul George - director of the Peninsula Peace and Justice Center, and others.

Mark the 8th anniversary of the U.S. war in Iraq - a war that continues in its destructive violence on the ground, as well as in the physical, emotional, moral and spiritual suffering inflicted on the Iraqi people, U.S. military personnel, and families of fallen soldiers. According to Iraq Body Count, there were 4,036 Iraqi civilian deaths by violence in 2010. Also in 2010, sixty U.S. military were killed in Iraq. For the second year in a row, the U.S. military has lost more troops to suicide than it has to combat in Iraq and Afghanistan. Coalition deaths in Afghanistan for 2010 were 711. The war goes on...

**Nuclear War and Weapons Profit No One:** Frida Berrigan - Public Lecture Sunday, March 6, 2pm. Vallombrosa Center, 250 Oak Grove, Menlo Park; Peaceful Witness on Monday, March 7, 8am. Lockheed-Martin in Sunnyvale.

Berrigan, now with the War Resisters' League, was a Senior Program Associate of the Arms and Security Initiative at the New America Foundation. Previously she served for eight years as Deputy Director and Senior Research Associate at the Arms Trade Resource Center at the World Policy Institute at the New School in New York City. The lecture is in conjunction with a weekend retreat of the Pacific Life Community.

**The Soul Project: Moral Injury and Moral Resources:** noon -Friday- 5PM Saturday, March 18-19. Berkeley, CA. This conference, the first of its kind, will explore how religious communities can help veterans heal from moral injury and support their families. Keynote speaker, Rev. Kent Drescher, Ph.D., has 18 years of clinical experience in treating military veterans, and is co-author of "An Exploration of the Viability and Usefulness of the Construct of Moral Injury in War Veterans." A panel of veterans speaking will include Camilo Mejia and Tyler Boudreau. Religious leaders from diverse faith traditions will explore resources to assist in healing moral injury.

To register (\$50 for both days; \$20 for commissioners, veterans and their families) complete the form at <https://secure.groundspring.org/dn/index.php?aid=3791>.

Hosted by the Graduate Theological Union and First Congregational Church of Berkeley, the event is cosponsored by Multifaith Voices for Peace and Justice.

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**2011 SERVICE LEARNING TRIP TO EL SALVADOR:** Transform your life while helping and learning from others... We are excited to be planning our fourth Service Learning Trip to El Salvador and would like to invite you to join us this year. We offer a fabulous two-week package: the first week is designed to help you build basic conversational Spanish or improve your Spanish before heading out across El Salvador. In our second week we will go to Perquin to do service in the communities of El Gigante and Suenos. For the deepest spiritual experience and personal growth, we strongly encourage participants to register for both weeks. There is a discount for those who sign up for both weeks and make early payment. The June 2011 trip is open to youth aged 14 and up as well as to young-at-heart, active adults. Register now for this year's trip. Early discount applies until March 15. Please pass the word to interested teens and adults.

The trip dates are June 12-26. Fees, excluding airfare, are \$735 per week and include all meals, lodging, entrance fees, class fees, and in-country transportation. Participants who register for both weeks and submit complete payment by March 15, 2011, will pay only \$1400 plus airfare. Round trip airfare from San Francisco is an additional \$758.56. We will arrange group air transportation from San Francisco for participants who register for both weeks. We will be taking just 16 participants...so it's time to think about getting your registration in soon!

More information and registration packets can be found on our website: [www.pafmelsalvadorprojects.org/teentrips.htm](http://www.pafmelsalvadorprojects.org/teentrips.htm). You may also contact Barbara Babin, at [quakeryouthtrips@yahoo.com](mailto:quakeryouthtrips@yahoo.com) or by calling 650-454-0216 to receive information by email or regular mail.

**NEWS FROM SIERRA FRIENDS CENTER:** Woolman's spring semester currently has 13 students, one of whom is Ian Adair from Central Coast Meeting. Next year, the Woolman curriculum will include math and foreign language classes as electives in order to be better aligned with high school graduation requirements. The hope is that these changes will result in continued increases in enrollment. Thus far, this strategy seems to be working with a greater number of applications in at this time than ever before for next year.

This summer, Sierra Friends Camp is expanding with new camp for 15 and 16 year olds, the Woolman Teen Leadership Camp. A change in marketing for Sierra Friends Camp is showing signs of success with more camper applications than ever before at this point in the year. Please visit <http://camp.woolman.org/register> for more information.

We will soon be saying farewell to Kathy Runyan, who has been on staff for nearly eight years. Kathy's husband, Bob, also served on staff from 2005 to 2009. On March 12<sup>th</sup> at 4pm, a Meeting for Worship and dinner will be held at Sierra Friends Center to wish the Runyans well as they begin as the new Co-Directors of Quaker Center in mid-March.

**SOUTH BAY SANCTUARY COVENANT:** invites you to a lively, passionate presentation from our 19-member delegation to El Salvador, which includes 10 students from Stanford with a focus on Liberation and the Struggle for Human Rights.

Hear experiences of commemorations of Archbishop Oscar Romero on the 31st anniversary of his assassination, interviews with political, government and social leaders, environmental activists, and staying with families in our rural partner community. Sunday, May 22 at 4:00 PM. Program and Salvadoran Pupusa Dinner. First Presbyterian Church, 1140 Cowper Street, Palo Alto, CA .

**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.

**BOOKS FOR STANFORD STUDENT GROUP:** The group has 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.: [http://spreadsheets.google.com/pub?key=pEJ3Q-pGqqEnf\\_0LgUUVLGA](http://spreadsheets.google.com/pub?key=pEJ3Q-pGqqEnf_0LgUUVLGA)

Ralph Charles Kohn died peacefully on Wednesday, February 23, 2011 with his wife and family nearby. Ralph was born in Chicago, Illinois, on January 11, 1918. He lived in Menlo Park for 40 years and was the manager of Kepler's Book Store.

#### NEWS OF AN ABSENT FRIEND.

Olivia de Haulleville is living in a cabin in the desert at Yucca Valley, hauling in her own water, and finding it takes a lot of energy. Has had two hips replaced. She used to teach movement meditation in prisons, and now teaches it in the community. She appreciates how meeting paid for her gas to go to the prisons, and asks to be remembered to meeting.

# SPEAKING TRUTH

Spring Retreat Day – March 26, 2011  
Palo Alto Friends Meeting  
8:30 a.m – 5:30 p.m.  
Hidden Villa Ranch, Los Altos Hills

Speaking truth to the wider world as individuals and as a Meeting, is part of our Quaker heritage. How and when does our Meeting speak truth publically on matters of peace and social justice? How do I speak truth in my life away from Meeting?

The Dana Center at Hidden Villa is a beautiful, accessible setting. Members, attenders, explorers, teens and young adults will all find something to enrich their understanding of Quakerism. Specific programs for children will be planned for parts of the day.

Broad outline of the schedule: (subject to change)

8:30	Arrive: welcome with light breakfast, sign up to assist with nuts and bolts of the day
9:10	First gathering - unity, leadings, corporate witness
10:10	Break
10:30	Second gathering – a look back at Quaker witness and our personal approach to speaking truth
11:30	Free time – walk around Hidden Villa
12:00	Lunch – planned potluck
12:45	Intergenerational time - art project and time to move
2:00	Break
2:15	Third gathering – Write a Minute or How will we witness?
3:15	Sharing the work of our small groups
4:00	Closing worship
4:45	Closing activity
6:00	Pizza dinner off site for those who are interested, cost for this is separate and paid personally.

REGISTRATION: (Carol Chatfield 650 380 0524 [Carol.Chatfield@gmail.com](mailto:Carol.Chatfield@gmail.com))

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

\_\_\_\_\_

e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_ phone \_\_\_\_\_

dietary concerns or restrictions: \_\_\_\_\_

other special needs: \_\_\_\_\_

Cost includes facilities, meals and snacks: Adult \$ 30 Child \$20

Don't let cost keep you from coming. Pay what you can. If you can pay extra to help others, that is welcome. You can pay on March 26<sup>th</sup> if you let us know you are coming, so we can prepare the food.

If you would like to help with providing the pre-planned potluck lunch (costs will be reimbursed), please tell Talley Kenyon ([talleykenyon@gmail.com](mailto:talleykenyon@gmail.com)) or 650 324 3280.