

PALO ALTO FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

Eleventh Month, 2011

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Advices and Queries for Eleventh Month: PEACE

Friends oppose all war as inconsistent with God's will. As every person is a child of God, we recognize God's Light also in our adversaries. Violence and injustice deny this reality and violate the teachings of Jesus and other prophets.

Friends challenge their governments and take personal risks in the cause of peace. We urge one another to refuse to participate in war as soldiers, or as arms manufacturers. We seek ways to support those who refrain from paying taxes that support war. We work to end violence within our own borders, our homes, our streets, and our communities. We support international order, justice, and understanding.

Become an instrument of peace. At every opportunity, be peacemakers in your homes, workplaces and communities. Steep yourself in the power of the universal Spirit. Examine your actions for the seeds of violence, degradation and destructiveness. Overcome the emotions that lie at the root of violence and nurture instead a spirit of reconciliation and love. Come to know the oneness of all creation and oppose the destruction of the natural world.

- *Do I live in the virtue of that life and power that takes away the occasion of all wars?*
- *How do I nourish peace within myself as I work for peace in the world?*
- *Do I confront violence wherever it occurs, even when my personal relationships are involved?*
- *Where there is distrust, injustice, or hatred, how am I an instrument of reconciliation and love?*
- *What are we doing to remove the causes of war and destruction of the planet, and to bring about lasting peace?*
- *Do we reach out to all parties in a conflict with courage and love?*

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

9:00 to 10:00 am Adult Education, New Meeting House (NMH), 1st & 3rd First Days & on 4th & 5th First Days by arrangement.
10:00 to 10:25 Hymn Singing at NMH.
10:30 to 11:30 Meeting for Worship at New Meeting House.
10:30 to 11:15 First Day School for children in Old Meeting House (OMH – n.b., also now known as the "School House").
11:15 to 11:30 Children join adults for Meeting for Worship in NMH
11:30 to 11:45 Introductions and announcements

MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS is held on the second First Day of the month, following light refreshments after Meeting for Worship. The next Business Meeting is on November 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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OCT

- 23 Sun 10:30 - 11:30 am Meeting for Worship – NMH.**
- 23 Sun noon Fourth First Day Provided Lunch – (see note below).
- 26 Weds 6:00 pm Midweek Meeting for Worship – NMH.**
- 27 Thurs 7:15 am Mindfulness Meditation – NMH (see note below).
- 28 Fri 12:15 pm Quakers at Stanford lunch discussion/sharing. – (see note below).
- 30 Sun 10:30 - 11:30 am Meeting for Worship – NMH.**

NOV

- 2 Weds 6:00 pm Midweek Meeting for Worship – NMH.**
3 Thurs 7:15 am Mindfulness Meditation – NMH (see note below).
4 Fri 12:15 pm Quakers at Stanford lunch discussion/sharing. – (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.
10 Thurs 7:15 am Mindfulness Meditation – NMH (see note below).
11 Fri 12:15 pm Quakers at Stanford lunch discussion/sharing. – (see note below).
13 Sun 10:30 - 11:30 am Meeting for Worship – NMH.
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).
18 Fri 12:15 pm Quakers at Stanford lunch discussion/sharing. – (see note below).
20 Sun 12:15 pm Adult Ed. – Report from Friends House Moscow – NMH (see note below).
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 [Deadline for submittal of Newsletter articles - if email send to moriii@yahoo.com.]
23 Weds 6:00 pm Midweek Meeting for Worship – NMH.
24 Thurs 7:15 am Mindfulness Meditation – NMH (see note below).
27 Sun 9:00 am Adult Ed. – Study Series “Salt and Light” – 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.
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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>.

Discussion Series: Quakers at Stanford lunch discussion/sharing. Oct. 28, Nov. 4, 11, and 18 and December 2. 12:15 at the picnic tables outside Tressider near the Treehouse. Open to all Friends and interested inquirers.

*** 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 Francis Howgill's 1658 work "Some of the Mysteries of God's Kingdom Declared". No preparation is necessary. All are welcome. Contact Henry Jason.

Adult Education has two other series right now. The series on **The Habit of Prayer and Reflection** continues after worship on Third Firstdays. The series on **Quaker Practices and our Meeting** is on Fourth Firstdays at 9 a.m. If you have ideas or questions on the Reflection series, talk to Claire Arnold; for the Practices series, talk to Diane Pasta.

9am study series on fourth Firstdays – “Salt and Light..” starting October 23 at 9 a.m. and continuing November 27, 9 a.m. *“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.” By the end of September the online version will be available at <http://www.saltandlight2012.org/materials.html>. Hard copies will be available, too. Readings are encouraged but not required for attendance.

The theme draws inspiration from several Bible passages, including Matthew 5:13 (“You are the salt of the earth...”), Matthew 5:14-16 (“You are the light of the world...”), Matthew 6:33 (“Seek ye first the Kingdom of God...”), Matthew 6:9-13 (the Lord's Prayer), Micah 4:4 (“They shall sit under their own vines and fig trees and no one shall make them afraid.”), and Micah 6:8 (“... And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”). The theme is supplemented by a passage from Luke, 17:20-21. “The Kingdom of God is not coming with things that can be observed ... the Kingdom of God is among you.”

*** 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 \$40 in contributions for EHP in August.

*** 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 the balance of 2011 are: 11/21 and 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 is changing its meeting time from fourth Tuesdays to fourth Thursdays, starting in July. The group meets in the Schoolhouse. Contact Arden Pierce at 650-494-1631 or ardenhiram@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.

*** 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).

NEWS OF PEOPLE AND EVENTS

WORSHIP AND MINISTRY MEETING ON ANNOUNCEMENTS: The Worship and Ministry committee meets from 7:00 to 9:00pm on the first Friday of each month. On Friday, November 4, our primary discussion topic will be the nature and length of announcements following Meeting for Worship. If you have thoughts you would like us to consider in our discussion, please feel free to join us at the beginning of the meeting or send a note to any of the members of Worship and Ministry.

NOVEMBER NEWS FROM BEN LOMOND QUAKER CENTER: We have had a busy fall with two wonderful programs that filled our weekends with fellowship and understanding. Both workshops left participants feeling rejuvenated and inspired. We have another delightful program coming up with John Calvi, *The Goodness Workshop*, Nov. 4-6th. We'll review our lives engaging in hope, and wonder, seeking where trust lives in relationship as we map the crossroads of our spiritual paths. **We are offering a \$100 "bring a friend" discount for those who register together between now and November 1st.**

Our plans for the Music and Dance Retreat are coming together nicely. We have a professional caller for the dance on Saturday night and numerous opportunities for singing, playing and dancing together throughout the weekend. We have all of Quaker Center set aside for this less formal and inexpensive retreat so be sure to join us Dec. 2nd - 4th!

Finally, we are making plans for the Year End Retreat from December 29th - January 1st. We will focus on the themes of letting go, transformation, forgiveness, renewal, taking hold and looking ahead as Friends. We will seek peace with the spiritual work of living as people of God in a broken world. Join co-leaders: Bob Runyan, Janet Leslie, Jim Anderson, and Kathy Runyan to welcome 2012 with this time together. **Register online at www.quakercenter.org or call Kathy or Bob Runyan at 831-336-8333.**

AFSC NEWS: [Prison Hunger Strike revived](#) I reported some time ago on the prison hunger strike, protesting draconian conditions for solitary confinement and other problems. It was ended after commitments to reform were given. Unfortunately, despite those promises, many of the more serious problems have not been addressed so prisoners are once again refusing food. Thus far it has involved thousands of prisoners in at least 8 prisons and has lasted 17+ days. AFSC is again involved in the mediation and, thus far, attempts to have conversation with our State governor have proved fruitless. I will keep you posted on progress.

Dreams do come true – sometimes! Many Friends have given great support to the passing of the “California Dream Act”, which enables young, undocumented students to seek funding for higher education. It is such a delight to know the Act is now law. Thank you Governor Brown and all those who lobbied so hard to see it pass!

AB353 – Drivers not carrying a license. Central Valley staff – Luis in Stockton and Miguel in Farmersville – are very happy right now. AB353 has passed. This means that someone stopped by the police and found not to be carrying a license can be cited and suffer the consequences of not having a license, but their car cannot be impounded, nor can they be taken into custody. This makes a tremendous difference to immigrant farm workers who now need not fear a trip to jail or deportation, nor the huge, and often un-affordable, cost of recovering their impounded car with consequent loss of work opportunity. Luis had led many groups to Sacramento in support of the Bill.

News of the Mural. The wonderful mural on the Meeting House north wall continues to be a focus of conversation and interest. It truly has become an instrument of outreach to the community as well as a thing of beauty. San Francisco Meeting has decided to complete the project by sealing it to protect it from the elements and possible vandalism as the original grant money was only enough to complete the mural itself and not to protect it. The cost to seal it properly is \$1500. If you, as a meeting, or an individual, feel moved to help cover the cost it would be greatly appreciated. A check to SFMM with ‘Mural’ on the subject like would work.



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: Quaker Center's website has a new look and feel. We now have online registration and a new blog! Please visit www.quakercenter.org to get all the information you need and register online for all our upcoming programs. We are looking forward to John Calvi's, The Goodness Workshop from November 4th-6th, and to our two December programs, the Music and Dance Weekend from December 2nd-4th. We'll wrap up 2011 with our Year-end Retreat, from December 29- January 1, co-led by the Runyans, Janet Leslie and Jim Anderson.

We recently enjoyed the youthful energy from a brief visit with the Woolman Semester students who stayed here during their food intensive. We are grateful to San Jose Friends who expressed their enthusiasm for supporting youth by offering two scholarships for young people to attend a Quaker Center workshop. Please remember that Quaker Center will not turn away anyone who cannot pay even the most subsidized rate on our sliding scale, so please don't let cost be an obstacle if you want to attend a program. And we hope that all monthly meetings will support members and attenders, young and old, partnering with Quaker Center in our efforts to nurture the spiritual lives of all regardless of their financial means. We're hoping to see lots of Friends at these workshops. To that end, we are offering a \$100 bring a Friend

discount if you bring a newcomer to a Quaker Center program. See you soon! Kathy Runyan. Co-Director, Ben Lomond Quaker Center. www.quakercenter.org

SOUTH BAY SANCTUARY COVENANT: Sunday, October 23 at 4:00 PM: 28th Anniversary Celebration: with Voices on the Border Staff. First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall 301 North California Avenue (at Bryant), Palo Alto. Suggested donation: \$20/adult and \$5-\$15/student for program including dinner (No one turned away for lack of funds) Delicious Salvadoran pupusa and enchilada dinner. Fund-raising benefit for grassroots empowerment in El Salvador. Tax-deductible gifts may be made to **U. Lutheran Church/ SBSC** and mailed to: SBSC, c/o St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, 3290 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto, CA 94306. Salvadoran crafts for sale. Please call 650-494-8340 or email steering@southbaysanctuary.org to rsvp.

El Salvador - National emergency flood disaster. Pray with faith for emergency relief, emotional healing, & rebuilding! or photos, a video of rescues and reports from Voices on the Border see www.voiceselsalvador.wordpress.com. Also, consider making a donation. Gifts will be doubled...

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.

Reflections on the El Salvador Service Learning Trip – by Rose Hinson

El Salvador was an amazing experience. I have no idea how to sum it all up. Since I've gotten back, a lot of people have asked me, "how was your trip?" It seems like a simple enough question, but beyond saying that it was amazing, I'm at a loss for how to explain the trip. Each day was an adventure, and I was constantly experiencing things that were completely new to me.

One of the things that struck me when we visited the rural communities was that they really were communities. Everyone was so open can friendly and curious. On our first night in El Barrio, we were warmly welcomed by the local youth group. While doing introductions and learning about local youth leaders, I ended sitting with a group of girls from El Barrio, none of whom spoke English. As I sat there (feeling slightly out of place) the girl on my left introduced herself as Sandra. Despite my extremely limited Spanish, we spent the rest of the night getting to know each other. We easily found common ground and were so immersed in our conversation that we had to be "shushed" because we were talking during someone else's introduction. I think that's the first full-length conversation I've had in Spanish outside of school. I'm really proud that we were able to talk and connect despite the language barrier. Later on that night we played icebreaker games, ate dinner, and ended the night with an impromptu dance party. That night was probably one of my favorite memories of the trip.

Not only did I make new friends within the communities, I had an amazing time getting to know others on the trip. By the end of the trip we had formed an extremely tight knit community. We bonded over our struggles with Spanish and are shared awe of El Salvador as a whole.

My Spanish improved a lot over the two weeks. I became more confident in my speaking abilities, and less embarrassed about starting a conversation even though I knew I would mess up. I definitely got a lot better at understanding Spanish. We were immersed in Spanish, and I eventually adjusted to how rapidly everyone spoke. I still

struggle with the language, but since the trip I've noticed that my ability to comprehend what someone is saying has hugely improved.

The trip opened my eyes to a lot of things. Its one think to hear about poverty, but seeing and experiencing it first hand is a whole new experience. It helped my to grasp just how lucky I am. I've become a lot more grateful for what I have, and I'd like to think I take fewer things for granted now. One thing I finally grasped is just how lucky I am to have such a good shot of going to college. It's shocking how different things are in El Salvador. It was crushing to talk to people like my teacher from the language school we attended, who wished they could go to college in the United States but didn't have the resources. Growing up in Palo Alto, I've been extremely sheltered from that sort of thing, because I've been raised to assume that I'm going to college.

One thing that I've told people when they ask about my trip is that I definitely want to go back. I don't know whether a return trip is in my near future, but I know that I want to return at some point in my life. I hope I'll have the opportunity to visit for an extended amount of time, and really get to know people one on one. This trip was one of those experiences that stays with you, and I hope I can do something like it again in the future.

Ninth Month 11th Day 2011
Minutes for Meeting for Worship for Business
Tenth Month 9th Day 2011

Present: 27 people

See attachment 10-A for a list of attendees.

At 12:30 p.m., those gathered settled into worship. Eric Sabelman, co-clerk and today's presiding clerk, read the Advices and Queries on Personal Relationships from Faith and Practice of Pacific Yearly Meeting.

One friend expressed a concern that we have never been able to grow the children's program, that we rely on one or two families to sustain the program, and that frequently families that appear do not remain. Her hope is for her children to feel connected to a variety of adults so they might hear, learn and share experiences with them.

Another friend shared how she had recently read a reference to Jesus' prescription not to favor those in your own family over others who also need you. How can I follow this direction this yet live within the human constraints of time, energy and emotional resources?

One friend shared how painful it was to hear the adult children of a dear friend say how they had missed having him in their lives as they were growing up because of the time and energy he gave to work outside the family. How to balance the time with those who are dependent on us and the work and needs of people outside our family is a challenge.

The agenda was reviewed and accepted.

The revised minutes for ninth month were approved with one additional correction.

Clerk's Report –

Eric shared correspondence that had come in. The meetinghouse will serve as an election polling station on November 8, 2011. There was an invitation to join the clergy network at Stanford Hospital and another to apply for a grant regarding Christian Mysticism.

There was a called Meeting for Worship on Saturday, October 8, 2011 at Palo Alto City Hall Plaza with 18 people in attendance. Gratitude was expressed for those who helped to make the public exhibit possible. The board of Western Friend will meet here January 20-22, 2012 and hospitality will be needed for several people who are coming from a distance.

Eric reported that a working group is being formed to carry forward the work from the threshing session on our outreach budget to Quaker organizations. George Mills asked for anyone interested to let him know.

Eric reported for Care and Concerns Committee that some of the annual letters to all members and attenders were delayed but had now been sent.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance - Stratton Jaquette, clerk, reported most of 2012 budget proposal has been sorted out. If any committee has not yet replied and has information they feel the finance committee needs, now is the time to be in touch with them.

The committee has concluded that doubling our contributions to \$10,000 for a one-time event would not put the meeting in immediate financial risk, but to do so on a continuing basis would be financially difficult. There was an increase in the total budget amount in 2011 and the committee expects an additional increase for the proposed 2012 budget.

Worship and Ministry - Carol Chatfield, clerk, announced that at their next meeting the committee will be considering the format of announcements. She said the committee would like to hear from anyone on

this topic – whether they hold a concern or are comfortable with the present format. Friends were invited to attend the next committee meeting on November 4th at 7 p.m. Friends may also be in touch with any committee member prior to that date.

Adult Education - Claire Arnold, clerk reported. She read the rewritten purpose of the committee and then discussed the current schedule and upcoming topics. Programs are listed in the newsletter.

The committee asked Friends to consider a proposed change in the current schedule. To increase participation and allow more time for discussion the committee proposes that adult education programs be offered on the First and Third Sundays after Meeting for Worship in the main meeting room. This would mean two changes. On Fourth Sundays, reading and discussion at 9 a.m. would continue. Adult education programs would not be offered after the provided lunch on Fourth Sundays. Additional programs would move to after meeting for worship on the first and third Sundays. This change would not begin until December 2011 at the earliest. Claire reported she has sent this schedule change request to the clerk of Peace and Social Action Committee as it has been meeting after worship on First Sunday and the committee awaits their reply.

See attachment 10-B for the current description of the purpose of the committee.

Nominating – Eric reported for the committee. Two names were brought for a second reading.

MINUTE 2011-10.1 – The Meeting approved David Arnott to serve on First Day School Committee and Nicole Vicinonza to serve on Hospitality Committee.

A Friend requested that Nominating Committee look for a co-clerk for Peace and Social Action Committee due to the clerk's relocation to New York City. Bart Burstein, member of the committee and Eric both said they would see that the committee heard this request.

Committee to Name the Nominating Committee – Eric reported. One name was returned for a second reading.

Minute 2011-10.2 – The Meeting approved Robin Severns to serve as clerk of nominating committee for 2011-2012.

Treasurer - Forest Preston, treasurer, provided an income and expense report to date for the 2011 calendar year.

A friend asked why the budget for 2011 was substantially increased from 2010. Forest explained there were two reasons. First, money was put back in to the capital improvements fund and because we did not pay for subscriptions to for Western Friend in 2010, payments for 2010 and 2011 will both be made in 2011.

See attachment 10-C for the report.

Forest reported he has learned that Gwynedd Monthly Meeting in Pennsylvania is accepting funds for Mito Monthly Meeting and he sent our \$1,000 contribution to them with a note that it is for Mito Monthly Meeting. He said they gratefully acknowledged our donation as did Friends from Mito Meeting who sent pictures in their email that show the property which is now barren.

Building and Grounds – Lynn Mitchell, co-clerk reported. She described the responsibilities of the committee and the current projects.

See attachment 10-D for the report.

Lynn reported that the Meeting House door was found opened on a Wednesday night and she asked anyone in touch with other users of the building ask them to be careful about locking up and to tell them that the door must be pushed so that it completely closes. Anyone with questions/ideas about lobby display space could talk with either co-clerk.

At the November committee meeting the committee will be doing a complete design sharing and review on how to cover the uncovered pad area behind the meetinghouse. The original design required a city permit. If you have ideas, please share them with the committee before or on November 4th at 9 a.m.

Lynn said the biggest challenge to the committee is having enough people attend workdays. One friend suggested the committee consider scheduling these dates well in advance so they can be scheduled into people's plans. Another friend raised the topic of corporate resolve and responsibility and what that

means in terms of attendance at workdays – “Have I done two work days this year?” Perhaps the Meeting wants to minute the intention that everyone will participate in a minimum number of days each year.

Another friend suggested that others in the community are supported when hired to assist with some of the work. We were reminded that the nursery school has regular workdays and there have been times when we have together. It was suggested that advance planning could avert some “emergencies”. For example, have elm trees pruned in August to avoid falling branches in September and have the sewer attended to prior Hotel de Zink.

Another friend suggested prominently posting the names and phone numbers of those on the committee who live close by so that if an emergency arises other groups know whom to contact. One of the meeting co-clerks reminded us that both of them could also be called.

A friend asked why the office is being locked. A committee member said that sometimes it is the cleaners who feel they need to lock it and also that the key does not unlock the door, so the button must be worked if the door is opened with a key. A suggestion was made that a note be put on both sides of the office door that it is to be left unlocked, except during December.

Concerns

Arden Pierce, a former clerk, asked that any mail addressed to her be opened. She also reported that the Santa Clara County Council of Churches has dissolved.

She also announced that the caregivers support group would meet on the 4th Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the library in October and December but on the 5th Tuesday in November due to the date of Thanksgiving.

The meeting returned to silence and Eric invited those with concerns to share them.

One friend shared a concern that we not lose sight of conditions in the Middle East and appreciation for Eric’s work in bringing the Windows and Mirrors exhibit to our Meeting and the community at large. He hopes he will do more in the future in regard to this topic and expressed a sense that as a meeting we have a responsibility to keep a focus on that area.

A friend said there are ongoing discussions on the committee level of both Quarterly and Yearly Meeting about organization, functions, rising costs, decreasing attendance, etc. While we have a representative to each, unless there an action is taken that person does not have much to report and the friend does not see any place in our committee structure to have an ongoing interaction with these entities. He suggested the meeting might be interested in inviting members of Pacific Yearly Meeting Yearly meeting ministry and oversight committee to visit and share what is happening.

Another friend expressed a concern about the usefulness of what the meeting has on its website, especially the clerks’ resource page - in particular the gathering and maintaining a repository of approved minutes and other information. If no one is using it, shall we maintain it? It would be helpful to have clerks “wander around” the site and comment on what is useful and what is not useful.

Meeting closed at 2:10 p.m.