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**PALO ALTO FRIENDS NEWSLETTER**

Tenth Month, 2011

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**Queries for Tenth Month: Home and Personal Relationships**

The Meeting plays an important role in nurturing and supporting personal relationships, including families. In our homes, our lives as Friends speak immediately and lastingly.

Every member of the Meeting is responsible in some measure for the care of the children. When this spirit of common concern is present, our children gain a sense of belonging and commitment to the larger community and to their heritage.

Our first concern for our children and our households is to live in the awareness that we are all children of God. Trust and love and a constant search for truth strengthen the light that leads us to the love of God. Parents should provide for the healthy development of their children's minds, bodies, and spirits. The time and attentive energy needed for this central task should be shielded from less important activities.

Human sexuality is a divine gift, forming part of the complex union of body, mind and spirit that is our humanity. In a loving relationship, sexuality brings delight, fulfillment and celebration.

Sexual conduct can be exploitative or violent. Sexual contact between an adult and a child is exploitative of the child. Meetings should prepare themselves to deal sensitively, promptly, and effectively with incidents of physical or sexual abuse in the Meeting community.

- Do I make my home a place of friendliness, joy, and peace, where residents and visitors feel God's presence?
- Are my sexual practices consistent with my spiritual beliefs and free of manipulation and exploitation?
- *Do we open our thoughts, beliefs, and deep understandings to our children and others who share our lives and our hospitality?*
- *Do we provide our children and young adults with a framework for active, ongoing participation in Meeting?*
- How are single people, members of non-traditional families, and sexual minorities welcomed and valued in our homes and in the life of the Meeting?

**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 October 9, 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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**SEP**

- 25 Sun 10:30 - 11:30 am Meeting for Worship – NMH.**
- 25 Sun noon Fourth First Day Provided Lunch – (see note below).
- 28 Weds 6:00 pm Midweek Meeting for Worship – NMH.**
- 29 Thurs 7:15 am Mindfulness Meditation – NMH (see note below).

**OCT**

- 2 Sun 9:00 am Adult Ed. – Reading & Discussion – NMH.
- 2 Sun 10:30 - 11:30 am **Meeting for Worship – NMH.**
- 2 Sun 7 - 8 pm **Called Meeting for Worship – NMH** (see note below)..
- 5 Weds 6:00 pm **Midweek Meeting for Worship – NMH.**
- 6 Thurs 7:15 am Mindfulness Meditation – NMH (see note below).
- 9 Sun 10:30 - 11:30 am **Meeting for Worship – NMH.**
- 9 Sun noon Light lunch provided prior to Meeting for Business - OMH.
- 9 Sun 12:15 pm **Meeting for Business – NMH (see note above).**
- 13 Weds 6:00 pm **Midweek Meeting for Worship – NMH.**
- 13 Thurs 7:15 am Mindfulness Meditation – NMH (see note below).
- 14-16 Fri-Sun Fall College Park Quarterly Meeting – Sierra Friends Center (see note below).
- 16 Sun 12:15 pm Adult Ed. – Report from Friends House Moscow – NMH (see note below).
- 16 Sun 10:30 - 11:30 am **Meeting for Worship – NMH.**
- 16 Sun 11:45 am Collection for Ecumenical Hunger by Community Service Committee – NMH (see note below).
- 16 Sun [Deadline for submittal of Newsletter articles - if email send to [moriii@yahoo.com](mailto:moriii@yahoo.com).]
- 19 Weds 6:00 pm **Midweek Meeting for Worship – NMH.**
- 20 Thurs 7:15 am Mindfulness Meditation – NMH (see note below).
- 23 Sun 9:00 am Adult Ed. – Study Series “Salt and Light” – NMH (see note below).
- 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).
- 30 Sun 10:30 - 11:30 am **Meeting for Worship – NMH.**

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## **CALENDAR EXPANSION – DETAILS**

\*\*\* CALLED MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH A CONCERN FOR THE WAR IN AFGHANISTAN AND ITS IMPACT ON THE LIVES OF THE AFGHAN PEOPLE: October 2 - From 7 to 8 pm in the new Meetinghouse. To focus our attention on this concern, a selection of the AFSC "Windows & Mirrors" artwork will be on view as we worship. The artwork, in the form of banners hung from the Meeting room rafters, will be available for viewing and discussion before the Meeting for Worship starting at 5 pm, and afterward until 9 pm. For more information, contact Eric Sabelman ([esabelman@aol.com](mailto:esabelman@aol.com); 322-2455) or Alan Kamas ([alan@kamas.com](mailto:alan@kamas.com)).

\*\*\* STANFORD QUAKER ACTIVITIES: Stanford students interested in on-campus Quaker activities should contact Daniel Steinbock <[daniel@steinbock.org](mailto:daniel@steinbock.org)>. Meetings are held in the CIRCLE sanctuary on the 3rd floor of Old Union. Contact Daniel for current schedule. The group has shelf space in the CIRCLE Library and we would love to add your favorite Quaker book to the shelf. Books we have already received: <http://bit.ly/qbooklist>

\*\*\* ADULT EDUCATION DISCUSSION: **Reading and Discussion** led by Henry Jason each 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday at 9 am – NMH. We are reading and discussing 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.

**Report from Friends House Moscow:** On October 16th, after Meeting from 12:15 p.m. on the Adult Education Committee has arranged for Bill Bauriedel to talk about his recent trip to Russia. Bill has just returned from the Friends House Moscow international board meeting in Moscow and will give us an update on the status of Moscow Monthly Meeting, Friends House Moscow and the various projects that are supported by funds from the US, UK, Germany and small amounts from other countries. The largest support has gone to the Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) and Bill will give us a status update on what is happening with that effort. Bill will have some items for sale to help support FHM. Come early and shop for Christmas gifts.

**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: 10/17, 11/21, and 12/26. Contact Marie Simirenko for more information - 650-961-1724. The next homeless meal participation is on Monday September 12. We need about 5 to 6 persons for the preparation from 3:00 to 5:00 pm, about the same number for serving from 5:00 to 6:00 pm and just a few for cleaning afterward from 6:00 to 7:00 pm. Please let Hubert know of your availability for any or all of these 3 shifts.

\*\*\* 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](mailto: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 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 is a group sponsored by Oversight 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 [ardenhram@aol.com](mailto:ardenhram@aol.com) or Mary Lou Moses at 650-424-4342 for info. All are welcome.

\*\*\* SUPPORT: If you have wondered what Friends do when we are in distress or need help, given that we do not have a minister - the answer is that we turn to members of the 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).

## **NEWS OF PEOPLE AND EVENTS**

**FALL COLLEGE PARK QUARTERLY MEETING:** October 14-16 at Sierra Friends Center in Nevada City. The theme will be "Our Short, Precious Lives." The invitation and registration forms are now available on the CPQM website, <http://collegetpark.quaker.org>. The deadline for registration is October 1.

**FEES ARE REDUCED FOR TEENS AND YOUNG FAMILIES. SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE. WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING MANY OF YOU THERE.** **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](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](http://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 attendees, 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](http://www.quakercenter.org)

**THE LATEST NEWS FROM WOOLMAN:** First Teen Leadership Camp a Success This past summer we piloted our new Woolman Teen Leadership Camp, and had an amazing time doing it. We had 14 phenomenal young people join us for two weeks of hiking, rafting, farming, biking, and gaining leadership skills. We're looking forward to expanding the program next summer and having even more adventures!

Food Intensive a Tasteful Adventure The students, four interns, and two teachers just returned from a fantastic week learning about the food system in California. From the genetic engineering seed lab at UC Davis to a tiny fledgling horse-powered farm, from a 300 acre "small" organic farm to an urban garden planted in raised beds on asphalt, from the first organic and only unionized strawberry farm in California to the research cattle feedlot at UC Davis, we had a whirlwind week. We even managed to hit up the Jelly Belly factory for brunch! One theme that kept resurfacing concerned the treatment of agricultural employees in an industry notorious for unjust labor practices. Some of the organizations we visited highlighted fair treatment of workers alongside ecological stewardship as fundamental factors in the production of sustainable food. Often our visits challenged our notions of terms like "sustainable," "for profit," and "organic;" leaving us with more questions than when we started. One definite highlight of the week was hearing Vandana Shiva speak about seed sovereignty at the first ever Heirloom Exposition. We will have plenty of fodder for lively discussion now that we are home at Woolman.

From the Woolman Blog... Woolman students, teachers, and interns have been prolifically writing and posting the the blog, on topics ranging from food preservation to citizenship. Click to read about:

- \* A perspective on September 11th
- \* The raw milk controversy
- \* A bountiful harvest "in the can"
- \* How (not) to be an engaged citizen
- \* And More...

Are you interested in getting a glimpse into the day-to-day happenings at The Woolman Semester? Are you considering attending, but want to get a clear visual of this wonderful world up in the Sierra Nevada Foothills? Check out our Facebook pages for almost daily updates on our classes, field trips, philosophical musings, and more! Feel free to interact with us on the blog and facebook! <http://www.facebook.com/woolmansemester>. 13075 Woolman Lane, Nevada City, CA 95959

**SOUTH BAY SANCTUARY COVENANT:** Saturday, October 22 3:00 – 5:15 PM: Orientation for our March 24 - April 1, 2012 EL SALVADOR DELEGATION. Now is the time to consider joining our South Bay Sanctuary Covenant Delegation to El Salvador because Voices on the Border staff Rosie Ramsey, who will lead our delegation, and Roddy Hughes, Ex. Dir., will meet with interested people. They will discuss what is happening in El Salvador and opportunities for our delegation. Arlene Schaupp, who will go to El Salvador for her 28<sup>th</sup> time, and Lindsay Sauln will coordinate the orientation. Please contact Arlene at 650-494-8340 or [Schaupp@aol.com](mailto:Schaupp@aol.com) for information and to RSVP.

Sunday, October 23 at 4:00 PM: 28<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:steering@southbaysanctuary.org) to rsvp

**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](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 [jlmcbriemail@yahoo.com](mailto:jlmcbriemail@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.

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## Minutes: Meeting for Worship for Business Ninth Month 11<sup>th</sup> Day 2011

Present: 34 people

Eric Sabelman, clerk, Talley Kenyon, recording clerk, George Mills, Stratton Jaquette, Diane Pasta, Sylvia Walker, Marie Simirenko, Claire Arnold, Peter Arnold, Paul Engstrom, Ray Rischpater, Meg Given, Diane Duerr-Levine, Katoko Sax, Paul Seaver, Robin Severns, Jennifer Summit, Linda Liingane, Dennis Walker, Dottie Vura-Weis, Brian Vura-Weis, Chula Morel-Seytoux, Bart Burstein, Jamie Newton, Forest Preston, Mary Klein, Mary Pat O'Connell, Diana Egly, George Heaton, Judith Bush, Diane Wepsic, Lois MacDonald, Tom Farley, Arden Pierce

At 12:30 p.m. Eric Sabelman co-clerk and presiding clerk today settled into worship as we gathered. He read the Advices and Queries from Pacific Yearly Meeting on Integrity and Personal Conduct. The following responses were heard.

- One member reflected on the word compromise, its many meanings and its role in the troubles facing our country today.
- Another was struck that while the advices discuss gambling, the queries do not mention it. He finds its addictive nature so destructive, yet it is publically promoted and so surrounds us, from raffles to lotteries, that it can be difficult to maintain integrity around it.

The agenda was reviewed and accepted.

**DISCUSSION OF CLERKING** Eric explained that due to scheduling difficulty we will not be holding a separate "committee clerks meeting" in the fall, but instead will devote the first part of today's meeting to discussion of clerks' roles and committee functions.

Talley Kenyon reported that as Associate Clerk in 2010-2011, she visited most committees. She observed many differences in the amount of silent worship before and during meetings, the sharing of the work of the committee, listening patterns, and decision making styles. She suggested that each committee be certain that at least one member is present at every Meeting for Business to maintain smooth communication, that an agenda be prepared and distributed at least 2 days before meeting, and that each committee begin the year by reviewing the charge and charter so that new and ongoing members are familiar with the responsibilities.

George Mills, co-clerk, passed out two handouts – one on the responsibilities of committee clerks and a second of suggestions of running committee meetings. George will see that these are posted to the clerks' resource page on the PAFM web site (clerks.pafm.org). Clerks can contact George for their username and password to access the site. He finds it important for all committees to meet so that all members know each other and to understand each person's commitment to the committee's work. He thanked all clerks for their service.

Eric Sabelman wanted each committee to understand the responsibilities the Meeting at large gives them and that it is important the clerk and the members listen and discern when they may act on their own and when they need to seek the advice or approval of Meeting for Business. If there are responsibilities that seem to be without a committee to oversee them or are becoming a burden, this may need to be addressed. Eric gave the example of the expectation that each committee provides a prepared lunch once year and finds additional help (if needed) as a responsibility that sometimes has proven challenging and committees have, at times, turned to Care and Concerns when difficulties arise. Various committee clerks then offered their thoughts.

IT said they are here to serve the community in using technology, primarily through the committees and they are happy to hear from people with questions.

IT reported that they do not meet in person for most of their activities. This led to a general discussion on the use of current electronic technology for doing committee work. We were reminded that not all friends have access or comfort with technology. A friend shared that he felt e-mail was best for procedural decisions but not for topics needing discernment.

El Salvador Projects reported using telephone and computer communication that allow distant committee members to participate in real time. In certain situations Care and Concerns has used technology when all members involved were comfortable doing so.

Hospitality still seeks members to be certain that snacks are available every week. The clerk works with any new members until they feel comfortable.

Hotel de Zink feels a concern each December of whether there will be enough volunteers to provide food for our guests. The committee may return and ask that Meeting allocate funds to reimburse volunteers who need financial assistance to cover the cost of providing a meal.

El Salvador Projects struggles with filling the clerk position as several members are distant from Palo Alto and knowledge or experience of work/life in other types of communities is a good background the work in El Salvador goes on smoothly.

**THRESHING SESSION REPORT** – This session on our outreach budget to Quaker organizations was held on September 4, 2011. George Mills and Eric Sabelman shared their reflections and a summary of ideas expressed. See attachments 9-A, 9-B.

George proposed a short term working committee to meet and bring a proposal to October Meeting for Business. A concern was raised that with Harvest Festival quickly approaching that the time line is too short. It was asked that individuals who are known to be concerned about this item be invited to participate if a working committee is formed. *No action taken.*

Suggestions were made regarding sharing the notes taken that day with those who were not present. The clerk and note takers will further discern what to do. One member reminded us that a threshing session is a community experience and that being present is as important as what is said. *No action taken.*

**RETREAT** – The report on the August retreat was deferred until October. Meg Given, retreat co-coordinator, presented possible dates in September and November 2012 for a fall weekend retreat at Quaker Center. A concern was raised that a November retreat may result in many fewer Friends attending than in August, when the Quaker Center retreat took place this year, but the available September dates are close to Harvest Festival 2011 - MINUTE 9.1 – The Meeting approved scheduling retreats on November 16-18, 2012 at Ben Lomond Quaker Center and April 14, 2012 at Hidden Villa in Los Altos.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE** – Mary Klein provided a handout that includes those nominations approved in July, 2011, those presented for a first reading in July and those presented for a first reading today. Presented for a first reading today were David Arnott to serve on First Day School Committee and Nicole Vicinanza to serve on Hospitality Committee. *These names will be brought back in October.*

2011-MINUTE 9.2. The Meeting approved the following group that was first presented in July.

Pacific Yearly Meeting Representative – Sandy Farley	Harvest Festival – Dennis Walker, Treasurer, Julie Anderson
Santa Clara County Council of Churches liaison – Meg Given	Hospitality – Bob Chatfield, (1/2) Talley Kenyon
Adult Education – Tom Farley	Hotel de Zink – Catherine Bock
Building and Grounds – Bob Chatfield, co-clerk, Kate McClellan	Unity with Nature – Catherine Bock
Care and Concerns – Ed Boling	Worship and Ministry – Hulda Muaka (2012), Eric Roberts (2014)

See attachment 9-C for the full roster.

**NAMING COMMITTEE** – Talley Kenyon reported for the committee. The names of Amy Fox and Bart Burstein to serve terms ending in 2013 were brought in July. 2011 Minute 9.3 The Meeting approved Amy Fox and Bart Burstein as members of Nominating Committee for 2011-2013.

Talley presented Robin Severns to serve as clerk of nominating committee for 2011-2012. *This is a first reading and will be brought back in October.*

**HARVEST FESTIVAL** – Robin Severns reported the committee has been challenged to find time to meet and to find coordinators. Arden Pierce has offered to serve as music coordinator. We still need a clean up coordinator.

Many new attenders and visitors have offered to help which is encouraging. One committee member felt a sense of complacency has been present on the committee and in Meeting this year and hopes we all remember that working together before is just as important as working together on the day of the festival.

A Friend shared that there have been years in the past when things did not go as smoothly as they have in the last few years, but we should be willing to forgive ourselves and work with the energy that is available.

See attachment 9-D for the full report.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE** – Stratton Jaquette, Clerk, reported that anyone with concerns about the budget be in touch with the committee very soon, as they expect to bring an initial budget for 2012 in the fall.

A request was brought to business meeting in July that \$1,000 from the Special Needs Fund be sent to Mito Meeting in Japan. Their building was devastated in the spring earthquake.

2011 - MINUTE 9.3 Meeting approved the expenditure of \$1,000 from the Special Needs fund to support Mito's Meeting reconstruction.

Katoko Sax feels a great concern about Mito Meeting and is interested in expanding fund raising beyond our Meeting. Carin Pacifico sent a written report from Peace and Social Action Committee, which George Mills read aloud. In short, the report reminds us the P&SA already asked Meeting to consider being the fiscal agent for funds raised for Mito Meeting. P&SA offers to oversee the funds. Carin and Donna Baranski-Walker have offered to serve as a support to Katoko in this endeavor. The written report is included as Attachment 9-E.

There was extended discussion of this proposal. It was learned that Mito Meeting has received substantial donations through Friends World Committee for Consultation and Gwynedd Meeting in Pennsylvania. It was noted that these other organizations may already have a fiscal relationship and that Mito Meeting may accept direct donations. Stratton reported that the finance committee is uncomfortable with accepting earmarked funds unless the Meeting as a whole has taken on the concern for which the funds are designated. He related this our testimony on integrity and recalled that in the past a Clerk of finance resigned because of concerns over funneling of money. Another friend asked if we are considering this is as a concern of the Meeting or as supporting in the concern of an individual in our community? Why this concern when there are several Quaker groups around the world in need of money to survive, not to rebuild? And if we do feel called as a Meeting to this work there is a need for more information.

It was decided that more information and discernment are needed on this topic.

**CONCERNS** The meeting returned to worship to allow Friends to raise general concerns.

- Human beings are very bad at assessing risk. As Friends we need to stop assessing risk and listen to leadings – an entirely different process. I want to hear a leading expressed as a leading, not as a risk assessment.
- Concern that our minutes state more clearly what we approve and that there is documentation and follow up on items left unresolved. Approvals by Meeting should be documented and easier to find. In particular the Friend has not been able to find when (or if) the Meeting ever approved appointing liaisons to be ad hoc members of specific committees as was recommended by Nominating Committee in the past year.

**WORSHIP AND MINISTRY** – Eric Sabelman gave a brief report that the committee approved a called Meeting for Worship on the evening of October 2, 2011 on the war in Afghanistan in support of the traveling exhibit “Windows and Mirrors” from American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) sponsored by Multifaith Voices for Peace and Justice.

Meeting rose at 2:45 p.m.

Eric Sabelman, Clerk

Talley Kenyon, Recording Clerk

**Friendly Eights: Fellowship with a Theme**  
October 2011 thru March 2012

Groups of six to nine people meet monthly for six months, rotating among each other's homes. Meetings combine potluck dinners (or other meal) with sharing/discussion around a general theme. Themes are not intended to completely dominate the meetings, as they would for a study series, but are a starting point of common interest. General fellowship is equally important. Commitment is for 6 months only, Oct through March (give or take). New groups with new themes will form after these ones end. The idea is that over the course of several series one will get better acquainted with a wide variety of people from Meeting. You may sign up for the same theme as in the previous round (if it's offered), but the other members of the group may change. Switching topics is encouraged. All dates are set in advance, so there is no hassle coordinating calendars for each successive meeting. Each group has a **convener** who coordinates scheduling, sends out reminders, coordinates food offerings to ensure variety, and helps resolve any difficulties the group may have. Each group should pick a **moderator** to help with the sharing portion of each gathering. The same person could moderate every time, or the role could rotate as the group sees fit. Groups set their own agenda. Some groups are more structured than others. Having queries to focus the discussion on specific subtopics of the theme is a good idea. The group as a whole might pick queries, or responsibility might rotate. Themes and signup coupon are below. **Sign up by October 2nd, 2011.**

For more info contact: Claire Arnold [clairea\\_2006@hotmail.com](mailto:clairea_2006@hotmail.com)

**Friendly Eights - Themes for 2011-12**

- Creative Arts** Making things together, knitters, beaders, and other hands-on crafts
- Games** Low-tech group entertainment around sociable board and card games
- Couples** Issues around being a couple (non-Quaker spouses are especially welcome)
- Parenting** Issues around bringing up of children, share strategies that work for you, good ideas that you follow.
- Good Causes** There are so many Good Causes to work for. How do we choose and how do we keep going?
- Philosophy Talk** Listen to and discuss radio programs by Stanford professors, from series broadcast on Public Radio. Each evening will consist of listening to a *Philosophy Talk* program downloaded from NPR followed by worship sharing & discussion focused on how the ideas presented relate to our own lives. Contact Bob Chatfield
- Book Share** Share what you've been reading and what it means to you (no advance reading except your own)
- Go** The Ancient Japanese Board game any level of experience welcome, introductory instruction will be available, bring your own set if you have one. Contact Peter Arnold
- Stress relief** Share your stress relieving strategy, what helps you unwind after a stressful day?
- Afternoon Tea**

----- cut here -----

**Friendly Eights Preference Signup, Oct 2011 - March 2012**

Sign up as individuals or couples (non-Quaker partners are very welcome) for your top three to five choices. We will form groups based on these preferences. The convener will then contact members to decide on schedule.

**Deadline- First Day October 2nd**

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

Email (or phone if no email): \_\_\_\_\_

Are you willing to be a convener (see role description, over)?  Yes  No

Theme Preferences (if two are equally preferred, list both in the same category):

- A (top priority) \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_
- B (next best) \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_
- C (OK). \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_
- D (willing to) \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_

Return this slip to Claire Arnold or to the box in the Meeting foyer. Email also works [clairea\\_2006@hotmail.com](mailto:clairea_2006@hotmail.com)