



Please think Green before printing this e-mail

PALO ALTO FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

Ninth Month, 2011

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Advices and Queries for Ninth Month: Integrity and Personal Conduct

... let your yea be yea, and your nay, nay. James 5:12, King James Version

Integrity has always been a goal of Friends. It is essential to trust, to all communication between people and between people and God. Integrity grounds our beliefs, thoughts, and actions in our spiritual center and makes us whole.

Friends believe that we are called to speak the truth. A single standard of truth requires us to conduct ourselves in ways that are honest, direct, and plain, and to make our choices, both large and small, in accord with the urgings of the Spirit. It follows that we object to taking an oath, which presupposes a variable standard of truth. Be true to your word.

From early days Friends have opposed gambling and practices based on chance. These activities profit from the inevitable loss of others, promote greed, and conflict with good stewardship. Public lotteries have not furthered their purported benefit to the public good. All addictions are of concern.

As the use of alcohol and tobacco all too often entail serious risks to self and others, Friends who serve alcohol at home should be diligent in offering alternatives. Alcohol should not be served at Meeting gatherings. Find recreation that brings you joy and energy. Be aware of how your choices affect yourself and others.

- How do I strive to maintain the integrity of my inner and outer lives?
- Do I act on my principles even when this entails difficult consequences?
- Am I honest and truthful in all that I say and do, even when a compromise might be easier or more popular?
- Am I reflective about the ways I gain my wealth and income and sensitive to their impacts on others?
- Is my life so filled with the Spirit that I am free from the misuse of alcohol and other drugs, and of excesses of any kind?
- Do we, in our Meeting, hold ourselves accountable to one another as do members of a healthy family?

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 September 11, 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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AUG

- 28 Sun 10:30 - 11:30 am Meeting for Worship – NMH.**
- 28 Sun noon Fourth First Day Provided Lunch – (see note below).
- 31 Weds 6:00 pm Midweek Meeting for Worship – NMH.**

SEP

- 1 Thurs 7:15 am Mindfulness Meditation – NMH (see note below).
- 4 Sun 9:00 am Adult Ed. – Reading & Discussion – NMH (September 4 session cancelled).
- 4 Sun 10:30 - 11:30 am Meeting for Worship – NMH.**

- 4 Sun 12:30 - 2:30 pm Threshing Session on Donations to Quaker Orgs. (see note below).
- 7 **Weds 6:00 pm Midweek Meeting for Worship – NMH.**
- 8 Thurs 7:15 am Mindfulness Meditation – NMH (see note below).
- 11 **Sun 10:30 - 11:30 am Meeting for Worship – NMH.**
- 14 **Weds 6:00 pm Midweek Meeting for Worship – NMH.**
- 15 Thurs 7:15 am Mindfulness Meditation – NMH (see note below).
- 18 Sun 9:00 am Adult Ed. – Reading & Discussion – NMH
- 18 **Sun 10:30 - 11:30 am Meeting for Worship – NMH.**
- 18 Sun 11:45 am Collection for Ecumenical Hunger by Community Service Committee – NMH (see note below).
- 18 Sun [*Deadline for submittal of Newsletter articles - if email send to moriii@yahoo.com.*]
- 21 **Weds 6:00 pm Midweek Meeting for Worship – NMH.**
- 22 Thurs 7:15 am Mindfulness Meditation – NMH (see note below).
- 24 Sat noon Harvest Festival – (see note below).
- 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.**
- 1 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 , 650-644-5130. The group has shelf space in the Religious Groups Library of Old Union at Stanford. We would love to add your favorite Quaker book to the shelf. Books we have already received: http://spreadsheets.google.com/pub?key=pEJ3Q-pGqgEnf_0LgUUUVLGA

*** 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.

*** 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 \$143 in contributions for EHP in July.

*** HOMELESS MEALS - OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMUNITY 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: 9/12, 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.contact.

*** 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 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.

*** DISCERNMENT ON DONATIONS TO QUAKER ORGANIZATIONS: There will be a "Threshing Session" on Sunday, Sept 4, from 12:30 to 2:30 to consider our stewardship of the Meeting's resources in relation to donations that Meeting makes to outside Quaker organizations. Peace & Social Action committee has proposed that we double the amount in our budget for this item, citing John Woolman's counsel that "to turn all the treasures we possess into the channel of universal love becomes the business of our lives." We have already spent considerable time as a Meeting discussing aspects of this proposal and in this Threshing Session will continue to seek clarity in discerning God's will and our way forward.

We'll begin with an overview of what a Threshing Session is and how it differs from other Quaker formats such as Meeting for Business or worship/sharing. We will then have some brief "informational" presentations to summarize issues raised in past discussions, refresh our understanding of the current structure of Meeting's funds and budgeting process, and hear some thoughts from Finance Committee about possible changes being considered for the future. This will build on a packet of background materials that will be available in advance by 3rd Sunday of August.

The bulk of our time together will be devoted to sharing and listening to one another. No decisions will be made at the meeting; rather it is a time for seeking to understand one another's views, values, anxieties and wishes. We hope to avoid being overly distracted by details of proposals so that we can more clearly discern the "real meat" of the issue. If we all go away with a better understanding and appreciation of views at odds with our own, the meeting will have served its purpose. Perhaps new ideas will emerge afterwards as we seek, in the Light, to reconcile what we have heard.

The session is being planned by a committee consisting of your two co-Clerks, Eric Sabelman and George Mills, plus Talley Kenyon, Diana Egly, Carin Pacifico and Nick Selby. Feel free to talk to any of us if you have questions or ideas about the session.

*** 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

2011 WESTERN FRIEND SUBSCRIPTION UPDATE: The Meeting provides an annual subscription to Western Friend for its members and regular attenders. Please indicate on the clipboard in the Meetinghouse or by email to esabelman@aol.com if you want to be added or removed from the list of subscribers, or if your address has changed. If you already receive Western Friend and want to remain a subscriber, you need do nothing.

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.

AFSC News: News from the Valley - The Fresno Office of the AFSC is beginning an ambitious new program for cultural organizers in the Central Valley. The goal is to focus their talents in the visual arts, music, dance, etc. on the issues of the day. Together with AFSC staff they will work on developing event production skills, publicity, media training, etc., so they may better use their talents to bring attention to the serious issues facing the immigrant communities in the Valley. Participants will be required to produce a display, event or performance at the end of the training.

The San Francisco Mural - This project is truly spirit led. A few weeks ago the team had almost given up on the idea. The muralist they had hired was just not working out, and sadly they'd made the decision to part company with him. Where on earth were they to find another muralist with only 4 days to go?!

Pablo Paredes, the Youth Program coordinator, was wandering around Berkeley Farmers' Market and did what all good youth organizers do. He started talking to a group of young people displaying their art. They spoke of the wonderful mural artist who worked with them and inspired much of their work. Pablo spoke of the San Francisco mural

and its probable postponement. "Give me this guy's information and maybe we can work together later." They did and Pablo walked on.

He'd nearly left the market when a man came up behind him. "Excuse me. Are you the guy who wants to do a mural in San Francisco? I'm Pancho Pescador, the muralist working with those young folk back there. Tell me about your mural idea."

Two hours of intense conversation and poring over the reams of paper the team had created in brainstorming for the mural led to Pancho saying. "I love the idea. Let me come up with a concept. I'll do it in 3 days. If you don't like it you don't have to pay me a dime!" He came up with the concept in 3 days, the team loved it and the mural started as planned!

Wonders did not cease there. As the mural takes shape the involvement of people just passing by has been amazing. A Swedish family staying at a nearby hotel thought it a wonderful way to spend a day of their vacation, being part of this creation. A man walking by saw the section depicting the desert strewn with crosses and, with tears in his eyes, introduced himself. "I'm an immigrant. I live in Arizona and know that scene well. My friend died in the desert and I have been there to decorate a cross for him." He stayed on to paint for the rest of the day and his story has been recorded to accompany the mural. Another man, working in the tall building across the empty lot, watched from his office window as the mural took shape and decided he must be part of this, took leave from work and painted for 8 hours.

It will be no surprise that Quakers are playing their part. Members of San Francisco, Sacramento and Palo Alto Meetings have all come to join the painting, often more than once. People passing in the street are constantly saying how wonderful it is to see a thing of beauty taking shape over a neglected, empty lot. The media are paying attention. Channel 7 TV interviewed one of the young women team members, who gave them a clear explanation of the mural and its purpose, all in one minute, without missing a brush stroke as she painted on! A Spanish Language TV channel has been by as well and had a similar experience. All this in little over a week and the mural's official unveiling is not until August 26th. Who knows what can happen between now and then! All who are able are invited to come.

THE PENINSULA PEACE AND JUSTICE CENTER: The Center's Calendar is at: [http://www. peaceandjustice.org](http://www.peaceandjustice.org)

HELP CENTRAL AMERICAN REFUGEES WHILE YOU HELP YOURSELF: Reliable, hard-working men and women need jobs while they rebuild their lives. SBSC 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 jlmcbriemail@yahoo.com 964-2869

Directory Changes (details to be posted in the office)

- Mary Klein new cell number
- Lynn Mitchell new address and cell number
- Ed and Janet Hale new email address
- Ed Boling new cell number
- Robin Severns new email address

ADMINISTRATION OF FUNDS MANAGED BY PALO ALTO FRIENDS MEETING

The following descriptions of four funds managed by the Palo Alto Friends Meeting were approved for annual publication in this newsletter at the Meeting for Business on June 9, 2002.

The Palo Alto Friends Meeting manages three funds for the benefit of members, attenders and their families and one fund to benefit special or emergency needs outside of the Meeting. Here are descriptions for of each of these funds:

Sharing Fund - This fund is administered by the Care and Concerns Committee. It is intended for personal emergency or hardship situations experienced by members or attenders. All discussions and decisions are confidential. The applicant should explain the need fully including the requested amount and present the request either in person or in writing at a regularly scheduled Oversight meeting. Money distributed from this fund is generally in the form of a loan which will be repaid as mutually agreed upon between Oversight and the applicant. In some cases a grant may be made with no expectation of repayment. We ask all recipients of money from the Sharing Fund to be mindful of the fact that money repaid to the fund can then be made available to others in need. Although there is no minimum or maximum limit on the amount of each request, the amount loaned or granted may not exceed the amount needed to cover the emergency or hardship situation. If necessary, due to the emergency nature of the request, a special called meeting of the Oversight committee can be convened. The amount of the loan or grant is determined by the Oversight committee balanced between each specific request, the overall needs of the larger Meeting community, and preserving part of the fund for future needs. It is not necessarily the case that the amount requested is the amount actually loaned or granted.

Education Fund - This fund is administered by the Care and Concerns Committee. It is intended for Quaker related educational needs and/or scholarship for members, attenders and family members. There is a \$500 per person per year maximum limit for this fund. The applicant should explain the need fully including the requested amount and present the request either in person or in writing at a regularly scheduled Oversight meeting. Decisions by the Oversight committee are confidential on requests from individuals. More weight will be given to requests that have either a direct or indirect benefit to the Meeting as a whole. The fund can be used either for receiving or giving Quaker related educational materials, classes, workshops or other experiences. Some good examples of how this fund might be used are fees for a conference or program at Ben Lomond Quaker Center, purchase of books for a summer study series sponsored by Worship and Ministry or fees for a workshop that has some relation to Quaker faith and practice, but not necessarily sponsored by a Quaker organization (e.g. nonviolence training by CCCO). It is generally intended that this fund be used by individuals that would have difficulty accomplishing the particular educational experience without this help. A good test might be to ask would I forego the experience if the money were not available or asked another way, is the lack of money an obstacle to my participation?

Fund for Concerns - This fund was established several years ago by combining several small bequests. This fund receives all new unrestricted memorial donations and is administered by the Oversight Committee. It is intended to help any member or attender to pay for expenses associated with service work in the community. The applicant should explain the need fully including the requested amount and present the request either in person or in writing at a regularly scheduled Oversight meeting. The applicant would have a clearness committee since the person performing the service often represents our Meeting in a public way and should be helped to be an ambassador of Quaker values in the larger community. Although the clearness process is confidential, money distributed from this fund is not necessarily confidential.

Special Needs Fund - This fund is to be used to help local, state, national or international organizations or individuals with work consistent with Quaker values where a contribution from our Meeting can make a difference. Any standing committee of the Meeting can request any amount up to and including the full amount remaining in the fund. The request is made at the Monthly Meeting for Business and is seasoned one month. It is not to be used for needs of our own Meeting as those needs should be within our budget.

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Harvest Festival Needs, Ideas, and Opportunities

<p>BRING US YOUR TREASURES!</p> <p>The Rummage/Treasure sale is the single biggest money-raiser in the Harvest Festival. We particularly encourage donations of fine glass and china, silver, jewelry, and children's items, such as toys, clothes, and Halloween costumes. We also like to receive extra housewares, sports equipment, and tools. We do not accept appliances, computers or anything else that plugs in. We also do not accept large items such as furniture unless you leave it with your name and phone number and are willing to pick it up and dispose of it, if it doesn't sell. And remember: we want top-quality! We operate entirely with volunteers and it takes just as long to price, store and sell a \$1 item as it does a \$25 item.</p> <p>BOOKS: Still big sellers! Bring books either here or to San Jose Meeting. Last day is September 4!</p> <p>HOW TO DONATE: Bring your items to Friends Meeting and leave them in the container. The container combination is written on the fence next to the dumpster. Or leave them around the side. Questions? Call Julie Anderson 650-493-5822 or email Julie at jrandel@cwo.com or email HarvestFestFriends@gmail.com</p> <p>BRING IT SOONER, NOT LATER! Donations begin August 20 and end September 17. Would you like to help price? We price every Seventh (Saturday) and First (Sunday) Days in the mornings. On Seventh Days, there will be pricing parties, with food, organized especially for those who are new to pricing.</p>	RUMMAGE/ TREASURES/ JEWELRY/ BOOKS
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<p>HAVE YOU BEEN ON VACATION?</p> <p>Do you have charming or interesting items from overseas that clearly reflect their national origin? Have you brought back souvenirs, stamps, vases, scarves or jewelry? If so, the International Table wants to hear from you. If there is anything particularly special about your item (made from the teeth of a blue Tongan sea turtle, for example), leave a note attached to it so we can tell the buyer. If it is a Treasure, note it as such, so it does not go with the trinkets.</p> <p>HOW TO DONATE: Give to Trudy Reagan or Hulda Muaka, 650-799-3565 or huldamuaka@hotmail.com or leave in the container with a clear label as to its identity and an idea of its value.</p>	INTERNATIONAL TABLE
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<p>FOR THOSE OF US WHO LIKE TO COOK, BAKE AND EAT!</p> <p>The Bake Sale does a rousing business every year. Do you have a favorite recipe? Bake up a batch and let Carol Chatfield know: 650-493-9032 or carol.chatfield@gmail.com. In the past, sweets have sold well, but the big sellers have been savory items, such as quiches and casseroles.</p> <p>HOW TO: Since our storage space is limited, plan to sign up on the Bake Sale list so we know it is coming and bring the goody the day before the Festival.</p>	BAKE SALE
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<p>WE ARE CREATIVE FOLK!</p> <p>If you have a hobby or a craft, we would love to sell your wares. In past years we have had candles, jewelry, soap, origami, and - of course - our famous jams and jellies.</p> <p>HOW TO HELP: Make something and leave it in the container with a clear label as to its identity. Questions can be called in to Megan Holt, 650-408-996-0614 or megansholt@sbcglobal.net.</p>	MADE BY THE MEETING
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