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PALO ALTO FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

Fourth Month, 2014

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Advices and Queries for Fourth Month: Stewardship and Vocation

John Woolman said, "As Christians all we possess are the gifts of God... To turn all the treasures we possess into the channel of Universal Love becomes the business of our lives." The principle of stewardship applies to all we have and are. As individuals, we are called to use our time, our various abilities, our strength, our money, and our material possessions with care, managing them wisely and sharing them generously.

From the indwelling Seed of God, we discover our particular gifts and discern the service to which we are called. In making choices about occupation or education, consider the way that offers the fullest opportunity to develop your individual abilities and contribute to the world community while providing for yourself and your family. In daily work, manifest a spirit of justice and understanding, and thus give a living witness to the truth.

Be ready to limit engagements, to withdraw for a time, or even to retire from an activity that inhibits your ability to follow a higher call. Try to discern the right moment to accept new responsibilities as well as to relinquish responsibility that can pass to others. Be open to your calling in different stages of life. Meetings need the strength and vigor of young people as well as the experience and wisdom of elders. Although they may not be able to contribute great financial support, their energy and insight invigorate the community. As people begin careers and families, they may need the spiritual and experienced help of the Meeting. Later, when families are growing up and careers are established, greater participation in the Meeting and greater financial support may become possible. Welcome the approach of old age, your own and others', as an opportunity for wisdom and greater attachment to the Light. Meetings should be ready with material and spiritual support for those suffering from unemployment or facing difficult vocational decisions.

How have I been faithful to the leadings of the Spirit in choosing work or vocation?

What am I doing with my talents, time, money, and possessions? Am I sharing them according to the Light I am given?

Is my conduct at the workplace consistent with my life as a Friend?

How does my daily work enhance my spiritual life?

How does the Meeting help and support members who are in job transitions?

† Some queries are intended for individuals.

Italicized queries are intended for the Meeting collectively.

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 will be on April 13, 2014.

- 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 Wednesday at 7:30 AM.

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CALENDAR

MAR (3RD MONTH)

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

APR (4TH MONTH)

- 2 Weds 7:30 am Mindfulness Meditation – NMH (see note below).
2 Weds 6:00 pm Midweek Meeting for Worship – NMH.
 4 Sun 9:00 am Adult Ed. – Reading & Discussion – NMH (see note below).
4 Sun 10:30 - 11:30 am Meeting for Worship – NMH.
 9 Weds 7:30 am Mindfulness Meditation – NMH (see note below).
9 Weds 6:00 pm Midweek Meeting for Worship – NMH.
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 7:30 am Mindfulness Meditation – NMH (see note below).
16 Weds 6:00 pm Midweek Meeting for Worship – NMH.
 17 Thurs 7:00 pm Care and Concerns Committee Meeting – Library (see note below).
 20 Sun 9:00 am Adult Ed. – Reading & Discussion – 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 7:30 am Mindfulness Meditation – NMH (see note below).
23 Weds 6:00 pm Midweek Meeting for Worship – NMH.
27 Sun 10:30 - 11:30 am Meeting for Worship – NMH.
 27 Sun noon Fourth First Day Provided Lunch – (see note below).
 30 Weds 7:30 am Mindfulness Meditation – NMH (see note below).
30 Weds 6:00 pm Midweek Meeting for Worship – NMH.

CALENDAR EXPANSION – DETAILS

*** 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 a 1648 book written by Robert Wilkinson entitled The Saint's Travel to the Land of Canaan: Wherein are Discovered Seventeen False Rests Short of the Spiritual Coming of Christ in the Saints: Together with a Brief Discovery of What the Spiritual Coming of Christ is, Who is the Alone Rest and Centre of Spirits. All are welcome No preparation is necessary. A pdf of the work is available; please inquire if interested in acquiring a copy. Contact Henry Jason.

Additional Adult Ed sessions:

*** 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. Meeting collected \$183 in contributions for EHP in January and \$449.95 in March, 2014.

*** VOLUNTEER MEAL PREPARATION FOR HOMELESS - OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE: We help prepare the food and serve it to the Homeless at the First Methodist Church in Palo Alto (corner of Hamilton & Webster) one Monday a month from 3:00 to 6:30 p.m. Please contact Marie Simirenko at (650) 961-1724 if you wish to volunteer. Thanks!

*** WEDNESDAY MORNING MINDFULNESS MEDITATION: (formerly on Thursday morning) - newcomers welcome. Doors open at 7:30 am with quiet music. At 7:30 am, we have a short Buddhist guidance, and a half-hour meditation. Afterwards, we discuss how the meditation was for us, finishing at 8:15 or 8:30. We are following the teachings of the Vietnamese Buddhist monk, Thich Nhat Hanh, similar to Quaker philosophy but with additional insights. We discuss meditation technique, which is also helpful to people on Sunday!

*** 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 & 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.

*** SUPPORT & CONCERNS: 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, by phone, or email. You may also join us to express concerns during the first segment of our usual meeting on the third Thursday of the month at 7 pm in the Meetinghouse Library. Please contact the clerk Bill Bauriedel (bill.bauriedel@stanfordalumni.org, 650-493-1364,) to confirm that there are no meeting changes and ensure time on the agenda.

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

*** 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

GRYPHONS WILD - OPEN REHEARSAL: Sunday, March 30 7:00 in Meetinghouse. Audience invited to open rehearsal. Early music ensemble Gryphons Wild <www.gryphonswild.com> will present an open rehearsal of their new program, "Stories in Song: Queens Captives and Country Bumpkins," which blends storytelling and music to present a Scottish tale about two plowboys who run into trouble on Halloween and a Sephardic (Judeo-Spanish) story from Medieval Spain about a queen and her captive. The performers all sing and play multiple instruments, including recorders, percussion, harp, guitar, accordion and sruti box. For information, contact Tom Farley <farley@spont.com>. The performance may be repeated in the Meetinghouse at a later date as a benefit for a Quaker cause."

LIVERMORE WORSHIP AND NONVIOLENT WITNESS: Good Friday, April 18. The San Francisco Friends Meeting Peace and Social Concerns Committee invites you to join us in worship and nonviolent witness at the Livermore Nuclear Weapons Labs Good Friday morning, April 18th at 7 am. The theme is "In the Name of God...Stop the Killing". Kathy Kelly will be preaching. Kathy who has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize, organized 70 delegations to Iraq bringing medicines in violation of sanctions. Kathy and Voices for Creative Nonviolence are now working with Afghan Peace Volunteers to end the tragic violence and war in Afghanistan.

The worship will take place at Vasco and Patterson Pass Roads in Livermore at 7 am followed by nonviolent witness at the gate. We hope you can join us. Please spread the word. If driving, take 580 east and get off at the Vasco Rd exit in Livermore, go right and drive to Paterson Pass Rd.

For carpooling in the east bay or for further information, contact 510 990 0374 or 510 654 4983. Contact David or Jan Hartsough at hartso@gmail.com or 415 751 5708 to carpool from San Francisco. For people who cannot make it to Livermore, Kathy will also be speaking at the Unitarian Universalists Fellowship at Cedar and Bonita in Berkeley Thursday evening April 17th at 7 pm.

To view this discussion on the web visit <https://groups.google.com/d/msgid/bayareaquakers/089e010d9278a95afc04f4df6d15%40google.com>.

APRIL 2014 NEWS FROM BEN LOMOND QUAKER CENTER: *Seed and Soil: Growing the Beloved Community*, begins **Sunday, April 13th – Friday, April 18th**. **Jim Anderson**, will return to co-facilitate another weeklong program with **Marilee Eusebio**, and **Diego Navarro**. Each day will be grounded in expectant worship, group study, worship sharing, and time to explore other daily spiritual practices. Evenings will hold both lively and meaningful group activities. We hope that this week of community life and personal reflection will be a time of spiritual refreshment and help us to return to our meetings and daily life as instruments of renewal— as both seed and soil. For more information call Kathy or Bob Runyan at 831-336-8333 and to register online see <http://www.quakercenter.org/seed-and-soil-growing-the-beloved-community/>.

Friends can get under the "feel good" level of "Quakerism" if they take a peek into the history, theology and psychology of our faith. There are some surprises to be found that could make Friends "radicals" in their meeting. Join us from **May 30th – June 1st for Quakers: Getting Beyond the What to the Why, with Robert Griswold**. What is present or absent in our meetings that keeps us from being a covenant community and engaging in the "lamb's war"? Be prepared to look at and question ideas and ideals you have absorbed, and to learn about the process by which beliefs are formed and how they are overcome. Find out more and register online at <http://www.quakercenter.org/getting-beyond-what-to-why/>

Quaker Center Summer Youth Camps will once again be directed by Stephen Myers, with help from Jim Summers and Mary Klein for Peace Action Camp. We are once again holding Quaker Camp and Service Camp simultaneously in our Redwood and Orchard Lodges to maximize resources. **For more information visit <http://www.quakercenter.org/summer-youth-camps/> or call Bob or Kathy Runyan at Quaker Center at 831-336-8333 with questions.**

AFSC APRIL BULLETIN: Confronting the Holocaust: American Responses: This year, we commemorate the anniversaries of two seminal events in Holocaust history: the refugee crisis in the spring of 1939 and the deportation of Hungarian Jews five years later. American responses to the persecution and murder of European Jews invite reflection

on the role of individuals, organizations, and governments in confronting hatred and mass atrocities, then as well as today.

Days of Remembrance : US Holocaust Center Film Showing followed by discussion. Tuesday April 29th at 7 pm. AFSC, San Francisco Friends Meetinghouse. 65 9th Street, San Francisco (between Mission and Market, two blocks from Civic Center BART/MUNI). Rsvp to SMcneil@afsc.org

Solitary Confinement and Faith Communities: Laura Magnani of AFSC will give a talk at the Unitarian Fellowship Hall, Cedar and Bonita Streets in Berkeley, on solitary confinement. The event is April 6, 2014, from 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. Following three hunger strikes by prisoners protesting their conditions of isolation many changes are being proposed. You can be part of the solutions, whether you choose to work at the legislative level, the arena of public opinion, or just helping to spread the word.

THE PEACE AND JUSTICE CALENDAR: A service of the Peace, Earthcare, and Social Witness Committee of Strawberry Creek Friends Meeting, this calendar is posted for easy reference: <http://groups.google.com/group/bayareaquakers>

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.

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.

FCL-CANewsletter: Available on-line at: <http://www.fclca.org/images/stories/pdfs/fallnewsletter2013.pdf>

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 CHANGE

The details are posted in the office.

Jerry McBride	new address
Chula & Hubert Morel-Seytoux	address in Santa Rosa

To the extent that the blessing of peace is achieved by humankind, it will not be achieved because people have outraced each other in the building of armaments, nor because we have outdebated each other with words, nor because we have outmaneuvered each other in political action, but because more and more people in a silent place in their hearts are turned to those eternal truths upon which all right living is based. It is on the inner drama of this search that the unfoldment of the outer drama of history ultimately depends.

