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PALO ALTO FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

Sixth Month, 2014

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Advices and Queries for Sixth Month: Social and Civic Responsibility

In the words of William Penn, "True godliness don't [*sic*] draw men out of the world, but enables them to live better in it and excites their endeavors to mend it." Elsewhere he commented: "It is a reproach to religion and government to suffer so much poverty and excess."

Poverty within a wealthy society is unjust, cruel, and often linked to skin color, gender, and language. We must examine our own privilege and role in the economic order that deepens this disparity. Friends should be alert to oppression and injustice, and persistent in working against them.

We value our part in shaping the laws of our country. Our task is to see that laws serve God's purposes and build a just social order. Our first allegiance should be to God, and if this conflicts with any compulsion of the state, we serve our country best by remaining true to our higher loyalty.

If, by divine leading, our attention is focused on a law that is contrary to God's law, we must proceed with care. Before acting, Friends should pray for further guidance and speak with the Meeting, family members, and all those who might be affected by the decision. If a decision involves disobedience to the law, we should make the grounds of our action clear to all concerned and be prepared to suffer any penalties without evasion. As a community, we must care for those who suffer for conscience's sake.

- What am I doing to carry my share of responsibility for the government of our community, nation, and world?
- Am I persistent in my efforts to promote constructive change?
- *How do we attend to the suffering of others in our local community, in our state and nation, and in the world community?*
- *Do we try to understand the causes of suffering, and do we address them as a Meeting?*
- *How do we, individually and as a Meeting, support the organizations that work to bring the testimonies of Friends into reality in our society?*

† 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 June 8, 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.

~~ In this Issue ~~

Advices and Queries for Sixth Month	1	Calendar Expansion — Details	2
Sunday Morning Schedule	1	News of People and Events	3
Calendar.....	1	Minutes of 5.11.14 Business Meeting.....	5

CALENDAR

MAY (5TH MONTH)

- 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.**

JUN (6TH MONTH)

- 1 Sun 9:00 am Adult Ed. – Reading & Discussion – NMH (see note below).
1 Sun 10:30 - 11:30 am **Meeting for Worship – NMH.**
4 Weds 7:30 am Mindfulness Meditation – NMH (see note below).
4 Weds 6:00 pm **Midweek Meeting for Worship – NMH.**
8 Sun 10:30 - 11:30 am **Meeting for Worship – NMH.**
8 Sun noon Light lunch provided prior to Meeting for Business - OMH.
8 Sun 12:15 pm Meeting for Business – NMH (see note above).
11 Weds 7:30 am Mindfulness Meditation – NMH (see note below).
11 Weds 6:00 pm **Midweek Meeting for Worship – NMH.**
12 Thurs 7:00 pm Care and Concerns Committee Meeting – Library (see note below).
15 Sun 9:00 am Adult Ed. – Reading & Discussion – NMH (see note below).
15 Sun 10:30 - 11:30 am **Meeting for Worship – NMH.**
15 Sun 11:45 am Collection for Ecumenical Hunger by Community Service Committee – NMH (see note below).
15 Sun 12:15 pm Adult Ed. – Discussion: “Emergence of the Quaker Movement...” – NMH (see note below).
15 Sun [*Deadline for submittal of Newsletter articles - if email send to moriii@yahoo.com.*]
18 Weds 7:30 am Mindfulness Meditation – NMH (see note below).
18 Weds 6:00 pm **Midweek Meeting for Worship – NMH.**
22 Sun 10:30 - 11:30 am **Meeting for Worship – NMH.**
22 Sun noon Fourth First Day Provided Lunch – (see note below).
15 Sun 7:00 pm Adult Ed. – Discussion: “Emergence of the Quaker Movement...” – NMH (see note below).
25 Weds 7:30 am Mindfulness Meditation – NMH (see note below).
25 Weds 6:00 pm **Midweek Meeting for Worship – NMH.**
29 Sun 9:00 am Adult Ed. – Reading & Discussion – NMH (No session today, June 29).
29 Sun 10:30 - 11:30 am **Meeting for Worship – NMH.**
29 Sun 7:00 pm Adult Ed. – Discussion: “Emergence of the Quaker Movement...” – NMH (see note below).

CALENDAR EXPANSION – DETAILS

*** ADULT EDUCATION DISCUSSION: **Reading and Discussion** led by Henry Jason each 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sunday at 9 am – NMH. Beginning June 1 we will be reading a 1794 work entitled “Some Account of the Convincement and Religious Progress of John Spalding, Late of Reading”. In this work Spalding describes his conversion from Anglicanism to Quakerism and his reasons for doing so. The work gives a good description of traditional, classical Quaker principles and beliefs. All are welcome. No preparation is necessary. Please inquire, if interested in acquiring a copy. Contact Henry Jason. **Additional Adult Ed sessions:** “The Explosive Emergence of the Quaker Movement in Revolutionary England, 1640-1660.” Reading and Discussion Series led by Paul Seaver. 3rd Sunday after Meeting, June 15, 12:25 - 2:00 PM. 3 more Sunday evenings : June 22, 29 and July 6, 7:00 - 8:30 PM.

*** 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.

*** 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. on 6/16, 7/21, 8/25, 9/29, 11/3, and 12/8/14. Please contact Catherine Bock at tinkibock@gmail.com 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.

*** 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

Buildings & Grounds: Workday Report 4/5/14

TASKS COMPLETED on 4/5/14:

Redwoods: low branches removed to lift canopy

Some sticks cleared, weeding

Bench: Boards replaced

Woodpile Area: Cleaned up and weeded

Wood pile: sorted and dispersed.

Fire wood delivered to EPA home that heats w. wood.

Good branches used to outline nature path.

Wheelbarrows, tools: moved to the recycle yard.

Old irrigation line: clipped, buried.

Fence: loose boards nailed in

Garbage can, compost stack: to new homes

Redbud Garden: weeded

New wildflower bed prepared

Privet removed (some)

Informal benches

Zen garden: Weeded, river rock returned to Zen garden

Palm fronds: removed to recycle yard

Parking lot circle: Weeded, cleaned up

Front of Meeting House: Weeded, cleaned up

Library garden: Weeded

FNS fence pressure sprayed

Paths pressure sprayed

Thanks to volunteers: Richard, Sylvia, Kate, Lynn, George H., Marie, Art, Talley, Eric S., Miriam, Tim, Jolion, Minna Grace, Bob C., Carol C., Diedre, Steve, Mary K.

JUNE 2014 NEWS FROM BEN LOMOND QUAKER CENTER: We still have space in our **Quaker Center Summer Youth Camps**, which will once again be directed by Stephen Myers, with help from Anna Lisa Chacon for Quaker and Service Camps and from Mary Klein and Jim Summers for Peace Action Camp. **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.**

▪ **June 22nd - 29th: Quaker Camp:** for rising 4th, 5th, or 6th graders to explore Quaker testimonies experientially. Activities include: community building games, swimming, hiking around Quaker Center, campfires, music, community service, and a field trip to the beach.

▪ **June 22nd - 29th: Service Camp:** for teens entering 7th, 8th, or 9th grade to serve others while building community. We will be of service in Santa Cruz County and go on hikes in the area. We'll also take field trips to a local Friend's pool and to the beach.

▪ **July 27th - Aug. 2nd: Peace Action Camp:** in Carson City, Nevada at the McCleary Ranch for rising 10th - 12th grade teens to explore Gandhian constructive program, and sustainable, low-impact living as they relate to Friends' testimonies around peace, justice and environmental stewardship with inward and outward nonviolence, community service, and outdoor adventure.

Do you feel like you're missing out on all the fun of summer camp? **All ages are welcome** to our annual **Family Work Camp** from **August 3rd-8th**. Join us for a week of putting our hands and hearts to work on improvements to Quaker Center facilities while building community among us.

Please register early for all Quaker Center programs online, <http://www.quakercenter.org/programs/register>.

AFSC JUNE BULLETIN: 5K Undocu-Run: On May 5th, the AFSC's 67 Sueños project and Mechxa de UC Berkeley held their third annual 5K UndocuRUN fun run. The run is a fundraiser for our migrant youth summer project to use public mural art in the ongoing effort to make visible the humanity of the migrant community, change the narrative about migrant people and create the political will to legalize our community and stop the abuses. If you missed the run you can view some inspiring photos:

Even though the run is over, you can still support our summer project through online donations at:



https://salsa3.salsalabs.com/o/50601/p/salsa/donation/common/public/?donate_page_KEY=8479

AFSC's healing Justice Program and NRCAT Calls for Prayers: On Wednesday, May 7, the National Religious Campaign Against Torture sent email invitations to all clergy who had signed the letter in support of the hunger strikers last summer, as well as NRCAT's national list, inviting recipients to submit written prayers to be delivered to those who remain in the Secure Housing Unit at Pelican Bay State Prison. The hope is that these prayers, coming from many faith traditions, will bring hope to prisoners and call public attention to the plights of people held in long term isolation.

We invite you to submit a prayer from your faith tradition, in Spanish or English or the sacred language of your religious tradition. **Please email** your prayer to campaign@nrcat.org, **subject line: Prayer One Year Later**.

It has been a year of legislative hearings, of retaliation against hunger strikers, of resilience and work for unity amongst prisoners inside and families and communities outside. Legislation has been introduced in California that would end indefinite solitary confinement and bring an end to the 'gang validation' process that leads so many incarcerated, mostly people of color, to spend years and even decades in solitary confinement. Please join AFSC, NRCAT, California Families Against Solitary Confinement (CFASC) [www.abolishsolitary.com/about-cfasc.html], Interfaith Communities United for Justice and Peace (ICUJP) [icujp.org/], and T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights [www.truah.org/issuescampaigns/torture.html] observing the national day to remember victims of torture, June 26, by sending your prayer.

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.

WHAT'S NEW IN EL SALVADOR!: Sunday, April 27, 4 PM, First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall. South Bay Sanctuary Covenant presents Highlights of Our Delegation and HUMANE IMMIGRATION REFORM. Dr. Kathleen Coll, Anthropologist at Stanford University. Pupusa and Enchilada Dinner, Salvadoran Crafts, Scarves, Jewelry. Please RSVP to Schaupp@aol.com or (650) 494-8340

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.fcica.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.

Be patterns, be examples in all countries, places, islands, nations, wherever you go, so that your carriage and life may preach among all sorts of people, and to them. Then you will come to walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in every one.

~ George Fox, 1624-1691