



PALO ALTO FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

Sixth Month, 2013

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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 9, 2013.

- 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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CALENDAR

MAY (5TH MONTH)

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

JUN (6TH MONTH)

- 2 Sun 10:30 - 11:30 am Meeting for Worship – NMH.**
5 Weds 6:00 pm Midweek Meeting for Worship – NMH.
6 Thurs 7:30 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).
12 Weds 6:00 pm Midweek Meeting for Worship – NMH.
13 Thurs 7:30 am Mindfulness Meditation – NMH (see note below).
16 Sun 9:00 am Adult Ed. – Reading & Discussion – 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).
19 Sun [*Deadline for submittal of Newsletter articles - if email send to moriii@yahoo.com.*]
19 Weds 6:00 pm Midweek Meeting for Worship – NMH.
20 Thurs 7:30 am Mindfulness Meditation – NMH (see note below).
20 Thurs 7:00 pm Care and Concerns Committee Meeting – Library (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 7:30 am Mindfulness Meditation – NMH (see note below).
30 Sun 10:30 - 11:30 am Meeting for Worship – NMH.

CALENDAR EXPANSION – DETAILS

*** STANFORD QUAKER ACTIVITIES: Stanford students interested in on-campus activities may contact Talley Kenyon at talleykenyon@gmail.org. 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 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.

Open Dates: The Adult Education Committee has dates open for anyone who would like to run a session from 9-10:00 a.m. in the morning before Meeting on the Fourth First Day. Dates that are free - May 26th, June 23. If you would like to present a topic on this date please contact Claire Arnold, clairea_2006@hotmail.com. She will schedule it .

*** 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 \$131.75 in contributions for EHP in May!

*** 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. 2013 schedule: June 3, July 8, Aug. 12, Sept. 16, Oct. 21, Nov. 18, Dec. 23. Please contact Marie Simirenko at (650) 961-1724 if you wish to volunteer. Thanks!

*** THURSDAY MORNING MINDFULNESS MEDITATION: Thursday morning meditation - 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 Mary Pat O'Connell (650-941-8287, mpoconnell@stanfordalumni.org) 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

FROM COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMITTEE: Information about Ecumenical Hunger Program. EHP involves many programs: Emergency Food Assistance; Hot Meal Program; Personal Support; Furniture, Clothing and Household Essentials; Client Advocacy; Children's Resources Center; Women's Support Group and Technology Access Center. EHP accepts donations of clothes, household items and furniture. Kate McClellan has offered to pick up donations from your home or the Meeting House for delivery to EHP. She can pick up smaller furniture (chairs, small dressers, anything that comes apart, etc.). For larger items, EHP also provides pick up by appointment.

PASS FOR BEN LOMOND CENTER'S QUAKER WORKSHOPS: *Care and Concerns* has bought an annual pass to Ben Lomond Center's Quaker workshops out of the Education Fund. The intent of this pass purchase is to support attendance at Ben Lomond Center's Quaker events for those who would not be able to attend due to cost. While the pass supports just one registration per event, the fund may be used as well for these events. We will review your requests for assistance up to thirty days in advance, ideally at our regular meeting. If no one requests financial assistance, we will use the pass for those in our community who have let the committee know of their intent to register, splitting the pass with up to two registrations.

JUNE 2013 NEWS FROM BEN LOMOND QUAKER CENTER: Summer camp season is less than a month away and we are counting the days until our **Quaker Center Youth Camps** start! This year we have a lot to look forward to with both Quaker and Service Camps happening during the same week. Quaker Camp will be held in the Redwood Lodge, and Service Camp will take place in the Orchard Lodge. Peace Action Camp will take place in La Jolla and Stephen Myers will once again direct all our camps, with help from Jim Summers and Mary Klein for Peace Action Camp. We are offering a 10% sibling discount and \$50 off for both you and a friend if you bring a new camper with you. **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 29th - July 7th: 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 29th - July 7th: 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 21st - 27th: Peace Action Camp:** at La Jolla Friends Meeting for rising 10th - 12th grade teens to explore border issues as they relate to Friends' testimonies around peace, justice and environmental stewardship with inward and outward nonviolence, including nonviolent direct action, 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 4th-9th**. 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>.

Friends Fiduciary Fund: Palo Alto Meeting has invested about \$100,000 of its reserves in the Friends Fiduciary Fund. Friends Fiduciary has always been dedicated to reflecting Quaker values in its work through socially responsible investing (SRI). Friends who are interested in learning more about this fund are encouraged to subscribe to SRI E-Bulletins by contacting the fund managers at info@friendsfiduciary.org.

UPDATE FROM THE FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION OF CALIFORNIA – MAY 8, 2013: Thanks to you, we have some great news to share. Senate Bill 649 – co-sponsored by FCLCA – recently passed the state Senate by a vote of 23-14. SB 649 gives local prosecutors the option of charging simple drug possession as a misdemeanor instead of a felony.

This measure could save \$150 million a year, freeing up more money for counties to use for treatment and mental health services. Another of the key benefits is that it will save people from having a felony on their record. Felony convictions follow people for life and make it very hard for them to get housing, jobs - even financial aid for college. We'll need your support to get the bill through the Assembly and signed by the governor. We are encouraged that the state's criminal justice system is moving in the right direction through realignment - moving lower level offenders out of state prison and back to communities where they are under local control. Counties have the possibility now of trying interventions that work - rather just the same old "lock 'em up." But already there have been 40 bills introduced to dismantle realignment piece by piece. FCLCA's lobbyist Jim Lindburg has been very active in stopping these bills in committee, along with our other allies.

Senate Bill 260, one of two bills that FCLCA is co-sponsoring this year, allows those sentenced to long terms for crimes committed as juveniles to petition for resentencing. It has passed the Senate Public Safety Committee and is now on the Senate Appropriations Suspense File. We are working on possible amendments that will allow the bill to go to the floor.

FCLCA recently testified against two bills that would lower the standard for death penalty appeals and bring back the gas chamber. SB 779 and SCA 13 failed this time in the Senate Public Safety committee, but may return - so we'll be watching.

We need your support to keep things moving in a positive direction. Be sure to sign up for our Action Network at www.fclca.org to find out what you can do. FCLCA Contact: Kevan Insko, Kevan@fclca.org.

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.

THE PENINSULA PEACE AND JUSTICE CENTER: The Center's Calendar is at: <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 jlmcbridemail@yahoo.com 964-2869.

DIRECTORY UPDATES

The changes will be posted in the office as usual.

Vishnu and Asha Sharma	new address
Linda Lingane	new work no.
Sangeeta Tamang	new phone

This is a gentle reminder of the memorial service for Ira Sandperl. We will gather at Peninsula School, 920 Peninsula Way, Menlo Park on Sunday, June 2 at 4 PM. Kindly RSVP if you have not yet done so, either by responding to the original email card invitation, or by sending an email note to this address:

friendsofira@gmail.com.

You are invited to bring a book to contribute to the stage, in remembrance of Ira, and the books he encouraged (and often gave) us to read. Please write your name and phone number in your book(s), and retrieve it again before leaving. We hope to see stacks of books, just as there were in Ira's home. If instead, you wish to leave a book to donate, please write "In memory of Ira Sandperl" and we will take care of donating to a worthy program, perhaps a prison library.