



Please think Green before printing this e-mail

PALO ALTO FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

Fifth Month, 2013

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Advices and Queries for Fifth Month: Harmony with Creation

It would go a long way to caution and direct people in their use of the world, that they were better studied and knowing in the Creation of it. For how could [they] find the confidence to abuse it, while they should see the Great Creator stare them in the face, in all and every part thereof? - William Penn, *Some Fruits of Solitude*, 1693

God is revealed in all Creation. We humans belong to the whole interdependent community of life on earth. Rejoice in the beauty, complexity, and mystery of creation, with gratitude to be part of its unfolding. Take time to learn how this community of life is organized and how it interacts. Live according to principles of right relationship and right action within this larger whole.

Be aware of the influence humans have on the health and viability of life on earth. Call attention to what fosters or harms earth's exquisite beauty, balances and interdependencies. Guided by Spirit, work to translate this understanding into ways of living that reflect our responsibility to one another, to the greater community of life, and to future generations.

In what ways do I express gratitude for the wondrous expressions of life on Earth?

Do I consider the damage I might do to the Earth's vulnerable systems in choices I make of what I do, what I buy, and how I spend my time?

In our witness for the global environment, are we careful to consider justice and the well-being of the world's poorest people?

Does our way of life threaten the viability of life on Earth?

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 May 12, 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

APR (4TH MONTH)

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

MAY (5TH MONTH)

- 1 Weds 6:00 pm Midweek Meeting for Worship – NMH.**
- 2 Thurs 7:30 am Mindfulness Meditation – NMH (see note below).
- 5 Sun 9:00 am Adult Ed. – Reading & Discussion – NMH (see note below).
- 5 Sun 10:30 - 11:30 am Meeting for Worship – NMH.**
- 8 Weds 6:00 pm Midweek Meeting for Worship – NMH.**

- 9 Thurs 7:30 am Mindfulness Meditation – NMH (see note below).
 11 Sat 9 am - 1 pm Meeting Work Day (see note below).
12 Sun 10:30 - 11:30 am Meeting for Worship – NMH.
 12 Sun noon Light lunch provided prior to Meeting for Business - OMH.
 12 Sun 12:15 pm Meeting for Business – NMH (see note above).
15 Weds 6:00 pm Midweek Meeting for Worship – NMH.
 16 Thurs 7:30 am Mindfulness Meditation – NMH (see note below).
 16 Thurs 7:00 pm Care and Concerns Committee Meeting – Library (see note below).
 17-19 Fri-Sun Spring College Park Quarterly Meeting - see Attachment.
 19 Sun 9:00 am Adult Ed. – Reading & Discussion – NMH (see note below).
19 Sun 10:30 - 11:30 am Meeting for Worship – NMH.
 19 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.*]
22 Weds 6:00 pm Midweek Meeting for Worship – NMH.
 23 Thurs 7:30 am Mindfulness Meditation – NMH (see note below).
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).

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 \$239 in contributions for EHP in April.

*** 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: April 27, May none, 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

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS: WORKDAY- MAY 11. 9am to 1 pm. Lots of work to be done!

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.

EL SALVADOR SERVICE LEARNING TRIP: Plans for this summer's El Salvador trip (sponsored by PAFM) are well underway. Information packets are available by email request to: quakeryouthtrips@yahoo.com Rough details: July 3-18, \$1200 for ground costs, airfare extra; early bird discount of \$100 if fully registered and paid by April 1. Open to teens, college students, young at heart adults.

Our Connection With El Salvador : What is the reason for the meeting's commitment to El Salvador? One of our members was Carmen Broz, now 89 and living in Santa Rosa. She was born in El Salvador, and grew up under a military dictatorship.

Carmen left El Salvador in 1940, hoping to return someday to help her country. In the United States, she became a Quaker, and was convinced of the power of non-violent community action. After retiring from teaching in California in the 1980s, she returned in the midst of the Salvadoran civil war in 1989 to establish education projects. A committee was formed in the Palo Alto Friends Meeting to assure that she would have the support, financial and logistical, needed to keep the projects going.

Illiteracy was widespread, and schooling unavailable past third grade. In the belief that education can transform a nation, she started several school projects. "It's the quickest way to lift people out of poverty," she observed.

To keep children in school, she raised funds for children's uniforms and teacher salaries from Quakers all over the United States. Working with community leaders, she did everything she could to expand the schools. Now one offers elementary and high school, and three others, some in remote parts of the country, receive school aid.

Sending peasants to college in El Salvador would be a profound change, she thought. She obtained sponsors for students eager to continue. This became the student loan program, which boasts about 70 graduates.

The projects are now administered by Robert Broz, Carmen's son living in El Salvador, and a local committee of community leaders. This, and the other projects that have developed, are described in the May issue of the El Salvador Committee's newsletter, available at <http://www.pamfelsingalvadorprojects.org>

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.

MAY 2013 NEWS FROM BEN LOMOND QUAKER CENTER: "When we come into unity, in discerning decisions, there is a moment of recognition, we feel like crying, we realize that this is part of something much larger, God's unity; God created it and left it here for us to find...lucky us, to get to go on this scavenger hunt, set up by God..." Join Eric Moon for Unity, the First Testimony from May 31st - June 2nd. More information and online registration can be found at <http://www.quakercenter.org/unity-the-first-testimony/>.

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 experimenting with 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.

- 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 having a good time. We will be of service in the local community and go on hikes in the Santa Cruz 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.

FCLCA's Spring Newsletter is online now with important news from California's capitol. Mailed copies should arrive later this week. You'll find lots of timely information inside including:

- Our lobbyist Jim Lindburg's article on the proposed budget and California's still ragged safety net.
- Our roundup of important bills - including two key bills FCLCA is co-sponsoring.
- An inside look at the recent legislative hearing on solitary confinement in the Security Housing Units of the state's prison system.

- A Special Section on how California activists are responding to gun violence and what you can do.

<http://www.fclca.org/news-a-resources.html>

AFSC Bulletin: Prison population - In 2011 the US Supreme Court ruled that California needed to reduce its prison population about 33,000 in order to provide constitutional levels of health and mental health care. This decision followed 20 years of failure on the part of the prison system to abide by lower court decisions. The state began that process in 2012 and has reduced the population by around 23,000. But then, Governor Brown said that was enough and he wasn't going to go any farther.

Last week, the court rejected his position and demanded a plan by early May for further reductions of 9,000 by the end of 2013. AFSC with its partners in the prison movement are hard at work developing proposals for how to reach that goal.



Sahar Francis coming to San Francisco - Sahar Francis, Executive Director of the Palestinian prisoner rights organization Addameer (link below) will tour the US in May to raise awareness about a new campaign Addameer has launched on administrative detention. Since 2006, Sahar has served as the General Director of Ramallah-based Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association, a Palestinian NGO providing legal and advocacy support to Palestinian political prisoners in Israeli and Palestinian prisons. An attorney by training, she joined the association in 1998, first as a human rights lawyer, then as head of the Legal Unit. With over sixteen years of human rights experience, including human rights counseling and representation, Ms. Francis also sits on the Board of Defence for Children International – Palestine Section.

AFSC helped set up a talk for her in Philadelphia. Sahar will also be in San Francisco on the 8th and 9th of May. Our peace and healing justice programs have worked together to bring her message to a broader public. Contact Stephen McNeil at smcneil@afsc.org for more details. Link here: <http://www.addameer.org/>

Grand Finale for the Tamejavi series - The Tamejavi Festival of cultural events in the California Central Valley concludes on May 18th at the Tower Theatre, 815 E. Olive Ave., Fresno, CA 93728. The Grand Finale will be a performance featuring guest artists Maria Bauman (dance), Adam Browser (poetry), and Maureen Gosling (film). The show weaves together multicultural performances from the stories of Valley immigrants, including Hmong, Khmer, Iranian, indigenous Mexican, and Punjabi. You are invited. Link here: <http://www.tamejavi.org/articles.php?i=2&a=17>

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.

SOUTH BAY SANCTUARY COVENANT INVITES YOU TO CELEBRATE LIBERATION THROUGH EDUCATION

Inspiring Highlights from our El Salvador Delegation: This year's Delegation included a former professor at the National University in San Salvador, a film maker, and former Peace Corp volunteers in Honduras and Venezuela who compare their experiences 20 years after the Salvadoran civil war.

Sunday, May 5, 2013 4:00 PM
First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall
1140 Cowper Street, Palo Alto

Also, an update on Immigration Reform Efforts in Santa Clara County and nationally by Maria Marroquin of the Day Worker Center.

Pupusa and enchilada dinner to follow!
Suggested Donation: \$20 Adults, \$5 Students

(No one turned away for lack of funds.)

Please make a reservation for food planning: (650) 494-8340

Check out our new Facebook page and click on the "Like" icon!

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/SBSC-Salvadorean-Delegation/419162694842602>

Mail tax-deductible checks to U. Lutheran/SBSC, 3290 Middlefield, Palo Alto, 94306

