



PALO ALTO FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

Ninth Month, 2015

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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
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- 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 Meeting for Business will be on September 13.

- 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

AUG(8TH MONTH)

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

SEP(9TH MONTH)

- 2 Weds 7:30 am Mindfulness Meditation – NMH (see note below).
2 **Weds 6:00 pm Midweek Meeting for Worship – NMH.**
6 Sun 9:00 am Adult Ed. – Reading & Discussion – NMH.
6 **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 7:00 pm Care and Concerns Committee Meeting (?)
16 Weds 7:30 am Mindfulness Meditation – NMH (see note below).
16 **Weds 6:00 pm Midweek Meeting for Worship – NMH.**
20 Sun 9:00 am Adult Ed. – Reading & Discussion – NMH.
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.**
26 **Sat 9 am – 4 pm HARVEST FESTIVAL – Meetinghouse Grounds (see note below).**
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.**
30 Sun 9:00 am Adult Ed. – Reading & Discussion – NMH (see note below).
30 **Sun 10:30 - 11:30 am Meeting for Worship – NMH.**

CALENDAR EXPANSION – DETAILS

*** Quakers at Stanford: There is presently no formal organization of Quaker students at Stanford. Stanford students with Quaker leanings are invited to participate in activities of Progressive Christians at Stanford (formerly United Campus Christian Ministry <<http://uccm/standord.edu>>). PC@S works closely with Students for Alternatives to Militarism and a new Peace and Justice Studies initiative. The PC@S campus minister, Geoff Browning, welcomes Quakers to any PC@S event; he can help with arranging for Friends to resume meeting for silent worship in the *Circle*, Stanford's center for religious practice in the Old Union. For background on past Quaker student groups and assistance with starting anew, see Eric Sabelman <eesabelman@gmail.com>.

*** ADULT EDUCATION DISCUSSION: **Reading and Discussion** led by Henry Jason each 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sunday at 9 am – NMH. We are reading a 1794 work entitled "A Few Reasons for Leaving the National Established Mode of Worship". In this work John Spalding describes his reasons for converting from Anglicanism to Quakerism. This work continues from his other work (The Convincement and Religious Progress of John Spalding) and 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.

*** COLLECTION FOR ECUMENICAL HUNGER PROGRAM (EHP): Community Service Committee collects donations for EHP after the rise of Meeting each *third* First Day – at the front door. Ecumenical Hunger Program will benefit from the wonderful generosity of Friends on Third First Day, Sixth Month. Hearing of the recent vandalism, we came up with over \$200, about double our average. 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. EHP takes clothing donations, especially stuff that would be suitable to wear to a job interview. They give them away. Since Harvest Festival doesn't do clothes, this is a good outlet for things that no longer fit. They also recycle furniture.

*** 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 Janet Murphy <janeta.murphy@sbcglobal.net>; 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 second Wednesday of the month at 7 pm in the Meetinghouse Library. Please contact one of the co-clerks, Bill Bauriedel (bill.bauriedel@stanfordalumni.org, 650-493-1364,) or Hulda Muaka (huldamuaka@hotmail.com) 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

HARVEST FESTIVAL – SEPTEMBER 26: <http://harvestfestival.pafm.org/> Book donations are now accepted. Put books outside the main Meeting House front door by the bench. Kate will transport them to the book sorters at San Jose Friends Meeting. Please put them in boxes or double bagged grocery bags for easy, safe transport to the sorting spot at the San Jose Meeting. San Jose Meeting also would appreciate any medium sized boxes they can cut down for display of the sorted books. If you have a lot of books, Kate can pick them up. We will be pricing every Saturday from now until September 19. between 9 and 3. We will have congenial company and snacks. Thanks!

PALO ALTO FRIENDS NURSERY SCHOOL: If you are looking for a nurturing, loving and magical preschool for your 3 or 4 year old child, consider the Palo Alto Friends Nursery School. Our(Grace Cheng) Palo Alto Friends Nursery School family has grown up here, and I can't imagine any better place for kids. Openings for fall of 2015 for children turning 3 or 4 by November 1, 2015. Feel free to call and schedule a tour:650-856-6152, email pafns@sbcglobal.net. www.pafns.org. If you have any questions about the school that I can answer from a parent's perspective, send me an email or call me (grace_cheng_md@yahoo.com, 650-575-3290).

ACTIVITIES FOR YOUTH IN THE WIDER QUAKER COMMUNITY: Alyssa Nelson - Youth Programs Coordinator, Pacific Yearly Meeting (530) 563-6369 <http://www.pacificyearlymeeting.org/youth/>

SEPTEMBER NEWS FROM BEN LOMOND QUAKER CENTER: Join us for *Growing into Paradox: Discovering the Dynamic Center of Quakerism* from October 2nd – 4th with Tom Gates. Explore the spectrum of Quaker belief and practice ranging from the practical to the theological to the controversial. Register early at <http://www.quakercenter.org/the-dynamic-center-of-quakerism/>.

Wondering how can you live more fully into your spiritual gifts and next steps in service or ministry? Come to **Roots of Contemplation-Roots of Action** to explore how Quakers witness to the dynamic integration of prayer and leading with Christine Betz-Hall from October. 30 – November 1, 2015. Learn more and register at <http://www.quakercenter.org/roots-of-contemplation/>.

We are once again co-hosting our **Music and Dance Retreat** with the participant leaders. This is low-cost program with a **sliding scale of only \$60-\$100 per person** for a weekend filled with a variety of singing and playing punctuated by a few dancing opportunities. Bring your kids and grandkids or just yourselves and join us from **Dec. 4-6th** for a few days of fun making food, music, and song together with a professionally called community dance on Saturday night. Find out more and register online at <http://www.quakercenter.org/music-and-dance-retreat/>

FCL-CA: FCLCA is honored to advocate as your voice of conscience – with your lobbyist Jim Lindburg at the Capitol and FCLCA activists bringing their voice with 3,008 emails and letters to legislators so far this year. FCLCA; 1225 8th Street, Suite 220 Sacramento, CA 95814; (916) 443-3734. www.fclca.org fcladmin@fclca.org

QUAKER BOLIVIA LINK: PAFM supports QBL, an organization devoted to helping indigenous people in Bolivia, many of them Quakers, wrest a living from poor soil. Google qbl.org for more.

AFSC: Upcoming events sponsored/supported by the AFSC. At any given time, there are 80,000 people in solitary confinement in U.S. prisons and jails across the country. They're isolated in closed cells for 23 hours a day and deprived of human contact for months, years, even decades—amounting to torture under international law.

In recent months, solitary confinement has received unprecedented national attention, with President Obama speaking out against the practice and a Supreme Court justice questioning its constitutionality. Earlier this year, the suicide of 22-year-old Kalief Browder—who spent three years in solitary confinement at Rikers Island in New York—made clear the psychological harm caused by long-term isolation.

AFSC has been working to end this shameful practice for over 20 years.

Please join us on Sept. 16 for “Buried Alive,” a one-hour live-streamed discussion about solitary confinement in U.S. prisons.

Panelists will include:

- Laura Magnani, director of AFSC’s Bay Area Healing Justice Program in California, who has worked on criminal justice issues for over 35 years. She is the author of “America’s First Penitentiary: A 200-Year-Old Failure” and co-author of “Beyond Prisons: A New Interfaith Paradigm for Our Failed Prison System.”
- Peter Martel, program associate with AFSC’s Michigan Criminal Justice Program. Peter’s knowledge of solitary confinement comes from his work at AFSC supporting incarcerated people as well as from firsthand experience—he spent 10 years in solitary confinement following armed robbery charges when he was 20 years old.
- Lewis Webb, program coordinator in AFSC’s New York office. He leads The Campaign to End the New Jim Crow and is part of the Healing and Transformative Justice program and the Quaker Network to End Mass Incarceration.

We’ll discuss conditions facing people in solitary confinement, the movement to abolish this form of torture in the United States, and how you can get involved.

SIERRA FRIENDS CENTER NEWS: Camp Woolman and Teen Leadership Camp wrapped up another summer August 1st. We had more campers than any other year and a waitlist for nearly every session. Counselors led over 20 wilderness trips ranging from 3 to 10 days in length and created an amazing experience for more than 200 youth.

Preparations are beginning for the Fall 2015 students who arrive August 22. After a few days of orientation, students go on their first trip, backpacking along the Yuba River. Classes begin on August 31, and another semester of community and learning will be well underway.

Applications for the Spring 2016 semester are due September 15. If you know of any 16-18 year olds looking for an opportunity to delve into Quaker values in a 4-month semester experience, please connect them with Emily Wheeler, emilyw@woolman.org. Woolman students graduate with 25 credits and 60 hours of community service. Woolman can administer AP tests if students are taking AP classes at their sending school.

If you know anyone who went to JWS during 1973-78, there is a weekend reunion coming up in September: <http://woolman.org/events/2015/mid-seventies-jws-alumni-reunion>

Also that weekend is a special benefit concert featuring Peter Blood and Annie Patterson, the authors of Rise Up Singing, in Grass Valley, at 7pm on Saturday Sept. 12. Fans can buy the new edition online and pick it up at the concert! <http://woolman.org/events/2015/rise-again-benefit-concert>

Thank you! Emily Wheeler, Admissions and Outreach Director, The Woolman Semester School. o. (530) 273-3183 x24. c. (802) 274-0298

PAFM EL SALVADOR PROJECTS: If you would like to know more about the projects and how your donation is making life changes to youth in El Salvador please go to our Web Page www.pafmelsalvadorprojects.org or join our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Palo-Alto-Friends-Meeting-El-Salvador-Projects/141667842557541>.

SAVE THE DATES! September 30 - October 2, 2015 – Quaker Fundraisers Gathering. Wyndham Philadelphia Historic District, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. For more information call us at 215-241-7272 or email at info@friendsfiduciary.org.

THE PEACE AND JUSTICE CALENDAR: A service of the Peace, Earthcare, and Social Witness Committee of Strawberry Creek Friends Meeting. <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 regularly or occasionally. Contact anyone on the committee if you or someone you know would like to be on either list.

HELP YOURSELF WHILE HELPING A WONDERFUL WORKER:! Central American workers are eager to help you! Child/elder care • cleaning • painting • Spanish lessons • personal assistance • gardening • repairs • carpentry. Call South Bay Sanctuary Covenant Information at (650) 494-8340.

OUR DEAR FRIEND, MEMBER GEORGE HEATON, DIED PEACEFULLY ON FRIDAY MORNING, JULY 10 AT STANFORD IN THE HOME HE HAD SHARED WITH SITA DE LEEUW FOR 35 YEARS. A MEMORIAL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 19 AT 2:00 PM.

Palo Alto Meeting manages a number of funds which have been established over the years for the benefit of the community. We publish a description of these funds annually. The descriptions follow.

**PALO ALTO FRIENDS MEETING
RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS
Description of funds – for community use
Last updated May 2012**

Funds of Palo Alto Friends Meeting: As of January, 2012, Palo Alto Friends Meeting manages three funds for the benefit of members, attenders, and their families; two funds for the benefit of the Meeting as a whole; one fund to benefit special or emergency needs outside of the Meeting; and one fund each for use at the discretion of the Library Committee, Unity with Nature Committee, El Salvador Committee, and Stanford Student Group. Current balances for each fund are reported quarterly to our Meeting for Business by the treasurer.

Here are descriptions for each of these funds:

FUNDS FOR THE BENEFIT OF MEMBERS, ATTENDERS, AND THEIR FAMILIES

Education Fund - This fund is administered by the Care and Concerns Committee, formerly called the Oversight 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 Committee meeting. Decisions by the Committee are generally 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 money an obstacle to my attendance?" In mid-2015 this fund held about \$430 with further funding expected, pending MfB approval.

Fund for Concerns - This fund was established several years ago by combining several small bequests. It too is administered by the Care and Concerns committee, formerly called 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 Committee 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 need not necessarily be kept confidential. In mid-2015 this fund held about \$1,150.

Sharing Fund - This fund is administered by the Care and Concerns Committee, formerly called the Oversight 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 meeting of the Committee. Money distributed from this fund is usually in the form of a loan which will be repaid as mutually agreed upon between Committee 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, either a special called meeting of the Committee can be held, or if that is not possible, then the clerk of the Meeting, the clerk of the Committee, and one other clerk must agree with the request before the loan or grant can be given. The amount of the loan or grant is determined by the 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 lent or granted. In mid-2015 this fund held about \$36,600.

FUNDS FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE MEETING AS A WHOLE

MAJOR MAINTENANCE RESERVE FUND – This fund has been set up for major maintenance and capital item replacement for our Meeting House, the Schoolhouse, and the property and grounds. These funds are used for expenses not covered by the annual Maintenance and Repair budget, which covers on-going expenses for maintenance. In our annual budget we also have a line for Major Maintenance or Capital Replacement; the amount budgeted is used for major maintenance or capital item replacement during the year, and any unspent balance at the end of the year is rolled over into this fund. Examples of typical uses of this fund are new roof, painting, carpeting, major landscaping, driveway paving, facility upgrades, and other capital expenses which are required at long time intervals, e.g., 5-30 years. The Buildings and Grounds Committee reports or clears uses of this fund at Meeting for Business. In mid-2015 this fund held about \$66,500.

Forsythe Memorial Building Fund – This fund was established by Minute 1998.27 at the Meeting for Business of the Seventh Month, 1998. The minute reads as follows: The Meeting approved the committee's recommendation that the Diana Forsythe bequest be kept in a segregated ledger account, that it be used for maintenance and/or improvements to the buildings and grounds, and that these moneys be used for improvements or major maintenance before meeting reserve funds be used for the same purpose. In mid-2014 this fund held about \$31,700.

FUND TO BENEFIT SPECIAL OR EMERGENCY NEEDS OUTSIDE OF THE MEETING

Special Needs Fund - This is to be used to help local, state, national or international organizations or individuals with important work consistent with Quaker values where a contribution from our Meeting can make a real 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. This Fund is not used for recurring support to an organization. In mid-2015 this fund held about \$960.

FUND FOR USE AT THE DISCRETION OF THE LIBRARY COMMITTEE

Book Support Fund – This fund was established by a donor in order to purchase materials to enrich our library collections. The funds are intended to be used to purchase items that might not otherwise be possible from the annual Library budget. The Library Committee determines the uses of this fund and the Meeting for Business does not need to approve these expenditures. In mid-2015 this fund held about \$30.

FUND FOR USE AT THE DISCRETION OF THE UNITY WITH NATURE COMMITTEE

Environmental Education Fund – This fund is to be used under the considered discretion of the Unity with Nature Committee. The funds may be used as the Unity with Nature Committee deems most appropriate. Meeting for Business does not need to approve the expenditures but should be kept informed. Ideas on good uses of these funds are cordially invited from the meeting community, communicated via any member of the Unity with Nature Committee. In mid-2015 this fund held about \$1,860.

FUND FOR USE AT THE DISCRETION OF THE EL SALVADOR COMMITTEE

El Salvador Projects Fund – This fund is managed by the El Salvador Committee. Donors from around the country mail checks to the Palo Alto Friends Meeting designating the donation as either for general projects or for the Committee's university loan program. Funds are disbursed by the El Salvador Committee through the Field Director in El Salvador. No approval by Business Meeting is needed, but regular reports of income to and expense from this fund are given to Business Meeting by the treasurer. In mid-2015 this fund held about \$19,000.

FUND FOR USE AT THE DISCRETION OF THE STANFORD STUDENT GROUP

Stanford Student Group Fund – This fund is managed by the Stanford Student Quaker Group. This fund was established by Palo Alto Friends Meeting to enable the Quaker student group at Stanford to be reimbursed expenses as needed, including expenses of books, pamphlets, and special projects. No approval by Business Meeting is needed; the treasurer pays expenses of the Stanford students upon their request. In mid-2015 this fund held about \$500.

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDING CLERK

Friends - I am writing to let you know of an issue I will ask us to take up as a Meeting - how to maintain, to increase PAFM effectiveness, in the face of declining committee participation. There is a lot in this statement, and therefore I will be recommending a deliberate, spirit led, process. We'll discuss this at September Meeting for Business. I am sending this note in various forms in advance to make sure Friends are aware of the agenda item.

PAFM has been grappling for about three years with how to react to the phenomenon of declining committee participation. Committees are at the heart of a Quaker Meeting; a vibrant Meeting needs an active .. a pro-active set of Committees. Over the past three years Meeting has asked a variety of committees and subcommittees to look at various aspects of this issue. We have gained several useful contemplative reports and recommendations have been made, but Meeting has not found clearness to act on any recommendations. I have decided this fall is a good time for Meeting as a whole to tackle this concern.

Although I, along with other Friends I'm sure, have had this concern in our awareness, there were several events this spring that together sparked the decision to, as Clerk, propose a more focused effort on addressing the concern. I sought the assistance of a support group, or a Clearness Committee perhaps. The members of the group and my description of my analysis and catalyst to action can be read in full in the "on line bookshelf", and paper binder described below. The document is called "Bart_to_support_committee_july8".

Integral to pondering the question of how we want our committees to work is a question something like "what are our priorities" or "where does PAFM want to put its energy and priorities". There is no intention to find a single answer - priorities is very definitely meant in the plural. Even so a discussion around these topics has the potential to be divisive. Therefore it will be important to enter into a discussion with love, with care, understanding as a group the specific goal, and with the guidance of the Spirit within each of us. I will describe an early draft of process thinking that is intended to be inclusive and take perhaps four or five months to reach unity on our first set of actions.

I will collect and maintain a file of notes and minutes of our PAFM discussion and discovery process. These will be available on-line and in a three ring binder kept in the Meeting library. Expect this by early September. The online version can be found at the link below.

<https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0B3LjKcwTI3NgfjJaVUhtYVFac182TXVDVXNtMFBtU2NLZGREM1hjWHV6REtzVHM4TFdUYWM&usp=sharing>

Finally, the intention is to conduct this process as a seeking for clearness in the manner of Friends, led by love and Spirit informed discussion and decision making. A spiritual process that has the potential to be uplifting and rewarding itself. But is driven by a desire to fulfill our communities responsibility as Friends. In a different voice - we can do our job, while drawing together as a spiritual community, and perhaps even have find it satisfying.

Please feel free to discuss, question or inquire about any of this before or after our first planned group discussion in September.

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 650-384-9817.

Art thou in darkness? mind it not, for if thou do it will fill thee more, but stand still and act not, and wait in patience till light arise out of darkness to lead thee. ~ James Nayler, 1616-1660