Redwood Forest Friends Meeting Newsletter
December 2021
Address: P.O. Box 1831, Santa Rosa, CA 95402
(707) 578-3327
www.redwoodforestquakers.org

Resident Friends: Ben Hofvendahl bhofvendahl@gmail.com
              Thistle West  thistleawest@gmail.com

Interim Clerk          Treasurer          Newsletter Editor
Barbara Babin         Paul Robbins         Ruth Witchey
160 Shortt Rd         8108 Bodega Ave     684 Benicia Dr Apt 36
Santa Rosa, CA 95405  Sebastopol, CA 95472  Santa Rosa, CA 95409

Redwood Forest Friends Meeting invites you:

10 am  Meeting for Worship on First First Days
in person and on Zoom—see schedule next page

December Worship

Zoom link is always:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84554998509?pwd=aVNtaWVmdENsNUlRd3hvNkk1K3o5UT09

Friends House Worship Group
Friends House Worship Group is able to meet in person, with one group inside in the
Library and one outside on the patio behind the Lobby. Vaccinated and masked non-
residents are welcome to join. They will be screened by staff at the front door. Worship is 10
to 11 with brief introductions, last thought, and announcement afterwards. For more
information, call 707-576-6673.

Lake County Worship Group
Meets weekly on Tuesday evenings via Zoom.  7:10pm Singing; 7:30pm Worship; 8pm
Socializing  Zoom link is always:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85240624938?pwd=UDRUT1dWSUZyVo0czQxVkJvcStFZz09

NEWS from QUAKER CENTER
WEDNESDAY MORNING WORSHIP SHARING
10 A.M. (PT) WEEKLY
Find the Zoom link on our website: www.QuakerCenter.org
Password: Quaker
Redwood Forest Friends Meeting
December 2021 Calendar Items

Sunday, Dec 5  
10am Meeting for Worship, both in-person and on Zoom
Noon Committee Meetings

Wednesday, Dec 15  
7:15-8:30 pm.  Meal With a Theme

Sunday, Dec 12  
10am Meeting for Worship on Zoom
Noon Meeting for Worship for Business

Friday, Dec 17  
7pm  Friendly Film Night on Zoom, title to be announced

Sunday, Dec 19  
10am Meeting for Worship, both in-person and on Zoom
12:15 Quaker Working Group on Racism, on Zoom

Sunday, Dec 26  
10am Meeting for Worship on Zoom
Noon Second Hour, topic to be announced

Opportunities for Service to the Meeting
If you are interested in helping out, please contact Barbara Babin, Molly Bishop, or Ann Boone to find out more about:
• Zoom hosting for Meeting for Worship: Barbara Babin
• Closing Meeting for Worship on Zoom: Ann Boone
• Reading the Advices and Queries in-person or on Zoom: Molly Bishop
• Second hours, planning and hosting: Barbara Babin
• Movie Nights, planning and hosting: Barbara Babin

This practice of continuous prayer in the presence of God involves developing the habit of carrying on the mental life on two levels. At one level we are immersed in this world of time, of daily affairs. At the same time, but at a deeper level of our minds, we are in active relation with the Eternal Life.

Thomas Kelly
The meeting opened with Worship at 12 noon with Barbara Babin, Clerk, presiding.

A change to the October minutes was offered by email to October’s recording clerk and has been corrected in the minutes. This change provided a more accurate description of the activity conducted by the Quaker Working Group on Racism.

MINUTE 2021-11-1 Meeting approved the Minutes of the October 10, 2021, meeting with updated information about Quaker Working Group on Racism included.

Clerk’s Comments
Clerk reminded us of how deeply connected we are and how we can and should support each other. She invited attendees to be fully present for our meeting and to attend with a spirit of response to “What does love require?” as we listen, speak, and hold an attitude of forgiveness toward ourselves and others.

Grounding and Exploration of Defensiveness
Members of the Working Group on Racism led us in an exercise to understand our defensiveness when we are in the RFFM community. This was based on material from Tema Okun and her work on white supremacy culture.

Treasurer’s Report
Paul Robbins presented the report and reviewed highlights of several fiscal documents. Key points were as follows:

- On “Profit and Loss with Previous Year’s Comparison - July-Oct/2021” both income and expenses were more than the same period for last year. This is likely due to increased in-person gatherings and donations for space use which are greater than during the pandemic shut-down of 2020.
- In “Budget vs Actual - July-Oct/2021,” income is 20% of expected, but income tends to increase during December when end-of-tax-year charitable contributions come in.
- Finance Committee will send out a letter of appeal to Friends during November.
- On “Balance Sheet, Oct. 2021” he highlighted the good condition of several liquid funds.
- RFFM still needs to determine how to use a $21,000 bequest that is being held in the Rainy Day Fund.
- If members have suggestions or concerns about stewardship for the next fiscal year, send these to Paul Robbins via email.

MINUTE 2021-11-2 Meeting accepted the Finance Committee Report with gratitude to the Treasurer and the Finance Committee.
Ad-Hoc Nominating Committee
The Clerk brought a proposal to create a new ad-hoc Nominating Committee saying:

1. The current ad-hoc Nominating Committee will term out at end of November.
2. We haven’t been able to find anyone to serve on a Naming Committee. Therefore, the usual process of creating a Nominating Committee does not seem possible at this time.
3. The nominating process needs to begin soon if we are to have positions filled when new terms begin in May, 2022.

The Clerk had consulted with the current ad-hoc Nominating Committee (Paul Robbins, David Hoffman, and the Coordinating Committee) and three members are willing to continue. Those are Paul Robbins, David Hoffman, and Ann Boone, with Barbara Babin as ex-officio.

After much discussion of the proposal, the Meeting agreed to the following:

The Meeting for Business as a whole, serving as the committee to name the Nominating Committee, brings forth these names to serve on the 2021-2022 Nominating Committee: Paul Robbins, David Hoffman, and Ann Boone. These names will be seasoned for a month and will be brought back in December. If there are concerns with any of these names, Friends are invited to bring them to Molly Bishop, clerk of the Coordinating Committee.

Coordinating Committee Report
Molly Bishop reported the committee meets on the third Monday of each month [Correction: the committee meets on the third Thursday of each month]. They would like approval to change the committee name to Care and Spiritual Growth Committee. After discussion this, along with consideration of the committee job description, was laid over until the December business meeting.

She also reported the committee:

- Is considering a request to Nominating Committee to increase size of the committee.
- Is attempting to expand their statement of purpose to address concerns of the Quaker Working Group on Racism.
- Will request Arrangements Committee to shorten the Memorial Minute for Mike Halliwell for publication in the newsletter and in other Quaker publications although they accepted the memorial as written.
- Requests feedback about the Blended Meeting for Remembrance on Oct. 31.

Property Committee
Keith Bridges presented a committee proposal for RFFM fence repair.
Minute 2021-11-3

Meeting approved the repair of 60 feet of the eastern boundary fence reusing good sections of saved fencing from our property. Work to be completed by A Home Specialist (Alberto) will include brush clearing, fence construction, and haul away for $1,900, and will be paid from the Maintenance Reserve Budget.

Pacific Yearly Meeting Database - Report from Jim Avera

Decision on this matter will be made in the December RFFM business meeting. Please send suggestions and concerns to Jim Avera.

PYM is building a database of members/attenders in the entire region to be used in directories and for direct email. PYM asks RFFM to upload our member/attender database and indicates each person can opt in or out of directory and/or emails. RFFM must decide whether to provide RFFM’s data and under what conditions.

Questions to address:

- Did consent to be listed in RFFM’s directory imply consent to be in a regional directory also? We do provide data to our quarterly meeting directory without asking for separate consent, but this practice started long before email and current concerns about privacy, cybersecurity and identity theft.
- Does consent to receive emails from RFFM imply consent to receive direct email from Pacific Yearly Meeting? Currently PYM announcements are almost always re-posted verbatim to RFFM’s email list by our PYM representative so the amount of email will likely stay the same.

Correspondence

The Clerk reported receiving a request for transfer of membership to Santa Cruz Meeting from Mary Rankin. This was sent to the Coordinating Committee. Thank you notes for stewardship donations continue to arrive.

Joys and Concerns

- A member acknowledged the ministry of the Care Committee during the pandemic.
- Concern regarding how few gather to discuss Advices and Queries and appreciation for the queries offered by Quaker Working Group on Racism at start of today’s meeting.
- Concern that we address a previous request for financial support to FCL-CA.
- Request by a member for chatting after rise of meeting, being remembered for upcoming medical procedure, and a forum for online chat between Friends and opportunity to socialize.
- Concern regarding loss of Care Committee which did provide service during the covid closures.
In response to Joys and Concerns, the Clerk replied:

- If you have questions about how meeting could address Advice and Queries, direct those ideas to Molly Bishop of the Coordinating Committee.
- The issue of support to FCL-CA is being handled by the Finance Committee.
- Ideas/suggestions about a forum for informal communication can be made to Jim Avera.
- A request to hold in the Light those mentioned in Caring Circle and during Joys and Concerns.

Clerk announced Rise of Meeting at 2:28 p.m. after closing worship.

Respectfully submitted,
Patti Callahan, Recording Clerk

---

Opportunity to Assist an Afghan Family

An Interfaith Refugee committee is trying to help an Afghan family of nine resettle in Santa Rosa. Six of them have arrived in the last couple of weeks after fleeing from Kabul airport during the explosion there that killed many people. They currently live in a one bedroom apartment. Finding affordable housing is the first priority (any suggestions?).

The family would appreciate fresh garden vegetables, kitchen items, men's pants for 5 boys (ages 12-20) a soccer ball and bicycles. You can bring donations to a Friends House garage at 656 Benicia Drive.

Eventually furniture would be appreciated but until housing is secured there is no place to store it.

Financial help (for renting a house, paying application fees, making security deposit, etc.) would be wonderful. Checks can be written to: "Interfaith Refugee Sponsors" and sent to Interfaith Refugee Sponsors c/o 684 Benicia Dr., Unit 71, Santa Rosa, CA 95409.

Seven congregations are represented on the Interfaith Refugee committee: Christ Church United Methodist, First United Methodist, Shomrei Torah, Ner Shalom, Unitarian Universalist, First Presbyterian, Redwood Forest Friends.

Some members of RFFM are already involved in that effort: Jim Avera, Marion Cushman and Elizabeth Boardman.

Questions???:  contact: Chula and Hubert Morel-Seytoux 576-6600, chula@alumni.stanford.edu or hydroprose@sonic.net
Advices and Queries for December

Personal Relationships

In daily relationships with others, both inside and outside the home, our lives as Friends speak immediately and lastingly. In these relationships, our faith may also be severely tested. We are called to respond to that of God in everyone: we are all children of God.

Friends celebrate any union that is dedicated to mutual love and respect, regardless of the unique make-up of the family. We strive to create homes where the Spirit of the Divine resides as the center and where the individual genius of each member is respected and nurtured.

Human sexuality is a divine gift forming part of the complex union of body, mind and spirit that is our humanity. In a loving adult relationship in a context of mutual responsibility, sexuality brings delight, fulfillment and celebration.

The presence of children carries a special blessing as well as responsibility. Children bring unique spiritual gifts --- wonder, resiliency, playfulness and more. Recognize and honor the Divine Light within children and treat them with the dignity and respect that is due to all people. Listen to and learn from children; share with them those values and practices that are central to our own lives.

Special care must be given to resolving problems between adults and children in a manner that gives equal weight to the feelings and needs of both children and adults. Tender parenting is one of the critically important peace vocations in our society. Make every effort to offer all parents the personal and institutional support that this challenging work requires.

Take a strong stand against any form of abuse, whether that abuse is minor or severe, and whether it is emotional, physical or sexual in nature. The terrible impact of abuse on the most vulnerable members of our families creates lifelong suffering for its victims and is a major source of violence in our society. Perpetrators are themselves usually victims of similar violence and should be approached with compassion as well as firmness.

Queries on Personal Relationships:

Do I make my home a place of friendliness, joy, and peace, where residents and visitors feel God's presence?

Are my sexual practices consistent with my spiritual beliefs and free of manipulation and exploitation?

What barriers keep me from responding openly and lovingly to each person?

Do we open our thoughts, beliefs, and deep understandings to our children and others who share our lives and our hospitality?

Do we provide our children and young adults with a framework for active, ongoing participation in the Meeting?