REDWOOD FOREST FRIENDS MEETING FOR WORSHIP
Sunday 10:00 AM at Quaker Meetinghouse, 1647 Guerneville Rd. Healing circle and snacks follow worship. Potluck on third Sunday each month except August. All are welcome! Child care provided for infants and children. Reminder: Please do not wear scented products as some of us are chemically sensitive.
See page 3 for Meetings Under Our Care and Other Meetings in the Area.

Property Committee
is planning a joy-filled RFFM Work Day!

Saturday, June 28th from 9 am to 12 pm at the Meetinghouse on 1647 Guerneville Rd.

All are welcome!

Bring gloves, hat, water, snacks, lunch and a song in your heart. This is an opportunity to get to know your spiritual community. Here are a few of the activities we have planned.

- Install new mailbox
- SE Exterior Corner of Social Hall needs scraping & painting
- Remove weeds from berm
- Chipping debris from courtyard project
- Remove quince & blackberries
- Paint fence
- Repair fence

Questions? Contact Karen Morgan, Property Committee Clerk
JUNE CALENDAR

01 SUN  Committee Meetings following snacks.

08 SUN  Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business following snacks.
Taxes for Peace of Sonoma County meets the second Sunday of the month at 4:30 at Friend House, Commons B.

09 MON  NBOP Education Task Force Meeting 6:00 - 8:00 pm, UU Church, 547 Mendocino, Pre-school room. Contact David Hoffman for details (707) 206-2650 dhoffman@sonic.net

11 WED  Women’s Group 5:30i 8:00 PM, starting with potluck, Residence. All women welcome.
NBOP invites turn out for School Board Meeting at 6 pm, 100 Santa Rosa Ave. to support Restorative Discipline practices. Contact David Hoffman for details (see info above).

15 SUN  Potluck following Worship, Residence.
Quaker NBOP Core Team Interest Group: Seeking Beloved Communities 12 NOONi 1:30 PM, following potluck. Child care provided. All welcome.

18 WED  Deadline for double July/August Newsletter: midnight.

22 SUN  2nd Hour: Newman Strawbridge and Will Patterson report on rSeed and Soil at Quaker Center

25 WED  Women’s Group 5:30i 8:00 PM, starting with potluck, Residence. All women welcome.

28 SAT  RFFM Work Day 9 am-12 pm at the Meetinghouse, details, see p.1

29 SUN  2nd Hour: Quaker Quest: Discernment on Next Steps in RFFM

EVERY TUESDAY Yoga Class 4:00–5:15 PM. Slow in pace and designed for beginning adults. All welcome. Call Susan Gore (431-2304) to confirm and tell you’re coming.

Meeting for Worship M,W,F, 8-8:30 AM. CALL night before to confirm. B. Moulton’s (1354 Yulupa Ave., Apt. H)

DAILY EXCEPT SUNDAYS Silent Meditation Group 7:00i 7:30 AM, Friends House Library.

2014 June 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.

Contact Keith Bridges to use RFFM’s passes. Please register early for all Quaker Center programs online, http://www.quakercenter.org/programs/register.
ADVICES AND QUERIES
From Pacific Yearly Meeting’s
Faith and Practice

Social and Civic Responsibility

In the words of William Penn, “True godliness don’t 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?
Redwood Forest Friends Meeting Minutes
Meeting for Worship for Business
May 11, 2014

Clerk Barbara Babin opened the Meeting for Business with silent worship. The Advices and Queries on Harmony with Nature were read. Following a practice begun a few months ago, those present paired off into groups of two, each person in turn answering the queries for one minute.

Pete Pilliod was welcomed as the silent worshipper. The minutes of the April meeting were approved.

State of the Meeting Report, Ann Boone. The report was read a second time and approved.

Minute 2014: 5.1 Meeting approved the State of the Meeting Report.

Nominating, Keith Bridges. Nominating Committee brings forward the nominations of Paul Robbins and Ravahn Samati as NBOP representatives. Ann Boone and Kim Caldwel have resigned. These nominations will be held over for one month.

Finance, Sharon Beckman. The proposed budget for July 2014 through June 2015 was presented for a second time. Sharon noted that the recent threshing session on stewardship was inconclusive, another threshing session will be held at an as yet undetermined date, and therefore there may be changes in stewardship during the year.

Minute 2014: 5.2 Meeting approved the Proposed Budget July 2014 through June 2015.

Because we consider the recently established Maintenance Reserve to be significantly underfunded, Finance Committee proposes the following minute: In the event there is an overall budget surplus at the end of the fiscal year, and there is also a surplus in the line item 6-1360 Maintenance & Repair, the Maintenance & Repair surplus will be transferred to the Maintenance Reserve instead of the Rainy Day Fund. The remainder of the overall surplus will be transferred to the Rainy Day Fund.

Questions and comments indicated some confusion regarding the how the minute would work in practice, especially if there were to be no overall surplus yet there was a surplus in Maintenance & Repair, and it was sent back to Finance for clarification.

Worship & Ministry, Susan Swanstrom. The committee has 6 items to report.

1) Worship Sharing Groups: The Doodle poll responses increased by two after the last announcement, but there is not a scheduled time that more than 3 can attend. W&M regrets that because the sign ups and the Doodle poll did not net enough Friends with compatible schedules, we will try again in the Fall.

2) We want to create Friendly Gatherings like Quaker 8s instead: potlucks or picnics over the summer months. A host would announce if am hosting a Friendly Gathering at this date and time and I have room for __ Friends and the gathering could be a hike with a picnic, a potluck at the Meeting House, a dinner at home before a play, etc. We want to be sure that newcomers are especially invited. Contact Susan Swanstrom for more info or if you'd like to host.

3) Pete and Jim Pilliod enjoyed a Reading Group at their former Meeting, San Francisco (where Friends gather and read something Quaker or spiritual and discuss it), and wondered if other Friends would like to form one here. Contact Pete.

4) The NVC/AVP Communication Group practicing the way we learned to Elder the Elder and using f@ messages at the February retreat will begin on Monday May 19th from 7-9 pm at the Meetinghouse and the group will determine its frequency and duration.

5) The website is taking shape on the Quaker Cloud of FGC.org. Pete Pilliod, our webservant, will request that all items/info initially be sent from committee clerks to him to post. Stay tuned.

6) Sunday Morning Announcements We are reminding Friends to submit their announcements in writing, and to make them brief; we also want to empower greeters to edit, organize, and prioritize and closers to limit add-ons and lengthy explanations so that Meeting may rise in a timely fashion.

Peace and Social Witness, Paul Robbins.

Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) Regarding the Israeli Government’s Treatment of Palestinian People: The committee is gathering information from AFSC and other Friends organizations involved with the issue to determine their criteria for lifting BDS. In addition, the committee is making contact with local Jewish and Muslim congregations as well as Jewish and Muslim Friends, such as Claire Gorfinkel, to listen to their views of what elements of resolution in the Middle East would result in their people’s feeling safe and in a situation that is just. Finally, the committee is looking to schedule an event, perhaps on a fourth or fifth First Day, to explore these issues surrounding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, local perspectives, and the BDS movement. Whereas the views of others are important information for us to consider, ultimately of course we as a Meeting look to clarity and unity in Spirit to guide whatever decisions we make.

North Bay Organizing Project (NBOP): 13 Friends attended the People’s Assembly on April 27, which involved two simultaneous group meetings, one in Spanish that was an introduction to community organizing and one in English that
was about launching a voter engagement project in Sonoma County. Ravahn Sama is one of the early leaders helping to organize the voter engagement project, and the committee will keep the Meeting informed as the project develops, with attention to how the Meeting and/or Friends may become involved.

The NBOP Leadership Council adopted a process for endorsing legislation, and the final version was greatly influenced by the leadership of the Meeting’s NBOP Core Team interest group. The final version emphasizes the importance of study groups being formed well in advance of the time a decision is required, and the endorsement requires a two thirds vote instead of a simple majority. Both of those elements, as well as the initiation of developing a process are the result of the interest group’s taking Friends values into our relationship with NBOP and its member organizations.

David Hoffman will be attending Gamaliel Foundation’s Advanced Leadership Training in June in Washington, DC with financial assistance from NBOP funds raised by Friends and earmarked for use by Redwood Forest Meeting. This action was approved by the core team interest group, and the funds are in no way related to the Meeting’s funds.

Living Wage in Sonoma County: The committee will schedule an event to explore the issues regarding the movement to create a living wage for all in Sonoma County.

Marty Bennett and others have offered to give us a screening of the documentary “Inequality for All” and to put the documentary in the context of the situation in Sonoma County. The event could be held at the Arlene Francis Center in June on any date except June 12. Friends expressed interest in the committee working with the Living Wage Coalition to view the documentary.

Comments on the report: a Friend said he hopes that the local Palestinian community will be involved in the BDS. In reply another Friend stated that he does have a connection with local Christian Palestinians.

Property, Karen Morgan. A Meeting Work Day is scheduled for Sat. June 28th from 9 am-noon.

The Committee approved changing from PG&E to Evergreen which is 100% renewable energy when we are eligible. A Friend questioned whether the committee or Meeting should make this choice. After questions and discussion, it seemed that Meeting would at least like to have more information about Evergreen, as there are many considerations. Therefore the matter will go back to Property. In order to give Meeting more information, it was suggested that the Committee could hold an open meeting or submit an article in the newsletter.

The Committee would like to form an Interest Group to consider a CSA (Community Support Agriculture) Drop-Off location at the meetinghouse one day a week. Local farmers offer shares of their produce which individuals can purchase. This program is a good way to support our local farmers. Penny is exploring this possibility and Friends should contact her if they are interested.

A car parked in our lot was broken into and a purse stolen during Meeting for Worship on April 27. This is a reminder to all of us to keep valuables in our cars out of sight.

PYM Representative, Barbara Babin. We were reminded that Pacific Yearly Meeting will take place at Walker Creek Ranch from July 14 - 19. Registration is available on the PYM website. Early birds registration ends May 19.

It was noted that the PYM Youth Group will be using our Meetinghouse property the day before PYM begins, which is the day of our July Meeting for Business. Committees are asked to consider how the needs of the Youth can be coordinated with the rest of us.

CORRESPONDENCE

A letter was received from Homewood Meeting in Baltimore regarding the membership transfer of Jo Ann Rosenfield, who attends Ukiah Worship Group. This will be turned over to Oversight.

A letter was received from the City of Santa Rosa letting us know that the use permit for the treatment facility next door to our Meetinghouse will be expanded from 6 to 18 people. A Friend commented that there have been up to 18 people there for awhile, and now this is becoming official.

JOYS and CONCERNS

1. I’m glad to see that the State of the Meeting report reflects that we have made progress in treating one another more tenderly.
2. Thanks to people who pitch in to help on special occasions (such as memorial).
3. I was moved by yesterday’s memorial to Kay McCabe even though I didn’t know her—lives well lived of Friends can be an inspiration to us all.
4. I’m very appreciative of all the outreach efforts in this Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Babin, Clerk
Ruth Witchey, Recording Clerk
At its core, the Quaker way of being in the world supports and challenges all seekers to nurture a direct relationship with the God-of-their-understanding, to discern and honor the Holy in one another, and finally, to strive to live peacefully in community. Last year’s report asked us all to show greater tenderness towards one another and to focus on the question of how we might better vision the manifestation of God’s beloved community. Today, we view this work of reflection and visioning as the seeds for our own renewal. Redwood Forest Friends Meeting has made remarkable and demonstrable inroads into living a life true to the Quaker way -- a life vulnerable and open to the leadings of the Light. We seem increasingly able to offer one another comfort and inspiration on the spiritual and material level as we seek to build a nourishing community. One small worship group described the depth of these new spiritual connections with these words:

“Over the past year, our worship has settled into a pattern of a few deep messages each week, sometimes touching on the health and concerns of folks known to most of those present. The love that this group has for each other is palpable.”

On a practical, material level, ours is an aging community, and we have as yet unexplored fears and anxieties about what the future may hold for us individually or as a Society. On a very small scale, we feel like we have begun to design a spirit led, enthusiastic approach to this essential need that will involve all of us as we learn the arts of giving and receiving. Ideally, the new concept of what we are calling the care umbrella will stabilize some of these practical concerns with a tender touch.

In keeping with the theme of self-care, the completion of our beautiful courtyard welcomes us. The pathway which brings us all to the threshold of Meeting, is intentionally designed in a nonlinear way, reminding us that straight lines are very rare in the world of faith. We each are tasked to find what is most deeply true for ourselves. The warm and steady presence of our Resident Friend completes our Quaker tradition of hospitality.

We find that this warmth is also expanded to further embrace the worship groups under our care. Similarly, the Healing Circle at rise of Meeting embodies this warmth of caring as it offers a new way of experiencing the healing movement of the Divine. As one participant reflected:

“The healing circle that happens most Sundays after Meeting is currently one of the most important of my whole Quaker experiences; I am not sure I can even tell you why; it seems to take me beyond mind and words and waiting and includes me in the healing touch that I need and want to give so badly.”

Our work in the larger community has been expressed though the dynamic and tested programs of North Bay Organizing Project, Alternatives to Violence Project, and by our support of the Ben Lomond Center. On the international level, we have maintained our commitment to the Guatemala Scholarship Loan Project and the Bolivian Quaker Educational fund.

The Quaker Quest from the previous year proved to be very moving, and as a result, several second hour presentations held during this year provided spiritual nourishment as we learn to more clearly articulate our faith with one another. We are now discussing how to build upon these new skills and whether to take them to the outside community.

We are a diverse Meeting with a balanced commitment to both the nuts and bolts of our political action and to the exploration of the mystical side of Quakerism. Many members view this as our strength, and any others would prefer a single focus. This issue fuels deep and often profound testimonies and discussions.

We are unique in that our membership combines worshipers at both the meetinghouse on Guerneville Road and at Friends House. We share the concern of many Meetings of the lack of committed young families and children. To that end, we are focusing efforts to reach out to that community.

Thanks to many interesting visitors over the past year, we have been inspired to produce a new brochure describing Redwood Forest Friends Meeting.

A truly vibrant Meeting asks us for specific preparation and intention as we pass over the threshold on any given Sunday. Our prayer for the year to come is that our Meeting continues to be graced with the mystery of spiritual expansion on both the individual and corporate level.

~Respectfully submitted by Ann Boone, Mary Karp, Jackie Thresh
Feedback needed! Are you interested in pursuing any of the Tools below? Contact Susan Swanstrom, Clerk, at susan.swanstrom@gmail.com or 820-1161 to let the committee know.

Radical Quakerism Meeting Toolkit: Soil Amendments to Nourish Roots, Shoots and Fruits

The activities below are just some among many that might nourish the spiritual life of our monthly meeting and worship groups.

❖ Concentric Circles Exercises
  - Roots, Shoots, and Fruits queries from our Meeting Retreat in February
  - Quaker in the Corner - to answer the questions of newcomers after the rise of meeting
    - What do Quakers believe?
    - Do you have to believe in God to be a Quaker?
    - Are Quakers Christians?
    - How do you teach Quakerism to new people?
    - What do people do when they sit in silent worship?
    - Why are there so few Quakers?
    - Why don't I ever hear about Quakers except in history books? How do I become a member?

❖ Religious education- regular series for adults (recommended each First Day, perhaps in turn) before meeting so that Friends can come with “hearts and minds prepared for worship” (start Meeting for Worship an hour later? At 11?)
  - Bible Study
    1. Take turns reading through a chapter together aloud
    2. Take turns sharing how it resonates with personal experience in worship sharing format
    3. Discuss difficulties, issues or concerns if there is time
  - Orientation for newcomers once per month prior to First Day worship
  - Reading and writing in small groups- Friends text studies from Quaker Center Quotes of the Week [http://www.quakercenter.org/quaker-quote-archive/]
    1. read aloud
    2. individuals write reflections for 10 minutes
    3. pair up into dyads or triads and share (then share again in large group)

❖ Midweek meeting- 30 min. of worship on a weeknight, followed by reading through a Quaker pamphlet or book
  - Western Friend articles [http://westernfriend.org/]
  - Inner Light Books [http://www.innerlightbooks.com/]
  - FGC Bookstore [http://www.quakerbooks.org/]
    1) Take turns reading through a chapter together aloud
    2) Take turns sharing how it resonates with personal experience in worship sharing format
    3) Discuss difficulties, issues or concerns if there is time

❖ Discernment Listening Groups [http://tinyurl.com/lfynpa3] We use discernment listening in attentive conversation, clearness groups, centered worship, and our business process. These small groups will be an opportunity to practice these Quaker skills.

❖ Spiritual Deepening Groups -[http://tinyurl.com/k2ze59o] Spiritual Deepening Groups consist of four or five people who commit to three months of daily spiritual practice and weekly sharing and support either in person, by phone conference or by email.
The Caring Subcommittee Umbrella

The Caring Subcommittee provides a structure in which mutual caring of those in our Meeting can take place while ensuring that no one in need is left out. Persons providing care include members of the subcommittee and a network of others in the meeting who are willing to help in various ways. You can also be a part of the network; just let the Subcommittee know. If you are in need of help or know someone who is, you may contact the following persons associated with the ribs of our caring umbrella:

- **Food** -- Jackie Thresh 578-7715
- **Chores** -- Marcia Anderson 843-3027 & Rick Hargreaves 321-5381
- **Errands** -- Gary Melrose 827-3171
- **Appointments** -- Penny Jones 578-3327
- **Outreach** -- Mary Karp 579-9139
- **Newcomers** -- Ruth Witchey 539-0323
- **Connecting** -- Shawn Gutshall 576-1734
- **Friends House** -- Penny Jones 578-3327 & Marion Cushman 573-4553

Subcommittee: Shawn Gutshall, Penny Jones, Mary Karp, Jackie Thresh, Ruth Witchey

DEADLINE FOR JULY/AUGUST NEWSLETTER IS JUNE 18

**Pacific Yearly Meeting Annual Session**
Youth and Prophecy: Awakening to a New Creation
July 14 thru 19, 2014
Walker Creek Ranch, Petaluma, CA
Registration now open. Go to [http://www.pacificyearlymeeting.org](http://www.pacificyearlymeeting.org) to register with our online Registration Form, which is the preferred method for everyone to register.

**FRIENDS GENERAL CONFERENCE: “THE GATHERING”**
JUNE 29 - JULY 5, 2014, CALIFORNIA (CITY), PA
Visit [www.FGCgathering.org](http://www.FGCgathering.org) for information about the 55 workshops, evening speakers, interest groups, field trips, Quaker books Gathering store, fees, and scholarships.
Spiritually invigorating and full of fun!