

Ben Lomond Quaker Center Association Annual Report

5/14/16

The last year has seen growth and changes at Quaker Center. Over the last year, we have had 63 rental groups, 65 personal retreats, and 14 Quaker Center programs (10 workshops and 4 camps). Total attendance at programs was 395. Many of Quaker Center's guests are not necessarily Quaker but are visiting us as part of retreats and workshops held by like-minded non-profit and for-profit enterprises. Their business ensures that we can run Quaker Center as a cost-effective resource for the Quaker community when we need it, and provides the essential income to keep the Center functioning.

There have been some staffing changes at Quaker Center during the past year. Delaney Miller, our former administrative assistant, left Quaker Center in March. Ellen Dougherty then joined us as Quaker Center's Administrative Assistant, coming to us from a nearby retreat center. We share our Administrative Assistant with Western Friend with approximately 80 % of Ellen's time used for Quaker Center work and 20 % working for Western Friend. Ellen has been a great addition to the staff and primarily taking charge of the rental group scheduling and contracts and group management when they are onsite.. Brad MacDonald continues as our very capable Maintenance Tech. Perhaps this is a good place to add that Quaker Center's resident population increased by one in November when Brad and his wife Niconia became the parents of Connor.

Attendance at programs for the most part remains strong, thanks in part to the use of our Annual Pass, which was introduced four years ago. Fourteen meetings and nineteen individuals have purchased annual passes this year. We have been happy that the meeting passes have increased the attendance overall, as well as the number of first-time attenders at programs. Quaker Center's income has been largely unaffected by the annual pass; it is only when programs are at capacity and would-be paying participants are turned away that this becomes an issue. If you're a frequent attender, or your meeting wants to increase its participants' participation in our programs, consider an Annual Pass, which pays for itself quickly and lets you (or, in the case of a meeting pass, anyone in your meeting) attend all of the programs we hold over the course of the year. We encourage everyone here to attend at least one Quaker Center program if you haven't done so before.

Bob and Kathy Runyan, Co-Directors, are continuing to travel to meetings to present "Radical Quakerism: from Roots to Fruits", a program of Quaker Center on the Road. Since last May, they have shared this program with the following: Soledad Worship Group, Honolulu, Central Coast, Sacramento, San Jose, and Strawberry Creek meetings. This past February, the Runyans took Quaker Center on the Road for an extended trip to Friends in the northwest facilitating two full weekends of Radical Quakerism: From Roots to Fruits at Multnomah meeting with Friends from Bridge City meeting and two local Friends churches, then at Salmon Bay meeting, and in between the offered two evening sessions for Olympia and South Seattle Friends.

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Maintenance and improvements this year at Quaker Center have included, building a new retaining wall for the playground, demolishing the old outdoor shower structure at the Haven, and clearing years' worth of refuse out of the Landing during Family Work Camp. The Landing is now being used for lumber and firewood storage while keeping the wood dry and a claw foot tub is ready to be installed on the deck of the Haven at Family Work Camp this summer. And thanks to a family foundation grant, new sofas are now in place in both lodges and new sofa sleepers in the Sojourner's Cottage and Redwood Lodge upper bunkhouse. In late September, a drought-stressed oak tree fell on the upper bunkhouse at the Redwood Lodge, fortunately at a time when all of those in the rental group were in the dining room. The roof was repaired but did not have to be replaced. As a result of this incident, Quaker Center hired a tree service to take down other trees that threatened the buildings. During the past year, there has been major electrical work done to replace old and unsafe fuse boxes and wiring. Brad MacDonald, our Maintenance Tech, does a great job of systematizing and keeping up on the maintenance needs of Quaker Center facilities.

Quaker Center's board is healthy, with most committees meeting monthly by phone. The board meets four times a year to work, worship, and discern together, along with staff, what is needed at Quaker Center to carry out our vision. If you would be interested in serving on the board, please speak to a member of our Governance (Nominating) Committee, or ask the Quarter's Nominating Committee to get you in touch with a member of our board.

And finally, if you'd like to sit in more comfortable, sturdy chairs next time you visit, please consider contributing to the purchase of all new dining chairs when that request arrives in your mail next week.

Respectfully submitted by Kathy Richman and Steve Leeds, co-clerks

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