

## **SOUTH BAY Regional Gathering Spring 2019 held at Ben Lomond Quaker Center**

Report from Robin Severns of the Palo Alto Meeting Retreat Committee.

The joint retreat with Santa Cruz was a delight. About 50 people attended at some time during the weekend. Twenty-six people from SCFM and PAFM stayed over Saturday night. They were joined Saturday by a few Friends from Live Oak and San Jose Meetings. Two children, aged 8, were attended enthusiastically by Mark Runyan.

The facilities that were rented were the Orchard Lodge, the Casa and the Haven. The latter two were used only by one couple each for sleeping. The Haven was not used for any other purpose and might be unnecessary next year. The Redwood Circle was not used at all by the group due to its being inaccessible by some attenders who depend on walkers for mobility. Worship was held in the Casa.

The "early birds" arrived about 4:00 pm on Friday. Free time that evening included snacks and then dinner about 7:00. Get-acquainted games were played on Saturday morning, with worship groups following. Then lunch and free time until dinner. After dinner, a film on Midwestern Quaker history was shown. Singing and games followed. Sunday morning, we ate, cleaned and worshiped in that order. It is important not to leave cleaning for last. Almost 30 people participated on Sunday. Food was bought and prepared by Sandy Farley on Friday night and by the Edgars, with help from chore group volunteers, on the other occasions.

The event was able to offer financial aid to those who needed it and still finish comfortably ahead of expenses, due to the healthy attendance. The two Meetings shared the expenses evenly. The remaining funds will be used to place a deposit for next year's retreat and may be used for a one-day fall retreat for PAFM.

Meeting Life is in unity that we join with Santa Cruz Friends again next year for the Spring Gathering. The tentative date is the third weekend in March.

Report from Alan Edgar of the Santa Cruz Meeting Retreat Committee.

Santa Cruz and Palo Alto Meetings had their first joint retreat on the last weekend of March at Quaker Center. Fifty-two people attended at least part of the time, 27 were from Santa Cruz, 23 from Palo Alto, 2 from San Jose, 2 children attended one from Palo Alto and one from Santa Cruz and had a great time.

Everyone enjoyed the opportunity to get to know Friends from another Meeting. There were getting acquainted activities to facilitate this as well as worship-sharing and a wonderful afternoon of small interest groups on a variety of both Quaker and non-Quaker topics. Three participants made light work of the final cleanup before finishing the weekend with worship in the Casa. The retreat was able to offer financial aid to those who needed it and still finish comfortably ahead of expenses. The two Meetings shared the expense and the surplus evenly.

The following minute was approved: Minute 4//14/19 #1: Santa Cruz Friends Meeting supports having a joint retreat with Palo Alto Friends Meeting in March of 2020.