

Minutes for College Park Quarterly Meeting

Fall 2019

We commenced on Saturday morning, with worship. College Park Quarterly Meeting Clerk, Barbara Babin of Redwood Forest Meeting, welcomed us, and invited us to prepare for this day in which the spirit comes knocking. With the theme, "Living Together on This Earth," we have been asked to consider our interconnectedness to all species and all life on earth.

Amy Cooke, Executive Director of Woolman at Sierra Friends Center invited us to close our eyes and sink down and feel our awareness of this land and let go of our awareness of the current residents on this land, and become aware first of the devastation of the gold rush and then to touch for just a moment the genocide that happened here. There were between 7000 and 9000 Nisenan on this land at one time from just west of the Tahoe basin down through the valley floor, and now there are only 126, and we are learning to live next to them and how to heal. She welcomed us into a future where we heal together. She brought us the greetings of Shelley Covert, an elder of the Nisenan community who has been working together with Woolman.

Our Assistant Clerk, Janet Leslie, led an interactive role call by region and invited us to talk to others from our region whom we might not already know.

We had visitors:

Jim Summers, Pacific Yearly Meeting M&O
Jauvaughn (& Christina) Fernandez, PYM Youth Program Coordinator
Tom Farley, Earthlight Bookselling
Bob Fisher, co-Director of Ben Lomond Quaker Center
Shelley Tannenbaum, General Secretary, Quaker Earthcare Witness
Mico Sorrell, co-Clerk of the board, Friends Association of Services to the Elderly
Stephen Myers, Board of Friends Committee on Legislation of California
Dawn Einwalter, formerly Davis Meeting, now living in Minnesota
Nate Secrest, Quaker camps and El Salvador service learning trips
Charlie Blanchard, Board of Quaker Institute for the Future
Carolyn Levering, for Friends Committee on National Legislation
Patricia Portillo, program for undocumented students at CSUS
Sue Torrey, co-clerk, PYM Nominating Committee

Barbara Christwitz and Ari Standish of the Children's Program told us a little about what the children will be doing this weekend. They have been invited to help with the apple cider making.

Alma Moon and Callum Standish, co-Clerks of the Teen Program, told us about their plans for the weekend, which include an apple picking service project and making cider, and facilitating the intergenerational activity.

Plenary 1:

Our clerk passed around the queries that the panel has been considering. The panel's elder, Carl Magruder, opened with a poem by Joanna Macy, "Prayer for Future Beings" (attached).

The panel discussion was facilitated by moderator Alma Moon of Strawberry Creek. The panelists were Mica Estrada (Strawberry Creek), an Associate Professor at UC San Francisco's Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences; Stephen Myers (Sacramento), former teacher at Woolman, one of the founders of the camps program at Sierra Friends Center and director of the camps at Ben Lomond Quaker Center, who has just graduated from CSU Sacramento with a Master's in Public Policy and Administration and a Law degree from McGeorge School of Law; Keith Runyan (Santa Cruz), an outdoor educator, podcaster and climate activist; and Shelley Tannenbaum (Strawberry Creek), former environmental scientist, and currently an environmental activist and the General Secretary of Quaker Earthcare Witness.

The panelists took turns responding to a series of questions about their development in relation to our climate crisis. After they had each responded in turn to three questions, there was a question and answer period. (notes on the panel discussion are available in a separate document)

Plenary 1 closed with a description of the interest groups for later today and the forms of worship sharing available in the next session by Assistant Clerk, Janet Leslie.

Plenary 2

We began with opening worship. Clerk Barbara Babin noted how much more satisfying it is to meet face to face and close together, encouraging us to move toward the front of the room.

Nominating Committee:

Clerk Janet Wile of Applesseed Meeting brought the names of Ariana Standish of Berkeley Meeting and Mark Runyan of Santa Cruz Meeting for Children's Committee for terms through 2022.

Naming Committee:

Dinah Bachrach of Redwood Forest Meeting, one of the members of the Naming Committee, brought us a report recommending Friends for the Nominating Committee. They recommend Stephen Myers (Sacramento) for a two year term, Nancy Nanna (Redwood Forest) for a one year term, and Doug Milhous (Redding) for a one year term. The latter two may consider re-upping after their first year. These names were held over until Sunday morning, with comments to be directed to members of the current Naming Committee, who are Dinah Bachrach, Bob Runyan and Cindy Trueblood.

Ad-Hoc Committee on Regional Gatherings

Mico Sorrell of Redwood Forest and Strawberry Creek Meetings, brought us the report of the Ad-Hoc Committee on Regional Gatherings. Jim Anderson has posted a history of regional gatherings and a report on the three that have taken place in the documents section of the CPQM website ([link here](#)). Liaisons from CPQM M&O to the three regions that held these meetings have been established, and they have heard from several other individuals from the two regions that did not (the Bay Area and Visalia). They now felt that it was time to lay down the ad hoc committee (set up in Spring 2018) and give this responsibility to M&O.

There had been some thought about whether these regional gatherings might replace winter quarterly, but winter is the quarterly that draws the most people from our most densely populated area (Bay Area), and often we have a guest speaker then. Plus it gives the teens a chance to gather together. So they would have been loath to recommend that we lay it down, even if that had been in their purview.

The value in the regional gatherings is that friends farther removed have a chance to gather. We have liaisons from a number of meetings but none from San Francisco and Visalia. Mico read the list of names.

The Clerk thanked the ad committee members for all of their work.

Registrars' Report

We had the Registrars' Report (attached in archived minutes) from co-Registrar, Liz Baker. She thanked Eric Sabelman for his help with spreadsheet.

At this Fall Quarter, we had 101 attenders, 4 no shows, 10 teens, 2 children, and only 5 who needed to re-write their checks.

The Clerk thanked the Registration team for a smooth process and the webmaster, Bob Runyan, for our online registration process.

College Park Friends Educational Association

Each quarter we hear from one organization that, though no longer under the quarter's care, we continue to have a relationship with. This quarter, it's CPFEA.

Sandra Schwartz (SF Meeting) volunteer Clerk to the College Park Friends Educational Association Board presented a report (attached in the archived minutes), accompanied by board members Sarah Tyrrell and Dan Schumaker and Amy Cooke, Executive Director of Woolman at Sierra Friends Center. They are in the process of completing the first year of Woolman Rising, a five year plan designed to achieve financial stability and support youth on Quaker principles. Financial stability continues to be a challenge, as does the small size of the Woolman board. They and their partner organizations have received some substantial grants, though, and they see an opportunity to use the facilities as rentals for groups and individuals. They have a new program director, and she has helped with urban youth education programs, bringing over 200 students to Woolman from urban areas in the last year.

Amy spoke about research on what is happening to teens. Depression and suicide rates have risen to rates that are unheard of. She said that studies show that three days in an outdoor program affect mental health as opposed to the isolation of screen time. When you bring young people into groups, despair levels drop and this allows them step into lives of action.

Recording Clerk, Heather Levien of Berkeley Meeting, read the minutes from Plenary 1, which we approved, pending minor corrections.

Bob Fisher, co-Director of Ben Lomond Quaker Center, announced some upcoming events that are related to the theme of this quarterly. There will be a George Lakey program on climate justice, January 24-26, then on February 21-23, Lucretia Humphrey, "How then Shall I Live?" Finally, panelist Mica Estrada, on May 29-31, on "Equity, Inclusion and Letting Go."

Plenary 3

The Clerk said that she felt that she had lost track of the fact that Meeting for Business is a Meeting for Worship, and that we can take the time we need to discern rather than feeling we need to rush.

Ministry and Oversight.

Joe Magruder of Berkeley Meeting, Clerk of the Ministry and Oversight Committee, made the report. He said that M&O spends a lot of time being technicians, being consultants to the clerk, for example, helping with things like the worship sharing questions. They also support meetings, for example, small meetings or Friends' organizations like CPFEA. He asked the members of M&O to stand.

The Clerk asked the current members of the CPFEA board to stand: Sarah Tyrrell, and Dan Schumaker. Jim Inman wasn't present.

The CPFEA Board needs to have five members, and two have been serving as volunteers and need approval. Nominations are transitioning from being approved by quarter. Sandra Schwartz (San Francisco) for a one year term and Pat Phillips (Grass Valley) for a three year term to 2022, and the Clerk asked to have them to approved without seasoning. These nominations were approved.

Teen Program

Callum Standish (Berkeley Meeting) gave a report of what the teens did this weekend (attached).

Nominating Committee

Ari Standish and Mark Runyan were approved as members of the Children's Committee through 2022.

Naming Committee

Nancy Nanna, Doug Milhouse and Steven Myers were approved for the terms notes above.

Finance Committee and Treasurer

Tom Yamaguchi and Carl Anderson of Strawberry Creek, Treasurer and Clerk of the Finance Committee, gave us a report (attached in archived minutes). They gave us a report on the quotas and noted that every meeting paid something, and they will be sending letters about next year's quotas soon. Carl noted a significant loss on Spring Quarter of almost \$2,000, but we did well at Winter Quarter, and we raised rates for Fall Quarter.

A friend noted that it would have been helpful to see the numbers for fall quarter last year. They had the impression that we make up in the fall what we lose in the spring. Carl would have to look into this question. Tom has received more this weekend than he had for any quarter he remembers.

The Clerk expressed her gratitude to the Clerk of Finance Committee and the Treasurer for their hard work in processing this information. She also thanked all of the people on committees who work so hard behind the scenes.

A Friend thanked the meeting for welcoming the children. Her daughter is now back East and attending college and is attending Quaker meeting there.

A friend rose and reminded us that there had been a suggestion that we create a minute about our commitment to the environment. We created an ad hoc committee to work on this: Nancy Glock-Grueneich (Santa Cruz), Marcia Roberts (Redwood Forest), Mica Estrada (Strawberry Creek), Carl Magruder (Strawberry Creek), Tom Farley (Palo Alto), and Shelley Tannenbaum (Strawberry Creek).

Children's Program

Barbara Christwitz (Redwood Forest) of the Children's Program, told about what they had done this weekend, including going to the pond and the Yuba River and creating a song, which they taught us.

We reviewed the minutes and approved them with minor corrections.

Our clerk closed the 240th session, and we moved into Meeting for Worship with the Grass Valley Friends Meeting.