

Ben Lomond Quaker Center
2018-9 Annual Report
5/18/2019

Quaker Center strives to be a special place, which is spiritually both restful and stimulating. During the past year we have continued to grow and thrive and to help foster spiritual development in the Religious Society of Friends in the western United States.

In the past year, we have had 61 rental groups, 44 personal retreats and 14 Quaker Center programs consisting of 12 workshops and 2 camps. Many of Quaker Center's guests are not Quakers but are like-minded non-profit and for-profit groups which are doing workshops and retreats. Revenue from these renters allows Quaker Center to operate as a financially viable resource for the Quaker community. Total attendance at Quaker Center programs was over 300. Programs were scheduled on a wide range of topics to appeal to the varied interests of Friends and were frequently facilitated by individuals known in the wider Quaker community. Family Work Camp in August was again particularly successful this year, both in the large number of 53 participants and in the intergenerational interaction and enthusiasm. Due partly to the Annual Pass, which was introduced seven years ago, programs at Quaker Center remain well attended. 13 Meetings and 18 individuals purchased annual passes this past year. The BLQCA Program Committee has endeavored to attract a larger number of young people to programs. Still, attracting a larger number of younger people to Quaker Center programs remains an ongoing concern.

Successful operation of Quaker Center is possible only with a strong staff. Quaker Center has been blessed with a skilled and committed staff. Ellen Dougherty continues as the Office Coordinator, ably scheduling and coordinating the rental groups and performing a number of other duties. Jesse Keesaw became our Maintenance Technician just a little over a year ago. During this relatively short time, he has done much to improve the Center, has been certified by the State to operate the water system, and has trimmed expenditures. He is looking forward to many years of service. Michelle Keesaw is the Center's Housekeeper, as well as Jesse's wife. We wish the best for Jesse and Michelle as they are expecting their second child in the next few weeks. Since January, Mark Runyan has been filling in as our Maintenance Assistant and Rooney Farris has also just joined the team as a Maintenance Assistant.

The big news on staffing has been the search for a new director, or co-directors, for Quaker Center. While we are deeply sad to see Kathy and Bob Runyan leave their positions as co-directors, we wish them well in the next part of their journey as they relocate to their Chico-area home.

The search for new staff leadership has been both invigorating and exhausting. On the exhausting side, the Personnel Committee created a job description and formed a search committee which included current and former Board members. By August of 2108 we had

received fourteen applications. After review of these applications, by the Search Committee and interviews of three candidates, the Board in December determined that there was a need to expand the search. An additional 15 application were received by the end of March 2019. Interviews for suitable candidates are in progress. Our goal is to have the appointment of a new director or co-directors before departure of the Runyans at the beginning of September.

The invigorating part of the process has been the opportunity for the Board to reexamine the purpose of the center and its place in the Religious Society of Friends and the greater world.

We started by looking at and re-affirming the center's mission statement:

Quaker Center seeks to nurture the spiritual growth and faithfulness of Friends and others, while strengthening Quakerism and its witness in the world. We offer programs and personal retreats exemplifying Friends' testimonies of community, integrity, simplicity, peace, and equality. We strive to live in right order with all creation, especially with the redwood forest that sustains us here in the Santa Cruz mountains.

We looked at what areas were emphasized during the last eight years:

- Increasing the emphasis on being a Quaker Center, which included bringing Quaker Center on the road, starting an on-line daily meeting for worship, and developing consultation weekends open to Monthly Meetings;
- Expanding the area of service beyond the area of College Park Quarterly. We now include on the Board a member of Bridge City Monthly Meeting in Portland and a Board co-clerk from Santa Monica Monthly Meeting in Southern California;
- Staying on a Firm Financial Footing: The Center operates with a yearly surplus, we have over \$200,000 in current assets and we own the 80-acre property without carrying any loans. (Please see attached Financial Overview Appendix.)
- Maintaining and improving the physical plant. In the last few years staff has made many repairs to the Center This includes rebuilding the water supply storage system, paving areas around both the Orchard Lodge and the Redwood Lodge, adding two new trails, adding a new heater for the library, a new range in the Redwood Lodge, new floors in the Redwood Lodge bunkhouses, a new outdoor shower at the Haven, and a new roof on the Meditation Cottage.

We know that Quaker Center will change in coming years. We are dedicated to holding on to what is important but also adapting to the needs of the Society and the greater community. We want to reach out to not only Quakers, but to all who are intended to be Friends. We need to reach out to the young and to those whose ancestors come from continents other than Europe. We need to grow to continue to be a relevant and a spiritually restful and stimulating place for coming generations.

We have been reminded of these goals and dreams by our search for a director. It is a tall order, but we will do the best we can.

To reach these goals, we need your help. We need you to volunteer your time and energy. We have added a number of new members to the Board of Directors, and we will continue to seek qualified members to serve on the Board and committees. We welcome any suggestions from the Quarterly Meeting.

You may consider donating to Quaker Center. Such a donation, or a bequest with your will or trust, would help us expand our programs and facilities

We need you to consider attending the programs offered by Quaker Center (Please see attached 2019 Program Calendar.) In upcoming months we have workshops on:

- Abundance and Justice in our Common Home,
- Clerking with Joy and Enthusiasm,
- Holiness: The Soul of Quakerism,
- The Pursuit of Wisdom,
- “In the World but not of it”: Quaker Spiritual Community over Time,
- Building the Blessed Community: Nurturing Authentic Quaker Spirituality, and
- Is God Violent? Making A New Beginning with the Bible.

We also have a Quaker Service and Art Camp for 5th through 9th graders, and the popular Family Work Camp for all ages. All of these programs are designed to be fun and inspirational. If your meeting doesn't already have one, advocate having it purchase an annual pass. Although no one is refused from our programs for lack of funds, the existence of an annual meeting pass is an incentive for many to participate.

More than anything else, we need your help to make the rest of the United States and the world more like Quaker Center. We all need to bring the spirit of joy and community, the clean air and green trees, and the felt presence of God to all of God's creation.

Respectfully Submitted,

Thom McCue and Henry Yang, Co-Clerks
Ben Lomond Quaker Center Association

Ben Lomond Quaker Center Annual Report Appendix: Financial Overview

Balance Sheet (as of 12/31/2018, in dollars)

Assets

Current Assets

Checking/Savings	243,519
Accounts Receivable	(39,657)
Other Current Assets	12,680

Total Current Assets **216,542**

Fixed Assets 1,110,262

Total Assets **1,326,804**

Liabilities and Equity

Total Liabilities 2,771

Total Equity 1,324,033

Total Liabilities and Equity 1,326,804

Profit and Loss 2018

Income

Use Fees

QC Programs	\$58,715
Quaker Groups	\$20,556
Non-Quaker Groups	\$235,035
Personal Retreats	\$10,432

Total Use Fees **\$324,738**

Contributions

Individuals	\$29,609
Meetings	\$4,702
Grants	\$9,000

Total Contributions **\$43,311**

Other Income **\$6,625**

Unrealized Capital Gain **(\$13,290)**

Total Income **\$361,384**

Expense

Administrative/Office	\$11,696
Personnel	\$158,222
Operating Expenses	\$140,949
Reconciliation Discrepancy	\$10

Total Expense **\$310,877**

Depreciation \$31,500

Net Income **\$19,008**

QUAKER CENTER

2019 Program Calendar

January 25-27	Come as You Are - Reading the Bible with Friends The Bible is a precious and challenging resource for Quakers. Does it have a place in your religious life? This weekend will feature group reading and reflection on varied passages. Enthusiasts and doubters all welcome.	Stephen Matchett
February 22-24	Faithful Living in Challenging Times How do I know what faithful action is required of me, today? How can we be more open to direct Divine nudges? How might we help one another lead more faithful lives?	Marty Grundy and Connie Green
March 19-24	Quaker Revival The Society of Friends is begging for revival. This workshop will delineate the essential principles of Quakerism and consider what living faithfully in accordance with them requires of us today.	Paul Buckley
May 10-12	Renewing our Meetings to Welcome New Quakers At times Friends are afraid: "We don't have enough young people!" And new folks can be discouraged: "This meeting doesn't meet my needs!" There is a third path: calm, deep meeting renewal. For a preview, go to quakernewrenew.wordpress.com .	Henri Ducharme and Hilary Burgin
May 31 – June 2	Abundance and Justice in our Common Home Summoning gardeners and prison justice reformers, mystics and peace advocates for a time of deep listening stemming from our interconnections. Through history, story-telling, and worship-sharing, we seek an ecology of hope, ways of integration and action.	Shelley Tanenbaum and Sara Wolcott
June 22-29	Quaker Service and Art Camp Rising fifth to ninth graders learn about Quaker faith and practices, share time in nature and build community through art, service, campfires, singing, games, hikes, and more.	Camp Staff
July 29 – August 3	Family Work Camp A camp for all ages! Build community while constructing, repairing, prepping, painting, cooking, cleaning. Deepen community by worshiping, playing, hiking, singing, chatting.	Jesse Keesaw and Quaker Center Staff
August 30 – September 1	Clerking with Joy and Enthusiasm This workshop is designed for all, regardless of experience, who want to dive more deeply into Quaker decision-making. We will explore the interrelated roles of presiding clerk, recording clerk, committee clerks, and "clerks-in-waiting," providing a practical and spiritual framework for finding unity in the Spirit.	Barbara Babin and Jamie Newton
September 27-29	Holiness: The Soul of Quakerism This course will explore the nature of holiness as it has been described, interpreted, and lived out by Quakers across time and cultures, and what meaning it might have in the secularized world of Quakerism today.	Carole Spencer
October 25-27	The Pursuit of Wisdom Where is wisdom? How shall we live? In this workshop we will seek wisdom for the inward life from the Epistle of James, the ancient Christian monastics, and Quaker mystic and social reformer John Woolman.	Michael Birkel
November 15-17	"In the world but not of it": Quaker Spiritual Community over Time This course looks at the changing relationship between Quakers and wider culture over three and a half centuries and the ways in which Friends have tried to nurture authentic spirituality as 'mystics in the midst.'	Ben Pink Dandelion
November 18-20	Building the Blessed Community: Nurturing Authentic Quaker Spirituality How do we make our Meetings vibrant and Spirit-led when we are all so busy, and beset by the worries of the world? How do we realize our gifts in a secular world?	Ben Pink Dandelion
December 6-8	10th Annual Music and Dance Retreat A joyful, simple, reduced-cost weekend of music with various styles of group singing, folk dancing, instrumental jams, and a community dance on Saturday night.	Participant Leaders
December 27 – January 1	Is God Violent? Making a New Beginning with the Bible Often criticized for its violence, the Bible can also be understood as profoundly subversive of "sacred violence," manifesting an emergent empathy for victims. Based on the work of Rene Girard, this way of reading has profound implications for peacemaking.	Tom Gates

Register online at www.quakercenter.org

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