

**College Park Quarterly Meeting
 Minutes for fall 2016 session [231st]
 October 14, 2016 - October 16, 2016
 Sierra Friends Center**

Opening Plenary Session Saturday morning.

On a misty damp morning following some good fall rain, we gathered in the meetinghouse. Clerk, Sandy Kewman, welcomed us and presented the theme: "listening for God's guidance." In the Bible it is recorded that God called to Samuel in the middle of the night, three times. The first two times he rose and went to his teacher, Eli. After the second time, Eli said, "God is calling you, not I. Just answer 'Here I am.'"

Friends stood to be greeted as Carl Sigmond, Assistant to the Clerk, called the names of their meetings or worship groups.

The following sixteen meetings or worship groups were represented:

Meeting or Worship Group	10 th month 2016	1 st month 2017	5 th month 2017	10 th month 2017
Appleseed	x			
Berkeley	x			
Livermore wg				-
Central Coast				
Chico	x			
Davis	x			
Delta				
Fresno		-	-	-
Grass Valley	x			
Humboldt	x			
Southern Humboldt wg				
Live Oak				
Soledad wg				
Mendocino		-	-	-
Monterey Peninsula		-	-	-
Napa Sonoma			-	-
Palo Alto	x			
Redding	x	-	-	
Redwood Forest	x			
Friends House wg	x			
Lake County wg	x			
Ukiah wg				
Reno				
Carson City wg				
Sacramento	x			
San Francisco	x			
Western shore wg				

San Jose	x			
Santa Cruz	x			
Strawberry Creek	x			
Oakland wg		-	-	-
Visalia				
			-	-

Others in attendance were John Pixley from Claremont MM, Alyssa Nelson PYM Youth Program Coordinator, and Carla Militzer, from Sacramento.

Welcome:

Amy Cook, welcomed us to **Sierra Friends Center** acknowledging the indigenous residents of this area, the Nisenam people. She invited us to walk the trails and enjoy the land.

Children's Program:

Mark Runyan, Clerk of the Children's Program, announced that since there one school-age child present, that program is being folded into the teen program for the weekend.

Teen Program:

Maren Sinclair-Hurn, co-Clerk of the Teen Program and Gabby Alvarado, Clerk of the Teens, welcomed 7 teens. Last night they enhanced T-shirts and are planning to lead intergenerational games this afternoon.

Plenary Session 1

We settled in silence.

Sandy Kewman introduced our first keynote speaker, Sophie Brinker of Strawberry Creek Meeting, who was a Woolman Semester student and later an intern. Sophie began with gratitude. Listening to God is a matter of cultivating awareness of all that is going on and it inspires humility as we encounter the miraculous. She was amazed that a 4 year old girl could say "I am God." and hopes that we can teach all our children that they are divine. Then we may learn from young teachers and by listening and watching. We aspire to be astonished at least ten times a day.

Our second keynote speaker introduced is Bob Runyan of Santa Cruz Meeting and Co-Director of Quaker Center in Ben Lomond.

Bob says that listening may be the hardest part. He recounted an experience of extreme clarity of vision and purpose while driving home along the Tahoe east shore. He continues to look for a way back that exquisite experience of God, which in the words of Fox makes "all things new." His experience tells him that when we follow what we are led to do, those experiences of God occur more frequently. Obedience helps. The veil of our thoughts gets in the way. The advice to turn inwards is not to look into yourself, but to go in and look out from that inward place

and wait. When guidance is clear, obey. You will be brought into unity with others on the same path. He distributed a hand out of excerpts from George Fox's Journal bearing on listening to God. [\[Attachment #1\]](#) He closed with a quote from Henry David Thoreau that 'only that day dawns to which we are awake.'

Nominating Committee:

Karen Morgan, Redwood Forest brought forward for first reading three nominations:

M&O Kathy Runyan, Santa Cruz 1year 2017

BLQC board Rashaun Sourles, Palo Alto, Olivia Henry, SF Oct 2019

These nominations will be considered for approval Sunday morning

There are three openings on the Children's Program Committee. Karen encouraged Friends to consider serving on that committee.

Naming Committee:

Sarah Tyrrell, Berkeley Meeting, brought forward for first reading four names

Jan Turner of Humboldt to extend her service one more year [2018]

Cybil Schroeder of San Jose to fill one year remaining on a term of office, [2018]

Barry Ansell formerly of Marin to serve until 2019

Janet Wile of Applesseed to serve until 2020

They also named continuing member, Marilee Eusebio, Davis to clerk.

These nominations will be considered for approval Sunday morning.

College Park Friends Education Association-- Doug Milhous

The Woolman semester program is in suspension this fall. CPFEA is embarking on a Campaign for Discernment with benchmarks that will determine whether to develop new programs that can be financially sustainable or to lay the organization down responsibly. They have already raised \$46,000 of \$72,000 they have a goal of raising by December 1. What are we called to do with this resource of beautiful land? CPFEA has welcomed the work of board members and community volunteers. The board is seeking more board members. [The full report of the board is attached to these minutes.](#) [\[Attachment #2\]](#)

One of the afternoon interest groups will be part of this discernment process.

Interest Groups:

1. Reflections on the Theme of Listening for God's Guidance (M&O Committee)

2. Traveling in the Ministry among Australian Friends with the Support of Elders (PYM YPC, Alyssa Nelson)

3. What is Developing at Sierra Friends Center? (Amy Cooke)

4. Importance of Role of Lobbying by Citizens (FCL-CA, Kevan Insko)

Sandy Kewman read announcements . We then divided ourselves up for worship sharing groups and dispersed.

Plenary 2, Saturday 4:00 pm

We gathered in worship. Carl Sigmond, assistant to the clerk, is the acting clerk this session, “shaking things up a bit,” following a precedent from Philadelphia YM.

State of the Meeting

Eric Sabelman of Ministry and Oversight Committee read the state of the meeting report from Delta Meeting. It candidly reported the difficulties of a small and aging group of Quakers spread over a wide geographic area.

Ministry and Oversight Committee report

Jim Anderson, clerk, reported that the Ministry and Oversight Committee has met 7 times since January, in person or by conference calls. He read to us the charge to the committee upon which they have been acting. Spiritual nurture has emerged as a theme this year. They are trying to revitalize communications with ALL monthly meetings. “We offer so much to each other when we gather.” The committee is sending out reminders on the process of State of the Meeting Reports to encourage this spiritual exercise. He asked us if our meetings reach out to neighboring meetings to work together. Many hands were cheerfully raised. The members of Ministry and Oversight Committee stood to be recognized.

Friends Committee on Legislation-California

Kevan Insko reported on a very active year for FCL-CA. They Co-sponsored three bills this session, a record high number. All three were criminal justice issues, and all three passed, though the one about in person visitation was vetoed by governor Brown for financial impact reasons. The penal code now includes rehabilitation and restorative justice among its goals. This was a coalition effort. FCL-CA advocated on dozens of other bills for economic and climate justice concerns.

FCL-CA faces its own sustainability issues as the cost of doing its work continues to rise. They give thanks for the fund raising efforts of Palo Alto, San Jose, Santa Cruz, and Berkeley meetings and Whittier Friends Church.

Finance Committee/Treasurer’s Report:

Carl Anderson, clerk of finance, and Tom Yamaguchi, treasurer, gave a report. Our spring quarterly meeting lost much less than last year. Our new fiscal year started October 1st, so monthly meetings will soon be receiving a quota request of \$2.00 per member based on the PYM statistical report. They are looking into alternative ways of receiving payment for registrations, including Pay Pal, for on line registration. We asked Carl and Tom if they’d considered raising our quota assessment, which has been at \$2 for many, many years. Southern California just raised theirs from \$6 to \$10. We could use the money to provide attendance support for our gatherings. Meeting referred this proposal back to Ministry and Oversight and Finance committees for consideration. Minute #1

Minutes considered for approval

The minutes from the opening and first plenaries were read, amended, and approved. Minute #2

The minutes from the second session were read from draft form and with minor suggestions were approved. Minute#3

Announcements

Sandy Kewman read a short set of announcements.

Carl Sigmond closed the meeting.

Plenary 3 Sunday Morning October 16, 2016

Meeting began with an extended period of gathered worship as the rain continued to bless the land.

Clerk, Sandy Kewman opened the business portion of our meeting.

Registrar's Report

Mica Estrada reported that 1 child, 6 teens, and 64 adults attended. 10 no-shows were mostly weather related. Donations of \$552 for CPQM or Sierra Friends Center were received. On Line registration worked fairly well. In the future we may be able to pay on line, as well.

Nominating Committee

Karen Morgan repeated the names brought forward Saturday

For M&O Kathy Runyan, Santa Cruz a 1year term ending in 2017

For BLQC board Rashaun Sourles, Palo Alto, Olivia Henry SF for terms ending in May 2017 Meeting approved the service of these Friends in these capacities. Minute #4

Naming Committee

Sarah Tyrrell repeated the names brought forward Saturday to serve on our nominating committee as follows:

Jan Turner of Humboldt to extend her service one more year [2018]

Cybil Schroeder of San Jose to fill one year remaining on a term of office, [2018]

Barry Ansell formerly of Marin to serve until 2019

Janet Wile of Appleseed to serve until 2020

Continuing member, Marilee Eusebio, has agreed to clerk the Nominating Committee. Meeting approved the service of these Friends on the Nominating Committee. Minute #5.

The Minutes for this session were read and approved. Minute #6.

We settled into worship.

We joined Grass Valley Meeting for Sunday worship.