

AMONG FRIENDS

Newsletter of the Santa Barbara Friends Meeting and Ojai Worship Group
First Month • January, 2004

Meeting for Worship 10:00 AM
Waldorf School, 2300 B Garden Street
Website: <http://create.ucsb.edu/~stp/friends>
Russell Hollister, Clerk

Child Care Every First Day
P.O. Box 40120, Santa Barbara, CA 93140-0120
Ojai Contact: Martha Churchyard, 805/640-8875
SB contact: Nancy Michelson 805/687-0165

We are all Clerks

As we approach a big decision in our meeting — about purchasing our own meetinghouse — it becomes important that we each understand a bit more of what our role in this process might best be. Upon attending with Nancy Rowan and Russell Hollister a recent workshop on Quaker Decisionmaking led by Eric Moon and Cliff Lester, the concept was presented that all of us in Meeting are indeed Clerks who are responsible for what happens in a Meeting for Business. We each receive guidance on what the next steps might be in reaching a decision.

Eric spoke to Meeting for Business being Real Quakerism. Lots of people sit in silence, but what makes Quaker process so profound is our “Meeting for God’s Business.” He reminds us of what we know about our present Clerk “The gift of a gifted Clerk is to evoke the clerk in others.” Surely Russell does this with us.

What is our responsibility in this decisionmaking process? Cliff prompts us with these:

- Members should request recognition from the Clerk before speaking and then speak to the group, not just one person.
- Listen deeply toward the end of truly hearing the spirit of the person speaking.
- Avoid preconceived conclusions. Be willing to let go of personal views
- Speak once to a topic
- Allow a cushion of silence between speaking.
- Be willing to call for silence.

Eric adds:

- Understand that this is a process of knowing one another and that we are likely to be changed individually in the process of the group coming to unity on a decision.

- No one is uninvolved, yet no one has a death grip on the decision.
- We seek a sense of transparency and of shared ownership.

Meeting for Business is a spiritual experience. Edith Cole once said that in a Meeting for Worship one says ‘Here I am, God’, while in a Meeting for Business it is “Here we are, God.”

Decisions move at God speed, not too fast or too slow. As a bicycle needs momentum, so too does Quaker process, however even bicycles can get going to fast for the rider the handle all the curves and ups and downs.

Leadership is not mentioned in the context of Quaker decisionmaking, because we are all Clerks.

The LIGHT

Friends to hold in the Light this month:

- Barbara and Doc Cartwright
- Val Schorre
- Maurine Parker
- Nancy Michelson
- Bob and Dorothy Sewell
- Hope Wiedmann
- Harry and Elizabeth Wright-Johnson
- Nick Johnson, Harry’s son
- Gene Knudsen-Hoffman
- Pilar Gaona
- Louise Nordstrom

Hope Wiedmann would welcome visitors anytime, but meal time, at Olive Garden Residential Care Center on Olive between Carrillo and Figueroa. Just a half an hour chatting helps to retrain her tongue and mind after her small stroke and fall.

Cherishing our young families

Though we don't see our families with small children very much, we still value them as part of our meeting and many have indicated that they still feel a part of our meeting.

With this in mind, Ministry and Oversight worked with former pre-school director Hanne Sonquist to develop a list of books, which are in the Meeting Library that would support parents in their role as Quakers as well as books to read to and to be read by children on Quaker values. This list is in the mail to families. Contact Hanne or Nancy Michelson to borrow a book. The list will be available at meeting for those who might want to peruse it and obtain these books for their children or grandchildren.

Edith Cole in Afghanistan

Edith Cole will speak at rise of Meeting January 18, 2004, on her work with the Akora Khattak Afghan Refugee Girl's School, which she founded at a refugee camp near Peshawar in Northern Pakistan. The school, which has been affiliated with several Southern California Meetings is now in its third year.

Mary Watkins had this to say about Edith and her work: "After 9/11 when the United States began bombing Afghanistan, Edith Cole, a woman in her seventies, sat one Sunday morning in Quaker meeting, feeling the deep sadness of the situation and asking for guidance for a way to be in relation to what was tragically unfolding. Another woman arose to share something from her worship, and used the metaphor of different ways to help people when they are drowning.

'[O]ne might throw them life preservers to stay afloat, or a rope to pull themselves out; or people on the water's edge might join hands to form a living chain and reach the ones struggling in the waves, passing the power and compassion of their bodies and hearts along through the outstretched arms and having healing and grace flow back to the hearts along all the links of the living chain. The beauty and rightness of this took my breath away. THIS we could do: build a living chain of compassion

and caring between us here and people in a refugee camp over there, with energies flowing and carrying hope both ways.

I felt myself suddenly lifted and carried by the River [of Power and Meaning] in a wave that seemed to have arisen from a source at the beginning of time and was moving all of us towards life and union.' (Cole, 2003)"

Take back the media

Reining in Corporate Power will present the second in a series, called TAKE BACK THE MEDIA on January 21, 2004, from 7 to 9 pm, in the Faulkner Gallery in the Downtown SB Library. There will be two speakers: David Adelman from Los Angeles, who help to save KPFK and Bob Banner, of *Hopedance*, the SLO progressive, independent newspaper. There will be time for questions and town hall meeting type input from the audience. All are welcome. Free. Donations accepted to help defray costs.

Sacred Dance returns

After a delightful afternoon of Sacred Dance last year, Joan Rawles Davis of Santa Cruz Meeting returns on Saturday, February 7th, 2-4:30 p.m.. Held in the cheerful and spacious Community Room at Villa La Cumbre (521 N. La Cumbre), this popular event is for everyone. Even those who may not be physically able to dance can participate. The dance is taught with a gentle and easy to follow style by this life-long dance lover. And the music is makes the afternoon. Come for all of it or just drop in. Light refreshments will be provided and donations will be welcomed to help Joan with her expenses. Call Nancy Michelson for questions 687-0165.

PLAN B:

Rescuing a Planet under Stress and Civilization in Trouble is the theme for two upcoming events featuring this new book (See review in December, 2003. Peter Cohen will be talking about this cutting edge piece at the rise of Meeting, Sunday February 15. The author Lester Brown, will be speaking Saturday, February 21 at UCSB Campbell Hall, 2 p.m.

Taking Stock

By Jennifer McCullough

For years, I've heard rumblings in the media about the so-called greenhouse effect. I'm not sure what I might do to change this. We're talking TONS of gases, not the few pounds that my actions might produce. Why doesn't somebody do something?

Then Kyoto came along. It seemed the world's governments were taking action. For a short time, I relaxed. Turns out, roughly 35 percent of CO₂ emissions come from industry, 33 percent from transportation, 18 percent from residences, and 14 percent from the commercial sector. So I guess industry just needs to clean up its act, right?

But wait - **industry wouldn't make this stuff if I didn't buy it.** If there was less consumer demand for energy-intensive products, fewer would be produced, and less CO₂ would be emitted.

Here's what else I found. In 1990, total CO₂ emissions in the US were 4,833 million tons. The US Kyoto pledge is to decrease CO₂ emissions 7 percent from 1990 levels by 2012. That means that each individual can produce 16.7 tons of CO₂ emissions per year, and the US will remain within Kyoto limits.

Could I personally reach Kyoto limits?

The first step, measuring my CO₂ emissions, turned out to be trickier than I had anticipated. Voila! Kyoto Cool Test. To take the test, you can either assemble household bills to find precise numbers, or you can estimate. The first method gives a more exact figure, but the second way can help you understand where a portion of your emissions come from.

After you've taken the test comes the fun part: **finding out if you're Kyoto compliant.** The total amount of CO₂ that an individual can be responsible for emitting and still be in compliance is 16.7 tons. The categories in the test add up to just about 33 percent of the emissions for which an individual is responsible (The remainder come from the businesses providing us services, the industries that make everything from our clothing to our chemicals, and the trucks shipping our food from coast to

coast). 33 percent of 16.7 tons is 5.5 tons or 11,000 pounds.

If your individual emissions are less than 11,000 pounds, congratulations! You're Kyoto compliant. Better yet, you can aim for the 60 percent reduction below 1990 levels that Ross Gelbspan and others say will be needed in order to actually stabilize the climate - that would mean keeping your annual emissions in the areas listed on the test to 4,720 pounds annually.

After taking the test, I was dumbfounded. I'm doing well in most categories, but one plane ride to visit my parents is over 6,000 miles - that's 5,400 pounds of CO₂, more than I should emit in a whole year to be sustainable. And I'm still trying to get past feelings of guilt when I have to drive to the grocery store for that one item I forgot yesterday.

Next month: How to get your emissions down.

The Kyoto Cool quiz...

For your household (answer all question based on yearly total):

- number of miles travelled per year _____ ÷ average miles per gallon of your vehicle _____ x 22 pounds CO₂/gallon = (do this for each car and any other motor-fueled vehicle, boats included)
- number of miles air travel _____ x .9 pounds CO₂/mile =
- miles travelled on mass transit _____ x .5 pounds CO₂/mile =
- miles travelled on taxi or limo _____ x 1.5 pounds CO₂/mile =
- kilowatt hours of electricity _____ x 1.5 pounds CO₂/kilowatt hour =
- gallons of heating oil _____ x 22 pounds CO₂/gallon =
- therms of natural gas _____ x 11 pounds CO₂/therm =
- gallons of propane or bottled gas _____ x 13 pounds CO₂/gallon =

TOTAL PER HOUSEHOLD

Household total _____ ÷ number in household _____ = TOTAL PER PERSON

From *YES! A Journal of Positive Futures*,
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Meetinghouse possible?

The Meetinghouse Committee has been spurred into action once more around a possible site for a future Meetinghouse, 2012 Chapala (just above Mission St.) reported Clerk of the committee Mary Kay Kamath. This site is being offered to us under very favorable terms by Pat Hardy and Jo Ann Bell. An initial Working Paper developed by Marty Jenkins was presented at Meeting for Business as was a plot plan and details on the building.

The Meeting for Business instructed the committee to look into all the issues around purchasing this site. More information is being gathered including asking F/friends how much they are able to invest in the purchase of our future home.

A tour of the presently occupied building will be available Sunday, February 1st, at 3p.m.

Mary Kay asks the following of F/friends:

- The only tours of the building to happen are those scheduled by the committee. Please do not disturb the tenants.
- To reduce confusion; questions and suggestions should be directed to only Mary Kay.

Quaker Dial-a-Thought 805/646-0939

<http://home.earthlink.net/~vals/OjaiFriends>

Call at least once a week for these recorded messages, which can be heard 24 hours a day.

Violence & fear within...& without?

HOLD THIS DATE: February 27-29 in Ventura/Ojai at the Arnaz Program Center, join others in their search for **Alternatives to Violence** in a challenging world.

For questions or to sign up, call Pat Hardy at 805/886-9773 cell or 682-3277 home.

SANTA BARBARA FRIENDS MEETING
POBOX 40120, Santa Barbara, CA 93140-0120

Mark Your Calendar...

- **Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m. Goleta Friends Worship Group**, 820 N. Fairview
- **Tuesdays, 4-5 p.m. Vigil to Abolish the Death Penalty**, Farmers Market on lower State St. Call James 967-7283
- **Thursdays, - 7-9 p.m. Quaker Spirituality Reading Group**, Kamath's

January

- **Sunday, 21 – Peace and Social Concerns presentation** at rise of Meeting. Edith Cole or Environment.
- **Sunday, 21 -Reining in the Corporate Media**, 7 p.m., Faulkner Gallery, SB Main Library.
- **Sunday, 25 – Meeting for Worship for Celebrating Genevieve Nowlin's life at the Kamath's** followed by a pot luck.

February

- **Sunday, 1 – Seekers Meeting: A closer look** at reading the *Queries* – Stephen Pope facilitating at rise of Meeting for Worship **3 p.m. – Tour of possible Meetinghouse, 2012 Chapala.**
- **Saturday, February 7, 2-4:30 p.m. Sacred Dance** at Villa La Cumbre
- **Sunday, 8- Meeting for Business** at the rise of Meeting
- **Sunday, February 8 – Community booksigning** for Gene Hoffman, Sola House, 7pm
- **Sunday, February 15 – Plan B** at the rise of **Meeting with Peter Cohen**
- **Saturday, February 21 – Plan B** by the author at UCSB, 2 p.m.
- **February 27-29 – Basic Alternatives to Violence Project Workshop** in Ventura