

**Visalia Friends Meeting**  
17208 Ave 296, Visalia, CA 93292

## Newsletter

### February, 2010



### Spiritual Life

The life of the spirit gains depth and vigor through devotional practices, prayer, study and meditation. Take time regularly for individual and family worship, discussions, readings from sacred texts, and other spiritual refreshment in order to live a more centered life and to bring a deeper presence to the Meeting for Worship.

Friends believe that the spiritual path is best found in community. Create opportunities in your Meetings for people of all ages to explore and express their evolving relationship with the Divine, their spiritual highs and their doubts. If different metaphors and language interfere with communication, listen more deeply, honoring the Spirit in which the thought and words have their beginnings.

- Do I live in thankful awareness of God's constant presence in my life?
- Am I sensitive and obedient to the leadings of the Holy Spirit?
- When do I take time for contemplation and spiritual refreshment?
- What steps am I taking to center my life and to stay open to continuing revelation?
- *Do we share our spiritual lives with others in the Meeting, seeking to know one another in that which is eternal?*
- *Does the Meeting provide religious education including study of the Bible and Friends' history and practices?*

## Meeting for Business

February 14, 2010

**Members and Attenders Present:** Bill Lovett, Beth Lovett, Graciela Martinez, David East, Greg Seastrom, Ginger Curtis, David Dudley, Bob and Joy Marshall, John & Shirley Dackawich, Amy Glazier, Jalene Vincent Welch, Scott Welch

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To prepare for the Meeting, Clerk Greg Seastrom reviewed the agenda and then read "A New Level of Experience" from Daily Readings from Quaker Spirituality and Advices and Queries on "Spirituality" from Faith and Practice.

The Meeting began with silence.

**Meeting Mail:** Greg identified other Meeting newsletters; opportunities for giving, service, and growth; and news from Friends and other organizations. These items have been placed in folders on the back counter.

**Announcements:** Several thank you letters were received from organizations that VFM supports through its yearly donations. There was discussion about whether we donated to Friends United Meeting. We will look into it for further discussion.

- **Rep Com:** There is a call for a Representative from Visalia Friends Monthly Meeting to attend Rep Com on March 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> at the Orange Grove Meeting in Pasadena. This is a planning meeting for Yearly Meeting. No representative stepped forward at this time so if someone would like to attend, please see Greg.
- **AFSC Retirements:** Recently, Graciela Martinez has retired from AFSC's *Proyecto Campesino* and Mary Ellen McNish has retired as General Secretary of AFSC.

### Concerns:

- **Audit and Budget Committee:** Bob Marshall read the following minute clarifying the details of the additional employment of a youth childcare worker.

Greg brought forth an additional concern regarding liability exposure with our employment of childcare workers. He will bring forth additional information regarding insurance coverage and best practices regarding child care for the Meeting.

**Elders Project:** Greg reported that because of her busy schedule, Sandra Sturdivant will not be able to spearhead the Elders' Project; however, Greg is willing to begin meeting with our Elders to continue the project of gathering information on the Meeting's history. Greg asked for volunteers to assist. Joy and Graciela offered to help. They have agreed to meet Thursday March 4<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM to begin their work. All interested Friends are invited.

- **Tulare County Citizens for Responsible Growth:** Greg received information from the TCCRG on Tulare County's upcoming General Plan proposal. They are looking for organizations to support them in drawing up a response to the plan. They are looking specifically for representatives to

participate in a phone conference. John Dackawich, a member of the Unity with Nature Committee, will represent the Meeting.

- **Crop Walk:** Crop Walk will be happening March 13<sup>th</sup> in Visalia at 8:30 AM at St. Paul's Anglican Church. Please see Joy Marshall to get pledge envelopes. Visalia Friends Meeting is a strong supporter for this cause.

**Committee Reports:**

- **Ministry and Oversight** – M&O will be meeting at 12:30 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday's – this is a time change. Please see M&O members if you have a concern or need.
- **Buildings and Grounds** – There was an organizational meeting January 24<sup>th</sup>. Bob Marshall will continue as clerk. There is still additional work to perform on the playground area. The fence is almost completed. There will be a general work day sometime in May and one in the fall. There will be a short meeting next Sunday after Meeting for Worship.
- **Budget** – The Budget Committee met to clarify the details of the new childcare position and presented the minute recorded below. David Dudley presented a revised version of the yearly budget (see attached) which reflects changes occurring from the new position.

Report to Visalia Friends Business Meeting Jan. 10 2010  
from Budget Comm.- meeting of Dec. 15 2009

Present: David Dudley, Greg Seastrom, Bob Marshall

The V.F. Business Meeting on Dec. 13 agreed to hire Anthony [redacted] to work with the older children during Meeting for worship under the same conditions and the same pay rate (\$10 per hour) as Mallory [redacted] who has been working with pre-school children. The Budget Comm. was asked to figure what the additional cost would be and to recomend how to pay for this.

In review the comm. recognized that the budget for Oct. 1, 09 - *Sept. 30, 10* is already short as follows:

Mallory wages short	\$350
Insurance workers comp	150
Total short	\$500

Needed for Anthony, ten months beginning Dec. 1, 09

Wages	\$1350
Taxes	270
Workers comp	200
Total Anthony	\$1820
Mallory above	500
Total needed	\$2320

To show the budget in balance we propose increasing the line item Contributions from \$9000 to \$11320. This would mean an average annual increase per person of approximately \$75. Again we recognize that some would pay more and others less per their circumstances.

- **Children's** – Jalene Vincent Welsh shared that an informal meeting was held. They have yet to select a Clerk but will continue to meet.

- **Outreach** – Graciela Martinez agreed to continue as Clerk. Jessi Snyder will act as note taker. Meetings will be on 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays during meal time.
- **Unity with Nature** – John reported that Joanne Dudley will be clerk and John will be note taker. They will meet on 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays during meal time. They are looking to link with other community groups such as Visalia Transitions group and the local Sierra Club.
- **Library** – The Library committee have not met.

*There was impromptu discussion regarding inventory of Meeting items in the Children's area and kitchen. This item will be brought to Buildings and Grounds committee.*

**Other Reports:**

- **Quaker Oaks Farm** - There will be a yard sale March 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>.
- **AVP** - There will be a presentation on the Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) held at the Meeting House on Saturday, Feb. 20, from 2 to 4 PM.

*There was a request from Graciela Martinez to offer the Meeting House for use by a mental health support group for lunch and a nature walk. Friends encouraged her to go forward and get more information. There was general agreement for allowing the Meeting to offer support for this group.*

The Meeting ended in silence.

Respectfully submitted,

David East - Recording Clerk