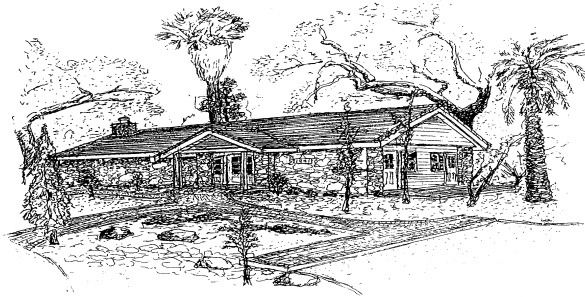


Visalia Friends Meeting

17208 Ave 296
Visalia, CA 93291

Newsletter

February, 2009



Visalia Friends Meetinghouse

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?

2-08-09

Greg Seastrom (Clerk), John & Shirley Dackawich, David Dudley, Joanna Dudley Graciela Martinez, Bill & Beth Lovett, Patti Howard, Heather Howard, Jessi Snyder, David & Klara East, Luis and Melissa Alberti – Araujo, Angela Reyna, Andrew Glazier, David Adalian

Greg began with readings from the Daily Readings on “To Believe in God” and Advice and Queries from Faith and Practice on “Spirituality”

Meeting began in silence.

Greg began meeting with review of the agenda. Opportunities for education and donations are located in the folders on the back counter.

Announcements/Newsletters/Opportunities (*in back folder on counter*)

- **Sacramento, Palo-Alto, Berkeley, Chico Meeting**
- **FCNL**
- **FGC Connection**
- **Thank You's (*Greg read hand written notes*)**
 - **Imagine U, FWCC, El Salvador Project, Friends UN. Mtg, Nancy Finney, SCMC**
- **Growth Opportunity**
 - **Pendle Hill, Ben Lomond**

Contributions Opportunity

- **F.U.M. Field Staff**
- **Pickett Foundation**

Donation requests are forwarded to the Opportunities for Donation folder.

Treasurers Report – David Dudley presented the quarterly treasurers report. Please refer to the attached and present any questions to David Dudley

Membership Considerations and Requests –

- Alexandra Von Wrde – After seasoning, Friends overwhelmingly approved of the request without reservation.
- Ginger – Ginger Curtis met with the Clearness Committee regarding membership. They brought forth a recommendation for her membership to the Meeting. This request will season for a month and be brought back for final recommendation from the Meeting.
- Luis and Melissa Alberti-Araujo are waiting to meet with a Clearness Committee regarding membership.

Friends spoke of the process of membership and details regarding membership and the relationship to our Meeting.

Updates.

- **Santiago/Ramos Family Update** – The young man will be in therapy for a long time. At this time food and money will be needed. Graciela and Beth will continue to coordinate the gifts and keep us updated.
- **Quaker Oaks Farm - QOF is still working on the non-profit status, there has been a re-submission of the application.**

SVPC Request – David Adalian, President of South Valley Peace Center presented a request for use of the Billboard to promote the South Valley Peace Center. He discussed the content.

Friends were in agreement with the request.

Use of Meeting House request –

There is a request for a use of the Meeting House on alternating Saturday Afternoons by a group who participate in Paganism. Friends asked for a request in writing in order to provide more information for the Meeting. There was discussion on formal processes in place in Meeting House use requests by other religious organizations. **Friends agreed to season the request until a written request and personal presentation, if they wish, at Meeting be made in order to provide more information.**

John Davis Offer – John Davis administered an assessment to school staff regarding group and personal crisis management. He offered to administer this with Friends. Heather Howard brought forth the request and offered to work with Melissa in making the event happen.

Quarterly Meeting Report – Klara reported on Quarterly Meeting. The focus of the Meeting was on bringing forth a new testimony on Friends relationship with the environment. There was still questions on how and whether to add this as a Friend's testimony. This will continue to be an issue to be brought forward to PYM. There also were several flyers that were brought back that will be available on the back counter.

Fundraising – The French Club from Eleanor Roosevelt Learning Center is conducting a Fundraiser auction. Heather Howard requested that the Meeting donate a facility fee waiver for one event. The event would have to follow guidelines for Meeting House use. **There was support for the request.**

Committee Reports

- **M&O – Greg will convene the meeting**
- **Outreach – A meeting has not yet been convened**
- **Building & Grounds - A meeting has not yet been convened**
- **Unity with Nature - A meeting has not yet been convened**
- **Children's Committee – Joanne and Melissa will convene a meeting**

Upcoming issues –

Retreat

Furthering education

Family camp trip with young children (see Melissa or Dan)

The Meeting ended in silence.

Respectfully submitted,

David East – Recording Clerk