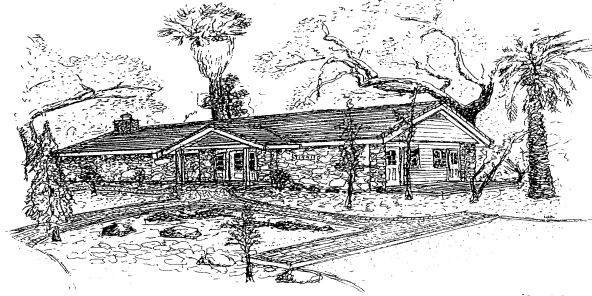


Visalia Friends Meeting

17208 Ave 296
Visalia, CA 93291

Newsletter March, 2009



Advice and Queries

Visalia Friends Meetinghouse

meeting for worship for business

Come to Meeting with hearts and minds prepared to be open and faithful to the leadings of the Spirit. Then the conduct of business will lead to truth, unity, and love.

When a matter is before the Meeting for Business, each person present contributes to the corporate search for a decision that accords with the will of God. Inaction is a form of action. Silent worship in the Meeting for Business contributes to the process of achieving unity.

Listen attentively to others' words and use the silence between messages to reflect carefully on what you might contribute. When you are clear, speak simply what is in your heart, without repeating what has already been offered. While making your insights clear, lay aside personal opinions and attend to what God requires.

- Do I attend Meeting for Business regularly?
- Do I speak in Meeting for Business only when I am led to speak?
- *Is the Meeting for Business held as a Meeting for Worship in which we seek divine guidance for our actions?*
- *Are we tender and considerate of different views, coming to a decision only when we have found unity?*
- *Do we give prayerful support for our clerks that they may be sensitive to the movement of the Spirit among us?*

3-8-09

Greg Seastrom (Clerk), John & Shirley Dackawich, Graciela Martinez, Bill and Beth Lovett, Patti Howard, Cayman Howard, Heather Howard, Bob and Joy Marshall, Alexandra von Wrede, Luis and Melissa Alberti – Araujo, Olga McCallister, Dan O’Connel, Trudy Wischemann, Ginger Curtis

Greg began with readings from the **Daily Readings a short poem by Elias Hicks”Love for Every Condition”** and **Advice and Queries from Faith and Practice** on Meeting for Worship on the occasion for Business.

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, Chico, Berkley Meetings**
- **Quaker House**
- **Friends House**
- **Quaker U.N. Office**
- **Self Help Enterprises**
- **FCL-Calif.**
- **AFSC – Quaker Action**

Opportunities for Growth

- **Friends Music Camp**
- **B of E & Tax Seminar**
- **King Tut Exhibit. S.F.**
- **Pendle Hill 2009-2010**
- **Thank You’s - South Valley Peace Center (Greg read); Heifer Project**

Greg read specific workshops and announcements from the Quaker Center. Please refer to these in the growth and education folder on the back counter.

Donation requests are forwarded to the Opportunities for Donation folder.

A Friend recommended that we read other Meeting’s newsletters

Membership Considerations and Requests –

- A clearness committee has met and brings forth an enthusiastic recommendation for Ginger Curtis membership. This will be seasoned for a month.
- A clearness committee also met with Luis and Melissa Alberti-Araujo and brought forth their enthusiastic recommendation for membership. This will also be seasoned for one month.

Nominating Committee

The nominating committee has met and recommended Ginger Curtis and Bill Warner to be added to the Ministry and Oversight Committee. There was consensus that these

individuals should serve. There was concern that the nomination should follow traditional process and be seasoned for a month; however, other Friends agreed that M & O should be meeting since they have yet to meet this year. There was mention that the process was followed last Fall, and that these nominations were made to shore up gaps in committee membership. Due to the nature, of the situation, Friends agreed that the committee should meet as soon as possible in spite of the procedural departure. Greg will set a date for an M&O meeting.

Committee for State of the Meeting

An annual State of the Meeting will need to be held. Past practice has been to write a chronicle of the Meeting's events as well as a qualitative assessment regarding the condition of our Meeting. There was a question whether we should submit only a chronicle and eliminate the qualitative aspect of the report. Friends felt that the qualitative report was an important part of our State of the Meeting report and that a Meeting reviewing our condition was an important activity for the Meeting. A Friend proposed that we should have a special input meeting. Friends agreed to this proposal. **The clerk called the Meeting to be held on March 22nd at 12:30.** Joy has offered to be part of the report writing committee. Greg, Trudy and Alexandra will also be assisting in writing the report.

Ben Lomond Request – There is an opportunity for an internship for a non-profit management position.

Avenal Prison Request – There is a letter for participation placed in the opportunities folder regarding prison ministry.

Crop Walk – There is a date for CROP Walk on Saturday, April 25th. Ginger will be receiving the envelopes and encourages all Friends to participate in the annual event in Visalia. She encouraged either walkers or sponsors to participate. Funds go to local and international food support groups. See Ginger if you need an envelope.

Letter to PYM re: FGC- Joy Marshall read her letter to PYM urging their support of Friends General Conference. The letter advocates a closer relationship and affiliation between PYM and FGC. Friends agreed to the content of the letter and asked the clerk to forward the letter on behalf of the Meeting.

210 Connect – There will be a panel presentation on Inter-Faith Connections in Visalia. This will be held at Café 210 in downtown Visalia. Greg will be presenting on behalf of the Meeting on Monday 3/9 at 7:00 pm. Greg solicited ideas for his short presentation from on the activities of the Visalia Friends Meeting. He also solicited attendance by Friends to the event.

Reminders:

There will be a short work day next Saturday, March 15th at 8:00.

John Davis will be presenting after Meeting March 15th on communication responses.