

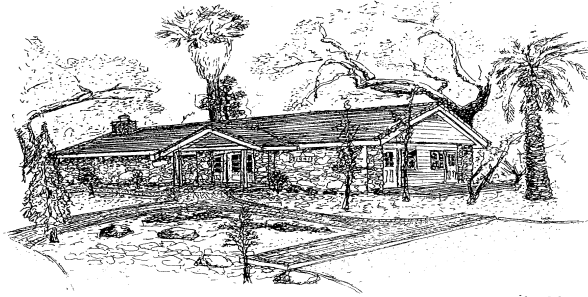
## Visalia Friends Meeting

17208 Ave 296

Visalia, CA 93291

# Newsletter

May, 2009



Visalia Friends Meetinghouse

### harmony with creation

*It would go a long way to caution and direct people in their use of the world, that they were better studied and knowing in the Creation of it. For how could [they] find the confidence to abuse it, while they should see the Great Creator stare them in the face, in all and every part thereof?*

william penn, *some fruits of solitude*, 1693

God is revealed in all Creation. We humans belong to the whole interdependent community of life on earth. Rejoice in the beauty, complexity, and mystery of creation, with gratitude to be part of its unfolding. Take time to learn how this community of life is organized and how it interacts. Live according to principles of right relationship and right action within this larger whole.

Be aware of the influence humans have on the health and viability of life on earth. Call attention to what fosters or harms earth's exquisite beauty, balances and interdependencies. Guided by Spirit, work to translate this understanding into ways of living that reflect our responsibility to one another, to the greater community of life, and to future generations.

In what ways do I express gratitude for the wondrous expressions of life on Earth?

Do I consider the damage I might do to the Earth's vulnerable systems in choices I make of what I do, what I buy, and how I spend my time?

*In our witness for the global environment, are we careful to consider justice and the well-being of the world's poorest people?*

*Does our way of life threaten the viability of life on Earth?*

## **Visalia Friends Meeting**

### **Meeting for Business**

**April 19, 2009**

**Members and Attenders Present:** Bill Lovett, Beth Lovett, Graciela Martinez, David Chandler, Joy Marshall, Bob Marshall, Patti Howard, David East, Klara East, Olga McCallister

The Meeting began with Ministry & Oversight Clerk Jeannie Warner first read the agenda. He read from the Daily Readings from Quaker Spirituality on Social Concern and the Life of God by Thomas Kelly. Also read was Faith and Practice Advice and Queries on *Nature and Harmony with Creation*.

The Meeting focused in silence.

Jeannie reviewed other Meeting Newsletters, Opportunities, and Friends Organizational News. All these are available on the back counter.

**Newsletters and Organization Newsletters:** These items have been place in folders on the back counter.

**Announcement:** FCNL will be recognizing Proyecto Campesino October 24<sup>th</sup> in Oakland.

#### **Agenda Items:**

**Membership:** A clearness committee meeting was held on behalf of Graciela Martinez' request for membership. The request will be seasoned for a month and brought to the Meeting next month.

**Committee Reports:** The M&O committee met and discussed service toward the Meeting. The committee urges that members and attenders to communicate their needs with Friends and M&O members. One friend suggested car pooling. A suggestion was made for a women's group. Next meeting is May 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Building and Grounds:** The county fire inspector approved changes made at the meeting house for fire safety. There was a work day yesterday. Seven Friends participated in cleaning several areas on the grounds.

**Outreach Committee:** It was brought forward that the Unitarians would like to make their physical presence known through promotion. They have requested to add their web site address on the billboard along with that of the Friends Meeting. There was consensus on approval of the request.

**Unity with Nature:** Will convene soon

**Library:** Joy purchased some new books for the library. It was suggested that Joy submit a subscription for the Journal from Pendle Hill. Friends approved the suggestion.

**State of the Meeting Report:** The State of the Meeting was submitted to College Park Quarterly Meeting. There were expanded re

**Retreat:** The 2009 retreat will be convened shortly.

**Quaker Oaks Project:** QOF now has non-profit status from the IRS to do environmental education projects. There will be an initial project planned shortly. The next meeting is Friday 5-22 from 6-7 – this

is a potluck. Any interested people are invited to attend. The Board is looking for additional involvement from others. Currently, the Oaxacan community is running a ¼ acre garden on the farm.

**Quarterly Meeting:** The East Family and Curtis-Ruehling Family will be representing the Meeting for attendance at Quarterly Meeting at Ben Lomond center.

The Meeting ended in silence

Respectfully submitted,

David East

Recording Clerk