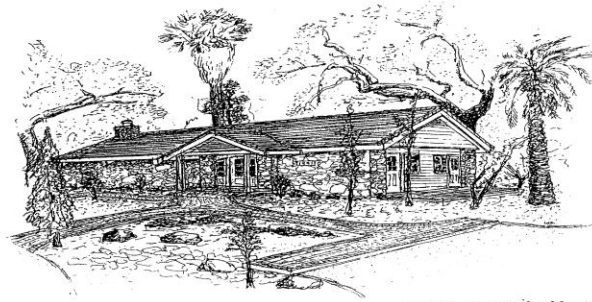


Visalia Friends Meeting
17208 Ave 296 Visalia, CA 93292

Newsletter

June, 2008



Visalia Friends Meetinghouse

Reaching Out

Friends fellowship begins and is nurtured within the home and Meeting. It reaches greater fulfillment as we carry our beliefs into the wider community.

Share your Quaker faith. Take time to learn about other people's experiences of the Light and, as you learn, give freely from what you have gained. Respect the experiences and opinions of others, but do not be afraid to say what you value. Welcome the diversity of culture, language, and expressions of faith in your Monthly Meeting, the Yearly Meeting, and the world community of Friends. Encourage discourse with Friends of pastoral and programmed traditions, and with members of other faiths.

Friends have a long history of involvement in public and private education, sharing our values with the world and nurturing future generations. Be mindful of the needs of children in your community and of avenues for deepening understanding between peoples.

- How does my life reflect Friends beliefs and thus encourage others to be interested in the Religious Society of Friends?
- Do I respond openly to inquiries about Quaker experience and belief?
- *What does our Meeting do to make others aware of Friends principles and practices?*
- *What are we doing to help people of various races, cultures, and backgrounds feel at home among us and we among them?*
- *How do we encourage newcomers to return and participate in activities of the Meeting?*
- *In what ways do we participate in the life of the interfaith community and in the wider fellowship of Friends?*

Visalia Friends Meeting

Meeting for Business

June 8, 2008

Members and Attenders Present: Bill & Beth Lovett, Greg Seastrom, Joy Marshall, Bob Marshall, John Dackawich, Shirley Dackawich, Patti Howard, David & Klara East, Olga McAllister, Dan O'Connell, Jesse Snyder, Dina Restivo, Dave Roberts, Graciela Martinez, Mark Koenig, David Chandler

The Meeting began with Clerk Greg Seastrom in silence. He read from the Daily Readings from Quaker Spirituality. Also, Faith and Practice Advice and Queries on *Reaching Out*.

Greg Seastrom - Clerk, began the Meeting in silence. Greg reviewed the agenda and asked for any additions. He asked that we conduct business as Friends in the Light.

Greg first read a letter from Dan O'Connell requesting membership of Visalia Friend's Meeting. M&O will meet to set up a clearness committee for Dan. Greg also reviewed other Meeting Newsletters, Opportunities, and Friends Organizational News. All these are available on the back counter.

Announcements:

Agenda Items:

Quakerism 1 will be held next Sunday 6/15 at 12:30 and an additional repeat class will be held Wednesday 6/18 at 6:30 pm.

Children's Program:

There are still needs for continuing commitment for the Children's meeting. This theme is in need of continued attention. There were several comments made regarding this need. Many aspects of the children's meeting are working; however, there is a continued need for adult commitment to the program. Also, there is a need for consistent attendance by children. There was a recommendation that the Meeting hire a specialist for Children's education. The Meeting will be addressing specifics at the next meeting for business.

Unity with Nature:

Klara asked that the Meeting

Joy brought a bucket to her shower and saved the water for watering plants.

Dick contributed a solar drier to Graciela.

Marshall's bought an energy efficient refrigerator. They also received two low flow toilets and had them installed. Bob also mentioned that he consciously slows down while driving.

David Chandler is using techniques to saving grass watering. The front yard of their house had the grass removed and planted fruit trees.

Friend's Meeting has bought a new energy efficient refrigerator. The Lovett's and East's have installed solar energy and are using mass transit.

Patti has replaced all her light bulbs with fluorescents. She drives in the slow lane and does not pass cars. She reuses paper towels. She saves mail for scratch paper. She recycles everything in accordance to local policies. She has also installed water saving landscape.

Many families in the area have built "green" houses and have recycled homes in place of new construction.

Minute on Immigration:

Bob Marshall read the draft minute on immigration. Friends considered changes to the document. One Friend wanted emphasis on trade policies that pressure emigration from Latin American countries. Another spoke of the larger geo-political contexts in drafting the minute but wanted to focus human rights. There was discussion regarding the implication of the minute and the subtle issues regarding immigration issues and potential divisive nature of the topic. Greg re-read the minute for comment. A Friend suggested that we accept the minute as written. One Friend wanted to broaden the definition of immigrant beyond that of Hispanic. Greg asked that we worship in silence over whether to leave the word "Hispanic" from the minute. Some Friends felt that the minute should be focused on agricultural workers and be focused on local issues. There was a question as to how the minute would be disseminated. There was a suggestion that a press conference be held on behalf of AFSC. Others suggested editorials. There was agreement that the phrase "immigrant worker" be used to replace "Hispanic worker." The minute will be attached to this newsletter.

Crop Walk:

Joy announced that we received 19 envelopes and \$2,914 in contributions. Friends will donate an additional amount to bring the total over \$3000.

PYM Representative: Bill Lovett will represent Visalia Friend's Meeting. Early registration for PYM will be ending soon.

Powerline Project:

The Meeting will be submitting the money collected to the P.A.C.E. group. There is a consultant hired.

Respectfully submitted,

David East
Recording Clerk