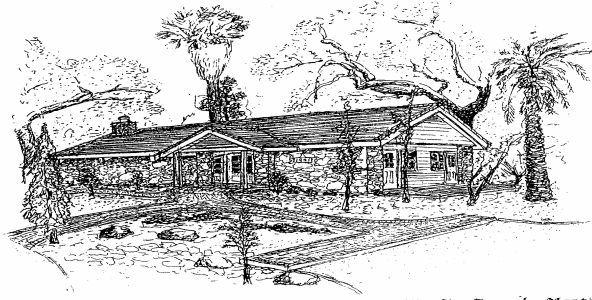


## Visalia Friends Meeting

17208 Ave 296  
Visalia, CA 93291

# Newsletter

July 2007



Visalia Friends Meetinghouse

## Testimonies

### unity

Friends believe that it is possible for the human spirit to be in direct communion with the Divine. Seeking God's will together, we believe way will open and unity will emerge.

*The way is one; Christ the truth of God; and he that is in the faith, and in the obedience to the light which shines from his Spirit into the heart of every believer, hath a taste of the one heart and of the one way, and knoweth that no variety of practices, which is of God, can make a breach in the true unity.*

isaac penington, 1659, philadelphia yearly meeting  
*faith & practice*, 1997, p. 163.257

One of the queries in continuous use since 1682 asks, "Are love and unity maintained among you?" Early Friends considered themselves part of a great movement that would soon sweep the world. Unity and mutual care in the Quaker community in the face of persecution demonstrated to the world the working of God among us.

Working together to discern and serve God's will both nourishes and benefits from unity. This unity grows from trust in one another and readiness to speak out, confident that together, Friends will find the truth.

*True unity may be found under great apparent differences. This unity is spiritual, it expresses itself in many ways, and we need divine insight that we may recognize its working. We need forbearance, sympathy and love, in order that, while remaining loyal to the truth as it comes to us, we may move forward with others to a larger and richer experience and expression of the will of God*

london yearly meeting, 1916

## Meeting for Business 7-8-07

**Present:** Klara & David East, David Chandler, Graciela Martinez, Bill & Beth Lovett, Mark Koenig, Greg Seastrom, Patti Howard, Heather Howard, Cayman Howard, Olga McAllister, Sharlene Roberts-Caudle, Trudy Wischemann, John & Shirley Dackawich, Bob and Joy Marshall

### Meeting began in silent worship

**Mail & News:** David announced a variety of organizational mailings and offered them to any that were interested.

- David read about the El Salvador project from the Palo Alto Meeting. He read a letter from one of the students that the Meeting is supporting.

- David read about a program from Arts Visalia – “Unmasking the Sacred Feminism.” Flyer information is available.
- Bill Miller memorial is July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2:00pm at the Friend’s House in Santa Rosa.
- Bob Marshall reported on a thank-you note from the Bennett family for use of the Meeting House.
- Bob also discussed a request from the Reformed Seventh Day Adventist Church request to use the Meeting House on Saturday mornings. Several Friends commented on the request. The Meeting was in agreement to letting the group use the Meeting House and will work with scheduling any conflicts. The Meeting looks forward to their use of the Meeting House.

### **Ministry and Oversight:**

Klara reported on concerns that the Marshalls had given regarding the gift of Quaker Oaks Farm to the Meeting. The Marshalls had been absent from the Meeting when the minute was written that the Meeting receive the QOF gift. Bob had thought that there would be more time to let the Lovett’s proposal season until October. David Chandler had written a response to the Marshalls concerns. Bob would like more discussion with Friends and to let the issue season a bit more. Bob’s major concern is who will take on the fiscal and physical challenges of operating the farm. Bill agreed that more time could be taken on the decision. Questions regarding walnut harvesting, liability insurance, and fiscal concerns were discussed. Sharlene offered suggestion that the Meeting investigate pricing for insurance and that the Meeting not be held liable for costs incurred by QOF. Greg suggested that there needs to be separation between the Meeting and the proposed non-profit organization. He also suggested that the Meeting wait and let the issues season as well. David asked that a process be developed for threshing details regarding the QOF gift. Klara and Trudy spoke about processes of the non-profit. Trudy suggested that Jackie Riles work with the group. Greg suggested that the non-profit continue to work towards planning on QOF and work with Jackie Riles as well. Bob was in agreement with this suggestion. There was agreement among the Meeting that a meeting with a facilitator be conducted. **The minute from June is therefore withdrawn for seasoning and that the non-profit continue it’s organizing efforts for Quaker Oaks Farm. Greg proposed a minute be written that the Meeting form an ad-hoc Farm Development Committee to work on clarifying the vision of the Meeting and Quaker Oaks Farm to work as a transition between forming the future non-profit board and the Meeting.**

Bill Lovett reviewed some of the past activities of the current non-profit board and stated that there is still work to do on forming a vision and detail towards the goals of QOF.

**Naming Committee:** Trudy Wischemann, John Dackawich, David East will meet and recommend a Nominating Committee for next month.

**Children’s Program:** Mark spoke about hiring a Children’s program person to provide care continuity that had been discussed in a prior meeting. Mark asked that we consider beginning a search. Joy proposed that we meet with parents and discuss the needs of parents. The Children’s Committee (Heather Howard, Bill Warner, Klara East, Mark Koenig) will be meeting to discuss this issue further for next month’s agenda.

### **Calendar Items:**

### **Meeting ended in silence**

Respectfully submitted,  
David East  
Recording Clerk