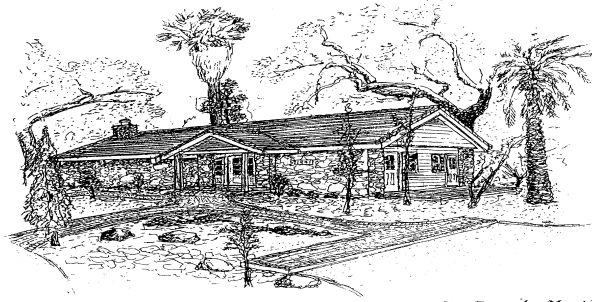


Visalia Friends Meeting
17208 Ave 296 Visalia, CA 93292

Newsletter

November, 2010



Visalia Friends Meetinghouse

Peace

Friends oppose all war as inconsistent with God's will. As every person is a child of God, we recognize God's Light also in our adversaries. Violence and injustice deny this reality and violate the teachings of Jesus and other prophets.

Friends challenge their governments and take personal risks in the cause of peace. We urge one another to refuse to participate in war as soldiers, or as arms manufacturers. We seek ways to support those who refrain from paying taxes that support war. We work to end violence within our own borders, our homes, our streets, and our communities. We support international order, justice, and understanding.

Become an instrument of peace. At every opportunity, be peacemakers in your homes, workplaces and communities. Steep yourself in the power of the universal Spirit. Examine your actions for the seeds of violence, degradation and destructiveness. Overcome the emotions that lie at the root of violence and nurture instead a spirit of reconciliation and love. Come to know the oneness of all creation and oppose the destruction of the natural world.

Do I live in the virtue of that life and power that takes away the occasion of all wars?

How do I nourish peace within myself as I work for peace in the world?

Do I confront violence wherever it occurs, even when my personal relationships are involved?

Where there is distrust, injustice, or hatred, how am I an instrument of reconciliation and love?

What are we doing to remove the causes of war and destruction of the planet, and to bring about lasting peace?

Do we reach out to all parties in a conflict with courage and love?

Meeting for Business

November 14th, 2010-- Annual Meeting of Corporation

Members and Attenders present: John Rogers, Joyce Rogers, Beth Lovett, Bill Lovett, Patti Howard, Heather Howard, Joanne Dudley, David Dudley, Joy Marshall, Bob Marshall, Graciela Martinez, Louis Araujo, Jalene Vincent Welch, Amy Glazier, David Roberts, Greg Seastrom

After reviewing the agenda, the Clerk read a passage by Rufus Jones on pacifism and Advices and Queries on Peace from Faith and Practice.

The meeting began in silence.

Clerk reviewed the mail received; all items are in the “Today” folder on back counter.

Some highlighted items: A pamphlet on Fair Trade put together by Sacramento Friends. As the holidays approach let us all consider where our purchases come from and what the true cost is to others. Also, the Clarence and Lily Pickett Endowment is an opportunity for grants to pursue Quaker leadership. Clerk also mentioned an Anti-Death Penalty witness group “Witness to Innocence” led by wrongfully convicted/ exonerated persons.

Reading of the Minutes from October: Minutes were accepted.

Business:

Budget Review by Treasurer: The proposed budget shows that if the expenses were divided equally among us, the share would be \$650 a year per member/ regular attender. This is about \$55 per month or roughly \$12.50 each Sunday. It was emphasized that this figure is an average amount and the understanding is that some will give more and others less. Recognizing that there were unexpected expenditures this year, all are pleased with the donations we made. Members and attenders feel that a great deal of good is being done with our contributions. A suggestion was made to make a donation box more visible. **The sense of the Meeting was to approve the proposed budget for 2010-2011.**

Nominating Committee: The proposed officers were presented last month and listed in the newsletter. **The list was read, and then accepted by the Meeting.**

Quarterly Meeting report from Heather Howard: the three-day gathering convened at the Sierra Friends Center; the theme was “Inner Light: Finding It and Following It.” Heather reviewed the interest meetings on Death and Taxes, Selective Service, land mines, and giving and receiving more in worship. On the topic of taxes, she shared that including a letter with your tax payment ensures that a human being will process the payment (vs. a computer) and acknowledge the “paying under protest” or non-payment of war taxes. She shared a lot about the meetings and encouraged everyone to attend Quarterly Meeting so as to feel bonded to other Friends and other Meetings.

Ad Hoc Committee on Children's Safety: A great resource was located on line that provides a framework to develop and implement safety guidelines for our children and young people at Meeting. Joyce Rogers presented the document which is used for small church congregations. There are a lot of things that are not applicable to our small group, and Joyce will edit it to present at the next meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee. Clerk suggested that the Committee cross check the insurance checklist with this document. Please contact Jalene with any concerns or suggestions. The decision on adding to our insurance policy will continue to season as this committee makes progress.

Peace, Earth Care, and Social Action Committee – proposal from PYM to combine the two committees: Clerk opened the topic for discussion. Some voiced concern over the wide range of concerns that will now fall onto a single committee. Others found it logical and saw connections between the major topics. The probability for sub-committees would be increased. Clerk suggested that we strive for a structure that organizes and supports folks to respond to individual and corporate leadings and Light. It was pointed out that our nominations for committees are already in for the year so no immediate action will be taken.

Conscientious Objector Status: What is the role of our Meeting? Our meeting is rich in elders with CO status, and we have several young men who will be registering for Selective Service and will be facing this decision, some sooner than others. The Meeting discussed how we might support a young man if he decides to register as a conscientious objector. AFSC.org is a great resource, and there are several steps that young men can take before it is time for them to register: First, we as a Meeting can adopt a minute concerning specific teens objecting to war. Second, these teens can send a letter with their SS registration, with return reply requested, stating their intent not to participate in killing. Thirdly, they can request membership in the Meeting. This discussion will be ongoing and support for our young men is generous, whatever their decision.

Homework: In response to a mailing from QuakerQuest, an outreach program sponsored by Friends General Conference, look up quakerquestfgc.org (or get someone to help you!) Clerk would like to discuss it at the next Meeting for Business. It might be fun.....

Committee Reports:

Building & Grounds and the Children s Committee-Joint Meeting: A Meeting work party will transport more chips for the playground in the coming week. The committees requested that Meeting hosts each week take responsibility for traffic barriers.

<p>Minute 11/14: Host for Sunday will see that traffic barriers are put up and taken down each Meeting day.</p>
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Children s Committee: The committee reports that our remaining childcare worker has resigned from his position due to work and family obligations. Parents will continue to fill in until a process for hiring is reached.

Outreach Committee: The committee asks that our Meeting support the peace and social justice newsletter, "Community Alliance" by getting a subscription at \$36 a year. We would be able to submit articles to this newsletter. This was agreed to. The Outreach committee would also like to set up a booth at street fairs. They welcome suggestions.

Upcoming Events:

Joy will organize the **Christmas-stocking Toy Drive** again this year; filled stockings will be due by the 17th of December.

Wreath-Making Classes are on 12-4 am., call Beth 594-4009

Uncle Bill's Annual Toy Open House: Saturday, December 4, 1-5 pm at Bill and Jeanie's house in Porterville. Proceeds benefit the Heifer Project. Call 782-9265

Sunday	Wednesday	
Saturday		
11/21 Third Sunday Finn's B'day! Outreach Mt. w/ meal	11/24 Quaker class In recess for holiday	
11/28 Fourth Sunday Unity w/Nature w/meal Joint Mtg. with Fresno	12/1 Quaker class 5:30pm -MH BYO dinner	12/4 Wreath making Class QOF Uncle Bill's Toy Open House- Porterville
12/5 First Sunday Ad Hoc Safety Mt w/meal Peace Vigil-SVPC	12/8 Quaker class 5:30pm -MH BYO dinner	
12/12 5:30pm -MH BYO dinner Second Sunday Meeting for Business Stockings Due by 17 th !	12/16 Quaker class 5:30pm -MH BYO dinner	12/17 Last day to turn in stockings
12/19 Third Sunday Christmas Caroling	12/22 Quaker class In recess for holiday	