

SCQM Spring Gathering Minutes – April 29, 2017 – Santa Barbara Meeting

Plenary I

Opening Worship

Agenda & Schedule Review

Roll Call: All Meetings and Worship Groups present, with the exception of the following: Claremont, La Jolla, Las Vegas, Marloma/Long Beach, San Diego, Whitleaf

Visitors: None

Clerks Report: Sarah Rose House-Lightner thanked the Ministry & Counsel Committee for work related to the gathering.

- **Friends that Fall Fellowship** is Nov 4-5, 2017 Temescal Canyon, with a keynote speaker Ben Pink Dandelion, a Quaker theologian. Sarah Rose asked Friends to please take materials provided here back to your meeting to prepare for and get ready for his talk, which will be an interactive experience. Friends are invited to study his work prior to FF. (Attachment 1)
- **Discernment on Hiring an Administrative Assistant:** The clerk also explained the role of Clerks Committee meeting in between SCQM gatherings to move SCQM work forward. In this case, after a threshing session during FF 2016, Ministry and Counsel was asked to further explore the idea hiring of an administrative assistant. M&C and Clerks Committee are clear that outsourcing to ease our administrative burdens in some way is a good idea but there is question as to how the Quarter would actually do it. They formed 3 ad hoc committees and are currently drafting scope of work for tasks. The ad hoc committees are for website, directory and miscellaneous tasks. They are currently drafting and working on that but do not have anything to present currently. It was clarified that the discernment with respect to hiring someone is over the wide range of work in Quarterly. In addition, they're discerning the work of setting up actually hiring and managing someone, as well as the costs of hiring and employing someone.

Friends asked questions about the administrative person's involvement in Fall Fellowship and whether SCQM can take advantage of existing infrastructure of other Quaker organizations that currently employ an administrative assistant (as well as use of other possible shared resources).

- **Website:** The clerk also noted the revision of the website and password-protecting documents that are posted.
- **Directory:** The 2016 SCQM Directory was sent to Meetings in November electronically and the goal is to have an updated 2017 Directory (in electronic and paper copy format) by July 14, 2017 (the start of PYM Annual Session).
- **Community Expectations:** The clerk also mentioned work on preparing Community Expectations for FF 2017.
- **Casa de los Amigos:** The clerk then noted the minute passed a few years ago about the exchange of visitors between SCQM and Casa de Los Amigos, which has indeed

happened (during FF 2016, for example). She also made Friends aware of the opportunity to visit the Casa during an extended stay and encouraged Friends to consider it as part of the exchange between SCQM and the Casa.

- **Faith In Action Minute:** that came to SCQM from Santa Barbara for a way to use the SCQM Peters Legacy Funds. There was an SCQM ad hoc committee that discerned this and there's not unity to move forward because of a concern of duplicative layers related to the use of the Peters Fund. Right now, the sense is to make Friends more aware of the availability of Peters Fund use throughout SCQM.

Minute 04-17-01: SCQM approves holding over the Santa Barbara Meeting Faith In Action minute, proposing special use of Peters Legacy Fund, for one year.

Finance Committee: Sharon Gates, clerk, reported on behalf of the Finance Committee and presented the proposed SCQM annual budget. She explained and reviewed the history of the Ruth Kleopfer Peters Memorial Fund (aka Peters Legacy Fund). She explained the mechanism for requesting funds and examples of the use of funds.

She also raised a budget augmentation request (for last year's budget) of a total of \$50 for Ben Pink Dandelion.

Minute 04-17-02: SCQM approved an augmentation to the 2016-2017 budget of \$50 to the Clerk's Discretionary Fund.

She also encouraged Friends to consider how the funds currently earmarked for Casa de Los Amigos can be used and to always let the Treasurer know about costs incurred with SCQM work, so we can get an accurate view of all costs, even if they are donated.

The Finance Committee clerk then presented the current and proposed 2017-2018 budget.

There was a question about charging for directories and it was clarified they will be charged for if they are printed. Another Friend noted that the \$4,000 Peters Fund contribution should be moved to the Income section, so that the Transfer from Reserves is reduced to \$1,100.

Another Friend urged us to encourage as many Friends as possible to consider attending Fall Fellowship because of the great opportunity experiencing our Keynote Speaker.

It was noted Peters Fund requests can be submitted at any time during the year and not during a specific window.

Lastly, the Finance Committee is recommending the per-Meeting Assessment remain at \$10.

Nominating Committee: Trudy Friedel, co-clerk, reported. Other members of the committee include Shayne Lightner, Katrina Mason and Betty Guthrie.

The presiding clerk mentioned how vital service on the Arrangements Committee is with respect to Fall Fellowship and that if we don't have a Fall Fellowship, we will give up the valued Temescal Canyon location.

The following Friends are up for nominations:

Kerwin Flowers, Website (3 year)

Dahlia Van Gelder, Directory (3 year)

Ministry and Counsel

Connie McPeak Green (3 year terms)

Chuck Orr

Stan Searl

Sarah Rose House-Lightner, Newsletter Committee (3 year)

Kip McBane, PA Foundation Board (3 year term)

Peace and Social Concerns

Anthony Manousos– 1 year term

Sergei Agalzoff – 3 year term

Arthur Kegerreis – 3 year term

Brian Johnston – 3 year term

Youth Planning

Kate Watkins Shaw – 3 year term

Religious Education

Davetta Williams – 3 year term

Kindred Gottlieb – 3 year term

Retreats

Pat Wolff – happy to continue with help – 3 year

The meeting closed with worship.

Plenary II

Finance Committee reported.

- **Minute 04-17-03:** SCQM approves the 2017-2018 budget of \$14,480 as presented by Finance Committee (including slight adjustments). (Attachment 2)
- **Minute 04-17-04:** SCQM approves a 2017-2018 per member assessment of \$10.

Nominating Committee reported.

- **Minute 04-17-05:** SCQM approves the 2017-2018 Nominating Committee slate as presented by Nominating Committee. (Attachment 3)

Arrangements: The clerk then asked us to discern service to Arrangements Committee. Though no Friends were lead to serve on the committee, several ideas came forward to explore, including asking Friends to take the message back to their

Meetings, consider which tasks could be hired, splitting the work of Arrangements Committee and clearer communication of the committee's work.

Friends suggested further discernment of these ideas from Clerks Committee. One Friend committed 4 hours of work for a specific task for that weekend.

Peace And Social Concerns Committee: Anthony Manousos reported.

- 3 FCNL teams have cropped up in Southern California since the election. They have engaged in faith-based training and visited the office of Judy Chu.
- He also mentioned an all-day workshop on immigration at Orange Grove with Pedro Rios of AFSC (Attachment 4) and another workshop on income inequality at Santa Monica meeting featuring George Lakey, Quaker author of "Viking Economics". (Attachment 5).
- He also mentioned the FWCC Section of the Americas annual gathering at Stony Point, NY and how the impact of climate destruction is felt personally by Friends in other parts of the Americas. (Attachment 6)
- Gail Thomas reported on a minute on Income Inequality from Santa Monica Meeting (Attachment 7), which was included in the SCQM Spring Newsletter, a concern which has risen strongly in their meeting. Other Meetings are encouraged to consider the minute and report back any progress to SCQM.

FCLCA: Marion Holsworth reported. If you're not getting updates or newsletter, sign up at Kevan@fclca.org. Senate Bill 180, involving sentencing of people in jail with a drug background, is coming up on Thursday. In addition, Bill 54, CA as a sanctuary state, is making its way through the legislation. They are also working on several other bills making their way through the California legislature. She listed several counties that need to call their reps for Bill 180.

She also noted CA Lobby Day in Sacramento; Immigration Day May 15, LBGQT May 16, CA Work and Family Coalition Day.

Announcements: The clerk asked for announcements. PYM Annual Session registration opens May 19. Spring Gathering 2018 is scheduled to be at Orange Grove the final week in April.

Unseasoned Concerns: The clerk asked for unseasoned concerns. There were none. One Friend thanked Santa Barbara for their hospitality.

Minute 04-17-06: SCQM approved the action minutes from Plenary I and II.

Plenary II closed with worship.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Rose House-Lightner, Presiding Clerk
Shayne Lightner, Recording Clerk

Dear Friends,

We are excited to announce that Ben Pink Dandelion, renowned British Friend, will be our guest speaker at Fall Fellowship. To help introduce Friends to people in your meeting who may not know Ben and/or prepare us all to greet Ben with open hearts, we have purchased a number of copies of his pamphlet *Celebrating the Quaker Way* for use by your meeting. We also offer a set of queries that can be used individually or for group study. Additional copies of this pamphlet are available at QuakerBooks or for Kindle download on Amazon. We also recommend his follow-up pamphlet, *Living the Quaker Way*; it has a set of questions for reflection at the back.

Although *Celebrating the Quaker Way* is short, if you use it for adult Religious Education, we recommend taking several sessions. Begin with waiting worship, briefly summarize the section, then in small groups or as a whole read the queries one at a time in a modified worship sharing format. After about an hour, close with silence but with an invitation to share from the heart about the experience.

The queries can also be used for individual deepening, journaling on each query or the ones that speak to or challenge.

Bibliography

Published under Ben Pink Dandelion-the "Ben" indicates he is writing for Quakers:
Celebrating the Quaker Way

Living the Quaker Way

Confident Quakerism, PHP 410

Convinced Quakerism, Annual Walton lecture

Open to Transformation: Being a Quaker, Swarthmore Lecture

Ben has also made two Friends Journal Quaker Speak videos:

The Difference Between Quaker Meeting and Other Services

How I went from Being an Anarchist to a Quaker

Ben is Director of the Woodbrook Center for Postgraduate Studies and a professor both at the University of Birmingham and the University of Lancaster.

Published under Pink Dandelion are books for the general public:

A Very Short Introduction to Quakerism

An Introduction to Quakerism

The Liturgies of Quakerism

An Analysis of the Theology of Quakers: The Silent Revolution

Ben has collaborated on a number of other books with well known Quakers

(Stephen Angell and Doug Gwyn) but they are out of print-check your meeting library

Queries for Celebrating the Quaker Way in small groups-or Individually

Intro: How did you become a Quaker?

1. I am a Quaker

What does it mean to you to call yourself a Quaker?

How does it influence your daily choices?

Share an example of wrestling with an issue-where did you find support-in your self? In your meeting?

What is your experience of the wider Quaker world?

"I am an Quaker is not an individualist statement; it is a declaration of community?"

Is this statement true about you?

2. Meeting

Worship

How does Ben's description of worship reflect your own experience?

Do you experience "holy moments" outside meeting; share such a time.

How integral is going to meeting in your life?

Ministry

What are some of your spiritual gifts? Are they encouraged and nurtured by your meeting? How confident are you on bringing them forth?

Have you ever spoken in meeting? What do you ask yourself before standing?

Discernment

How do you practice discernment in your daily decisions? Discuss a time when you struggled to discern if a choice was from God or your own desire.

How well do you feel supported by your meeting-is it a community for you?

Testimony

Ben says Quakerism is about "becoming." Do you feel you continue to evolve and grow more compassionate in your life choices?

What testimonies do feel you witness well in your life? Which still seem a challenge?

"Quakers celebrate life." What gives you joy? What might you do to increase the sense of celebration, your appreciation of what is, your ability to care?

"Our testimony is what we do from our experience of God, not what we say." How does your life speak? What would help you step in with greater confidence?

| | 2016-2017 Approved Budget | 2016-2017 Actuals | Notes on 2016-2017 Actuals | 2017-2018 Approved Budget |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|---|------------------------------|
| Income | | | | |
| Assessment | \$ 2,776.00 | \$ 3,380.00 | | \$ 3,380.00 |
| Fall Fellowship | \$ 7,500.00 | \$ 4,397.00 | | \$ 6,000.00 |
| Directories | \$ 500.00 | \$ - | | \$ - |
| Faith & Practice | | \$ - | | \$ - |
| Peters Fund (4) | | | | \$ 4,000.00 |
| Subtotal | \$ 10,776.00 | \$ 7,777.00 | | \$ 13,380.00 |
| Transfer from reserves (1) | \$ 2,954.00 | \$ 1,573.00 | | \$ 1,100.00 |
| Total Income | \$ 13,730.00 | \$ 9,350.00 | | \$ 14,480.00 |
| Expenses | | | | |
| Accountant | \$ - | \$ - | | \$ - |
| Fall Fellowship | \$ 9,250.00 | \$ 7,145.00 | | \$ 8,000.00 |
| Directory (2) | \$ 500.00 | \$ - | | \$ 500.00 |
| Other Committee & Officer Expenses | \$ 1,000.00 | \$ 345.00 | Children's & Teen's Programs for Fall Fellowship | \$ 500.00 |
| Casa de Los Amigos Support (3) | \$ 3,000.00 | \$ 857.00 | airfare for 1 to Mexico City for Casa Anniversary; airfare & expenses for 2 from Casa to attend Fall Fellowship | \$ 3,000.00 |
| Peters Fund (4) | | | | \$ 1,000.00 |
| Insurance | \$ 180.00 | \$ 179.00 | | \$ 180.00 |
| Website & Email list (5) | \$ 550.00 | \$ 274.00 | 3 years of web hosting + 1 year of security (firewall) | \$ 50.00 |
| Travel | \$ 750.00 | | "Celebrating the Quaker Way" by Ben Pink Dandelion | \$ 750.00 |
| Clerk's Discretionary Fund | \$ 500.00 | \$ 550.00 | | \$ 500.00 |
| Total Expenses | \$ 15,730.00 | \$ 9,350.00 | | \$ 14,480.00 |

(1) unbudgeted funds in the checking account

(2) Potentially to be contracted out

(3) not included in approved budget, but previously approved by Quarter

(4) remainder of \$4,000 Peters Fund annual budget (rest is Casa de los Amigos)

(5) estimate for email server

Fall Fellowship

| Fall Fellowship 2016 Actuals | | Notes |
|------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| Income | | |
| Registration | \$ 4,397.00 | |
| Total Income | | |
| | \$ 4,397.00 | |
| Expenses | | |
| Facility Rental | \$ 6,000.00 | Includes \$1,000 deposit for 2017 |
| Food | \$ 1,145.00 | \$690 food, \$455 stipend for cook |
| Peters Fund (4) | | 4000 |
| Entertainment | \$ - | 4000 |
| Speaker(s) | \$ - | |
| Total Expenses | | |
| | \$ 7,145.00 | |

| Fall Fellowship 2017 Approved Budget | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|--|
| Income | | |
| Registration | \$ 6,000.00 | Goal is to have registrations cover facility rental |
| Total Income | | |
| | \$ 6,000.00 | |
| Expenses | | |
| Facility Rental | \$ 6,000.00 | |
| Food | \$ 2,000.00 | \$1,200 food, \$600 stipend, \$200 for 2 registration fees |
| Entertainment | \$ - | To be paid from Peters Fund |
| Speakers | \$ - | Ben Pink Dandelion will be paid for out of the Peters Fund |
| Total Expenses | | |
| | \$ 8,000.00 | |

Registration fee \$ 75.00
 Note that sliding scale will be an option

Registrations
 needed to break
 even

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA QUARTERLY MEETING
OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)
OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES**

Approved at Spring Gathering 4/29/17

| <u>OFFICERS</u> | <u>TERM</u> | <u>MEETING</u> |
|--|----------------------|-----------------|
| Sarah Rose House-Lightner, Presiding Clerk | 8/16 to 5/19 | Orange Grove |
| Shayne Lightner, Recording Clerk | 6/13 to 5/19 | Santa Monica |
| Peter Neumann, Treasurer | 6/15 to 5/18 | Santa Barbara |
| Kerwin Flowers, Web Clerk & Listserve | 11/14 to 5/20 | La Jolla |

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COMMITTEES

Arrangements Committee

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Sharon Gates & | 6/15 to 5/18 | Orange Grove |
| David Mackenzie, Registrars | 6/15 to 5/18 | Orange Grove |
| Jan Bartholomew | 8/15 to 5/18 | Santa Monica |
| _____ (clerk) | | |
| _____ | | |
| _____ | | |

Directory Committee

| | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Dan Strickland | 11/15 to 5/18 | Orange Grove |
| DAHLIA VAN GELDER | 5/17 to 5/20 | Santa Monica |
| _____ | | |

Finance Committee

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| Oliver Ryder | 6/12 to 5/18 | La Jolla |
| Sharon Gates (Clerk) | 6/12 to 5/18 | Orange Grove |
| Peter Neumann, (ex officio) | 6/15 to 5/18 | Santa Barbara |
| _____ | | |
| _____ | | |

Ministry and Counsel Committee

| | | |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|
| Gail Thomas (co-clerk) | 8/16 to 5/19 | Santa Monica |
| Sarah Rose House -Lightner (ex officio) | 8/16 to 5/19 | Orange Grove |
| Holly Anderson | 4/15 to 5/18 | Ojai |
| CONNIE MCPEAKE GREENE | 5/17 to 5/20 | Claremont |
| CHUCK ORR | 5/17 to 5/20 | La Jolla |
| STAN SEARL | 5/17 to 5/20 | Santa Monica |
| _____ (co-clerk) | | |

Newsletter Committee (publishes Quarterly Reporter prior to Quarterly Gatherings)

| | | |
|---------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Sarah Rose House-Lightner | 6/14 to 5/20 | Orange Grove |
|---------------------------|--------------|--------------|

Pacific Ackworth Foundation Board

Kip McBane

Gary Wolff

6/11 to 5/20

6/12 to 5/18

La Jolla

Orange Grove

Peace & Social Order Committee

Anthony Manousos, Clerk (thru 5/18)

Sirgei Agalzoff

BRIAN JOHNSTON

Arthur Kegerreis

6/12 to 5/18

6/14 to 5/20

5/17 to 5/20

5/17 to 5/20

Orange Grove

Orange Grove

Santa Monica

Orange Grove

Southern California Youth Planning Committee

Kate Watkins

6/13 to 5/20

Santa Monica

(Clerk)

(PYM YPCC)

Religious Education Committee (Children)

(Clerk)

Jennifer Carr (PYM YPCC)

DAVETTA WILLIAMS

KINDRED GOTTLIEB

6/15 to 5/18

5/17 to 5/20

5/17 to 5/20

Las Vegas

Claremont

Orange Grove

Retreats Committee

Patricia Wolff

11/14 to 5/20

Orange Grove

Nominating Committee is named by the Naming Committee

Nominating Committee

Katrina Mason

Trudy Freidel (Co-Clerk)

Shayne Lightner (Co-Clerk)

Betty Guthrie

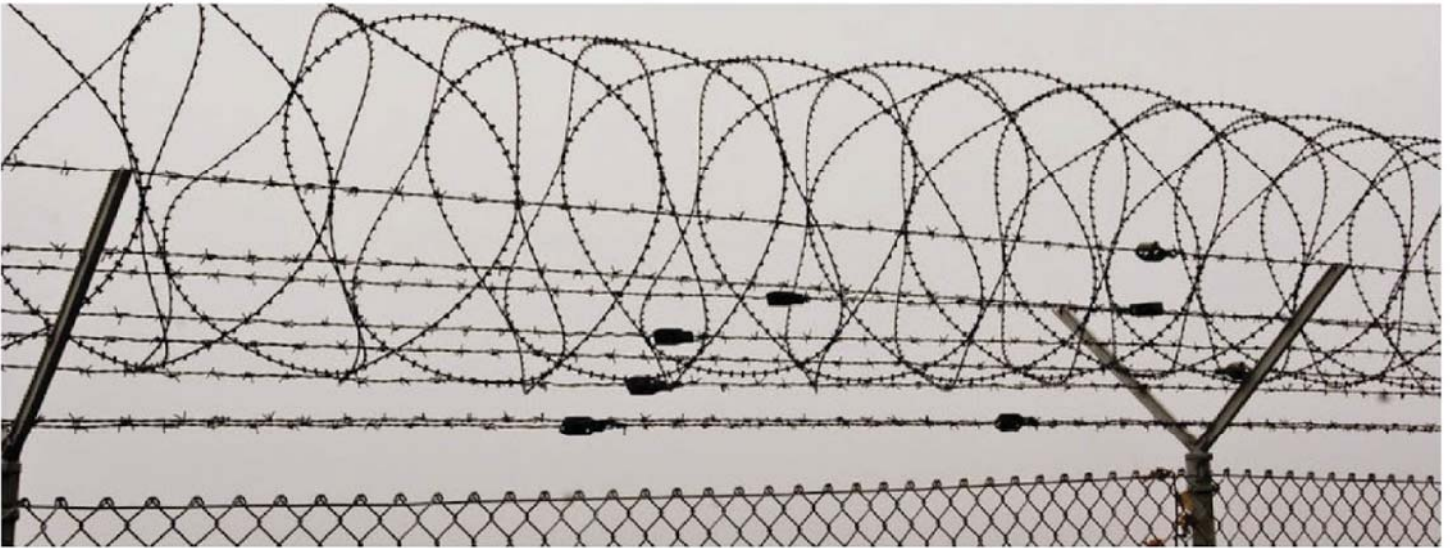
Naming Committee is named By Clerks Committee

Naming Committee

| | |
|-------|-------|
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |

Ad-Hoc Subcommittees to be listed here for informational purposes:

| |
|-------|
| _____ |
| _____ |



DEFENDING THE RIGHTS OF IMMIGRANTS A WORKSHOP WITH PEDRO RIOS

*How To Be An Effective Immigrant Advocate And Ally:
An Opportunity for Community and Quaker Cooperation,
Education, and Mobilization*

Saturday, May 20, 2017 • 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Pedro Rios serves as the director of the American Friends Service Committee's U.S./Mexico Border Program and has been on staff with AFSC for 13 years. He is a board member of the San Diego Immigrant Rights Consortium, a coalition of 40+ organizations in San Diego working to support the rights of immigrants.

A native of San Diego, Mr. Rios has worked on immigrant rights and border issues for over 20 years. He oversees a program that documents abuses by law enforcement agencies, collaborates with community groups, advocates for policy change, and works with migrant communities. He holds a masters degree in Ethnic Studies.

He became active on immigration issues in the early 1990s, when California was debating the passage of Proposition 187, the anti-immigrant initiative that was later ruled unconstitutional. He is currently overseeing a program that documents abuses by law enforcement agencies, working with many community groups, advocating for policy change, and interacting with migrant communities. Pedro has been widely interviewed and published, by the Associated Press, Univision, ABC10, NBC7, and Think Progress, among others.

Sponsored by:
American Friends Service Committee,
Orange Grove Monthly Meeting, and
Southern California Quarterly Meeting of the
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Orange Grove Meeting House

520 E. Orange Grove Blvd, Pasadena CA
(near Los Robles)

Free Workshop; Lunch with requested donation
RSVP: interfaithquaker@aol.com

Border communities should no longer bear the brunt of poor policy planning. We must commit to moving away from militarizing our neighborhoods, and instead, invest in projects that will uphold the dignity of our diverse and dynamic people and regions.



—PEDRO RIOS
AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE
COMMITTEE, SAN DIEGO



VIKING ECONOMICS

How the Scandinavians got it right, and how we can, too

- Free Workshop
at Santa Monica Friends Meeting
1440 Harvard St, Santa Monica, CA 90404
- Sat., June 17, from 9:30 am—4:30 pm



George Lakey, noted Quaker activist and author of *Viking Economics*, will lead a workshop on how to address INCOME INEQUALITY, a core challenge to American democracy. Learn how Quakers are addressing this issue and what we can do to create a social democracy in America similar to those in Scandinavia. Lakey takes a spirited and practical approach to social change that inspires "evidence-grounded hope."

For more info, contact: Gail Thomas at quakergail@gmail.com

Free parking in back of the Meetinghouse. Please do not park on the street or you'll be ticketed.

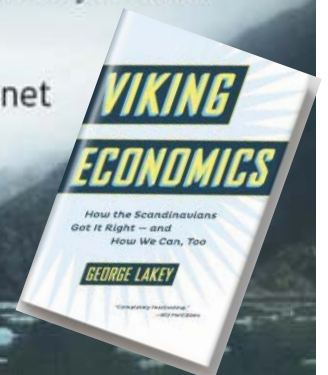
George Lakey will be speaking at other venues in So Cal. For more info: see the Southern California Quarterly Meeting Facebook page.



GEORGE LAKEY is an activist, sociologist, and writer who has added academic underpinning to the concept of nonviolent revolution. He has also refined the practice of experiential training for activists which he calls "Direct Education." His writing and workshops teach how to increase the effectiveness of nonviolent social movements. A Quaker, he has co-founded and led numerous organizations and campaigns for justice and peace. His latest book *Viking Economics* has received accolades from activists and scholars, including Bill McKibben, who called it "completely fascinating."

"Brilliant, fun to read, and most timely. Lakey busts key myths that keep us believing we can't have the society we want. Bravo for this great source of evidence-grounded hope!"

- Frances Moore Lappé, author of *Diet for a Small Planet*



Report on FWCC for the Spring Gathering of SQCM, 2017

By Anthony Manousos

This is a time when our country is deeply divided politically and religiously. The divide between Evangelical and mainstream Christians is especially deep and painful, reminiscent of the split between Evangelical and liberal Quakers that took place in the 19th century and still persists today. Fortunately, the Friends World Committee for Consultation has worked hard and successfully to bring about reconciliation among the many branches of Quakerism. It is the only place I know where you can find real diversity among Friends—ethnic and racial and theological diversity. I feel inexpressible joy when I'm among such a richly diverse group of Quakers!

Today I'd like to report briefly about the recent FWCC meeting that took place in Stony Point, NY. This was a meeting of the Section of the Americas. Over 120 Friends took part. 18 were from Latin America. Given the harsh anti-immigrant policies of our current President, we were very relieved that most of our Latin American brothers and sisters were able to get visas. Friends came from all the different branches of Quakers—Evangelical, Conservative, and unprogrammed. Non-theists as well as Bible-believing Christians took part. We worshipped in silence and also with joyful singing and sermons. During times of fellowship and worship sharing in our home groups, we got to know and appreciate each other as friends.

A highlight of the gathering was launching FWCC's new traveling ministry program. Seven Friends from North and Latin America were chosen for this program which we hope we led to deeper connections among Friends.

Other highlights included hearing a radical sermon by a Cuban Friend who works for the Martin Luther King Center in Havana. Her talk was so powerful it convinced me I want to travel in the ministry to Cuba as soon as possible and get to know Cuban Friends better. Jill and I are thinking of going in December of this year. Please hold us in the Light! I was also impressed by the powerful sermons of Jonathan Vogel-Borne, a New England Quaker activist, and Carl Magruder, a beloved California Friend who now works as a chaplain.

There were many workshops dealing with a variety of topics. I was drawn to the workshops dealing with climate disruption. Based on my experience with FWCC gatherings in Kenya and Peru, I have come to see that sustainability is as important to Quakers as peace in the 21st century. Since climate disruption has world-wide consequences, it affects and unites Quakers everywhere. Those who live in the global south often experience the effects of climate change more directly than those of us who live in the north. Droughts, floods and pollution are causing serious damage to countries like Peru, Bolivia and other places where Quakers live. We hear their stories and feel the need to redouble our efforts to work to be good stewards of our beautiful and fragile planet earth.

We worked on an addendum to the "Living Sustainably" minute that was approved in Pisac, Peru. We realized that that the Pisac statement didn't include important elements like restoring the earth, supporting the resiliency and resistance of communities adversely affected by climate disruption, and deepening the spiritual basis of our work.

I am happy to share with you this report, which is on my blog (laquaker.blogspot.com) and which I have copies of. I wish I could share with you some of the joy and enthusiasm and hope we felt coming together at the Stony Point Conference Center. If you'd like for me to come to your Meeting and talk about FWCC, I'd be very happy to do so.

Here's a report about our meeting at Stony Point:

On Friday, March 24, 2017 seventeen Friends met at the Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) gathering in Stony Point, NY, to discuss the sustainability minute approved at Pisac. We had three working groups and here is a report on what transpired. We'd like to begin with a quote from Isaac Pennington:

"Sink down to the Seed... and thou shalt find by sweet experience that the Lord knows.... and will lead....to the inheritance of Life."

Powerful though it was in many ways, we felt the Sustainability minute at Pisac dealt mainly with mitigating anticipated climate disruption. We strongly feel Friends need to go further. Since climate disruption is already adversely affecting the earth as well as the lives of people and other living beings, we need to consider how we can act in solidarity with communities affected by climate disruption as they strive to respond, resist or adapt. We also need to consider ways in which we can help to restore the damage caused to the Earth.

We see a need for a collective as well as personal spiritual awakening leading to transformative spirit-led action. To be effective, we need to express joy in the changes we have made in our lives and share our joy with others. To be spiritually grounded, we need to deepen our relationship with nature and connect with God's creation. We suggest that Friends traveling in the ministry through FWCC share FWCC's material on sustainability and collect stories about the effects of climate disruption on local communities and how they are responding. We urge each one of us to carry out our Quaker testimony on earth care and lift it up to all the bodies we are part of.

Queries:

How are we as Quakers living our lives as if climate disruption is real and really matters?
How are we showing solidarity with indigenous and marginalized peoples affected by climate disruption?

What Southern California Friends Have Been Doing To Promote Peace and Justice Since the Election

By Anthony Manousos, Clerk of Peace and Social Order

Since the election, there has been an upsurge of activism among Friends as well as among other segments of the American population. We have been aroused to action by the threats posed by the current administration to the environment, immigrants, Muslims, people of color, the poor and life itself, with the drumbeats of war becoming increasingly loud and insistent. The words of William Penn seem especially relevant: "True godliness does not turn [us] out of the world, but enables [us] to live better in it and excites [our] endeavors to mend it." Our divided and broken country desperately needs mending. Our Quaker message and approach are urgently needed.

Each month there is a Peace Committee conference call open to anyone interested in peace and justice. Please join us. The contact info is in this report, which is posted on my blog and linked to the SCQM Facebook page.

Here in So Cal, the Friends Committee on National Legislation has been especially active. FCNL Advocacy Teams have been formed in the Santa Monica area, Pasadena, and Orange County. Thanks in part to the efforts of Joelly Mejia, a young Advocacy Corps staff person, non-Quakers as well as Quakers are being trained on how to be effective advocates and lobbyists. Delegations have gone to the offices of Senators Feinstein and Harris as well as Congress members Judy Chu, Adam Schiff, and others. You can read about these visits on my blog at laquaker.org.

Southern California Friends and Meetings have also provided invaluable activism and support for Friends Committee on Legislation of California, weighing in on state bills that support immigrants like Senate Bill 54 to make California a "sanctuary state." Support from Friends in So Cal has allowed FCLCA to organize interfaith action on this bill and to continue to bring a voice of conscience on bills related to criminal justice, poverty and environmental justice. It's so crucial to keep California moving forward, especially in the face of what's happening on a federal level. Senate Bill 54 will be coming up in the Assembly soon and we will need Friends to visit specific Assembly members. For more info, contact Kevan Insko kevan@fclca.org

Immigration has become an increasingly urgent concern. On Saturday, May 20, our Quarter is sponsoring an all-day workshop on immigration rights with Pedro Rios, director of the AFSC's U.S./Mexico Border Program. In this workshop we'll learn how to be effective immigrant advocates and allies. A native San Diegan, Pedro has worked on immigrant rights and border issues for over 20 years. Orange Grove Meeting co-sponsored this event and we're looking forward to hosting it.

On Saturday, June 17, Santa Monica Meeting is sponsoring an all-day workshop with George Lakey, noted Quaker activist and author of *Viking Economics: How the Scandinavians Got it Right, and How We Can, Too*. This workshop will focus on how to address INCOME INEQUALITY, a core challenge to American democracy in this era of plutocracy. We'll learn how Quakers are addressing this issue and what we can do to create a social democracy in America similar to those in Scandinavia.

This is a time when we need to leave what *Friends Journal* called our "Quaker bubble" and work with those in the community who share our passion and our concerns. That's why we are inviting non-Quakers as well as Quakers to both these workshops. Please take flyers and share them not just with your Meeting but also with your friends.

I am eager to find out what your Meeting is doing to promote justice and peace and would be happy to pay a visit, so please invite me. This is a time when Friends who care about justice and peace need to work together. Most of all, we need to be faithful to the Spirit that stirs in our hearts, calling us to do utmost to mend this broken world.

Minute on Income Inequality, Economic Justice and Social Justice

Friends (Quakers) believe that there is a divine spark in everyone, and on that basis we believe in the equality of all people. That belief leads us to create community among ourselves, foster community in the broader society and promote equal justice and equal opportunity.

We find that the laws, tax structure, and regulations of our society now disproportionately favor and reward the few, while disproportionately impoverishing the many. Wealthy special interests have used their resources and access to influence politics, the courts and regulatory agencies to redistribute wealth to enrich themselves at the expense of the middle class and the poor, who now experience declining wealth, declining earning power and declining levels of education. Our society now experiences rising poverty, homelessness, mental illness, drug addiction and environmental degradation. These factors in combination result in the weakening of our democratic institutions and our social fabric. We also find that this inequity is reversible, with correction of the tax codes, regulations, laws, and political reform.

We call on Friends to teach themselves and others about the truth of economic inequality. We call on Friends, people of other faiths and people of good will to recognize the need to change our tax code, our regulations, and our electoral processes to restore our social safety net and our educational systems to create a more just, healthier and more sustainable society based on principles of equality and respect for our fellow human beings. We call on Friends, people of other faiths and people of good will to work to reduce income inequality in our society by supporting actions that redistribute the fruits of our economy more broadly and equitably in order to build a stronger, more just, more rewarding and more stable society.

Economic inequality is at the root of many of the social ills we now see. We seek to reduce income and wealth disparity, while recognizing that success in doing so will not cure all social ills. Our goal is to reduce economic stress in our society to the point that people of modest means may lead happy, productive lives and realize their God-given potential. We seek to restore the social fabric and respect for the inherent dignity of all.

Our goal reflects our Quaker testimonies on simplicity, equality, peace, community and integrity.

*See bibliography attached

Annotated Bibliography

Books About the Very Rich

Liar's Poker by Michael Lewis

A hilarious first-hand account of young men and women working on the trading floor of Salomon Brothers investment bank.

Flash Boys: A Wall Street Revolt by Michael Lewis

An insider's look at high-frequency trading where investment bankers take advantage of high speed computers to buy or sell a fraction of a second before their competitors.

The Big Short by Michael Lewis

The inside story of the how the financial crisis of 2008 came about, from which the recent award-winning film was made.

Dark Money: The Hidden History of the Billionaires Behind the Rise of the Radical Right by Jane Meyers

The author shows how a network of exceedingly wealthy people with extreme libertarian views bankrolled a systematic, step-by-step plan to fundamentally alter the American political system.

Plutocrats: The Rise of the New Global Super Rich and the Fall of Everyone Else by Chrystia Freeland

This book is an attempt to understand the changing shape of the world economy by looking at those at the very top: who they are, how they made their money, how they think and how they relate to the rest of us.

Winner-Take-All Politics: How Washington Made the Rich Richer – And Turned Its back on the Middle Class by Jacob S. Hacker & Paul Pierson

The good news reported by Hacker and Pierson is that American wealth disparities are not the residue of globalization or technology or anything else beyond our control, but of politics and policies which tilted toward the rich beginning in the 1970s and can, over time, be tilted back.

Listen, Liberal: Or What Ever Happened to the Party of the People? by Thomas Frank

The professional class, the teachers, lawyers, doctors, architects, etc., on whom our country has counted for so long to remain objective, above the political fray, and steer our democracy over the shoals of greed and corruption and self-interest, has lost its objectivity, no longer associates itself with the working class, the labor unions, the unlucky, and has joined the rarified ranks of the well-educated and the privileged.

Books About the Poor

The Other America: Poverty in the United States by Michael Harrington

First published in 1962, this book is regarded as a classic work on poverty. “That the poor are invisible is one of the most important things about them. They are not simply neglected and forgotten as in the old rhetoric of reform; what is much worse, they are not seen,” wrote the author.

The American Way of Poverty: How the Other Half Still Lives by Sasha Abramsky

Today, after four decades during which tackling economic hardship took a distant backseat to other priorities, one in six Americans live below the poverty line, their lives as constricted as those that peopled the pages of *The Other America* in the Kennedy era. Why?

American Hunger by Eli Saslow

Nearly 1 in 7 Americans – and almost a quarter of all children – now receive food stamps, the highest participation in the program’s history. Hunger remains the lasting scar of the recession.

\$2.00 a Day: Living on Almost Nothing in America by Kathryn J. Edin

The author actually restricts herself to \$2.00 a day in order to be able to write first-hand about the experience.

Labor’s Love Lost: The Rise and Fall of the Working-Class Family in America by Andrew J. Cherlin

The author, a sociologist teaching at Johns Hopkins University, is convinced that the traditional working-class family, where the husband has a job that supports all of them and his wife is the full-time house-keeper, that was the backbone of traditional America, is a thing of the past and that a totally new child-rearing arrangement between men and women is emerging to meet the very different economic organization we will be living in.

Books about Our Situation: How We Got into it and How We Can Get Out

The Wealth of Nations by Adam Smith

Where it all began. The book from which the founding fathers fashioned our economic system.

On Liberty by John Stuart Mill

Mill’s believed that true freedom would prevail only when an individual’s drive to better his/her station could proceed without impeding others in their own efforts to do the same. This clearly-expressed belief has formed the basis for our free enterprise system.

Chicagonomics: The Evolution of Chicago Free Market Economics by Lanny Epstein

The University of Chicago, founded by John D. Rockefeller, and its leading economist, Milton Friedman, are principal purveyors of laissez-faire capitalism as practiced today.

Capital in the Twenty-First Century by Thomas Piketty

The classic work on inequality by the Frenchman who discovered inequality. A Harvard University Press best-seller, highly readable.

Inequality: What Can Be Done? By Anthony B. Atkinson

A very difficult read but I believe he has the answer; so be patient and read it. Atkinson, a Britisher, is one of the leading authorities on inequality.

The Price of Inequality: How Today's Divided Society Endangers Our Future by Joseph E. Stiglitz

A highly readable exposition of our plight.

Saving Capitalism for the Many, Not the Few by Robert B. Reich

A myth-shattering breakdown of how the economic system that helped make America strong is now failing us and what it will take to fix it. Reich sees hope for reversing our slide toward inequality and diminished opportunity when we shore up the countervailing power of everyone else.

Listen, Liberal: Or, What Ever Happened to the Party of the People? by Robert Frank

The professional class, the teachers, lawyers, doctors, architects, etc., on whom our country has counted for so long to remain objective, above the political fray, and steer our democracy over the shoals of greed and corruption and self-interest, has lost its objectivity, no longer associates itself with the working class, the labor unions, the unlucky, and has joined the rarified ranks of the well-educated and the privileged.

Five short articles in the Jan/Feb Issue of *Foreign Affairs*:

Inequality and Modernization by Ronald Inglehart

Inequality and Globalization: How the Rich Get Richer as the Poor Catch Up by François Bourguignon

How To Create a Society of Equals: Overcoming Today's Crisis of Inequality by Pierre Rosanvallon

Equality and American Democracy : Why Politics Trumps Economics by Danielle Alle

How to Spread the Wealth : Practical Policies for Reducing Inequality by Anthony B. Atkinson

Glass House: The 1% Economy and the Shattering of the All-American Town by Brian Alexander

This is the story of a town, Lancaster, Ohio, and an industry, Anchor Hocking Glassware, that, beginning in 1905, enjoyed for three-quarters of a century the ideal relationship between its owners and its workers that at one time characterized America, only to be decimated starting in the eighties by an orgy of Wall Street deal-making—corporate raiding, bankruptcy, refinancing and constantly shifting CEOs and presidents.

The Role of Technology in Income Inequality

Rise of the Robots: Technology and the Threat of a Jobless Future by Martin Short

Winner of Business Book of the Year in 2015, this spell-binding book looks into our not-so-distant future to predict that human capacities at all levels will eventually be replaced machine intelligence, leaving both workers and managers with nothing to do, no jobs. He explores some possible solutions if we act at once.

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Books About Quakers in Business

Meeting House and Counting House; The Quaker Merchants of Colonial Philadelphia 1682 – 1763 by Frederick B. Tolles

Almost since the beginning Quakers, in both Britain and America, became successful businessmen, a tradition that descends almost to the present, and hence qualifies them to be leaders in the necessary reform of present harmful and malicious practices.

Good Business Ethics at Work: advices and Queries on Personal Standards of Conduct at Work

Today many people are dismayed by unethical business practices they see around them. They believe that business itself is unethical. This book is to act as a guide and an inspiration a business for the benefit of all stakeholders.

Quakers Living in the Lion's Mouth: The Society of Friends in Northern Virginia 1730 – 1865 by A. Glen Crothers

The difficulties of a group of Quakers to accommodate themselves to a slave-owning society, as an example to today's Quakers attempting to survive the injustices of an abhorrent economic system.

The Clash of Cultures: Investment vs. Speculation by John C. Bogle

Jack Bogle is a very successful business man. He is not a Quaker but he conducts his business with all the conscientiousness we would expect of one. He is a model for all that we would hope a business man to be and we should listen carefully to his argument for the ethical conduct of business.

End of Bibliography