

SCQM Spring Gathering Minutes

April 28, 2018

Held at Santa Monica Meeting, hosted by Inland Valley Friends Meeting

Plenary I

Opening Worship

The clerk reviewed the agenda and thanked our hosts Inland Valley Friends and Santa Monica Meeting. The clerk then acknowledged indigenous Tongva people on whose land we stood. The clerk then reviewed parking, donations for meals, Wi-Fi issues and gave brief Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business advices and queries and community expectations.

Roll Call:

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

Visitors: Alyssa Nelson, Davis Meeting, PYM Youth Programs Coordinator

Clerk's Report

Sarah Rose House-Lightner, Presiding Clerk, noted several calendar items.

- Leadings Workshop: M&C is sponsoring a workshop on June 16th, 2018 at Orange Grove: "Leadings As A Central Feature of Our Quaker Action in the World" w/Betty Devalcourt. **(Attachment 1)**
- Fall Fellowship 2018 will take place Nov. 3-4, 2018 at Temescal Canyon. Annie Patterson & Peter Blood, authors of "Rise Up Singing" will be the keynote speakers. Staying over on Friday night will be an option this year. **(Attachment 2)**
- MLK Jr Holiday Campout 2019: The Retreats Committee has also scheduled a MLK Jr Holiday Campout on January 18-21, 2019 at Indian Cove at Joshua Tree National Park and Friends were asked to save the date and contact Pat Wolff of Orange Grove MM if interested.

Proposed Buddy System for Hosting Spring Gathering: She also noted that Clerks Committee is developing a proposed minute on new rotation for Monthly Meetings Co-Hosting spring gatherings. The idea is to create a "buddy system". The challenge is that when we hold spring gatherings, not all Meetings have the physical location to do so. However, if smaller meetings or those meetings in the farthest reaches of Quarterly can partner with larger meetings with facilities that are more centrally located, it can more thoroughly involve Quarterly and ideally make it easier for more Friends to attend. It was noted that some smaller, remote meetings value hosting from their locations so that their members and attenders can have the benefit of visitation from Friends in the Quarter.

Casa de los Amigos inter-visitation and support: The clerk then gave an update that an evaluation process was taking place regarding our support of Casa de los Amigos. A few years ago, we agreed to use \$3,000 annually for inter-visitation between the Casa and SCQM (from a large bequest that was given to SCQM several years ago). There has been some inter-visitation but we have not been able to find someone to go stay at the Casa for an extended period of time (which was one of the intentions of the minute). The evaluation process has just started with respect to the nature and form of this support and how it may continue.

Santa Barbara Faith in Action Minute: The clerk then reported on the Santa Barbara MM Faith in Action minute, which was a proposal to how to more effectively use the Peters Fund. It was a proposal for a whole program under that fund. Clerks Committee is discerning its capacity to support such a program. Discernment will continue. The clerk then reviewed what the Peters Fund is and the process for requesting funds and took clarifying questions.

Finance Committee/Treasurer

Sharon Gates, clerk, reported on behalf of the Finance Committee. She then read the Finance Committee report. **(Attachment 3)**

The Finance committee includes Oliver Ryder, Peter Neumann and Sharon Gates.

Finance Committee was asked to consider the topic of a Paid Assistant to the Clerk. The committee recommended a two-pronged approach.

The topic of support for Casa de los Amigos was then considered.

The Finance Committee clerk then presented the current and proposed 2018-2019 budget with explanations of different topics, including the Paid Assistant to the Clerk, Casa de los Amigos support, the Fall Fellowship budget and the assessment.

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

She also encouraged Friends 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.

There was a note about directories and it was clarified they will be charged for if they are printed but for the most part, they won't be printed going forward and will be electronic (however, there is a line item for the expense of printing a limited number of copies).

This was then laid over to the afternoon.

Nominating Committee

Katrina Mason, co-clerk, reported. (Attachment 4).

Katrina introduced herself and her limitations with respect to SCQM. She also mentioned that she wanted to explain certain things before handing out the Nominations slate. She noted that nominations for her are not just about filling names into slots but looking at ways Meetings can be connected and rising gifts for individuals who may grow into their roles.

One Friend noted that it is customary to include the Nominating Committee on the slate. Another mentioned that the current Registrar's term ends in 2019 and there will be overlap with the new Registrar.

The report was then laid over to the afternoon.

Ministry & Counsel

Gail Thomas reported. They are making a recommendation of having a liaison from the planning committee of the Southern California Silent Retreat under the care of M&C. This will come up for final approval in the afternoon.

Peace & Social Order

Anthony Manousos distributed copies of 2 minutes that potentially might be considered in the afternoon if way opens.

Sue Scott, of our host Inland Valley Friends Meeting, made an announcement regarding food.

The meeting closed with worship.

Plenary II

Opening Worship

The clerk welcomed any new guests

Naming Committee

The clerk noted that the Naming Committee is comprised of Judy Leshefka and Michael Dunn and then listed the members of the Nominating Committee and their terms. The Clerks Committee approved the members of the Nominating committee (Other members of the committee include Shayne Lightner, Trudy Friedel, George Gastil, Betty Guthrie and Nancy Lynch).

Nominating Committee

Katrina Mason, clerk of Nominating, reported. There was a second reading of nominated names. One Friend asked about the small size of the Peace and Social Order committee and if additional names were being considered. The clerk indicated there are openings and needs for additional members, as well as those who might want to participate on a regular call the committee is intending to have that would hopefully have one person from each Meeting contribute what is rising from their Meeting with respect to Peace and Social Order.

Another Friend suggested perhaps the Teen and Peace and Social Order committees could find ways to connect.

Minute 04-18-01: SCQM approves the 2018-2019 Nominating Committee slate as presented by Nominating Committee.

Finance Committee

Sharon Gates reported. The gathering then had a second reading of the committee's proposals.

Minute 04-18-02: SCQM approves Finance Committee's recommendation for SCQM to create an ad hoc committee to draft a job description, research other logistical and practical hiring components and bring recommendations to Fall Fellowship 2018 for the permanent engagement of an administrative assistant to the presiding clerk.

The gathering then spent time discerning and offering suggestions of those who might serve on this ad hoc committee.

The names of Judy Leshefka, Christine Reynaert and Suzanne Doss were offered.

Minute 04-18-03: SCQM approves the 2018-2019 budget of \$20,680 as presented by Finance Committee.

Minute 04-18-04: SCQM approves a 2018-2019 per member assessment of \$10.

Peace And Social Concerns Committee

Anthony Manousos reported. See report attached.

FCNL Advocacy teams have started in California, including the San Gabriel Valley (which has involved 4 meetings). There are 90 people on the mailing list and a coalition involving ICUJP and many other diverse organizations. A visit to detainees in Ottawa detention facility is planned. Santa Barbara had a retreat looking at George Fox's witness. Ojai, San Diego & La Jolla have been involved in the Golden Rule, an anti-war peace ship. OC Friends have been supporting Human Options, which deals with issues of family violence, and are visiting prisons.

One Friend mentioned Inland Valley Friends has a minute on nuclear disarmament. Another mentioned that Santa Barbara Meeting is deeply involved in AVP work and that that should be considered work of SCQM.

The gathering then considered the minute from Orange Grove Meeting about averting war with North Korea and one from Santa Monica on income inequality (Attachment 5):

Minute 04-18-05: Friends here gathered from SCQM approved the spirit of the Minute of Concern About Averting War with North Korea approved by Orange Grove Meeting and recommends this be sent back to each monthly meeting to be considered for support and action. The clerk will send this to the clerks of Monthly Meetings.

The Santa Monica minute on income inequality was then read to the gathering.

Minute 04-18-06: Friends here gathered from SCQM recommend sending this minute from Santa Monica Meeting on income inequality back to each monthly meeting to be considered for support and action. The clerk will send this to the clerks of Monthly Meetings.

Peggy Craik reported on FCLCA activities.

Another Friend noted on May 21, FCLCA is having a Quaker lobbying day in Sacramento. It's in the middle of Poor People's Campaign for action. This Friend also asked for those struggling with poverty and housing challenges to be held in the Light.

Ministry & Counsel

Gail Thomas revisited the proposal to have a liaison from the planning committee of the Southern California Silent Retreat to M&C and have the Silent Retreat under the care of M&C.

Minute 04-18-07: SCQM approves having a liaison from the planning committee of the Southern California Silent Retreat to M&C and bringing the spiritual but not financial care of the Silent Retreat under M&C of SCQM. The Silent Retreat finances will continue to be managed independently from SCQM. The Silent Retreat committee will submit annual financial and status reports.

SCQM Youth Programs

The lack of youth at the spring gathering was noted. Alyssa Nelson mentioned that though she works for PYM, she is available as a resource to Quarterly meetings at their request. It was mentioned that the SCQM youth committee over the last year was very understaffed. The lack of youth last year and this year at spring gathering is considered an anomaly and the plan is going forward to having youth programs at SCQM spring gatherings and to network throughout the Quarterly to establish liaisons with the youth committee. If Friends have a passion for this, they are encouraged to contact Nominating Committee.

Pacific Yearly Meeting

Lawrence Alderson, PYM Registrar, noted that registration for Annual Session will open next week (May 1). There has been more focus on ride-sharing this year and on making it easier for SCQM Friends to travel north. He invited Friends to consider roles at Annual Session which will cover the fees of attending Annual Session.

LA Young Adult Friends

The presiding clerk noted that an LA Young Adult Friends group exists and has a Facebook group and plans occasional gatherings.

Afghan Girls School Update

The presiding clerk read a letter from the CA Afghan Girls School committee with a decision to lay the program down due to challenges supervising the two schools from so far away. They will continue to pay salaries and NGO fees through the end of the semester. They will continue to be a fiscal sponsor through June 2018. (**Attachment 6**)

Unseasoned Concerns

A Friend announced AFSC sponsoring a class on racism and accompaniment beginning the first Tuesday in August at 5:00 p.m. Please talk to Arthur Kegerreis if you are interested.

Another Friend mentioned she was an alumni of the Woolman Semester at the Sierra Friends Center. The School and the Center is looking at their future and deciding what to do. If Friends have a perspective on that or Friends want to donate please contact Sierra Friends Center.

Plenary II closed with worship.

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

Southern California Quarterly Meeting presents:

Leadings as a Central Feature of our Quaker Action in the World with Betty Devalcourt

Saturday, June 16, 2018 9:30am–2:30pm

Free Workshop
Suggested
\$10 Lunch Donation
No one turned away

Orange Grove
Monthly Meeting
520 E Orange Grove Blvd.
Pasadena, CA 91104

Please RSVP:
Arthur Kegerreis
(323) 573-4758
librlart@gmail.com

Betty co-authored the article “Re-Kindling the Fire” in the March/April 2013 issue of *Western Friend* – (<https://westernfriend.org/article/rekindling-fire>) offering meetings an opportunity to re-experience the fire of early Quakers and providing a way for present day Quakers to follow in their footsteps. The article originated from an ongoing concern that peace and social order committees were often struggling to initiate sustainable actions.

This workshop aims to re-direct us to a central, but often forgotten, feature of our Quaker action in the world—leadings. We all have the ability to be led. Many potential leadings slip away either because they are unnoticed, are forgotten, or perhaps perceived as “too strident.”

On the other hand, those individuals who are easy with leadership—who step out and take action on a concern—may not have the ongoing discernment support to keep them faithful to Spirit and connected to the beloved community. What we may be missing in all of this is the understanding of what leadings are and what loving discernment support the monthly meetings can provide to birth and sustain them.

These are extraordinarily challenging times. But they offer us an excellent opportunity to refresh our understanding of how we as Quakers can be prompted by leadings to meet those challenges.

This workshop will:

- Name and explore what a leading is
- Cultivate an awareness of the conditions necessary for a leading to emerge
- Identify Quaker practices that get us there
- Present the issues that arise in living out the leading

The workshop will be experiential, involving queries, journaling and small group sharing.

Betty Devalcourt has been a Quaker for 40 years and a longtime member of Santa Cruz Friends Meeting. Since 2011 she has been exploring and testing the meaning of leadings as a central feature in Quaker action. She is being lovingly supported in this work by an anchor committee in her monthly meeting.



RISE UP SINGING AT FALL FELLOWSHIP



Annie Patterson and Peter Blood-Patterson will be sharing how their activism shaped their lives as well as leading us in song during Southern California Quarterly Meeting Fall Fellowship at Temescal Canyon, November 3-4, 2018. Best known as the co-creators of the songbooks *Rise Up Singing* and *Rise Again*, they have performed around the country and abroad at singalong concerts and led workshops at hundreds of Friends meetings, churches, gatherings, yearly meetings and retreat centers, building hope and community through song.

Annie and Peter use their music to promote their Quaker values and concerns in a wide variety of secular settings from schools and camps to folk festivals and social justice events. They have spent time most recently on racial justice and interfaith work around climate change.

Peter edited Pete Seeger's autobiography, *Where Have All the Flowers Gone: A Singalong Memoir*. He is currently working on developing Adult Religious Education courses for NEYM and is a member of the Prophetic Climate Action Working Group of NEYM.

Annie is an accomplished folk and jazz performer, recording artist and record producer. She is actively involved in racial justice work which includes supporting the Friends Center for Racial Justice in Ithaca, NY.

Their ministries of music, religious education, and racial justice are done under the spiritual oversight of Mt Toby Friends Meeting in NEYM. In addition to their music ministry they have also traveled widely among Friends sharing about how they live out their shared their lives dedicated to civil rights, peace, environmental and social justice, and individual leadings.

To register for Fall Fellowship, check www.sqcm.org in late summer/early fall 2018, or email clerk at sqcm.org for more info.



SCQM Finance Committee Report

Spring Gathering 4/28/2018

Finance Committee consists of Oliver Ryder (La Jolla), Peter Neumann (Treasurer, ex-officio), and Sharon Gates (Orange Grove), clerk.

Paid Assistant for the Clerk

Finance Committee was asked to consider the idea of hiring someone to assist the Presiding Clerk. The idea of an administrative assistant for the Quarter was brought up a couple of years ago and was met with general approval. Finance Committee understands the current proposal to be intended to help the current Clerk get caught up and get some procedures in place. This would be someone for the Clerk, not for the Quarter.

While Finance Committee was unclear about the job description, we were clear that this job should be done by an employee, not an independent contractor. The Committee does not have the expertise to assess the ramifications of hiring staff, but we know there are a lot of issues to consider. If staff are to be hired, we suggest working through another entity (American Friends Service Committee, Orange Grove Meeting, Pacific Yearly Meeting, etc.) that has worker's compensation insurance and an established payroll system. Another option is to hire someone through a temp agency.

Finance Committee recommends a 2-pronged approach:

1. If wanted, the Presiding Clerk should immediately hire an administrative assistant through a temp agency, to be paid out of Clerk's Discretionary Fund.
2. Quarter should create an ad hoc committee to draft a job description including a task list and timeline, explore the legal issues, research what other Meetings have done, and bring a recommendation to Fall Fellowship 2018. The Treasurer is willing to serve on this committee, which should include Friends with expertise in matters related to employment.

Support for Casa de los Amigos

Finance Committee was asked how much is left in the budget line item for Casa de Los Amigos Support. The only expenses that have been reported to the Treasurer for reimbursement out of this line item are \$245 related to Fall Fellowship. The Committee has been told that there are other travel expenses to be reimbursed, but the Treasurer has not received any other requests to date. We can report that the balance in this line item is \$2,755, but we are fairly confident that the actual balance available is lower. For some historical context, the amount spent out of this line item last year was \$289, similar to what has been spent to date this year.

2018-2019 Proposed Budget

- **Paid Assistant for the Clerk**

The budget proposes \$2,400 for Administrative Support for Presiding Clerk. This amount is based on an estimate of 10 hours/month at approximately \$20/hour.

This line item might be modified based on the recommendations of the ad hoc committee, should that committee be appointed.

- **Casa de Los Amigos Support**

The budget proposes \$3,000 for Casa de Los Amigos Support, as we have done since the Quarter approved 3 years of this support in 2015. If this line item is reduced or discontinued, the balance will go back into the Peters Fund line item.

- **Fall Fellowship 2018 Budget**

The proposed budget for Fall Fellowship 2018 includes line items for fees that we have “waived” in the past. This past practice has resulted in inaccurate accounting of the costs of Fall Fellowship and has prevented committees from exercising financial control over the programs they run. Specifically:

- \$450 is proposed for Children’s Program Committee for teachers’ and child care workers’ registration fees and for miscellaneous expenses such as snacks and art supplies.
- \$650 is proposed for Teen Committee for FRAPs’ registration fees and for miscellaneous expenses.
- \$300 is proposed for the Presiding Clerk’s and Registrars’ registration fees.

As in previous years, the costs for the keynote speakers and the Saturday night dance will be paid out of the Peters Fund.

New for Fall Fellowship 2018, we will offer the option of Friday night accommodations for Friends who need to be on-site to set up on Friday, who need to be on-site early on Saturday, who are travelling from long distances, or who just prefer to arrive on Friday night. The Registrars are working on the fee structure for this and the Facility Rental line item has been increased 20% over last year. It is not anticipated that the Facility Rental will actually increase 20% over last year, but we don’t know how many people will take advantage of staying over Friday night. Detailed information about the Friday option will be included with the Fall Fellowship information in the Fall Quarterly Newsletter.

- **Assessment**

The proposed assessment remains at \$10/member. Meetings with the financial resources are encouraged to consider contributing more than this.

The terms of the current members of Finance Committee end next year. The Treasurer (who serves on Finance Committee ex-officio) has agreed to serve one additional year as Treasurer (extending to 2019). We would prefer that there be some overlap between the current and new committee members’ terms. In order for that to happen, we need new members for 2018-2019. If this way of serving the Quarter speaks to you, please let Nominating Committee know ASAP.

Finally, a reminder and request that if you incur expenses on behalf of the Quarter, please let the Treasurer know, even if you don’t want to be reimbursed.

Submitted by Sharon Gates, Clerk

SCQM Budget 2018-2019 - Proposed

	2017-2018 Approved Budget	2017-2018 Actuals	Notes on 2017-2018 Actuals	2018-2019 Proposed Budget	Notes on 2018-2019 Proposed
Income					
Assessment	\$ 3,380.00	\$ 2,410.00		\$ 3,420.00	342 members, \$10 assessment
Fall Fellowship	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 9,668.00		\$ 12,400.00	See Fall Fellowship budget
Directories (1)	\$ -	\$ -			no longer including this line item
Faith & Practice	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	no longer including this line item
Peters Fund	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00		\$ 4,000.00	
Subtotal	\$ 13,380.00	\$ 16,078.00		\$ 19,820.00	
Transfer from reserves (2)	\$ 1,100.00			\$ 860.00	
Total Income	\$ 14,480.00	\$ 16,078.00		\$ 20,680.00	

SCQM Budget 2018-2019 - Proposed

Expenses						
Accountant	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
Fall Fellowship	\$	8,000.00	\$	9,343.00	\$	12,400.00
Directory (3)	\$	500.00	\$	-	\$	650.00
Other Committee & Officer Expenses	\$	500.00	\$	120.00	\$	500.00
Administrative Support for Presiding Clerk					\$	2,400.00
Casa de Los Amigos Support (4)	\$	3,000.00	\$	245.00	\$	3,000.00
Peters Fund (5)	\$	1,000.00	\$	3,344.00	\$	1,000.00
Insurance	\$	180.00			\$	180.00
Website & Email list (6)	\$	50.00	\$	32.00	\$	50.00
Travel	\$	750.00				
Clerk's Discretionary Fund	\$	500.00	\$	25.00	\$	500.00
Total Expenses	\$	14,480.00	\$	13,109.00	\$	20,680.00

- (1) future directories to be print-on-demand
- (2) unbudgeted funds in the checking account
- (3) Potentially to be contracted out
- (4) 3 years of annual support, approved in 2015
- (5) remainder of \$4,000 Peters Fund annual budget (rest is Casa de los Amigos)
- (6) estimate for email server

Fall Fellowship

Fall Fellowship 2017 Actuals		
Income		Notes
Registration	\$ 9,668.00	
Total Income	\$ 9,668.00	
Expenses		
Facility Rental	\$ 5,000.00	Includes \$1,000 deposit for 2018
Food	\$ 1,145.00	
Entertainment	\$ -	\$400, paid by the Peters Fund
Speaker(s)	\$ -	\$2,944 travel, \$? Honorarium, paid by the Peters Fund
Total Expenses	\$ 9,343.00	

Fall Fellowship 2018 Proposed Budget		
Income		
Registration	\$ 12,400.00	Goal is to break even
Total Income	\$ 12,400.00	
Expenses		
Facility Rental	\$ 6,000.00	added Friday night accommodations
Food	\$ 5,000.00	placeholder based on 2017 actual
Children's Program	\$ 450.00	4 teachers/child care workers + expense allocation
Teen Program	\$ 650.00	6 FRAPs + expense allocation
SCQM-paid Registration Fees	\$ 300.00	3 Presiding Clerk, Registrars
Entertainment	\$ -	To be paid from Peters Fund
Speakers	\$ -	Annie Patterson & Peter Blood to be paid from Peters Fund
Total Expenses	\$ 12,400.00	

**Southern California Quarterly Meeting
List of Officers and Committee members as of 5/18**

OFFICERS	Term	Meeting
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 5/19	Santa Barbara
Kerwin Flowers, web clerk and listserv clerk	11/14 to 5/20	La Jolla

COMMITTEES

Arrangements committee

Kate Watkins (clerk)	5/18 to 5/21	Santa Monica
Jan Bartholomew	5/18 to 5/21	Santa Monica
Holly Anderson	5/18 to 5/21	Ojai
Peggy Craik	5/18 to 5/21	Orange Grove

Directory committee

Dahlia van Gelder	5/17 to 5/20	Santa Monica
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Finance Committee

Oliver Ryder	5/13 to 5/19	La Jolla
Sharon Gates (clerk)	5/13 to 5/19	Orange Grove
Peter Neumann (ex officio)	6/15 to 6/19	Santa Barbara
Jonathan Anderson	6/18 to 6/21	Inland Valley

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
Stan Searl	5/17 to 5/20	Santa Monica
Eva Miller	5/18 to 5/21	Claremont
Elva Carter	5/18 to 5/21	Inland Valley
Judith Favor	5/18 to 5/21	Claremont

Pacific Ackworth Foundation Board

Peace & Social Order

Arthur Kegerreis, clerk	6/14 to 5/20	Orange Grove
Brian Johnson	5/17 to 5/20	Santa Monica
Alicia Sheridan	5/18 to 5/21	Claremont

Cathy Satterfield	5/18 to 5/21	Claremont
Peggy Craik	5/18 to 5/21	Orange Grove *
Representatives from Santa Barbara meeting: Nancy Lynch (Nov through May) James Robertson June to Nov)	5/18 to 5/21	Santa Barbara *

Southern California Youth Planning committee (teens)

Leah Najjar	5/18 to 5/21	Orange County
Jane Blount, clerk	5/18 to 5/20	La Jolla
Susanne Doss	5/18 to 5/21	Orange Grove
Kate Connell (representing Santa Barbara meeting)	5/18 to 5/21	Santa Barbara*

Religious Education committee

Winnie Sunshine (clerk)	5/17 to 5/20	La Jolla
Rachel Kempf	5/18 to 5/21	Santa Monica
Rob Comorelli	5/18 to 5/21	Orange Grove
Austin Stanion	5/18 to 5/21	Santa Monica

Registrar

Sharon Gates	5/15 thru 11/18	Orange Grove
David Mackenzie	5/15 thru 11/18	Orange Grove
Lawrence Alderson	5/19 to 5/21	Orange County

Retreats Committee

Pat Wolff, clerk	11/14 to 5/20	Orange Grove
Kate Watkins	5/18 to 5/21	Santa Monica*
Maggie Hutchinson	5/18 to 5/21	Orange Grove *

* indicates added at or since Spring Gathering so not yet approved

Peace and Social Order Report for SCQM

Submitted by Anthony Manousos, Spring 2018

FCNL launched its new Advocacy Team focus “Averting War with North Korea.” Friends from at least four monthly meetings in So Cal have taken part in this effort—Claremont, Santa Monica, Orange County and Orange Grove. The Pasadena Advocacy Team works with a number of other groups on this issue, including Interfaith Communities United for Justice and Peace (ICUJP), ReconciliAsian, Unity and Diversity Council, Montrose Peace Vigil, Women’s League for Peace and Freedom, Ban the Bomb—LA, Physicians for Social Responsibility, Office of the Americas, Progressive Asian Network for Action, Veterans for Peace, and Orange Grove (Quaker) Meeting.

The Pasadena Advocacy Team has made 5 lobby visits this year, published 3 letters in newspapers, and is organizing an event on Sunday, May 6, at Orange Grove Meeting called “Give Peace a Chance in North Korea” (see flyer).

Orange Grove Meeting has approved a minute on averting war with North Korea which it would like SCQM to consider (see below).

Friends at Orange Grove Meeting have formed an AFSC Social Change Ministry group that meets bimonthly with members of the Neighborhood Unitarian Universalist Church (see Arthur Kegerreis). This group is focusing mainly on immigration issues and members have been visiting Adelanto Detention Center (see Edie Salisbury). They are also making plans to organize a “Know Your Rights” and Free Legal Assistance workshop for immigrants in Pasadena.

Santa Monica Meeting continues to be concerned about income inequality. (See minute below.) To learn more about this concern, see this blog consisting of timely and relevant articles pertaining to income inequality and how to address it: <https://quakersagainstinequality.com/2016/>

Santa Barbara Meeting’s retreat in the fall of 2017 focused on George Fox’s prophetic witness and how it is applicable today. The Santa Barbara Friends Meeting Peace Earthcare and Social Concerns committee was involved with Truth in Recruitment, advocating for school policies limiting recruiter access to students, providing students with alternative information and options to military careers (Kate Connell). We also participated in ongoing protests against missile testing at Vandenberg Airforce Base and against nuclear war at various ‘pop-up vigils in Santa Barbara. We continue to advocate for the abolishment of the death penalty and prisoners’ rights. Some Friends are also involved in Vandenberg prison visitation (Jim Robertson).

Some Friends in Ojai, San Diego and La Jolla have been involved with the Golden Rule, a “peace ship” that Veterans for Peace launched two years ago. See <http://www.vfpgoldenruleproject.org/>

For a number of years Orange County Friends have had a project of supporting the nonprofit Human Options, which serves women and children who are victims of domestic abuse. Friends pick up and deliver food from the food pantry each week and help with their holiday gift exchange. OC Friends also visit detained immigrants in the OC prisons.

Recently OC Meeting affiliated with Friends of Orange County Detainees (friendsofocdetainees.org), which provides visits to people in ICE detention in O.C. county jails and also has a transition program through which volunteers meet asylum seekers upon their release (on parole, on bond, or with asylum), provide them with clothing and toiletries as needed, help them with travel arrangements, and get them to the bus or airport.

Lawrence Alderson reported that some Friends in OC Meeting are interested in establishing a prison ministry, visiting with a person known to them through an attender and who would welcome a program of visitation, ministry and support. He is looking for like-minded friends in the area who have experience with this and can assist this group and provide pointers to resources that would be useful. The prisoner his group is planning to visit is currently at Century Regional Detention Facility in Lynwood, CA, so any specific knowledge about that facility and doing prisoner visitation for ministry and support in a Los Angeles Sheriff’s Department facility would be greatly appreciated.

If we have omitted any monthly meeting activity or concern you would like to have shared, please contact Anthony Manousos at interfaithquaker@aol.com. We are also planning to have monthly conference calls for So Cal Friends with peace and justice concerns. Please contact me if you’d like to be part of these calls.

Minute of Concern About Averting War with North Korea

Approved by Orange Grove Meeting, April 8, 2018

Led by Spirit and faithful to our Quaker Peace Testimony, Orange Grove Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends supports the FCNL Advocacy Team effort to avert war with North Korea by urging Congress to pass S 2047 and HR 4837, bills that would prevent the President from launching a preemptive attack on North Korea without the authorization of Congress. Given that our President and the leaders of North and South Korea have agreed to meet, we urge them to do so without preconditions since preconditions have been a stumbling block to past negotiations. We also support and encourage all those who are working to build

bridges of understanding and trust between North and South Korea. We are called to love those who may seem to be our enemies, and to find ways to turn them into our allies and friends.

Action: To share this minute with Friends everywhere, through our website, and by sending it to Quarterly and Yearly Meeting. We also authorize the clerk to write a letter to our Senators and to our Representative Judy Chu, thanking them for their support of these bills, and encouraging them to make public statements regarding the need for a diplomatic, rather than military approach to the conflict on the Korean peninsula. It was said by Jesus that "those that live by the sword, perish by the sword."

Minute on Income Inequality from Santa Monica Friends Meeting

16-12-04: Santa Monica Meeting approves the following Minute on Income Inequality, Economic Inequality and Social Justice, noting our desire to share it widely, and acknowledging the discernment involved in preparing it:

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 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.

**Orange Grove Monthly Meeting
520 E. Orange Grove Blvd.
Pasadena, CA 91104**

April 10, 2018

Dear Friends

After sixteen years the California Afghan Girls' Schools Committee has decided it is time to lay the program down. During the past two years with all the changes that are going on we do not feel that we can adequately supervise the two schools from so far away.

Therefore, as of August 31, 2018 Orange Grove Meeting will no longer be the fiscal sponsor. We have informed the people in Pakistan that we will continue to pay salaries, NGO fees and sewing machines for the graduating girls until the end of summer.

We are proud of the benefits our schools have provided so many girls over all these years and we are immensely grateful to you the donors. This program could not have gone on as long as it has without your continued support.

We will continue to accept donations until 1 June, 2018 so that we can complete the school year.

Many many thanks for all you have done to assist in this endeavor of educating girls.

Sincerely,

Betsy Emerick and Nancy Gallagher
AGS Liaison and AGS co-clerk

Some of the California AGS committee members will be forming a 501c3 so that a new committee will continue assisting educating Afghan girls in a Pakistan refugee camp. This new organization would not be affiliated with Orange Grove Friends Meeting. If you would like more information, contact the following:

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