

SCQM Quarterly Report
Our Fall Newsletter &
Invitation to Fall Fellowship

November 1-3, 2019

Temescal Gateway Park
15610 W. Sunset, Pacific Palisades, CA 90272

Sharing from the Well of Abundance:
Mutual Accompaniment toward Liberation

Keynote Speaker:
Lucy Duncan

Registration is Now Open & is Due **October 20th**

Registration payments postmarked by October 1st
will receive a 5% early bird discount.

See pages 11-12 for Registration Information & Link



"If we want transformed religious communities [...] it is critical that we work both outside our congregations for justice and internally as well, that we not see the two as mutually exclusive, but elementally intertwined.

We need to understand that it is critical to create deep sanctuary within our faiths that manifest racial justice in our souls, our churches and meeting houses, our wider institutions and on the streets. Both/and thinking is necessary for the deep changes we envision."

- Lucy Duncan

Clerk's Call to Fall Fellowship

"If you have come to help me, you are wasting your time. But if you have come because your liberation is tied up with mine, then let us work together." – Lilla Watson

Dear Friends,

All are welcome to join us for Fall Fellowship again this year. We are called towards deepening our education around and action towards racial healing, while also exploring the notion of scarcity and abundance in building the beloved community.

We'll be joined by Lucy Duncan, Director of Friends Relations for the American Friends Service Committee. She'll join us in worship and fellowship as we examine our theme, "Sharing from the Well of Abundance: Mutual Accompaniment toward Liberation." Lucy will give the keynote address, spend time with our younger Friends, she may share a story with us at community night and she plans to give an engaging and thought provoking Interest Group on Sunday addressing oppression and community.

In addition to our meetings for worship, plenaries & worship sharing, fellowship over meals, bible study and a meeting for healing, several other Interest Groups will be offered addressing many topics including immigration & detention centers, Rex Ambler's guidelines for Focusing on the Light when considering concerns, racial healing, and writing.

We are also called to discern the future of our Quarterly Meeting. For many of us, being with this body feels incredibly nourishing to our spiritual and personal lives.

And, as with other Quaker bodies, some of our committees are unstaffed and some officer positions have been vacant. Many Friends have expressed feeling individually stretched and called to serve in other areas of life. Many Friends in our region do not feel connected to this body, feeling more aligned with their monthly meetings or with Pacific Yearly Meeting. Some feel we are too inward-looking while others think we need more self-assessment.

What does our dance between mysticism & activism look like? Where is the life? Are we open to change? Do we *have* a future as a Quarterly meeting? If we love this body, and are nourished by it, how do we convey that to our friends? What do we need to lay down, or lift up? How do our assumptions of scarcity affect our approaches to our inward and outer work?

We're seasoning a leading to weave a thread of inter-generational art, and possibly embodied movement and music, throughout the weekend, and to see what corporate ministry might be illuminated. Some basic art supplies will be provided and we invite you to bring yours too. We're thinking paper, markers, pens, magazines, scissors, glue sticks, etc. If you have extra yarn to donate that will be a welcome addition.

We hope you'll come and if you have any questions or concerns, that you'll reach out to me, any SCQM officer or committee clerk, or our F/friend Allison Kirkegaard who has been serving the last few months as our new Administrative Assistant to the Clerk.

We look forward to seeing you!

Thanks & Peace,
Sarah Rose House-Lightner, Presiding Clerk
clerk@scqm.org

“God has promised us an abundant life and we need go no further than the Inward Christ, the Inner Light, or whatever metaphor you feel comfortable with. Thankfully life is full of opportunities for us to recognize our failings, pick ourselves up, and begin anew. It is natural to fear the unknown or untried path but I know at the heart of my being that Spirit will provide if we have a little faith. Will it be easy? Most likely not.” - Rick Troth

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Fall Fellowship Schedule

Friday Night November 1, 2019 (Subject to Change)

20190921 Schedule Draft V.2

Time and Location	Event(s)	Activity Leaders or Other Important Information
7:00-9:00pm Dining Hall	Mandatory Check-In w/Registrar Upon Arrival Committee Meetings Volunteer Opportunities Fellowship w/Other Early Arrivals Dinner On Your Own	Including But Not Limited To: SCQM Officers and Committees as Needed Chef and Kitchen Crew Volunteers Friends Traveling From Long Distances
9:00pm Dining Hall	Deadline to Check-In For Friday Arrivals	Those who arrive to Pacific Palisades after 9pm will need to make other arrangements for the night.

Saturday November 2, 2019 (Subject to Change)

Time and Location	Event(s)	Activity Leaders or Other Important Information
8:00-9:00 Stewart Hall	Check-In, Greeting and Coffee	Breakfast at the Dining Hall will be provided for Friday night arrivals only. Coffee, etc., will be found at Stewart Hall for those arriving Saturday morning.
9:00-9:30 Stewart Hall	Worship	All
9:30-10:00 Stewart Hall	Plenary I	Sarah Rose House-Lightner, Presiding Clerk
10:00-11:00 Stewart Hall	Keynote Speaker On Mutual Accompaniment	Lucy Duncan
11:15-12:30	Worship Sharing I (Locations will be posted)	Various Leaders as Arranged by SCQM Ministry and Counsel
12:45-1:45 Dining Hall	Lunch and Fellowship	Volunteers needed to come at 12:15pm for prep, and at 1:15pm for clean-up.
2:00-3:30	Interest Groups (Locations will be posted)	Various Leaders as Arranged by SCQM Ministry and Counsel and Peace and Social Concerns and Clerks Committee
3:45-5:15 Stewart Hall	Plenary II	Sarah Rose House-Lightner
5:15-6:00	Unstructured Time	Dinner prep, resting, singing, hiking, fellowship, games, journaling, tabling, etc.
6:00-7:00 Dining Hall	Dinner and Fellowship	Volunteers needed to come at 5:30pm for prep, and at 6:30pm for clean-up.
7:30-10:00 Stewart Hall	Community Night	Please join us for a story from Lucy, followed by contra-dancing & singing!

20190921 Schedule Draft V.2

Sunday November 3, 2019

Reminder: We go off Daylight Savings Time early Sunday morning, November 3. We gain an hour overnight in the switch to Standard Time.

7:00-8:00	Bible Study (Dining Hall) or Meeting for Healing (Stewart Hall)	Bible Study: Roena Oesting Meeting for Healing: Lawrence Alderson
7:30-8:30	Breakfast	
8:45-10:00	Worship Sharing II	Various Leaders
10:00-10:30	Pack up and clear rooms	All
10:45-12:00	Interest Groups (Locations will be posted)	Various Leaders as Arranged by SCQM Ministry and Counsel and Peace and Social Concerns and Clerks Committee
12:00-1:00	Lunch and Fellowship	Volunteers needed before, during & after to help with prep & clean-up.
1:15-2:15	All Ages / Closing Meeting for Worship	All
2:15-3:00	Final All Site Clean Up	Volunteers needed at Dining Hall and Stewart Hall for final deep cleaning and packing up.

A Few Of Our Community Agreements & Deadlines

Pets, alcohol and recreational drugs are not permitted.
Smoking tobacco and vaping are permitted in designated areas only.
Everyone must register.

The longer community agreements document
will be posted to the website & list serve soon.

Stay tuned!



**Registration payments postmarked by October 1
will receive a 5% early bird discount.**

**Registrations will be not be accepted after October 20.
Cancellations received after October 20 will be subject to a \$50**

Children's Program Fall 2019

This year's Children's Program is planned with our theme in mind. We will explore this year's theme with worship, music, arts and appreciation of nature. Our exploration will come in the forms of play, games, and outdoor activities. Quaker children sometimes feel isolated for their values; by interfacing with the Youth Program committee we seek to build an affiliation of likeminded individuals who can work together to live their beliefs. Our mission is to build a community among our younger members that they will carry with them throughout their lives.

We are hoping to create an intergenerational experience with the help of teachers and volunteers with a wide age range. Volunteers are welcome at any time. Teachers will have their registration fees paid. If you have curiosity, patience, and a joyful soul you may be the person we are looking for! If you're interested in teaching, or just strumming a guitar so we can sing together, please contact **Kate Connell** by email at connell.kateclare@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing everyone at Fall Fellowship!

Please remember to either mail or bring your **medical form**, **parental consent form** and a **copy of your health insurance card**. These forms are available at the end of this newsletter or on the SCQM website: <http://scqm.org>.

Children's Program Schedule

[Times to be adjusted to correspond to overall FF schedule].

Time	Children – Saturday 11/2/2019
9:00-9:30	Worship, Sign In
9:00-12:40	Program
12:40	Parents please be prompt in picking up children.
12:45-1:45	Lunch and Fellowship
1:45-5:45	Program
5:45	Parents please be prompt in picking up children.
6:00-7:00	Dinner and Fellowship
7:30	Community Night
Time	Children – Sunday 11/3/2019
7:30-8:30	Breakfast
8:45-10:00	Program
10:00-10:30	Pack up and clear rooms
10:45-12:00	Program
12:00-1:00	Lunch
1:15-2:15	All Ages / Closing Worship
2:15-3:00	Final All Site Clean Up

A Note About the Children's Program:

Parents are expected to sign their children into the Children's Program or have them in their own care.

Children in their parents' care need to be directly supervised by a parent or to have a specific agreement whereby parents and children know exactly where to find each other at any time.

The Children's Program is offered during worship, plenary sessions, worship sharing, and interest groups.

Teen Program @ Fall Fellowship Calling All SCQM Teens!

November 2-3, 2019

Saturday 8am – Sunday 3pm



Gather with old and new Friends for a weekend of fun, fellowship and reflection. Possible Activities include:

- Make **Ojos de Dios** for migrants seeking asylum in the US. Hear about the great service project at the 2019 Spring Gathering in San Diego.
- **Walk to the beach** for games, life journey reflections, and trash cleanup.
- Interactive Workshop with guest presenter **Lucy Duncan** – Lucy works with AFSC on social justice issues and Friends Relations, she's also a great storyteller!
- Possible workshop on being a Conscientious Objector, SSS registration options.
- Help prepare dinner on Saturday with the awesome chef Todd from Quaker Center.
- Intergenerational Fun! Saturday Community night, contra dance, board games.
- Bring your **favorite board games**, a **musical instrument**, and **YARN**.
- Hang out and chill time and/or **Hike on Sunday morning**.
- Bring a sleeping bag, pillow, clothes, walking shoes, sunscreen, hat, towel.
- Teens have the option of sleeping in a mixed gender dorm or with their family/sponsor.

Want to be part of the teen leadership or on the snack committee?
Contact Jane Blount janeeb1018@gmail.com for more information.

All Details and Registration forms can be found Online at SCQM.org
Teens' parents must complete medical and consent forms in order to participate.
Early bird registration is October 1st, Registration Deadline October 20th.

Important Information for Your Arrival at Fall Fellowship

The Stop Sign of Doom

On the road entering Temescal Canyon, there are a couple of stop signs. Each has a camera that will take your car's picture and send you a startlingly expensive ticket if you don't stop completely. So we suggest that when you come to a stop sign, make a complete stop, breathe slowly two or three times, and then go.

Parking

Parking passes are given out at check-in, where maps, if available, may also be found. Vehicles without a parking pass, and/or that disobey posted parking signs, may be subject to tickets or towing.



Community Night (All Ages)

Please join us at Stewart Hall Saturday night for intergenerational activities! Lucy will tell a story for all ages about building justice, and we'll close out the evening with Contra-dancing and a little singing!

Intergenerational Art in Fellowship & Worship

Opportunities for intergeneration art making will be peppered throughout the weekend, including during our Meetings for Worship & Plenaries. We may explore weaving in embodied movement and music here and there. Basic supplies will be available for use in Stewart Hall, and we encourage friends to engage in artmaking as led, and explore together what new themes might emerge by closing worship on Sunday.



Request for Volunteers at Fall Fellowship

The conviviality and success of Fall Fellowship depends on our volunteers. Your participation is greatly needed and appreciated. Consider if you would like to help out in one of these areas during the weekend:

Arrangements Committee

We need your help!

Can you, your Monthly Meeting or your Friends organization volunteer to serve the Quarter in one of the following ways? Please let us know as soon as possible!

- Be the main point person to troubleshoot arrangements related issues as they arise during the weekend.
- Host refreshments at Stewart Hall (Main Gathering Hall).
- Arrive early and setup and cleanup Tables and Chairs at various locations around the site throughout the weekend.
- Serve as primary assistant to the cook full time, helping to train volunteers, etc.
- Coordinate the final cleaning of the Dining Hall or Stewart Hall on Sunday afternoon.
- We also need a few people who can go early to the Dining Hall before each meal to set up and to serve food. Then we need a larger clean-up crew to wash and dry dishes and to wipe tables and to sweep floors. Please consider signing up for one of these tasks when you arrive and register. There will be a sign up list upon arrival at Temescal Canyon.

If you can help, please email Kate Watkins kwatkins@rand.org,
Arrangements Committee Clerk

Children's Program

The children's program offers a chance to come and play with the kids. The Children's Education Committee guides the activities. The kids will again be in the fenced area near Stewart Hall. Those who volunteer to be a Children's Program Teacher can select one or more of these sessions: (1) Saturday morning, (2) Saturday afternoon, (3) Sunday morning, or (4) Sunday afternoon. (See the schedule for exact times.)

Please contact Kate Connell at connell.kateclare@gmail.com about serving as a volunteer during one of the sessions or as a Teacher, for which you may receive free meals and lodging, in the Children's Program.

Teen Program

The teens can always use supportive adult company. Please contact Jane Blount, Teen Program Committee Clerk at janeeb1018@gmail.com about serving as a volunteer or as a FRAP, a Friendly Responsible Adult Presence, who may receive free meals and lodging in compensation for FRAP service.

Nominating Committee Note

CAN YOU OFFER YOUR ABILITIES TO SUPPORT THE WIDER QUAKER COMMUNITY?

Southern California Quarterly Meeting brings together Friends from across Southern California and Mexico City, to worship, work, and have fun together.

Like our Monthly Meetings, SCQM depends on the work of committees to keep things running smoothly; and participation in an SCQM committee is an excellent way to connect with Friends beyond our own Meetings and enlarge our Quaker horizons.

View our SCQM Job Descriptions on the bottom of our webpage under “Archives” for more information about what each officer, committee clerk, and committee member do for the quarterly meeting. Email clerk@scqm.org if you have questions or would like to be considered for committee or position by our Naming or Nominating Committee.

Friday Night Accommodation Reminder

Do you live a long way from Temescal Canyon and don't want to have to start driving in the middle of the night to get to Fall Fellowship on Saturday morning? Will you be doing something at Fall Fellowship that would best be set up on Friday so you're ready to go on Saturday? Do you have fond memories of the “old days” when Fall Fellowship started with Friday dinner?

For all these reasons and more, you have the option of registering for Friday night accommodations this year. The cost is \$50 for adults and \$40 for youth and includes breakfast on Saturday. Depending on how many Friends choose this newly revived option, we may not be able to accommodate all of your lodging requests for Friday and you may need to move to a different cabin on Saturday. We will make every attempt to avoid this, but we pay per cabin per night (not per bed per night), so there may be some small inconvenience for the sake of cost. Friday check in will be at the Dining Hall between 7:00 PM and 9:00 PM. If you can't get there by 9, contact the Registrars in advance to make arrangements.

Fall Fellowship 2019 Registration Instructions

Everyone attending must register. Registrations received by October 1st will receive a 5% early bird discount off their fees. Registrations and payment *must* be postmarked by October 20, and registrations will not be accepted after October 20. Any registrations cancelled after October 20th will be subject to a cancellation fee of \$50. Please complete one online registration form per person.

Please download and complete one (fillable) medical and consent form for each minor. You will need [Adobe Reader](#) to fill in and print/save the form. Email the form and a copy of their insurance card to aldersonld.registrar@gmail.com.

If you need to arrange electronic or cash payment, please contact the Registrar directly (see phone and email at the bottom of this page).

Teens can choose whether to sleep in the teen cabin or with their family. Mark their choice on your teen's form. Accommodations will be in all-gender bungalows, unless otherwise requested. If you wish to sleep in a single-gender room, please check the appropriate box on the registration form and indicate your gender. Camping is not allowed at Temescal Canyon.

Arrival

If you have registered for Friday night accommodations, check in at the Dining Hall between 7:00 PM and 9:00 PM. You must arrange with the Registrar in advance if you need to arrive after 9. Saturday Check-In will be at the Dining Hall from 7:30 to 8:30 AM. If your registration has been paid in full, you may use the Express Check-In line. Look for the Registrar at the scheduled activities (at Stewart Hall or the Dining Hall) after 8:30 AM. You will receive your cabin assignment, nametag, and parking pass when you check in. Park where instructed and display your parking pass at all times in a visible location under your windshield. Please do not park anywhere in front of Stewart Hall (unless you have a disabled placard visible).

Registration fees

- Overnight includes lodging, Saturday lunch & dinner, Sunday breakfast and lunch. SCQM pays approximately \$165 for every person who stays overnight. To encourage attendance by as many Friends as possible, there are three registration tiers. The only difference between the tiers is the amount you choose to pay. (Youth are ages 2 to 17. Children under 2 are free, and must be registered along with everybody else.)
 - Rock: \$180 for adults and \$90 for youth
 - Paper: \$165 for adults and \$83 for youth
 - Scissors: \$150 for adults and \$75 for youth

- Friday night accommodation includes breakfast on Saturday. The cost is \$50 for adult and \$40 for youth.
- The Day Attender fee includes lunch. The cost is \$40 for adults and \$25 for youth for each day.
- Dinner on Saturday for Saturday Day Attenders is \$15.
- There are limited semi-private cabins available on a first-come basis for an additional \$25 fee.

A medical and consent form, and a copy of their insurance card are required for each minor. Minors attending without their parent(s) must have a sponsor and the Sponsorship Permission portion of the consent form must be signed by both the parent and the sponsor.

If you will be working in the Children's Program or serving as a Friendly Responsible Adult Presence (FRAP) to the teens, check the appropriate box on your registration.

You will receive an instant email confirmation when your registration form has been successfully submitted (please check your spam if it is not in your inbox). And you will receive an email from the Registrar with your balance due. Mail your check plus any minors' forms you were not able to email to

**SCQM Registrar
c/o Lawrence Alderson
10 Leeds Lane
Aliso Viejo, CA 92656-5295**

Please contact the Registrar at aldersonld.registrar@gmail.com or 949-349-0976 (no blocked numbers, please), if you have any questions, concerns, or difficulties.

[Click here to complete your 2019 Fall Fellowship registration form\(s\)](#)

Southern California Quarterly Meeting

SCQM Youth Personal Information, Medical History and Consent Form

Please complete one form per minor (age 17 and under). All sections must be completed & this form submitted, with a photocopy of your minor's Health Insurance card before they may attend any SCQM youth program.

Personal Information

Minor's Name: _____ Birth date: _____ Age: _____

Medications, dosage and schedule : _____

Are there serious consequences if meds are skipped?

Other information (medical / physical / emotional issues):

Medical History & Information

Date of last tetanus shot: _____ Allergies: _____

Minor's doctor: _____ Phone: _____

Insurance company: _____ Policy holder's name _____

Policy # _____ Phone (if HMO): _____

Parents' Or Guardians' Emergency Numbers During Event:

Name (parent/legal guardian (1)) _____ mobile phone _____

Name (parent/legal guardian (2)) _____ mobile phone _____

Alternate Contact

Name _____ mobile phone _____

Relationship to minor:

Parental Consent

I/We, the undersigned parent(s) or person having legal custody/guardianship of

_____, a minor, give permission for this minor to attend the

Children's or Teen Program of Southern California Quarterly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (SCQM).

Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Your relationship to minor:

Southern California Quarterly Meeting

Authorization for Third Party Consent to Medical Treatment of Minor Lacking Capacity to Consent

I/We, the undersigned person(s), having legal custody/guardianship of _____ a minor, do hereby authorize any personnel or any staff person(s) or volunteers of SCQM of the Religious Society of Friends, as agent(s) for the undersigned to consent to any X-ray examination, anesthetic, medical or surgical diagnosis or treatment, and hospital care which is deemed advisable by, and is to be rendered under the general or special supervision of any physician and surgeon licensed under the provisions of the Medical Practice Act on the medical staff of any hospital, whether such authorization is given in advance of any specific diagnosis, treatment or hospital care being required, but is given to provide authority to the aforesaid agent(s) to give specific consent to any and all such diagnosis, treatment or hospital care which a physician meeting the requirements of this authorization may, in the exercise of his/her best judgment, deem advisable. This authorization is given pursuant to the provisions of Section 25.8 of the Civil Code of California. I/We hereby authorize any hospital which has provided treatment to the above-named minor pursuant to the provisions of Section 25.8 of the Civil Code of California to surrender physical custody of such minor to my/our above-named agent(s) upon the completion of treatment. This authorization is given pursuant to section 1283 of the Health and Safety Code of California.

Field Trip Permission

In addition, the above minor has my/our permission to participate in the SCQM program organized for their age group. This includes permission to go swimming and to go on field trips in buses or private cars. It is SCQM's policy that all passengers be seat-belted in street-legal vehicles and all drivers have appropriate automobile insurance.

These authorizations shall remain effective for the duration of this program, unless sooner revoked in writing. The undersigned agree to hold SCQM of the Religious Society of Friends and its officers, agents, teachers and other volunteers harmless of any claim by the undersigned arising out of any medical treatment given by or attempted in connection with any medical emergency.

Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Your relationship to minor:

Sponsorship Permission

If a parent/guardian will not be present for any or all of the time that the child is present, that child must have a sponsoring adult present on site and this portion must also be filled out.

I/We do hereby authorize the adult Sponsor, named below to sponsor the minor named above during this SCQM program, when I/we will not be in attendance.

Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian

I will be attending the event described above at the same time as the above-named minor, and I agree to accept the responsibilities of sponsoring the minor.

Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Sponsor

Friendly News

About our Keynote Speaker for Fall Fellowship:



Lucy Duncan serves as Director of Friends Relations for AFSC. She blogs, organizes Quakers to work for justice, and has helped create AFSC's Sanctuary Everywhere stream of program work. She has been instrumental in the adaptation of Quaker social change ministry as a tool for reclaiming Spirit-guided social change work focused on companioning those most impacted by injustice. She has been a storyteller for 20 years and has worked with Quaker meetings on telling stories for racial justice and of spiritual experience. Before working for AFSC, she was Director of Communications at FGC, managed QuakerBooks of FGC, and owned and managed her own children's bookstore in Omaha, The Story Monkey, and was a member of a storytelling troupe, The Five Bright Chicks. She is a member of Green Street Friends Meeting (PhYM) and is the proud mom of a 16 year-old son.

Lucy's article in Friends Journal titled "Why I Got Arrested at the Border" can be found here: <https://www.friendsjournal.org/afsc-love-knows-no-borders/>

More About Lucy's Offerings Throughout the Weekend

In her keynote address, Lucy will tell stories about the spiritual practice of accompaniment, how it is a praxis of liberation for those socially located with more privilege, and how faithful "followership" of those most impacted by injustice is disruptive of oppression and transformative at the personal level.

Lucy will also be spending some time with our **youth**.

At community night Lucy will tell a story for all ages about building justice.

In her Sunday interest group, Lucy will present "Theatre of the Oppressed and envisioning justice," Lucy will lead participants in a full body experience of acting out oppression and dismantling oppression, then invite Friends to envision and draw a just community together.

Fall Fellowship Interest Groups

Subject to change.

SATURDAY:

Focusing on the Light

Judith Favor-Rex Ambler's guidelines for Focusing on the Light-applying them to the concerns or nascent leadings that participants bring to Fall Fellowship

Concerned for racial justice/healing in our meetings?

Join with others to build support and develop activities that we can bring to our monthly meetings and for the quarter. Both Holly Anderson and Gail Thomas will bring ideas and resources from their extensive involvement in these issues.

Asylum Odyssey

Betty Guthrie will focus on Anglophone Cameroonians, as one example of why and how people come to the U.S. for asylum, including why and how they leave their country, how they reach the border, and what happens once they present themselves to Customs and Border Protection and ask for asylum. We'll talk about the conditions for asylum, ICE detention, going to court, and the difficulties immigrants face even after a grant of asylum.

There are a lot of Cameroonians in Adelanto. The situation there is horrendous. Here's one article that might interest you if you want to know more about it:

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2019/world/cameroon-anglophone-crisis/>

Expressing our Quaker Identity in our Writing

Jane O'Shields-Hayner

Are you interested in participating? Let us know by emailing clerk@scqm.org with SCQM Writers Group in the subject line.

SUNDAY

Theatre of the Oppressed and Envisioning Justice

Lucy Duncan will lead participants in a full body experience of acting out oppression, dismantling oppression and then invite Friends to envision and draw a just community together.

The Future of SCQM

What are our challenges and strengths? Do we have a sustainable future? What do we need to lay down or raise up?

Santa Barbara Friends Meeting Statement on Selective Service System (CCS)

Santa Barbara Friends Meeting (Quakers) Peace, Earthcare, and Social Concerns committee considered the questions on the website of the National Commission on Military, National and Public Service, including Selective Service System (SSS) registration and the rights of Conscientious Objectors (COs).

Here are thoughts for your consideration:

There is no need for conscription. Since the disaster of 9-11, enlistment has filled the military's quotas for recruits. SSS registration should be discontinued.

If the SSS is to be continued, the SS should contain an option to register as a Conscientious Objector. Penalties for noncompliance should be proportional to the harm of the noncompliance. There should not be lifelong disabilities, i.e. registration linked to the ability to get a drivers license, qualify for financial aid in advanced education, governmental employment, etc. Removal of such penalties should be retroactive.

In regard to Question 4. *What are the barriers to participation in military, national, or public service?* - The barriers to military service may include serving in undeclared, unconstitutional military actions, loss of freedom, loss of educational opportunities, health, family, personal necessities, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Moral Injury, Military Sexual Assault and violation of personal life philosophies.

The question if barriers to non-military service also include the loss of timely incremental personal development; for some people service is more appropriate later in life. All of the barriers to service can be mitigated by transferring large parts of the military budget to good public education, health care, infrastructure needs, etc. fulfilling the needs of a modern society.

Selective Service System (SSS) and Friends

A blog by Kate Connell, Santa Barbara Friends Meeting & Truth in Recruitment

For the first time in decades, the US Government is directly addressing the Selective Service System (SSS) – mandatory registration for military conscription for men/people identified male at birth, ages 18-26 years old. Since 2015, the military has allowed women/people identified female at birth to serve in combat. The [National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service](#) was set up in 2016 to examine the future of the SSS. Because of the new status of women in the military, a judge ruled in February 2019 that SSS registration unconstitutionally discriminates on the basis of sex.



Arianna and Callum Standish, teen Friends from Berkeley Friends Meeting, and Kate Connell, of Santa Barbara Friends Meeting, were sponsored by the Pacific Yearly Meeting Youth Programs/Bob Vogel Fund to travel to Washington DC in April 2019 to [testify before](#) the National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service. Friends Committee on National Legislation's (FCNL) Executive Director Diane Randall was a panelist before the Commission, along with Edward Hasbrouck, a draft resister who spent 4 months in prison for his refusal to register with the SSS and who maintains the [Resister.info](#) website.

This was the first time that members of the NCMNPS had been confronted, face to face, by young people who they would have to prosecute if they tried to enforce the current draft registration requirement or expand it to young women as well as young men. The report of the NCMNPS, including a yes-or-no recommendation on whether draft registration should be continued (and if so, a separate yes-or-no recommendation on whether it should be extended to young women as well as young men) is due in March 2020. Congress will probably take up the issue in 2021, after the 2020 elections and after the government has exhausted its appeals of the [court ruling](#) that the current registration requirement for men is unconstitutional.



Since a decision will be made in 2020 by Congress on the future of the SSS, here are some questions for Friends to consider:

How can Friends collectively prepare for a draft? What does it mean to be an effective ally?

What are the consequences of these decisions and how can Friends support JYMers and those who feel conscientiously opposed to fighting in war or for refusing to register with the SSS?

Friends, Friends Meetings, SCQM and PYM can support legislation to end draft registration, help limit the ability of the US to wage war, and be allies to youth. Does SCQM want to draft a minute to be sent to Sens. Feinstein and Harris that could be adapted by individual meetings to send to their representatives as a start?

[Declaration on the Draft and Conscription, Richmond, Indiana 1968](#) – a statement from Friends Coordinating Council on Peace

More thoughts and links:

- Despite the all-volunteer military, men in the U.S. still have to register for the draft when they turn 18. But the fairness of the system, and its very existence, are again being questioned.” [David Welna, National Public Radio, Washington DC.](#)
- On April 24 and 25, 2019, [a group of](#) witnesses [testified in favor of ending draft registration](#) included Ari Standish and Callum Standish from Berkeley Friends Meeting; Kate Connell from [Truth in Recruitment](#) and the Santa Barbara Friends Meeting; [Paul Jacob](#) (one of the [20 nonregistrants who were prosecuted in the 1980s](#) before the Justice Department realized that show trials of activists were encouraging more resistance), [Center on Conscience and War](#) Executive Director Maria Santelli, Counseling Director Bill Galvin, and staff attorney Iman Hassan; [Chris Kearns-McCoy](#) of Friends Committee on National Legislation; Kindra Bradley, Executive Director of [Quaker House](#); and others including men who have not registered when they were supposed to do so. The [Thursday morning panel](#), which included [Diane Randall of the Friends Committee on National Legislation](#) (FCNL) and [Edward Hasbrouck](#), who was imprisoned for refusing to register for the draft, was the first time in [almost forty years](#) that draft resisters or conscientious objectors have been invited to tell Congress or a Federal commission, in public, what we think should be done about draft registration. More testimony in support of ending draft registration rather than trying to expand it to women was offered during the public comment periods following questioning of each of the [panels of invited witnesses](#) during the two days of hearings this week.

A participant’s thoughts: Not registering for the draft was one idea presented by one speaker in our interest group. Another was registering, but making clear to state that “I am a conscientious objector, opposed to all wars” on that registration card that is mailed in hard copy, with a receipt from the post office. Preparing

youth to face the presence of recruiters is another. Finally, we discussed seeking to abolish the system of SSS registration, a law that is currently being reviewed and will be up for revision in 2020, as in its current form appears to be either unenforceable or unconstitutional.

Youth must make decisions for themselves after discerning their own consciences. What we do as adults and Friends can do—not only for the youth in our care, but also for youth in groups who are vulnerable (poor, people of color, in areas with perception of fewer opportunities for education and paths to good jobs) to recruiters—is to provide accurate information about the laws regarding registration for selective service; allow for opportunities to understand the true implications of enlistment and of military service; and offer support as they develop and articulate their own values and make decisions about how they will live their values.



Kate Connell is the director of Truth in Recruitment as well as the parent of two students who have attended Santa Barbara schools. She is a member of the Religious Society of Friends, Quakers, and the Clerk of the SCQM Children's Program Committee.

Along with other parents, students, veterans and community members, she successfully led the effort to implement the recruiter policy in the Santa Barbara Unified School District. She has served as a military counselor for personnel who sought discharge from the military and is trained as a draft counselor, as a facilitator with Alternatives to Violence Project, and in conflict resolution and mediation. She is a resource for information on alternatives to military careers, on students' and families' privacy rights, and drafting school policies regulating recruiter access to students.

Truth in Recruitment (TIR) is a project of the Santa Barbara Friends (Quaker) Meeting, a 501(c)3 nonprofit. Our goal is to educate students, families, and school districts about alternatives to military careers, inform families of their children's privacy rights, and advocate for policies regulating recruiter presence on campuses.



Next Steps

Kate encourages individual Friends and Monthly Meetings to learn more about this issue and to consider how we might be called to act with respect to this issue. Are other Monthly Meetings laboring with this? Has your meeting considered writing a minute or uniting around a public statement? Are Friends called to form an ad-hoc committee to form a lobbying task force?

The National Commission on Military, National and Public Service will be taking public comment through December 2019. Congress will be hearing from the NCMNPS in March 2020. Congress will probably make a decision after the 2020 election. Lobbying from the present on is most urgent because they will be hearing from a lot of different pro-SSS groups.

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