**Quarterly Quick Notes**

**College Park Quarterly Meeting, Spring 2021**

Buoyed by light and energy in ways that George Fox never imagined, the 245th College Park Quarterly meeting gathered again in the warm embrace of cyberspace. We explored the theme: “Of Life and Breath and Love: Making the connection between care of the earth, peace and justice.”

Quaker Earthcare Witness representatives Hayley Hathaway, Beverly Ward and Shelley Tanenbaum of spoke to us of the connections they see between traditional Quakerism, climate issues and the need to address racism.

Quaker Center

Henry Yang, co-clerk of the board for Ben Lomond Quaker Center, gave a report on Ben Lomond Quaker Center. Quaker Center has had to close its doors for rentals to both Quaker and non-Quaker groups, dramatically reducing those sources of income. The property was damaged in the near escape from last fall’s CZU fires. A number of the water pipes required replacement after they melted, but none of the main buildings were burned. They were also lost important tools in a theft. Clean up from the fires needs to be completed, as well as further fire mitigation before the upcoming fire season.

Friends and others have been remarkably generous with their donations. Quaker Center has also received grants and insurance payments. These and their reserves, have all served to keep them from the financial disaster that loomed at the beginning of the pandemic. It will take more time for them to return to normal. Quaker Center needs our continued support.

Personal retreats are available now, and some in-person work camps will begin later this summer. There are tentative plans for programs later this year. Information about registration for the work days, June 4-6, 2021, and June 8-11, 2021 is now posted on the Quaker Center website. Family work camp will be August 3-8, 2021. Registration for Family Work Camp begins June 15, 2021.

Quaker Center has been experimenting with online programming, which has been fairly successful, and they are considering how to deploy hybrid programming in the future. Information about upcoming programs is also available on the website.

Friends House

Elizabeth Boardman of Friends House reported that the merger with church-based corporation Covia was successfully completed. Residents at Friends house feel confident that the FASE board made the right decision in merging with Covia. They will continue to protect the way Quaker testimonies play out in the vibrant community there. Covia will maintain Friends House as one of the few middle-income retirement communities available in California.

Elizabeth encouraged members of the quarterly meeting to continue to support Friends House. Contributions are tax deductible and will be added to the Friends House Fund. Please send checks addressed to Friends House. If you are interested in living at Friends House, you are welcome to schedule a visit; there are vacant units available.

This was the last FASE report. FASE, having merged with Covia, no longer exists as an entity. The Friends House worship group remains under the care of Redwood Forest Meeting, and thereby under the care of the Quarter.

Sierra Friends Center

We also had an update from the College Park Friends Educational Association (CPFEA), (ie, Sierra Friends Center.) Sierra Friends Center was damaged in the fires last year. It has been strongly supported by donations and insurance payments. It has paid down its debts. They have remodeled the meeting house and some residences. They will be redeveloping the farm and will create a secondary egress and water infrastructure.

Planned programming, including a program on fire management that includes members of the local Nisenan tribe, with an eye toward establishing a new sort of relationship with the Nisenan.

State of the Meeting Reports

Ministry and Oversight excerpted themes and quotes from this year’s State of the Meeting Reports, and the meeting broke into small groups to review individual reports in greater depth. The summary will be posted on the Quarterly website, and may be sent out to representatives in a separate email. The State of the Meeting Reports are now posted on the website.

Other activities

The meeting featured three interest groups: Various Quaker Concepts of God,

raiding Sweetgrass, and Quakerism and Mindfulness Practice. We also enjoyed worship, worship sharing, Come as You Are Bible Study, and social time.

Annie Patterson and Peter Blood entertained us with a concert on Friday night. On Saturday night a Young Friend volunteered to be our “teen” and led us in games, as the teens did not attend. A lively evening of fun followed.

The registrar’s report, as usual, was interesting. A chart showing attendance by the various monthly meetings is attached. Why numerous people pre-register but then fail to attend remains a mystery that the registrar would like to solve. Children did not attend, but in person children’s activities are planned by both the Quarterly and Yearly Meetings. (See attached announcements.)

Tom Yamaguchi, after many years as treasurer, clerk Barbara Babin, and recording Clerk Heather Levien, will be stepping down. They and others who have completed terms were thanked for their service. Joe Magruder will be the new clerk. Ray Rischpater remains clerk of M & O, Cedar Green will take over as treasurer, and Sandy Farley will be recording clerk. The nominating committee report and minutes for the session will be on the website.

Warmly,

Jan Turner

Assistant Clerk