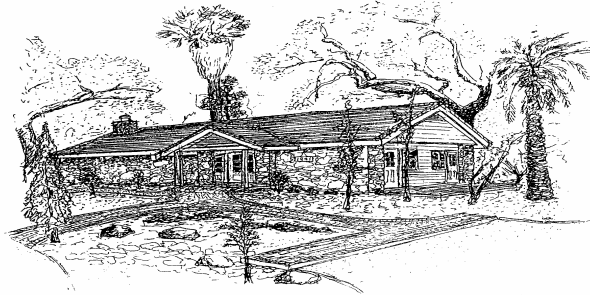


# Visalia Friends Meeting

17208 Ave 296  
Visalia, CA 93291

## Newsletter

January, 2007



Visalia Friends Meetinghouse

### Advice and Queries

#### Integrity and Personal conduct

Integrity has always been a goal of Friends. It is essential to trust, to all communication between people and between people and God. Integrity grounds our beliefs, thoughts, and actions in our spiritual center and makes us whole.

Friends believe that we are called to speak the truth. A single standard of truth requires us to conduct ourselves in ways that are honest, direct, and plain, and to make our choices, both large and small, in accord with the urgings of the Spirit. It follows that we object to taking an oath, which presupposes a variable standard of truth. Be true to your word.

*... let your yea be yea, and your nay, nay.*

james 5:12  
*king james version*

From early days Friends have opposed gambling and practices based on chance. These activities profit from the inevitable loss of others, promote greed, and conflict with good stewardship. Public lotteries have not furthered their purported benefit to the public good. All addictions are of concern. As the use of alcohol and tobacco all too often entail serious risks to self and others, Friends who serve alcohol at home should be diligent in offering alternatives. Alcohol should not be served at Meeting gatherings.

- Find recreation that brings you joy and energy. Be aware of how your choices affect yourself and others.
- How do I strive to maintain the integrity of my inner and outer lives?
- Do I act on my principles even when this entails difficult consequences?
- Am I honest and truthful in all that I say and do, even when a compromise might be easier or more popular?
- Am I reflective about the ways I gain my wealth and income and sensitive to their impacts on others?
- Is my life so filled with the Spirit that I am free from the misuse of alcohol and other drugs, and of excesses of any kind?
- *Do we, in our Meeting, hold ourselves accountable to one another as do members of a healthy family?*

## **Meeting for Business**

**Present:** David & Klara East, Olga McCallister, John and Shirley Dackawich, Patti Howard, David & Joanne Dudley, Mark Koenig, Graciela Martinez, Bill & Beth Lovett, Bob & Joy Marshall, Jeannie Warner, Trudy Wischemann, Dana Etheridge-Powell

**Meeting began in silent worship.**

### **Committee Reports:**

**Outreach Committee:** Graciela will be convening a meeting to discuss bill board issues.

**Building and Grounds:** The February 3<sup>rd</sup> work day has been changed to February 10<sup>th</sup>.

**M&O:** Klara reported as M&O clerk. She passed around the nominations list again to review committee membership. If any errors were found, seek Klara. M&O is not considering at this time that assistant Clerk be considered and is asking that the Meeting consider the issue at next business meeting.

**Children's Committee:** Klara asked again that people sign up for Children's Meeting. She'll be soliciting Friends to help with committing to providing Children's Meeting help. She had suggested a once a month family meeting where children participate in Meeting. A portion of the Meeting will include a third of the time to songs one third to stories and one third to silent worship. There was a suggestion that the fourth suggested that Sunday February 25<sup>th</sup> will be the Family meeting.

**Library Committee:** Anyone interested in working with Joy on Library items should see her.

**Hosting:** Please see Joy about hosting the Meeting. Bob would like to set up a hosting meeting and will discuss at next business meeting.

**Unity with Nature:** Klara asked for more committee members. This committee will be evaluating the Meeting on global warming issues. There are adopted minutes regarding global warming from other Meetings. Klara will convene a meeting to work on adopting our Meeting's minute regarding global warming.

### **Other:**

**Moscow House:** Olga reported that there are copies of newsletter from work their work and reviewed some details from the newsletters. David Chandler will have copies. We share concerns over issues of peace and conscientious objectors.

**Ramala School:** Olga further reported on activities of Ramala Friends School and asked the Meeting to support them. Bob suggested that individuals contribute this year and that the Meeting consider giving in next year's budget.

**AFSC Moratorium:** Graciela reported that AFSC has posted a moratorium on immigration raids by landlords and employers. She suggested that the Meeting sign on to the moratorium as well. See [www.afsc.org](http://www.afsc.org) for more information. David asked the Meeting for consensus on the proposal. After some discussion, there was a sense of the Meeting that they would sign on the moratorium. Individuals are encouraged to sign on as well.

**Radio GRITO:** Friends of radio GRITO are looking for funds to finish building towers. Graciela encouraged fund raising for the cause of the radio station. Costs of the project were unclear. Bob suggested that we review the project next month. David will send information on the email list.

**Progressive Radio Project:** David spoke of a man that has proposed a radio project that needs a non-profit sponsor that is willing to work on the project. Friends suggested that South Valley Peace Center sponsor the initial project. There was not consensus that the Friends Meeting get involved. There may be conflicts of interest between the project and the Radio GRITO project. Klara suggested that the person proposing the project bring more information regarding the concerns of the Meeting.

**Quarterly Meeting:** Klara will be attending Quarterly Meeting next week and also visit the Hidden Villa Farm in Palo Alto with Mark, Olga and the Lovett's.

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday with Fresno Friends:** John repeated the request that M&O consider their request that we commit to attending the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday meetings at the Lohan's in Reedley. Our representation in their Meeting is low. They are asking us to consider closing the Meeting on those Sundays. Bill suggested that we strengthen our attendance. Klara suggested that Fresno actually not close their Meeting in Fresno and that Visalia Friends attend the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Fresno. Others suggested that many Friends from the South Valley already travel quite a distance to attend the Visalia Meeting. The next 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Meeting will be in April and we will discuss the issue with our Fresno Friends. Visalia Friends want to keep their Meeting open on 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays and will encourage all interested Friends to attend the Reedley Meeting every other 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday.

**Ryan Johnson:** There is a meeting of Conscientious Objectors in Nelson Canada this summer that David plans on attending. He encouraged the Meeting to become more involved in CO activities with local bases. The film, "Sir, No Sir" about Vietnam era internal resistance will be shown at the Meeting house in the future. The date will be determined later.

**Quaker Oaks Farm News:** Trudy reviewed the minutes regarding the Threshing Session held last week on the Lovett's gift of Quaker Oaks Farm to the Visalia Friend's Meeting. Friends will review the minutes which will be published in February's newsletter. She talked about the planning process and would like to work on getting both Meeting members and non-profit members together for planning together. Trudy would like to work with the Meeting on planning. There was discussion regarding whether the Meeting is in unity on accepting the Lovett's gift. Trudy suggested that we hold another threshing suggestion when Greg Seastrom returns. On a positive note: \$1360 dollars were sent to the Heifer Project from the Lovett's wreath sales.

Respectfully submitted,  
David East  
Recording Clerk