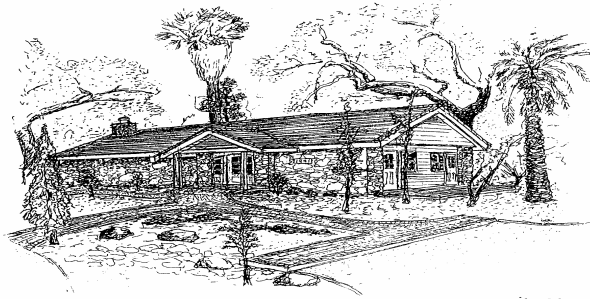


Visalia Friends Meeting

17208 Ave 296
Visalia, CA 93291

NEWSLETTER

August, 2006



Visalia Friends Meetinghouse

The Meeting Community

Meetings for Worship and Business are the center of our spiritual community. There, as we come to know each other in the Spirit, we build the “beloved community.”

Mutual respect and care in the Meeting form the foundation from which we can test, support, and exercise leadings of the Spirit. At its best, the Meeting community provides a framework for us to learn and practice mutual care, which strengthens us as we act in the world.

All members of the Meeting community should share in the care of one another. While respecting privacy, we must be aware of and sensitive to each other’s needs. We must also be willing to ask for assistance when we are in need.

- *Do I strive to be inclusive in my relationships within the Meeting?*
- *Do I care for the reputation of others, refraining from gossip or disparaging remarks?*
- *Am I committed to the difficult work of forgiveness, and affirming God’s love for the whole community?*
- *How are love and unity maintained among us?*
- *Do we practice the art of listening, even beyond words?*
- *How have we been sensitive to the personal needs and difficulties of members and attenders, young and old?*
- *Do we visit one another in our homes and keep in touch with distant members?*

Meeting for Business

Present: David & Klara East, David & Billie Chandler, Bob & Joy Marshall, Nancy Finney, Joanne & David Dudley, Olga McCallister, John and Shirley Dackawich, Sharlene Roberts-Caudle, Patti Howard, Greg Seastrom, Jessi Snyder

Meeting began in silent worship

Upcoming Events:

- Showing of “What the Bleep Do We Know II” August 27th after the U.U. meeting.
- Helen Acosta from Bakersfield has announced that the film “Arlington West” from Veterans for Peace will be presented September 12th at Bakersfield College and is asking that the meeting be a co-sponsor at no cost to the meeting. The meeting was in agreement with the co-sponsorship and would like to emphasize that this event will promote non-violence. David Chandler has additional information.

M&O:

M&O met this morning and inquired to the health of the meeting. No reports of ill health were found among meeting members and attenders. Greg Seastrom reviewed the members of the M&O members. Greg also discussed the sensitive issue of quality of vocal ministry within the meeting. M&O feels strongly that the issue should be discussed with the entire meeting when the time and framework for that are appropriate. M&O members welcome any input on this discussion prior to a formal meeting.

Retreat: Klara has announced that Mark Koenig has agreed to co-clerk the retreat. Dates were discussed. Karen Street has agreed to present global warming. **The Retreat is scheduled October 21st and 22nd.** Volunteers are needed for the following committees: 1. Retreat Planning Committee 2. Shopping and Cooking 3. Organizing activities for young Friends 4. Leading discussion groups/worship sharing 5. Clean-up. Sleeping arrangements 7. Arranging recreational materials. Klara asked that the meeting view films on the Cuba. She asked for input on the retreat topic of “Peak Oil.” Please see her or Mark Koenig for any input or questions.

Summer Friends Activity: Visalia Friends meeting had attenders at the Friends General Conference in Tacoma this summer. They included the East Family, and David Chandler. PYM attenders included the Lovett’s, Dave Roberts, Michael Roberts and Erin, Nolan and Mallory Marshall, Klara has been nominated to the First Day Curriculum Committee. Erin was clerk of Junior Yearly Meeting. Nolan Marshall reported on JYM activities.

Finance Committee: Bob Marshall submitted printed reports of the current budget ledger for the Meeting. Bob stated that income is in good shape and that the budget is on target. Facility income has increased due to more groups using the Meeting House. Bob entertained questions from the group regarding minor details. Bob also reviewed special contributions categories and related expenses. Please see attached reports. John Dackowich asked for a report on the Ivanhoe Youth Center. Greg reported on the background and activity of the center.

Meeting ended in silence

Respectfully submitted,
David East
Recording Clerk