

## Organizational Affiliations

We are part of the worldwide Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), which began over 350 years ago in England. Our Meeting is affiliated with College Park Quarterly Meeting and Pacific Yearly Meeting.

The Napa-Sonoma Friends Meeting provides regular monetary donations, and/or other support, to the following Quaker organizations:

**AFSC** The American Friends Service Committee, founded by Quakers in 1917, carries out service, development, social justice, and peace programs throughout the world.

**Quaker Center at Ben Lomond** A retreat and conference center located on 80 acres of redwood forest land near Santa Cruz. It was originally given to the AFSC in 1949 and became an independent corporation under the care of College Park Quarterly Meeting in 1982. This facility has become a valuable resource of spiritual enrichment, psychological insight, and social concern as it offers weekend and week-long programs of many kinds to Friends and the community at large. It provides retreat facilities for Monthly Meetings, other groups.

**FCL-CA** Friends Committee on Legislation - California advocates for state laws that are just, compassionate, and respectful of the inherent worth of every person.

**FCNL** The Friends Committee on National Legislation is the largest peace lobby in Washington, D.C.

Also, we contribute in various ways to several local non-profit organizations in our community.

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*For additional information about Quakerism check out the following websites:*

**[www.quaker.org](http://www.quaker.org)**

**[www.fgcquaker.org](http://www.fgcquaker.org)**

**RSOF = Religious Society of Friends**

## Napa-Sonoma Friends Meeting

### Children in Meeting

Children's Program available by advance notice. Call Co-Clerk Joe Wilcox (Contact Info below).

### Monthly Meeting for Worship for Business

Held on the first Sunday of each month (except August) beginning around 11:15 AM, after the rise of Meeting for Worship and social time.

### Seekers/Second Hour Program

We usually have quarterly Quaker Education, called Seekers, which varies to include Worship Sharing with selected Queries, guest speakers, or lively discussions of pertinent topics. These follow the rise of Meeting for Worship, with an intervening time for socializing and refreshments.

### Peace Vigil

The Napa - Sonoma Friends Meeting and the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of the North Bay co-sponsor a vigil for peace held on the LAST Sunday of every month from 2 to 4 PM at the corners of Soscol Avenue and Third Street in downtown Napa.

### ~~~~~ Officers Contact Information

|                          |                |          |
|--------------------------|----------------|----------|
| <b>Clerks:</b>           | Joe Wilcox     | 253-1505 |
|                          | Kathy Mawer    | 257-1652 |
| <b>Recording Clerks:</b> | Jeannine Scott | 257-0509 |
|                          | Paulette Litz  | n/a      |
| <b>Treasurer:</b>        | Diana Wilcox   | 253-1505 |
| <b>Librarian:</b>        | Joe Wilcox     | 253-1505 |
| <b>Newsletter:</b>       | Jeannine Scott | 257-0509 |

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**Email:** [nvquaker@napanet.net](mailto:nvquaker@napanet.net)

# W e l c o m e

to

## Napa-Sonoma Friends Meeting



**Worship: 10:00 AM every Sunday**

*Unprogrammed Worship in the Manner of Friends*

**Meeting Location:**

**VOICES Youth Center**

**780 Lincoln Ave.**

(just west of Soscol Ave.)

**Napa, California 94558**

Note: Access & parking on west/left side of the building & via door at end of the ramp in back.

### How Do We Quakers Worship?

Friends believe that each individual is able to commune with the Divine Spirit without need of clergy or doctrine. We have no professional clergy, and each person present is responsible for the quality of worship.

**On First Days (Sundays)**, worship begins at 10:00 AM. Friends try to arrive before that time in order to greet each other and to find seating in the circle. The Clerk calls the Meeting into silence at 10 AM. Once we settle into Worship, anyone present may be led to offer a brief “spoken ministry.” These words come from personal spiritual insight. They may arise out of something previously spoken, but are not pre-planned, or meant as debate or lecture. We try to speak clearly and loudly enough so that all may hear the message.

A period of silence following each vocal ministry allows us to reflect upon the message. Each person tries to listen with an open heart and mind to the Spirit behind the spoken words, knowing that if a message fails to speak to one’s own condition, it may yet bring Light and inspiration to others.

Worship continues until 11:00 AM, when the Clerk rises to initiate the end by all standing and clasping hands. If there are newcomers, we introduce ourselves, and then make brief announcements. On a day that involves any other meeting taking place after worship, the Meeting for Worship will end at 10:45 AM.

## Religious Beliefs

Membership or participation in our Meeting does not require adherence to a creed or statement of belief. The Religious Society of Friends is rooted in Christianity. Many Friends consider themselves Christian, and look for inspiration to the Bible.

Friends also believe in the continuing revelations of the Spirit to Seekers of Truth. Many Friends find sustenance in personal experiences of Truth, and in the spiritual texts

of other religions. We remain open to Truth in all its manifestations.

Friends adhere to “Testimonies” on community, equality, simplicity, integrity, unity, and peace. More information about Friends’ Testimonies and practices can be found in *Faith & Practice* (Pacific Yearly Meeting 2001). Anyone who is interested may borrow a copy of it or other books & magazines by Quakers and/or about Quakerism, from our portable library.

## Excerpts from Quaker Testimonies

*from Faith & Practice (PYM 2001)*

**Simplicity** This is the right ordering of our lives, placing God at the center. When we shed possessions, activities, & behavior that distract us from that center, we can focus on what is important. Simplicity does not mean denying life’s pleasures, but being open to the promptings of the Spirit. Friends seek to take no more than our share, to be sensitive to the needs of others, i.e. future generations.

Early Friends believed that the rituals and elaborate ceremony of the church were distractions from true religious experience. Seeking to emphasize substance rather than form, they gathered to worship simply in silence. To this day Friends in unprogrammed Meetings worship without outward sacraments.

Maintaining a simple life requires discipline and resolve to avoid getting lost in worldly distractions, or in undertaking too many activities, even in the service of good causes. When Friends truly practice simplicity, their lives and homes are orderly and they find time for prayer and service.

**Equality** Friends’ testimony on equality is rooted in the holy expectation that there is that of God in everyone, including adversaries and people from widely different stations, life experiences, and religious persuasions. All must therefore be treated with integrity and respect. The conviction that each person is equally a child of God opened the way for women to be leaders in the RSOF.

**Peace** Based upon love and concern for the well-being of all, Friends work for active nonviolent resolutions of conflict and for reconciliation. Friends have traditionally supported conscientious objectors to military service, while holding in love, but disagreeing with, those who feel that they must enter the armed forces. Friends oppose all war as inconsistent with God’s will.

Recognizing that violence and war typically arise from unjust circumstances, Friends address the causes of war by working to correct social injustice, & by strengthening communities, institutions, and processes to provide nonviolent alternatives to military force. We testify against structural violence implicit in disparities of wealth and income and against discrimination on the basis of race, sex, age, class, sexual orientation, and other social divisions.

**Integrity** The testimony of integrity calls us to wholeness; it is the whole of life open to Truth. When lives are centered in the Spirit, beliefs and actions are congruent, and words are dependable. As we achieve wholeness in ourselves, we are better able to heal the conflict and fragmentation in our community and in the world.

Integrity is a demanding discipline. We are challenged by cultural values and pressures to conform. Integrity requires that we be fully responsible for our actions. Living with integrity requires living a life of reflection, living in consistency with our beliefs and testimonies, and doing so regardless of personal consequences. Not least, it calls for a single standard of truth. From the beginning, Friends have held to this standard, and have often witnessed against the mainstream.

**Community** Friends’ testimonies on integrity, unity, equality, simplicity, and peace come together in our testimony on community, which calls us to sustain caring relationships for all. In today’s interconnected world, human survival depends more than ever on discerning and actualizing the truth of our corporate experience, on mutual regard and support, on nurturing our relationships with one another, with society, and with the environment as a whole.