

## Listen to the Voices of Children Born in Places at War



We hear angry voices, selfish voices, dogmatic unbending voices, and voices proclaiming the inevitability of political violence. We hear frightened voices, weary resigned voices, voices reluctantly expanding hostilities and voices of those who know no other way. Among all these loud voices, do we hear any who long for an end to war? Does no one believe that humanity can live in peace, if not now, then in a foreseeable future? Who speaks for this future?

We offer the voices of children. Not only children far from immediate threat of violence, but children who must live in places where bombs and missiles fall, whose families suffer risk and loss from imprisonment, terrorism and denial of basic human rights. Such children have every right to use angry or frightened voices, yet we can hear something more in their words if we listen carefully. And if we listen and act carefully, perhaps we will deserve the faith they have in us that we will guide the world toward the future they hope for.

## A Quaker Meeting Called in Hope of Peace

2:00 pm, Sunday, March 21, 2010

Lytton Plaza, 202 University at Emerson, Palo Alto, California

We will begin with singing, followed by reading of letters written by children of Palestine, Israel, Pakistan, and elsewhere. Then we will settle into the silence of worship as practiced by the Religious Society of Friends, wherein anyone moved by the Spirit may rise to speak. Silence follows each spoken message, to allow its full meaning to sink into our hearts.

### WORSHIP AND WITNESS FOR PEACE

In the political turmoil of late 17th Century England, it was not safe for divergent religious groups to meet except in secret. The Religious Society of Friends was different, worshiping at known times in Meetinghouses that were open to the public. At times, Quaker meetings for worship attracted so many seekers that they overflowed into the street

Today, while Quaker meetings for worship are still open to anyone, seldom are they held in the street. Yet it is the silent waiting for the urging of the Spirit which is the foundation of all Friends' testimonies on Peace, Unity, Simplicity, Equality, Community, Integrity. Social action based on these testimonies is strengthened by arising from worshipful silence. The inner calm that grows within people engaged in worship as they act helps to overcome fear and doubt.



Palo Alto Friends Meeting <[www.pafm.org](http://www.pafm.org)>

co-sponsored by Multifaith Voices for Peace & Justice <[www.multifaithpeace.org](http://www.multifaithpeace.org)>