

INTEREST GROUPS 2013

Sponsored By	Interest Group	Group Leader	Time & Location
Electronic Communication Subcommittee of M&O	<i>PYM in the Cloud - What it is and why we need it!</i>	Don Bean	Tuesday 6:30 pm CC Conf. Room
<p>What is PYM Cloud? Our complete Yearly, Quarterly, Monthly Meeting and Worship Group organizational structure placed in a secure, open-source, on-line Customer Relationship Management (CRM) tool with protected user account control over access to any PYM information relevant to the job duty they have been approved to perform by the respective Nominating Committee. We envision the individual Monthly Meeting Database clerks to have direct access to manage their own MM data, or the Quarterly Directory process can use this same database to manage their current annual Directory updates. The data should be kept current year-round, as data changes become known, and not wait for an annual process that prints a hard copy that frequently is out of date before it's printed. We should all be tapping into single accurate database that allows simple communication links to be established between us based on the duty or task at hand.</p>			
Friends Committee on National Legislation	<i>Common Ground: Where Do Quakers and Congress Find It?</i>	Diane Randall	Tuesday 6:30 PM Dining Aux Room
<p>The Friends Committee on National Legislation, which is based in Washington DC and includes a vibrant network of advocates and supporters throughout the country, lobbies Congress on Quaker public policy priorities. How does the work and witness of Friends to prevent and end war, to address climate change, to reform our immigration system, to disarm nuclear weapons, to establish a just federal budget and more find resonance in the halls of Congress?</p>			
Peace & Social Order	<i>Prison Ministry</i>	Lucia van Diepen	Tuesday 6:30 pm CC Main Hall
<p>Overview of Quaker experience while Meeting for Worship on the "inside." Intersection of Quaker praxis along racial, class and religious lines will be viewed through the lens of our testimonies especially Equality, Community, Integrity and Peace. Worship Sharing queries may include the following: When will we begin to address the institutionalized violence of income and land disparity? Are we complicit in that violence by virtue of having too much unearned income and inherited land? How do we answer that of God within our inside Friends? Will we embrace an egalitarian standard of membership within our Religious Society of Friends for all, regardless of race, class ...? Has the time arrived to truly integrate?</p>			
Youth Program Coordinator Supervisory Committee	<i>Visioning Our Intergenerational Community, Continued</i>	Mary Klein	Tuesday 6:30 pm Seminar
<p>As part of PYM's discernment about the future of the paid Youth Program Coordinator as well as the future of our beloved community, participants in this group will reflect on the visions gathered in Tuesday's intergenerational plenary. As way opens, the group will seek further direction, note patterns and create a summary to report back to the full gathering.</p>			

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Peace and Social Order	<i>Friends Peace Team</i>	Gay Howard	Wednesday 6:30 pm Dining Aux Room
<p>We will talk about work in progress - reducing violence in the Kenyan elections and what gives rise to it; building networks of people teaching Alternatives to Violence in Central America and Columbia, hoping to help them learn how to live without violence; working in Indonesia and Nepal and exploring how to connect with people in the Philippines.</p>			
Unity with Nature	<i>Quakers and Earthcare - How to be involved</i>	Maia Wolff and Shelly Tanenbaum	Wednesday 6:30 pm Seminar
<p>We will describe the Friendly alphabet soup of organizations that carry a concern for the environment and how Friends can work with them. We will highlight Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW, formerly FCUN) and Quaker Institute for the Future (QIF), with additional discussion of RSWR, FCNL, QUNO, FWCC, EQAT and others.</p>			
Ministry & Oversight	<i>Finding Our Center, Changing the World</i>	Steve Smith	Wednesday 6:30 pm CC Conf RoomI
<p>Although indignation and outrage may spur us to react, the most effective work for peace and justice comes from a deeper, settled place. In this interest group we explore the importance of spiritual practice for effective activism.</p>			
Racial Justice Subcommittee	<i>When We Work Together: Allies Across Racial Lines</i>	Laura Magnani	Wednesday 6:30 pm CC Main Hall
<p>We will share stories of times when we were successful as allies to another group, as well as times when we felt the need for allies as we embarked on difficult work or a difficult discussion. How do we work across differences in ways that are affirming and empowering to all?</p>			

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Religious Education for Children's Committee, Western Friend and EarthLight	<i>The Meeting Library</i>	Sandy Farley	Thursday 6:30 pm CC Conf. Room
If you use or help care for a meeting library, you can pick up ideas and share your experiences with others who manage this resource.			
Nominating Committee	<i>The Wider Quaker Fellowship</i>	Quaker Organization Delegates	Thursday 6:30 pm Seminar
Reports from representatives and delegates to other Quaker groups: FGC, FUM, FWCC, Evangelical Friends Southwest, et al.			
Discipline Committee	<i>The Advices</i>	Carolyn Stephenson	Thursday 6:30 pm CC Main Hall
The Discipline Committee will facilitate discussion on the Advices in Faith and Practice and ask for input on possible revision of PYM Faith and Practice, especially on Advices and their relationship to the Queries.			
FCLCA	<i>Healing Justice: How Friends Help Bring Positive Changes To A Broken Penal System</i>	Jim Limburgh	Thursday 6:30 pm Dining Aux Room
Why does California ignore the experiences of other societies in coping with offenders, particularly youth and substance abusers? How can citizens respond to hunger strikes, ineffective sentencing practices, and systemic failures.			

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Religious Education for Children's Committee	<i>A First Day School of Two or Three</i>	Sandy Farley	Friday 1:45 pm Seminar
<p>How do meetings with few families meet the spiritual needs of the one or two children who come intermittently? Come and compare your experiences.</p>			
Latin American Concerns	<i>Community and Equality in Action: PYM Programs in Latin America</i>	Nick Wright, Donna Smith, Barbara Babin, Alicia Lucas	Friday 1:45 pm CC Conf Room
<p>A look at the programs related to PYM from the perspective of our Quaker testimonies on community and equality. Representatives of the Casa de Los Amigos in Mexico City, Progresia-Guatemala Scholarship/Loan Program, and the El Salvador Program of Palo Alto Friends Meeting will provide updates, including opportunities for volunteers to participate. We will also hear an introduction to the work of the Bolivian Quaker Education Fund.</p>			
Ministry & Leadings Subcommittee	<i>What is the Meeting's Role in Naming, Nurturing, Supporting and Providing Accountability for Ministry and Leadings?</i>	Sue Torrey	Friday 1:45 pm CC Main Hall
<p>How do we discern the difference between 'good acts' and a leading? We will have an exploration retrospectively of times when perhaps there was engagement in a leading but it was not recognized as that. What kind of leadings have you supported in the past and how have they thrived or fizzled? How has your meeting supported leadings in the past?</p>			
Peace and Social Order	<i>Drones and Targeted Assassination: The World as a Battlefield</i>	Anthony Manuosos	Friday 1:45 pm Dining Aux Room
<p>We will consider the moral as well as the practical implications of weaponized drones and what we can do to ban their use both internationally and domestically. Recommended reading: Medea Benjamin's "Drones: Killing by Remote Control" and Jeremy Scahill's "Dirty War: the World is a Battlefield."</p>			