

The Daily Miracle

Pacific Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Saturday, July 18, 2015

Saturday's Schedule

- 6:00-7:00 Outdoor Worship
Bible Study (Museum)
7:00-8:00 Breakfast
8:00-9:30 Interest Groups 4
9:30-10:00 Clear rooms
10:00-11:15 Closing Plenary
11:30-12:30 Closing Worship
- 12:30-1:30 Lunch
1:30-3:00 Evaluation Meeting for Clerks
and Officers

Saturday Interest Groups (8:00-9:30)

Friends Peace Teams – Maple Room
A Spirit-led organization working around the world to develop long-term relationships with communities in conflict to create programs for peace building, healing and reconciliation. FPT's programs build on extensive Quaker experience combining practical and spiritual aspects of conflict resolution. Sponsored by Peace and Social Order. Presented by Gay Howard.

Greening the Meeting – Amphitheatre (north of dining hall patio)
A presentation about levels of sustainability will be followed by queries and discussion

about what we may be called to do, individually and collectively. Queries will include the '4 Asks' developed recently by QEW's Sustainability, Faith, and Action Working Group, as well as reports from participants about what they and their meetings have already accomplished. Sponsored by Unity with Nature. Presented by Muriel Strand and Catya de Neergaard.

Stopping Lethal Drones – Plenary Tent
PYM approved a minute calling for Friends to oppose militarized drone warfare. This workshop will provide an update and action suggestions for implementing that minute based on the Princeton Theological Seminary lethal drone warfare conference held at the end of January with 150 interfaith participants, including around 10 Friends. Sponsored by AFSC. Presented by AFSC's Stephen McNeil.

Membership: What Does It Mean to be a Quaker? – Lounge in Cypress Lodge
A brief history of membership followed by worship-sharing and discussion, in the hopes of helping Discipline Committee clarify what PYM believes on this subject as we begin to revise Faith and Practice. Sponsored by Discipline Committee. Presented by DJ Bloom.

PLUS – Paula Palmer workshop (limited to 60 participants) will be happening in Fireside Room.

Paula Palmer's workshop

A huge **thank you** and a group hug to Paula Palmer for bringing to us Roots of Injustice - Seeds of Change.

Please go to <http://www.boulderfriendsmeeting.org/ipc-right-relationship/>

For more information about this workshop and to find out how to contribute to this important ministry.

Also: http://www.boulderfriendsmeeting.org/wp-content/friends9x4Q/2013/06/TRR_RESOURCE_KIT.pdf

For a resource kit of DOables in the area (actions that are doable)

<http://www.boulderfriendsmeeting.org/wp-content/friends9x4Q/2013/08/Minute-7-12-15-on-Confronting-Racial-Bias.pdf>

For The Boulder Meetings minute in solidarity with Charleston, SC. Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church

ANYONE interested in becoming trained to be a facilitator of this program please let Paula know via email at: paulaRpalmer@gmail.com

Racial Justice Subcommittee

The primary purpose of the M&O Subcommittee on Racial Justice is to facilitate candid, loving dialogue and transformative activities regarding racial justice and racial healing within Pacific Yearly Meeting.

As a foundation for this service, members of the Subcommittee should seek to “be patterns, be examples” (George Fox) for racial justice—that is, to model open, honest and caring dialogue on issues of race within Pacific Yearly Meeting.

Racial Justice Subcommittee under the care of Ministry and Oversight Committee would like to hear from YOU.

What would you like to work on with us throughout this year, at Quarterly Meetings, at Rep Committee, and at next summer's Annual Session? Send the committee an email in care of srosekewman@gmail.com and I will send it to all members, who are:

Alvaro Alvarado, Sacramento
Marilee Eusebio, Davis
Sandy Kewman, Grass Valley
Laura Magnani, Strawberry Creek
Deborah Marks, Strawberry Creek
Maryanne Michaels, Redwood Forest
Juanita Mora-Malerva, Santa Cruz
Graciella Martinez, Visalia
Ragni Orta-Larson, Visalia
Diego Navarro, Santa Cruz
Patricia Portillo, Sacramento
Delcy Steffey, Sacramento
Steve Smith, Claremont

Please be looking for emails about our upcoming acquisition of the documentary, Cracking the Codes of Racial Inequity, a film by Shakti Butler and WorldTrust.org. Clips of this film are available on YouTube, but we will be getting the streaming rights and a DVD for PYM so that it can be shown everywhere in our yearly meeting. It is powerful and heart-opening, as well as instructive. A big thanks for funding of this acquisition from the Bob Vogel Endowment Fund and the Youth Program Committee. – Sandy Kewman

Discipline Committee Interest Group

Discipline Committee is presenting an interest group on membership at 8:00 am. All are welcome.

Help We Need Somebody Help

Peni Hall and Julia Bazar (both disabled) need help tomorrow (Saturday) morning, between 8:00 and 10:00 to help us get our room/ accessibility materials packed and stuff carried

and packed into our van. This includes a large oxygen tank and also smaller items.

Thanks in advance for the 2-4 wonderful people that will choose to come and help tomorrow morning between 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. Saturday.

We are staying in Willow 4 and we are easy to find. We are both carrying Laurel Burch cat bags.

From your Friends on Arrangements

As you pack up and prepare to lead PYM:

1. Please have all of your belongings out of the dorms and lodges by 10:am so Walker Creek Ranch staff can make the center ready for the next group.
2. Displays and crafts in Maple room: please remove by noon.
3. Everything else – tents, meeting rooms etc should be cleared by 1pm.
4. Linens: place inside pillowcase and leave on floor in middle of you room.
5. Please leave your name tag holder in the box in the plenary tent, dining hall or Maple.
6. If you put up any signs, please remove them.
7. Be sure to check the Lost and Found in the Dining Hall.
8. Travel safely – be aware of many cyclists on the local roads.

Any unfinished business with the registrars?

Please check in with them at their table in the patio during lunch. See Joyce Samati or Sarah Tyrrell.

Bronwen Will Be Going 'Round and 'Round

...on our PacYM golf cart shuttle during the 9:30-10:00 “clear your rooms” slot, to help you bring your luggage down to the patio on south side of dining hall – if you want to meet your ride there. Please stack your bags up against the building, not blocking the patio access. Look for the green golfcart, which will loop from Sequoia, over to front of Pines and Cypress,

then along main road back to dining hall patio. If you see it, use it; no reservations required.

The 1:30-3:00 pm evaluation session will be in Maple Room, at which point all other buildings should be cleared. Walker Creek Ranch crew will be removing chairs from the plenary tent, so please make sure you leave nothing there.

And check the lost-n-found box once more, for leftovers from this week and last summer. Lost-n-found box may move over to outside Maple, as we vacate the tent.

Reimbursements for Travel Expenses

If you are the official representative of your Monthly Meeting to PYM, or if you are a PYM officer or committee clerk, you are eligible to be reimbursed for all or part of your travel expenses to and from this Annual Session. To be reimbursed, you need to enter your information on a **Sign-In Sheet for Travel Reimbursement** form. These are on a long brown clipboard on the table at the back of the Plenary Tent. Any required itemizations and receipts may be emailed to roy@allen79.org, or postal-mailed to:

Roy Allen, PYM Treasurer
580 Tamarack Drive
San Rafael, CA 94903

Annual Session Evaluation

Help us improve the Annual Session!
Both paper and electronic surveys are available this year. Friends are encouraged to use the electronic version. Please fill out one survey only.

The URL is <http://bit.ly/pym-2015-survey>
All attenders will also receive this link in an email on Sunday. The link will be “live” for one week after Annual Session.

Please see the evaluation table outside the dining hall.

Funds Available For Youth And Intergenerational Activities In PYM

Have an idea for a project or activity that involves and benefits PYM youth and intergenerational community? Need funding or other support?

Copies of applications and guidelines for funding from the PYM Youth Programs Fund (interest earned from the Bob Vogel Endowment) are on the table in the back of the plenary tent.

Next deadlines are Sept 20th, Dec 20th, March 20th, June 20th.

<http://www.pacificyearlymeeting.org/youth/resources-funding/>

Questions? Ask Jim Summers (La Jolla), Clerk of Youth Programs Coordinating Committee.

End detention quotas

Join with AFSC activists to end detention quotas during the August 10 week of action: take action at <http://afsc.org/action/tell-congress-end-detention-quotas>

and/or contact Lindsey@afsc.org for more ideas

Why FWCC is important

Roena Oesting, convenor of PYM's FWCC Committee, shared with his her perspective on why FWCC is important. She reminded us that the typical Quaker doesn't look like us: "The typical Quaker is a 19-year-old man from an Evangelical Friends' Church in Kenya. The Quaker family is varied and sometimes finger-pointing lot. Family squabbles are often the most contentions. If we cannot make peace in the Quaker community, how can we possible make peace in the world? FWCC is the only group that brings the various branches of our Quaker family together. Specifically, for those of you concerned with sexual minorities, I bring

just two examples from the recent FWCC meeting in Mexico City. A pastor from Peru told me: 'I will likely never agree with you, but I now see where you are coming from.' A pastor from Guatemala: 'I see that we approach this topic from the perspective of sin; you folks approach it from the perspective of love.'"

FWCC gatherings are wonderful opportunities to experience the rich diversity of Quakerism. Apply now to go to the World Conference in January in Peru as an open delegate. See Fwcc.org. Due to financial challenges, there has been a drastic cutback in staff and FWCC is increasingly dependent on volunteer help. Robin Mohr, a PYM Friend who is now the executive director of FWCC, is doing a commendable job but FWCC needs your help to continue its bridge-building and reconciliation work. Donations are therefore much needed and appreciated. (To see a powerpoint about FWCC and the gathering in Mexico City, contact Anthony at interfaithquaker@aol.com.)

A gift to you from the Woolman Semester

A gift to you! Woolman Semester Peace and Justice Blend Coffee. If you enjoy coffee, please take a bag of our Fair Trade, Organic, dark-roast South American blend coffee beans home with you or to your Meeting. Eight 3/4lb bags of coffee (regular in blue and decaf in black) will be at the Woolman table in Maple this morning until 10AM. As you enjoy the coffee, I hope you will reflect on how much our earth needs care and our world needs peace and justice for all people.

I encourage you all to learn more about the Woolman Semester and share about it with young people you know. I hope that many of the JYM teens, and other teens in your life, will connect with the Woolman community in the near future. More information about the Woolman Semester can be found at woolman.org.

Thanks to each of you from PYM who have supported the transformative education of teens at Woolman! Together we are empowering young people to make positive change in their lives and in the world. It gives me hope for the future. – Cindy Trueblood

How to Put Our Climate Change Minutes into Action

When some Friends said that a taking a public stand about an issue is not an action, I was reminded of what my Muslim and Jewish Friends say. “If you see an injustice, the best thing to do is to take action to stop it. If you can’t do something, speak out against it. If you can’t speak out, pray.” All these actions are considered good. Doing nothing is also considered an action: it implies approval of the injustice. I am glad that our Yearly Meeting has spoken out about climate change. That is an important step. But what can we do to take action?

I am planning to go back to my monthly meeting and ask them to consider and approve these minutes. I will then ask them to take action: 1) install solar panels and encourage Friends to do likewise, 2) take part in a special city program that allows residents to purchase renewable energy at a slightly higher rate (2.5 cents extra per kilowatt hour). My city (Pasadena) currently purchases 20% of its energy from renewable sources but would like to purchase 100% of its energy from these sources. However, our city’s leaders feel that city residents are not yet willing for a rate hike. They allow individuals to opt for a higher rate for sustainable electricity. If your city has such a program, I encourage you to take advantage of it. If not, please consider urging your city to follow Pasadena’s example. Another recommendation is to purchase carbon offsets through Terrapass or similar program. This company plants trees and supports renewable energy production. This method is not as good as producing your own energy (through solar) or

conservation, but it helps. My wife and I have reduced our home electric use by over 95% and our gas consumption by 75% (through our electric hybrid plug in Volt, which is parked and charging up next to the Plenary Tent). We’ve also reduced our water consumption by 50% through our gray water system, turf removal, etc. To find out more, see laquaker.blogspot.com. If you have ideas for putting these minutes into practice, please contact Anthony Manousos at interfaithquaker@aol.com and I will spread the word through my blog, social media, and listserv.

Let’s act as if our mother’s life depended on it!

Fossil Fuel Divestment

Friends who are interested in the practical aspects of divesting strategically from fossil fuel investments such as stocks and banks are invited to discuss their market position and options with Muriel Strand of Sacramento Meeting.

Muriel started reading the Wall Street Journal in 1982, an educational practice she continued (though not without gaps) until about the time Rupert got ahold of it. These days, The Economist is her chief source of news about the financial world. In addition to being very comfortable with math and the recipient of 2 academic degrees in mechanical engineering, she also completed most of the coursework for a master’s in economics.

Interested Friends are invited to consult her as to their own individual and organizational fossil fuel divestment positions and plans, both financial and personal, at auntym@earthlink.net.

www.naturalinvestments.com is another source of advice, and appears to be a sustainable place to redirect any existing fossil fuel investments. They also offer an email subscription to an occasional e-newsletter.

– Muriel Strand

Statement on Nuclear Power

I understand that time is short for us to do the business of the yearly meeting. I feel the need to respond to comments made regarding nuclear power in two previous plenaries. They came during discussion of minutes on reducing our dependence on fossil fuels and divesting from the fossil fuel industry. I am not challenging the inclusion of these comments in the plenary minutes. They are an accurate account of what happened in those plenaries. No action was being proposed or taken regarding nuclear power in those plenaries. Otherwise, I would have spoken up at those times. I do wish the yearly meeting to know that I do not agree with those comments against the use of nuclear power for the generation of electricity.

I used to be an opponent of nuclear power and did engage in civil disobedience at Diablo Canyon. Therefore, I am holding those who have such views now in love. I do ask that we be open to the movement of Spirit, given new information about climate change. I do not expect to change any minds at this yearly meeting, though I can direct people to resources that could provide more information than I have. We ask that those who deny that humans are the cause of climate change be willing to listen to scientists. I ask that those of us who acknowledge the reality of climate change be willing to listen to scientists when it comes to solutions. These scientists, including Dr. James Hansen, one of the earliest to speak on the issue of global warming, tell us that, while conservation and development of alternative energy sources are important, they are not enough to deal with the seriousness of this crisis that require us to drastically reduce our dependence on fossil fuels. These scientists tell us that we need to build commercial nuclear plants through the rest of this century. Any risks posed by nuclear power are minuscule compared to the real risks of inadequately reducing our carbon emissions.

I am in unity with any minute on reducing our use of fossil fuels. I am in unity with efforts to abolish all weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons. I am not in unity with any minute against nuclear power and would state my objection if one is proposed.

Respectfully,
Tom Yamaguchi

Quaker Earthcare Witness

Quaker Earthcare Witness [QEW], a continent wide organization for Friends with concerns for the Earth is having its fall conference at Ben Lomond Quaker Center in the Santa Cruz Mountains, October 22 to 25, 2015. This will be both a steering committee meeting and especially on Saturday special programming for bringing forward Earthcare Witness. Please see the QEW website as more information becomes available. Everyone is welcome to attend. –
Catya de Neergaard

Western Young Friend New Years Gathering

When – December 28-January 2

Where – at a camp facility in northern California (location pending)

Who – intergenerational hosted by Young Adult Friends.

Families welcome.

What – creating community to ring in the New Year Quaker style through...

- Breaking of bread
 - Song
 - Games
 - Unity with nature
 - Worship
 - Acro yoga
 - And random acts of kindness
- Plus a special Year End celebration!

Newyearsgathering.org

Come join us for our 40/41st year!

Gaga Ball

Chorus:

*Gaga ball, gaga ball!
Let's go out and play gaga ball.
Don't dare play it in a meeting hall,
But the whole Meeting can play gaga ball.*

Go to the ball pit; sit on the wall.

Gonna learn how
To play gaga ball.

Chorus

Gaga ball has lots of rules.

It's fun to play,
But not for fools.

(read rules while players chant "ga- ga- gaga ball")

When Cyrus the counselor
Wants to win,
We work together, team up against him.

Chorus

Argue all the time about the rules.

If you play silent
It's super cool.

Chorus

RULES:

1. If the ball hits you below the knees, you're out.
2. If you hit the ball out of the pit, you're out.
3. You can hit the ball with your open hand.
4. If you pick the ball up and carry it, you're out.
5. You can only touch the ball once before it hits the wall.
6. If the ball hits the wall or another person, you can hit it again.
7. The Supreme Court makes final decisions about who's out.
8. No arguing with the Supreme Court, or you're out.
9. Last person standing wins the game: the Gaga Ball champion!

10. Be a good sport, play honest and call yourself out.

11. And remember to have fun!



JYM singers at Family Night: Maya Price, Bethany and Audrey Johnson. Yasmeeen Mercer, Andrew Pangelina