

# The Schedule Explained

*Unless noted otherwise, contact Sharon Gates, Assistant to the Clerk, for more information or check at the Information Booth on the patio by the Dining Hall.*

## **Affinity groups**

There is a long tradition in Pacific Yearly Meeting of convening affinity groups around a common concern or a common identity. These groups create safe spaces for sharing among themselves. Affinity groups have included 12-Step, Friends of Color, Friends of European Descent, among others.

## **Children's Program and JYM Parents Meetings**

Parents will receive information about the Children's or Junior Yearly Meeting (JYM) Programs at the Annual Session and have opportunities to ask questions and meet some of the program staff.

*Children's Program contact persons: Nate Secrest, Children's Program Coordinator*

*JYM Program contact person: Muriel Strand, JYM Adult Committee*

## **Dance**

Monday night, time for Friends of all ages to come together and "kick up our heels." Hosted by Junior Yearly Meeting. Look for announcements of the theme for the dance this year in the Daily Miracle.

## **Early Quaker Writings, Worship Sharing, Aging in the Light**

Friends are encouraged to participate in one of Early Quaker Writings, the morning Worship Sharing session, or Aging in the Light (Saturday only) and either Bible Study or the afternoon Worship Sharing session.

Early Quaker Writings will explore excerpts from the works of ~~William Penn~~ William Penn. Each day, small groups of 6 to 10 people will read a passage and then share their reflections on the passage in worship sharing format. How was the spirit working in William Penn's life and what do his writings have to say to Friends today? *Contact person: Bob Runyan*

Worship Sharing groups consist of 6 to 9 Friends who meet Saturday through Tuesday of Annual Session in open worship, speaking to prepared queries as they are led. For many, Worship Sharing is a deeply enriching experience. Note that the same queries will be offered for both the morning and afternoon Worship Sharing sessions. Worship Sharing groups will be assigned on site and Friends will be asked to sign up on their arrival at Walker Creek. *Contact persons: Valerie Nuttman and Thistle West, Ministry & Oversight Committee*

Aging in the Light alludes to a Quaker practice of "holding in the light" people who are experiencing difficulties or challenges in their lives. It is a program about the challenges and rewards of the "later years," organized around selections of classic and contemporary poetry. *Contact persons: Judith Searle and Tim Vreeland*

The Bible Study group meets to read selected Bible passages and consider these together in the Spirit. *Contact person: Stephen Matchett*

## **Evaluation Meeting for Yearly Meeting Clerks and Officers**

Yearly Meeting Officers and Clerks of all PYM Committees who are able are asked to attend this 2-hour meeting on Wednesday afternoon to evaluate how the Annual Session went and make suggestions for future improvement. Information about the meeting, including queries to consider in advance, will be published in the Daily Miracle.

## **Family Night**

An evening of laughter and enjoyment Tuesday as we revel in the talent among us. Announcements will be made in the Daily Miracle and at plenary sessions. *Family Night contact person: Shayne Lightner, Ministry & Oversight Committee*

## **First Reading of Decision / Discernment Items**

The first reading of proposed minutes of action will take place during the Sunday morning plenary. Friends with questions or concerns about proposed minutes are strongly encouraged to talk with the committee proposing the minute during

## Pacific Yearly Meeting, Annual Session 2019

Open Committee Meetings on Monday afternoon by talking with an individual member of the committee. It will not be good order to raise issues during Monday evening's plenary that were not discussed with the committee beforehand.

### Interest Groups

A variety of sessions sponsored by the standing committees of the Yearly Meeting and by our representatives to Friends' organizations are held on topics of interest.

### Intergenerational Activities

A number of sessions on the schedule are identified as Intergenerational. These are sessions that are on both the Junior Yearly Meeting and general Yearly Meeting schedules, allowing Friends of all ages to participate.

### Keynote Address

David Johnson, a seasoned Friend from Australia Yearly Meeting, will be speaking on the workings of the Light of Christ within each of us. Drawing on the spiritual perceptiveness of the first Quakers, he will ask us to encounter the spirituality under their 17<sup>th</sup> century language. He is an example of a Quaker activist who finds his spiritual sustenance in private prayer and worshipping in community.

### Meeting for Memorials

The names of Friends who have passed away since last Annual Session are read and Friends share from the gathered silence. *Contact person: Valerie Nuttman, Ministry & Oversight Committee*

### Meeting for Monthly Meeting Reps

Monthly Meeting representatives are asked to participate in a 45-minute meeting on Tuesday afternoon to check in and ensure that representatives are aware of their role at the Annual Session. *Contact persons: Shan Cretin & Jim Summers, Ministry & Oversight Committee*

### Open Committee Meetings

This is a time to meet with PYM committees about their work or decisions that they are bringing to our plenary meetings, e.g., the annual budget (Finance Committee), power and privilege (Ministry and Oversight), nominating slate (Nominating Committee), etc. Please meet with these committees if you have questions or concerns about the recommendations they are bringing to our business sessions or their work. It is understood that any issues regarding the work of these committees will be discussed with the committees for resolution rather than raising the issue for the first time from the floor of the plenary. If an issue cannot be resolved then it is appropriate to raise in our plenary sessions.

### Orientation and Social Time

No formal activities are planned for this time. Friends are encouraged to catch up with familiar faces and start to get to know new f/Friends at Annual Session. All are encouraged to (re-)familiarize themselves with the general layout of Walker Creek Ranch and explore the resources available at the Information Tent.

### Plenary Sessions

During the Opening Plenary on Friday evening, the Presiding Clerk welcomes Friends to the Annual Session; the roll of Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups is called; and announcements are given by Children's Program, Junior Yearly Meeting, Young Adult Friends, Arrangements Committee, and others. Items of business such as the annual budget, nominations, etc. will be brought to other plenaries during Annual Session. Plenary agendas will be provided at Walker Creek. In the Closing Plenary on Wednesday morning, epistles from the Children, Junior Yearly Meeting, Young Adult Friends, and the general Yearly Meeting will be read. In addition, we will complete any business that remains pending. *Contact person: Sandy Kewman, Presiding Clerk*

### Threshing Session on FGC Affiliation

Using a combination of Quaker dialogue and worship-sharing, guided by queries, we will explore the spiritual benefits of affiliation with Friends General Conference. No decision will be made in this threshing session, but "a sifting of the chaff from the grain of truth, clearing the way for...action on the issue" later in this Annual Session. (From Faith & Practice p. 136)