

The Daily Miracle

Pacific Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Friday, July 18, 2014

Today's Schedule

6:00-7:00 Outdoor Worship
7:00-8:00 Breakfast
8:00-8:35 Worship
8:45-10:00 Plenary VIII (business)
10:15-11:45 Interest Groups 4
12:00-12:30 Possible Listening Session
in preparation for Plenary IX

12:30-1:30 Lunch
1:30-3:00 Young influential Quakers or
Quakers who are influencing
our youth (presented by JYM)
3:15-5:30 Fellowship Friday

5:30-6:30 Dinner
6:45-8:15 Family Night
8:30-10:00 Dance

Friday Interest Groups, 10:15–11:45 am

A. Soul Repair: Recovering from Moral Injury After War Led by Lynn and Steve Newsom. **B. Friends Peace Teams** Led by Gay Howard. Sponsored by Peace and Social Order. Middle Sequoia.

PYM Liaisons: Links to other Quaker Groups Led by Elaine Emily. Sponsored by Nominating Committee. Pine Lodge.

Eco-Mysticism: An Experimental Exploration Led by Catya de Neergaard. Sponsored by Unity with Nature. Cypress Lodge.

Brainstorming the Annual Session We Want to Attend Led by Barbara Babin, Bronwen Hillman, and Valerie Nuttman. Sponsored by Ministry and Oversight. Sequoia Garden Room.

FUM, FGC, WFCC, Huh?!?

Pacific Yearly Meeting (PYM) sends representatives, delegates, or observers to a variety of Quaker organizations: American Friends Service Committee (AFSC); Friends Committee on Legislation of California (FCLCa); Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL); Friends General Conference (FGC) Central Committee; Friends United Meeting (FUM); Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC), Section of the Americas; Evangelical Friends Church Southwest; Friends Peace Team Project Board of Directors; Reunion General del los Amigos en Mexico; and William Penn House Board.

Interest Group 4 (Friday, 10:15 - 11:45; in Pines) will offer a session on links to other Quakers groups. If you are a representative, delegate, or observer come and share your experiences. If you are not a rep, delegate, or observer, this is your chance to learn about other Quaker groups and their relevance to PYM. The session should be informative and fun!

Baroque anyone?

Friday afternoon at 3:15 in the Maple building, anyone who likes to sight read baroque music is invited to. There is one extra recorder if you forgot to bring yours. We especially would appreciate a viola clef reader, or B flat instrument to read the viola part which has been hand transposed. – Pat Wolff

Child refugees and migration

We will meet at lunch in the Teachers Lodge. All are welcome. – Lynnette Arnold

Ending the Use of Militarized Drones

At the last Yearly Meeting Session we did pass a minute to oppose the use of militarized drones. On April 2, 2014, Rep. Adam Schiff and Rep. Walter Jones introduced legislation which would require the President to report to Congress on civilians injured and killed by drone strike. FCNL joined several human rights organizations on a statement in support of this bill. Ask your Representative to co-sponsor The Targeted Lethal Force Transparency Act H.R. 4372 http://fcnl.org/resources/newsletter/septoct13/drones_the_face_of_war_today/ See Quaker Meeting's' minutes on drones at: http://fcnl.org/issues/drones/quaker_meetings_issue_statements_on_drones/ – Stephen McNeil

Progressa's Guatemala Shop

The subtle colors of the bamboo scarves shimmer. The "hand" of the fabric is soft and luxurious. And I love them. Each and every one is my favorite. The pattern may look

random, but it's actually Ikat! And the design is generated on a computer.

The bamboo is imported from China, and dyed by hand at the cooperative, Threads of Hope, high above Lake Atitlan in Guatemala.

Traditional back-strap loom weavers pick up the dyed bamboo and pattern and return to their villages where they work at their own pace. Few are literate, many still live in dirt floor houses, but all are highly skilled and have learned about quality control.

The weavers receive piece-work pay, the dyers, tailors, administrative staff all earn minimum wage – but every December, the profits are divided equally.

It does my heart good to buy here for Progressa's Guatemala shop, (located in Maple) and it blows my mind that the most modern machine serves the most ancient of looms.

– Margaret Bean

Sustainable Investment

Sustainable Investment Means Energy Independence From Fossil Fuels

Friends who are interested in reading a basic and not overly long discussion about some key aspects – challenges and possibilities – of achieving real independence from fossil fuels can find such an essay via: http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?Abstract_id=2222988

All the resources we need to reinvest in such a future are already available.

– Muriel Strand

Mao anyone?

There will be a Mao game in Buckeye (the JYM lounge) during the dance. Mao is a card game which some people say resembles Quaker practice:

it's played in silence (mostly) and though there are rules, nobody talks about them. Often you get a brief introduction, but as the game goes along it gets more and more complicated. There is usually plenty of laughter, but here is a warning: some people find it ego busting, and it

is a real test of your powers of observation. All are welcome! – Pat Wolff and Cody Lawry

350.org is saying:

It's simple math: we can burn 565 more gigatons of carbon dioxide and stay below 2°C of warming – anything more than that risks catastrophe for life on earth. The only problem? Fossil fuel corporations now have 2,795 gigatons in their reserves, five times the safe amount. And they're planning to burn it all — unless we rise up to stop them.

1°C of more warming is still going to cause more problems, but asking for us all to stop all fossil fuel burning right now just isn't going to happen. In fact with feedback loops in place, even if we all did stop right now, the temperature would still go up. If the fossil fuel companies are allowed to sell all they have found of oil, gas, and coal, life on Earth may not survive.

This is the most important issue of our time. If we are all dead, peace and social justice are moot points. The government is already bought and owned by big oil, gas, and coal and isn't going to do anything. Divestment from fossil fuel energy companies is a tactic to force change – social, cultural, and economic.

more info at <<http://gofossilfree.org/>> and at <<http://math.350.org/>>

Join <350.org>

– from catya de Neergaard on behalf of Unity with Nature Committee

Growing Our Meetings –Outreach

A small group met to share their efforts to grow their meeting. We shared ideas for reaching out –some of which worked and others not as successful.

Things which have been tried include:

Flyers on telephone poles.

Installing better signage at the meetinghouse.

Personal invites to co-workers, neighbors.

Wearing buttons – “I’m a Quaker – Ask me why?”

Improving (or creating) a website.

Send Press Releases for certain events/workshops.

Still, Friends shared concerns and issues which have arisen:

A feeling by many that “Quakers don’t advertise”

Denial that meetings are shrinking.

Newcomers who come once, but don’t return.

An inherent “modesty” and avoidance of “aggressive actions” to reach out.

Active members who disappear.

How can we share our spiritual experience with newcomers?

Is letting the world know we exist different than “proselytizing”?

The small group agreed that we would love to see an interest group on this topic at PYM’s Annual Session. This is a subject which affects nearly every Meeting, and PYM as a whole.

If you would like Minutes of the outreach groups meeting, email: Ramona Hussey @ ramona@lava.net.

Visit Quaker Exhibits In Maple

Great information available from many Quaker organizations. Also, Crafts are For Sale to Support and Benefit: Afghan Girls School, Unity with Nature, Guatemala Scholarship, and Douglia Prieta Works Programs.

For those buying shawls to benefit the Afghan Girls School:

They may be washed by hand or on gentle cycle.

Jewelry will be displayed 8AM to 10AM, 12PM-1:30PM, and 5PM-6PM; then packed up.

Shawls are displayed all day.

Thanks for your support. This school was started by Edith Cole and Joe Franko, whose

memorials are being read this year. Let's continue their work!

SCQM Directories

PYM Officers and Committee Clerks can now pick up their copies of 2014 SCQM Directory in the Lobby Box in the back of the Plenary tent. (Nominating Committee and M&O Committee copies have been distributed already).

The directories are also for sale in the bookstore.

See Don Bean ddbean@me.com for questions.

Still A Few Copies Left...

The new edition—designated 2015—of College Park Quarterly Meeting Directory is available in Earthlight Bookstore -- \$5, plus sales tax.

If you would like a PDF of the 2015 edition (free, minus sales tax), send your email address to: ericmoon@juno.com.

Almost Here: Family Night, 6:45pm

There is more room for sign-ups through breakfast on Friday.

You will be inspired and moved to joy by the gifts of talent and insight that will be shared.

Questions: see Linda Rowell

George Fox And The Healing Ministry – Book By David Hodges

For any Friends or Meetings wanting to obtain a copy of this book – from the Friends Fellowship of Healing* in the UK—Richard Chamberlain of Santa Monica Meeting can place a group order and redistribute here. If you'd like a copy, please contact Richard at PYM or email him at jrbchamberlain@gmail.com [(310) 699-4301] by Wednesday July 23. Estimated cost is \$10-\$12 including postage. *www.quaker-healing.org.uk

Quaker Oaks Farm Spring Service Learning Camp. Save the date: March 31 to April 4, 2015.

All interested high school aged youth are invited to Quaker Oaks Farm's 2015 Spring Service Learning Camp, in partnership with the Wukchumni Tribe and the Youth Program of the Pacific Yearly Meeting Religious Society of Friends (Quakers). We will share about and learn the history of Native American people in California and how to be allies to indigenous people everywhere. Restorative Justice begins with understanding. Campers are again invited by the Wukchumni Tribe to the annual rebuilding of the sweat lodge. Come learn, make friends and have fun!

For more information or to state your interest in being adult staff or a youth camper, contact Melissa Lovett-Adair at mladair@charter.net or Alyssa Nelson at pym.youthcoordinator@gmail.com

Quaker Publications

Publications of Quaker organizations are excellent at materials for study groups or adult education. Their information is timely, accurate, and based in Quaker values. Please take them back to your meetings and worship groups and put them to good use. Save us the expense of repacking and shipping them home. Maple Hall must be cleaned out tonight.

2014-2015 Budget

The Finance Committee has been listening to concerns about the 2014-15 budget proposal. A few important facts:

- The Treasurer can only make expenditures that are authorized by the budget.
- Almost all of the budget needs to be in place by the time the Annual Session has ended; otherwise, on October 1st, a lot of negative things will occur, such as closing down the Youth Program, not paying any bills, etc.
- The portion of the budget that is "Support Of Friends Organizations" does not need to be in place as of October 1st. This part of the budget can be approved at RepCom.

The finance committee is not the committee that should be evaluating and prioritizing

contributions to other organizations. Another group needs to be doing this.

Our proposal is this:

1. Approve the budget presented on Tuesday, but leave unfunded, for now, "Support Of Friends Organizations".
2. The per-member assessment stays the same, at \$95 for California and Nevada, \$39 for Guatemala and Hawaii, and \$30 for Mexico City.
3. An ad-hoc committee be formed, consisting of Friends selected by M&O and Finance Committees. This ad hoc committee will develop criteria and prioritizations for contributions to outside Friends Organizations, and bring a recommendation to RepCom 2015. This recommendation will include the funding of "Support of Friends Organizations" expenditures for the 2014-15 budget year.

– Ed Flowers

From your Friends on Arrangements

Before leaving Walker Creek Ranch, be sure to put your name tag holder in a box at the Plenary tent, dining hall, or in Maple.

On Saturday, please have all of your belonging out of the dorms and lodges by 10:00 am so Walker Creek Ranch staff can make the conference center ready for the next group. Not yet checked in?

Please meet the registrars at the patio table at lunch or dinner: look for the sign.

Failure to Disarm: Aug 6

You're invited to the gates of the Livermore Nuclear Weapons Laboratory on the 69th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima. Ceremony and nonviolent protest. Meet at 7:30 am on Wednesday, Aug.6, at Vasco Road and Patterson Pass Road in Livermore (about 40 miles from Oakland). Co-sponsored by over 20 organizations. Info: www.trivalleycares.org or ask Carl Anderson.

12-Step Program

The 12-Step Program will meet at 8:30 pm to 10:00 pm in Sequoia Garden.

Attendees List:

The Attendees List this year will be different. Due to some technical issues with the registration data, it's not feasible to display everyone's home address as we traditionally have done. We will show the following information. Last Name, First Name, MM/WG, Other Organization, Phone # and email. Please find draft copy of the Attendees List taped to tables in the back of the Plenary Tent and verify we have your data correct.

Daily Miracle Online

You can view editions of the Daily Miracle every day by going to www.pacificyearlymeeting.org.

You may submit articles to the Daily Miracle by email to Tom Yamaguchi. tomyamaguchi@mac.com

Can't Get Enough Bible?

For the die-hards/early risers (or the merely curious), we will gather Friday and Saturday for Bible Study at 6:00 A.M. in Fireside (not Sequoia), with reading, reflection and responses from 6:15-7:15. All are welcome!

Submitted by Stephen Matchett

Message Boards

There are two message boards available for Friends to leave messages for other Friends, such as rides needed and rides offered. Please include when, where, and necessary information.

The message boards are located in Maple Room (on the left as you enter) and in front of the dining hall.

Earthlight Bookstore is in the Carson room

Fri 10:15-4:00, pack up 4-6

Volunteer Cashiers are welcomed – Tom, Sandy, and Eric

Fellowship Friday

Fellowship Friday is the afternoon time 3:15. Spending time with our younger (and older) Friends is key to fostering our community. Friends are encouraged to spend Friday afternoon participating in one of the four activities. Art activity is in Fireside, swimming is at the pond, nature walk will meet outside the dining room. Conversation will be at the peace pole. - Bronwen Hillman

Art Activity

Come hang out with people of all ages, and have fun expressing yourself through collage, fingerpaint, and other playful media. No talent or experience necessary! Fireside Room.

Come to the watering hole! Friends interested in swimming please meet outside the main entrance of the tent to walk together to the pond. We will leave at 3:15, weather permitting. Children need to be accompanied by a parent.

Friendly conversation: People who would like less activity are welcome to join a conversation group at the Peace Pole.

Back to Nature: Two walks are on offer. Both will meet in front of the dining room and will leave at 3:15.

1. Beginning bird-watching walk and possibly see: turkey vulture, California tohee, black phoebe, dark-eyed junco, scrub jay, tree swallow, wilson warbler, California quail.
 2. Walk-hike into lower hills.
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Meeting Reps from Southern California

Quarterly Meeting:

Please check in with Laura Kohl, La Jolla MM or Sandy Kewman, Grass Valley MM sometime this week. We want to make sure we have your contact info. – Rep Support Subcommittee

Visit Honolulu Friends

Friends in Hawaii sometimes feel isolated from wider Quaker gatherings and other Friends Meetings.

We'd love to see visitors from PYM and other Friends organizations. If you are traveling to (or through) the Hawaiian Islands, we invite you to attend our Sunday worship.

We also offer inexpensive lodging in our Meetinghouse – 2 weeks maximum, located in a lovely neighborhood, near the University. For more information (or reservations) call (808) 988-2714, or see our website at www.hawaiiquaker.org.

Aloha, Ramona

Volunteer with the Children's Program

Volunteers requested for the Children's Program for 2-4 hour shifts. Please see Terrill at the picnic table next to the plenary tent before morning worship. Let us know if you have specific talents to share – music, art, group games, etc.

PYM Holding Corporation

Current and new members, please meet Friday at lunch (right of entrance). Donna Smith

Pay Phone

If you need to use the pay phone outside of the Walker Creek Ranch Office and don't have change or a phone card, see Don Bean or Marilee Eusebio for the use of a phone card.

Unaccompanied minors issue

People interested in the issue of unaccompanied minors will get food from the dining hall, then meet at lunchtime at Teacher's Lodge.

PYM Representatives to AFSC Corp.

Representatives to the PYM AFSC Corporation will have lunch together on Friday at a table on the side of the dining hall toward the plenary tent. See Diego Navarro.

Join Ruth Flower for lunch

Join Ruth Flower of FCNL for lunch today at the Peace Pole. Ruth will talk about the Quaker concern for Native Americans.

Visiting Friend Committee

Looking for people for the Visiting Friend subcommittee of Ministry and Oversight. The Visiting Friend Committee provides spiritual and practical support for Pacific Yearly Meeting's Visiting Friend, who in turn travels to Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups in PYM in order to help us live more fully in the Spirit and strengthen the bonds of community in the Yearly Meeting. Find Bronwen if you are interested in serving on this committee.

Brainstorming The Annual Session We Want to Attend

Experimentation and Implementation Subcommittee of Ministry and Oversight
Facilitated by Barbara Babin, Bronwen Hillman, Valerie Nuttman:

Come engage in a lively discussion about what inspires us about our Annual Sessions. Think about an Annual Session or other Quaker gathering that particularly inspired you. Please share your experience with us. How could we create future Annual Sessions that will be inspiring and bring more people in? 6:45 pm, Sequoia Garden Room

Friendly Reminder to Parents:

Children must be under supervision at all times. During program hours, your child needs to be checked in to their program or under your direct supervision. Outside of program hours, including during Fellowship Friday activities, you are responsible for your child. For your

child's safety we ask that you maintain close supervision.

Building Our Beloved Community

Meeting Reps and the Rep Support Subcommittee are strategies for building our beloved community both here at Annual Session and at home? Sharing our experience at Annual Session and at Rep Com the first weekend of March with those Friends at home are two ways. Here are some ways:

- Some Reps report some piece of news from PYM each month for Meeting for business to keep PYM on the home radar.
- Some meetings offer panel presentations or reports at Meeting for business upon return from Annual Session.
- Write a short article each month for your Meeting newsletter
- Share one aspect of pacificyearlymeeting.org website each month or periodically
- Publish an epistle each month in your Meeting newsletter from the PYM website

Poems About Less Carbon

Having intended to merely pick on an oil company,
the poem goes awry
Never before have I so resembled British Petroleum.
They – it? – are concerned about the environment.
I – it? – am concerned about the environment.
They – him? – convey their concern through commercials,
in which a man talks softly about the importance
of the environment. I – doodad? – convey my concern
through poems, in which my fingers type softly
about the importance of the Earth. They – oligarchs? –
have painted their slogans green. I – ineffectual
left-leaning emotional black-hole of a self-sempahore? –
recycle. Isn't a corporation technically a person
and responsible? Aren't I technically a person
and responsible? In a legal sense, in a regal sense,
if romanticism holds sway? To give you a feel
for how soft his voice is, imagine a kitty
that eats only felt wearing a sable coat on a bed
of dandelion fluff under sheets of the foreskins
of seraphim, that's how soothingly they want to drill
in Alaska, in your head, just in case. And let's be honest,
we mostly want them to, we mostly want to get to the bank
by two so we can get out of town by three and beat
the traffic. Traffic is murder this time of year.
How far would you walk for bread? For the flour
to make bread? A yard, a mile, a year, a life?
Now you ask me, when are you going to fix your bike
and ride it to work? Past the plain horses
and spotted cows and the spotted horses and plain cows,
along the river, to the left of the fallen-down barn
and the right of the falling-down barn, up the hill,
through the Pentecostal bend and past the Methodist
edifice, through the speed trap, beside the art gallery
and cigar shop, past the tattoo parlor and the bar
and the other bar and the other other bar and the other
other other bar and the bar that closed, where I swear,
al-anon meets, since I'm wondering, what is the value
of the wick or wire of the soul, be it emotional
or notional, now that oceans are wheezing to a stop?

- Bob Hicok