

The Daily Miracle

Pacific Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Tuesday, July 15, 2014

Tuesday's Schedule

- 6:00-7:00 Outdoor Worship
7:00-8:00 Breakfast
8:00-8:40 Worship
8:45-10:00 Plenary II (keynote speaker)
10:15-11:45 Bible Study or AM Worship
Sharing
12:00-12:30 Listening Session in
preparation for Plenary IV

12:30-1:30 Lunch
1:30-3:00 Transformative Quakers or
PM Worship Sharing
3:15-4:30 Plenary III (introduction of
business)
4:45-5:30 Committee "fair"

5:30-6:30 Dinner
6:45-8:15 Interest Groups I, see below
8:30-10:00 Affinity Groups/Open Time

Tuesday Interest Groups, 6:45-8:15 pm

Building a Global Movement to End All War
Sponsored by Peace and Social Order
Committee. Led by David Hartsough and
Anthony Manousos. Muir Room.

**Divestment from Fossil Fuels and Sustainable
Reinvestment in the Quaker World as a
Moral Statement and Strategy of Change**
Sponsored by Unity with Nature. Led by Jay
Carmona and Shelley Tanenbaum. Sequoia
Garden Room.

**Your Sons and Daughters Will Prophesy
(Acts 2:17 and Joel 2:28)**
Sponsored by Ministry and Oversight. Led by
Jonathan Vogel-Borne. Fireside Room.

**Of Such is the Kingdom of Heaven: PYM's
Youth and Intergenerational Community**
Sponsored by Youth Program Committee. Led
by Mary Klein and Nathan Walker. Middle
Sequoia.

Transformative Quakers

Transformative Quakers meet this week at 1:30
pm on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday in
Plenary room.

Tuesday – Bill Lovett

Wednesday – Bob Vogel

Thursday – Josephine Duvenceck

PERSONAL THOUGHTS ON GOOD ORDER

Dear PYM Friends,

Welcome to the 68th Annual Session of Pacific Yearly Meeting! As your Presiding Clerk, I carry a concern for good order in our Meetings for Worship on the Occasion of Business—yet we are *all* custodians of good order. Here are some concerns that are upon my heart:

Listening to our youth: Rufus Jones wrote, *“If we are to have a revival of spiritual power, our youth must be at the front of it.”* We are blessed with a surge of youthful energy and spiritual vision, featured in this Annual Session. We will not abandon all of our procedures and traditions, of course; just as Senior Yearly Meeting needs the vision and passion of youth, our youth need the experience and settled wisdom of Senior Yearly Meeting.

Kindness with one another: A distressing memory from this year’s Representative Committee was a young adult Friend who spoke with much feeling, *“Young Friends are sick to death of our bickering with each other.”* Bickering is NOT a Quaker testimony! We are called to love each other, to be patient with each other. Our name, “The Religious Society of Friends” derives from the Gospel of John (15:12-15): *“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you . . . I do not call you servants any longer . . . but I have called you friends.”* George Fox wrote to Friends of his day, “I pray that all your hearts may be knit together in love, and in one spirit to God.” (Epistle 19 – 1652)

“Staying low”: Most of us who attend PYM Annual Session are white, middle class or upper middle class, well educated, articulate—and confident of our importance. Our testimony of equality is humbling, tempering this self-importance. Early Friends called this *“staying*

low”: setting aside self and being open to Spirit *wherever* it appears, even in the voices of those we dislike. Staying low means not being judgmental or contentious. It also means that we do not try to influence others through eloquence or erudition; instead, we speak plainly and straightforwardly, without adornment or rhetorical flourish.

I believe that loving-kindness and humility are the essential ground of good order.

Finally, I qualify what I have written above by these words from the first *“Faith and Practice,”* Advices from the Elders at Balby (1656): *Dearly beloved Friends, these things we do not lay upon you as a rule or form to walk by, but that all, with the measure of light which is pure and holy, may be guided: and so in the light walking and abiding, these may be fulfilled in the Spirit, not from the letter, for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.”*

– Steve Smith

12-Step Program

The 12-Step Program will meet at 8:30 pm to 10:00 pm in Sequoia Garden on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

Registrar Hours

Registrar hours tomorrow at 8:00 to 8:30, 12:00 to 12:30, and 5:15 to 5:40 in Maple.

Email for Daily Miracle

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

Listening Sessions

Please come to the listening sessions on upcoming plenary agenda items every day from 12:00-12:30 pm in the main tent. On Tuesday the listening session topic will be the Youth Program Coordinator agenda item for

Wednesday Plenary IV. **Proposed Minute:**
PYM approves changing the name of the “Youth Program Coordinator Supervisory Committee” to the “Youth Program Committee.”

Listening sessions will start and end promptly and are intended to provide space for question and concerns about upcoming plenary agenda items. All are welcome. – Shayne Lightner, Santa Monica Meeting, on behalf of Ministry and Oversight Committee.

The dream lives on

Friends have laid down the dream of a permanent site for the PYM annual gathering, but the dream of a place where Quaker testimonies are alive and well in the central San Joaquin Valley lives on. Quaker Oaks Farm, the Lovett's 23 acre farm east of Visalia and adjacent to the Visalia Friends Meetinghouse, is the site of much activity. The Lovett family has offered the land to Visalia Friends Meeting, which is currently engaged in a discernment process regarding acceptance of this gift. A nonprofit corporation, "Quaker Oaks Farm" (QOF), was established in 2008 to develop a business plan for the property. The QOF board consists of Friends and other community members and stakeholders in the use of the land. The business plan includes rental and leases of the land to support the nonprofit activities. Leasees include the Friendly Farmers Agricultural cooperative and the Wukchumni tribe and PYM Youth Program., and a camping area available for use by the PYM Youth Program, the Wukchumni Tribe, the Visalia Friends Meeting, and the QOF Board. Future plans include the development of living history events that celebrate the various cultures represented in the Central Valley. Feel free to talk to the following PYM attendees for more information about Quaker Oaks Farm: Melissa Lovett-Adair, Bill Lovett, Sharlene Roberts-Caudle, Graciela Martinez and Greg Seastrom.

Two parcels adjacent to Quaker Oaks Farm are currently looking for new owners. One is 5 acres with a 2 BR 1BA newly refurbished home and a large barn suitable for horses with a 1MR apartment and a fruit orchard. The second parcel is 8 acres with a farmhouse and walnuts. For more information email Melissa Lovett-Adair at mladair@charter.net. Fine farmland and community next to Quaker Oaks Farm and Visalia Friends Meeting! What's your dream?

Committee Fair. 4:45-5:30 PM Tuesday

Would you like to know what Latin American Concerns committee is concerned about? Or how close to unity, the Unity with Nature Committee has gotten? Come one and all to the Committee Fair in front of the dining hall, and get acquainted with the work of all the standing committees of PYM. And also learn what the Young Adult Friends are up to! – Carol Mosher, Ministry and Oversight

PYM Reps (Meeting Representatives)

Have lunch today on the left side of the dining hall and share your questions and successes in with other Reps and the Rep Support Subcommittee. See you at lunch – Tom Yamaguchi, Carol Mosher, Laura Kohl and Sandy Kewman.

– Rep Support Subcommittee members

Affinity group: "**Nuclear waste, who will be the Nuclear Guardians?**" It will meet at the Pine Lounge, 8:30-10pm.

Bible Study

Bible Study will meet at 10:15 am in Sequoia Garden Room instead of Fireside.

Are you concerned about immigration?

Friends concerned with Central American children and youth being detained at our border.

Please Meet Tuesday At Dinner in the corner of the dining hall by the side with the coffee. Look for Lynnette Arnold (Santa Barbara Monthly Meeting).

Quiet Reading Room

The quiet reading room is located in Quail. You will find State of Meeting reports, Ministry and Oversight reports, and several excellent books on Quaker topics. Come in, and sit down for a read.

Have an affinity for Friends of color?

Please contact Alvaro Alvarado or Diego Navarro if you are interested in participating. Young Adult Friends and Junior Yearly Meeting Friends are welcome.

Fast Against Violence

Friends are invited to take part in a "Hunger Strike" or Fast Against Violence on Tuesday, July 15. Palestinians and Israelis concerned about peace will also be fasting, according to Eliaz Cohen, an Israeli Jewish writer, who proposed:

“A day of fasting together, or in the language of civil protest: a hunger-strike day, when the Jewish and Muslim calendars are united in a day of fast: the fast of 17 Tamuz and the fast of Ramadan, Jews and Muslims will unite in a day of fast.

“For both traditions/cultures – this is a day designated for soul-searching, an opportunity for people to take responsibility, for self repair and for self and communal purification and for repentance.

“This is an attempt to direct the consciousness of both peoples to this day as a “peak day” “in which each man and woman in their home and in their communities will be invited to take part, to fast in solidarity with the suffering, violence and pain of self and others, to ask how to end

the cycle of bloodshed and draw a horizon of hope and vision.

Since fasting in summer is a daunting task, I invite you to abstain from food but drink water.

Should this still remain difficult, I suggest you have breakfast and drink only water until 6:00 or 7:00 pm.

For those observing a full fast it is no food nor water from sunrise to sunset (8:10 pm). I have been fasting for peace during Ramadan for 13 years and know it isn't easy. But it is very worthwhile and definitely called for, given the terrible violence taking place in Israel/Palestine and the Middle East.

– Anthony Manousos

Earthlight Bookstore is in the Carson room

Tue 10:15-3:00, 4:45-10:00

Wed 10:15-3:00, 4:45-10:00

Thu 10:15-3:00, 6:00-10:00

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

Volunteer Cashiers are welcomed – Tom, Sandy, and Eric