

# The Schedule Explained

## 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.

*Contact person: Sharon Gates, Assistant to the Clerk*

## Early Quaker Writings or Worship Sharing or Aging in the Light, Bible Study or Worship Sharing

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

Early Quaker Writings will explore excerpts from the works of 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?

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.

The Bible Study group meets to read selected Bible passages and consider these together in the Spirit.

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.

*Bible Study contact person: Stephen Matchett*

*Early Quaker Writings contact person: Bob Runyan*

*Worship Sharing contact person: Janet Gastil, Ministry & Oversight Committee*

*Aging in the Light contact persons: Judith Searle and Tim Vreeland*

## 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: Peggy Craik & Chamba Cooke, Children's Program Committee*

*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.

## 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.

*Evaluation Meeting contact person: Sharon Gates, Assistant to the Clerk*

## 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 Saturday afternoon plenary. Friends with questions or concerns about proposed minutes are strongly encouraged to talk with the committee proposing the minute during Open Committee Meetings on Saturday by talking with an individual member of the committee. It will not be good order to raise issues during Monday morning's plenary that were not discussed with the committee beforehand.

## Interest Groups

A variety of sessions are held on topics of interest. Interest Groups sponsored by the standing committees of the Yearly Meeting and by our representatives to Friends' organizations offer opportunities to report on projects and to explore various interests and activities.

*Interest Groups contact person: Sharon Gates, Assistant to the Clerk*

## 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

Carin Anderson and Elena Anderson-Williams (Friends who grew up in PYM) will bring their insights into the Annual Session theme of radical vulnerability and faithfulness, insights that they have gained by being vulnerable to the Spirit and following its direction on paths they could not have imagined.

## Listening to the Spirit Session

This plenary session will focus on the sharing of alternative visions of how PYM's Annual Session could witness to a troubled world. Documents and a cover-letter by the Presiding Clerk describing this session and some of the alternative visions are posted on the website and the wall outside of the Dining Room. We will return to this topic throughout the week.

## Meeting for Memorials

The names of Friends who have passed away since last Annual Session are read and Friends share from the gathered silence.

*Meeting for Memorials contact person: Shayne Lightner & 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.

*Monthly Meeting Reps contact person: 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), FGC Affiliation (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.

*Open Committee Meetings contact person: Sharon Gates, Assistant to the Clerk*

## 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 as 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.

*Plenaries contact person: Diego Navarro, Presiding Clerk*

## Quakerism's Debt to Heretics

An evening exploring the history of Friends from Hannah Barnard and the Grimke Sisters to Elias Hicks and Joel Bean who met with resistance from the Society of Friends because of their prophetic witness or unorthodox views. We'll have a chance to respond to queries that may help us to respond more compassionately to those who challenge us.

*Contact person: Anthony Manousos*