

# *The Daily Miracle*

**Pacific Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends**

**Thursday, Seventh Month Thirtieth, 2009**

## **Thursday's Schedule**

6:30-7:45	Transformative Quakers
6:30-8:00	Bible Study
7:00-8:00	Outdoor Worship
7:30- 8:30	Breakfast
8:45-10:15	Worship
10:30-11:45	Worship Sharing
12:00- 1:00	Lunch
1:15- 2:30	Plenary VI
2:45- 4:45	Plenary VII Meeting for Memorials
5:00- 6:00	Dinner
6:45- 8:15	Tabling Fair and All-ages Dance until 10 PM Representative meeting
8:30	Open time and 12 step

## **Thursday's Menu**

### **Breakfast**

Steamed Quinoa  
With Craisins  
Boiled eggs  
Toast station  
Cold cereal: variety  
Yogurt, raisins, brown sugar  
Cottage cheese  
Fruit: sliced cantaloupe  
OJ, tea, coffee, milk

### **Lunch**

Baked potato bar

3 bean chili  
Cheese, sour cream, chives  
Homemade cornbread  
Salad: field greens  
Dessert: cookies  
Fruit: stone fruit  
Water, guava juice, lemonade

### **Dinner**

Entrée: stacked enchiladas (recipe)  
A vegan and veg version, too  
Starch: Mexican Rice  
Tomatillo salsa, cilantro  
Salad: mixed greens with 3 dressings  
Bread: fresh bread/Epi rolls  
Dessert: ice cream  
Fruit: mixed summer fruits  
Beverage: ice tea, water at tables

### **Volunteers Need for Sound Board**

Volunteers wanted to run sound. No experience needed, will train. See Russ at the sound booth before Plenary and Worship Sessions. Safely indulge your need to control.

### **Looking for Artists**

Are there artists among us? Let's meet each other! Thursday at lunch. Look for a red sign near the door to the dining room. Gather with Trudy "Myrrh" Reagan and we will find a table where we can eat together. If you have examples of your work with you, or notebooks, examples of writing, website

addresses and so on, please bring them to share. Trudy “Myrrh” can sometimes be found at the El Salvador table in Maple Hall.

### **Proposed Minute on Youth Coordinator**

The updated versions of the proposal and appendices (110 pages) are available online at [www.pacificyearlymeeting.org](http://www.pacificyearlymeeting.org). Paper copies are also available, in the Quiet Room (Trout) and at the back of the plenary tent.

Here is the minute read by the Presiding Clerk and to be considered at Friday’s plenary at 1:15 to 3:15 pm:

*We approve moving forward with the revised Youth Coordinator Position Proposal for a 3 year trial period and ask for yearly written reports to be presented to our annual sessions and also ask for an assessment of the project at the end of the three years. Further we ask the committee to consider the needs of our youth from 10 through Young Friends, especially addressing the needs of our Monthly and Quarterly Meetings who ask for our help. We also ask the Coordinator and the committee to help us address the issues of safety raised by our Meetings, parents, and youth.*

### **A revised Peace and Social Order Committee minute on Health Care will be presented with a recommendation for approval in Plenary VI session:**

- *In keeping with our Testimony on Equality and Community, Friends believe that access to health care must be universal, available to every individual in this land, at minimal administrative cost. Friends support a single-payer health insurance plan, do not support a single government-run health delivery system, and support the right of states to adopt the single payer option, such as SB 810 in California.*

### **Deepening Worship Interest Group**

A Deepening Worship interest group will be held in Sequoia Living Room at Friday’s interest group time from 3:30 to 4:45 pm. Many Friends new to Quaker Meeting think of Meeting for Worship as a time for quiet meditation. Come and find out the difference between quiet meditation and Friends’ Meeting for Worship. Come share techniques for deepening your own worship. Also share techniques for deepening communal worship. The emphasis at this interest group will be on sharing experiences, ideas and perspective on worship with the idea that every Meeting, attender and member can find ways to deepen their worship.

### **Non-theist Friends**

Non-theist Friends meet in Pines today at 8:30 PM. Klara East has copies of the Minute from the FGC 2009 Workshop “Quaker Identity and the Heart of Our Faith”.

### **Choral Singing**

Choral singing will happen again Thursday afternoon from 4:45 – 5:45 by the piano in the Maple Room. New members are welcome.

### **Community Night is Nearly Here!**

Performers Please step forward! Experience valued but not required. Put your application in the Drop Box inside the Plenary Tent today BY LUNCHTIME! There are still slots to fill. It is going to be a wonderful evening and together we will make it happen. See Ruth Fraser or Cecilia Fitzgerald Cook.

### **Lost Earring**

Lost – Abalone button earring on silver wire. If found, please return to Heather Elrick Forbes. Thank You!

### **Single Parents’ Affinity Group**

Are you a single mom or dad looking to connect with other single parents for fellowship and support? If so, join us today at

6 PM in one corner of the courtyard outside the dining hall. If you cannot attend, but would like more information, please see Heather Elrick Forbes.

### **Online PYM Environmental Action Group**

An Online PYM Environmental Action Group is forming so that climate change / environmental activists from a Monthly Meeting, etc. can:

- Network
- Share what we are envisioning and doing
- Dialogue
- Get support for projects
- Post articles

We will be online at Yahoo Groups which has both e-list and forum functions. To join or for more information, please email Catya deNeergaard at goldenlynxs@yahoo.com

### **Please help our Teens**

Sixteen teens will be attending Senior Camp at Quaker Center (Ben Lomond) next week, after Yearly Meeting. They need rides to Berkeley, Cedar and Sacramento streets, leaving PYM on Saturday at about 2 PM and arriving in Berkeley at 4 PM (or later).

The next day, we also need help transporting them from Millbrae BART station to Quaker Center—Sunday, Aug 2nd at about 3 PM. Please contact Mary Miché if you can help with either of these transportation needs.

### **PYM Monthly Meeting Reps**

Remember to attend the meeting to review the Futures sub-committee proposal on RepCom and the role of MM Reps. Today, 6:45 – 8:15 PM in the Big Tent.

### **AVP – Alternatives to Violence**

AVP Facilitator lunch get-together, today at Noon, just inside the entrance to the Dining Hall. Contact Betty Devalcourt.

### **Making Berkeley Meeting Accessible**

Berkeley Meeting is developing plans to make its buildings accessible and more useable. We have brought an architectural model of the proposed changes. It is at the back of the Plenary Tent, along with brochures. Please take a look. Margaret Mossman

### **Visalia Meeting Growth**

In the Statistical Report presented in Plenary on Wednesday, it was noted the Visalia Meeting was reporting unusual growth. The report concluded with a suggestion the Visalia explain its new growth.

It is well known that small meetings have trouble developing critical mass for a good First Day School. Our M&O committee has wrestled with this for a long time, We decided that we would hire a First Day School teacher to be on duty every week, children or not, and we announced this in our newsletter to members and attenders. Our growth spurt soon followed and has continued since. Might other small meetings benefit from this information? Does this have relevance for our Youth Coordinator? Bill Lovett, in Bobcat dorm.

### **Notes from the Treasurer**

A copy of the detailed Treasurer's Report is available in the Quiet Room in Trout. A limited number of copies will be available at the Plenary VI session.

If you are a PYM Officer, PYM Committee Clerk, or a Representative from a Monthly meeting, please request your travel cost reimbursement by completing the form at the back of the Plenary Room.

Gary Wolff, Treasurer

### **Friends Committee on National Legislation**

The current economic crisis has adversely affected many businesses, personal incomes, and non-profits. This includes the Friends Committee on National Legislation. In June 2008 FCNL took action to reduce personnel

and expenses, essentially laying off nine staff members. FCNL staff members, save for interns, took pay cuts from 25% to 10%.

After the winter collapse of the markets and a drop-off in yearend giving by Friends and others, FCNL took additional action of laying off 9.5 staff members. Many, many volunteers and staff made extra efforts through calls, visits, and letters to raise money in the first six months of 2009. Palo Alto Friends raised nearly \$8,000 funds. Some Friends reached into their assets and donated extraordinary gifts during this period. FCNL finished its fiscal year June 30th by making the revised budget with a little to spare. Overall, FCNL kept its donations level with last fiscal year at a time when many nonprofits saw an average drop of 5.8%

Now FCNL faces a new challenge between now and year end, when most gifts come in.

The FCNL Education Fund, which is tax-exempt, is the place to direct your gifts at this time. Please consider making a second gift this year. If you have not given to FCNL/EF in a while, now is the time to consider making your support visible. Thanks to all who have given to date. Finishing this last fiscal year in a healthy condition has meant much to those volunteers and staff members who are working hard to equip Friends and like-minded folk with the information, effective actions, and support to push Quaker values on the Hill. Visit [www.fcnl.org](http://www.fcnl.org) for more information or come to the Friday Interest Group on FCNL.

Stephen McNeil, Clerk, Development Committee

### **“Renewal” film on the Religious-Environmental Movement**

After tabling tonight, stay around in the Maple Room for an 8:30 PM showing of the inspiring documentary “Renewal” showing efforts of Muslims, Evangelical Christians, Jews, Buddhists and others to heal the Earth. The film includes many stunningly beautiful

visuals. Unity with Nature Committee, Joe Morris, Clerk

### **Guatemalan Crafts for Sale**

The Guatemalan Scholarship Program (Redwood Forest & Guatemala Monthly Meetings) is selling crafts in Maple to support indigenous students in Guatemala. Please drop by and see new selection including \$5 and \$10 embroidered T-Shirts and other gift ideas. Donna Smith

### **War Tax Interest Group**

The War Tax Interest Group will be Friday afternoon. Steve Leeds, San Francisco MM.

### **A Taxpayer’s Fear**

by Tom Greening

I have killed a lot of people  
with my tax dollars, and I’m afraid  
their relatives and friends may come after me.  
I will profess innocence and show them  
that there is no actual blood on my hands.  
Furthermore, I have some good lawyers in  
Washington  
who will defend me, so I’m not too worried.  
I sleep well enough, in spite of  
the images that invade my mind.  
Hard things must sometimes be done  
to keep me comfortable, and I’m grateful  
that I can hire people to do them,  
even though some returning veterans  
seem to complain a lot.  
Patriotism has its price---  
they should have thought about that before  
they enlisted,  
just like I think about which war  
I want to finance next.

Published in the Fellowship Magazine of  
FORUS.org

### **Building Interfaith Peace**

Muslims, Quakers and Interfaith Peace  
Building with Imam Ali Siddiqui of the  
Islamic Center of Petaluma, Cypress Lodge,  
Thursday, July 30, 8:30 pm.

Imam Ali Siddiqui is a pioneer in the field of Interfaith Peace Building. He has devoted years to interfaith peace and justice advocacy in Claremont, California and other locations. He will join us at PYM for a talk and informal discussion on “Muslims, Quakers and Interfaith Peace Building” at 8:30 pm, Thursday July 30 in Cypress Lodge. All are welcome. For information see David Hoffman (Redwood Forest Friends Meeting)

### **CA Agriculture and Climate Change** by Karen Street

Scientists believe California moved into a permanent drought in 1999 due to climate change caused primarily by greenhouse gases released from the use of fossil fuels. In addition to water stress, pests are spreading, wreaking havoc.

Now a new study from UC Berkeley warns of the effect of high carbon dioxide levels on plant uptake of nitrogen. As carbon dioxide rises, food quality will decline without careful nitrogen management, California Agriculture Online, <http://californiaagriculture.ucanr.org/>. Tests at atmospheric carbon dioxide levels of 567 parts per million (we are on track to reach this level in 25-30 years) indicate that most crops, including wheat, rice, barley, oats, legumes, vegetables, and fruit and nut trees contain 12% less protein than plants grown at 365 ppm (current CO<sub>2</sub> is 387 ppm). Possible responses include increasing the use of nitrogen fertilizers by several-fold (not economically or environmentally feasible), and the use of ammonium fertilizers (very carefully, to prevent ammonium toxicity). Many non-agricultural plants, their pollinators, and the animals eating those plants are likely to suffer, as well.

We need to find ways to reduce California greenhouse gas emissions from the current high level.

California plans to address climate change start from these GHG emissions, and don't include airplanes and shipping. CA has a relatively small industrial base. One quarter of emissions come from electricity. Come learn more and share what you know about California climate change policy in the Friday interest group.

### **Creation**

Before the beginning, all the Great Powers gathered over coffee (you knew, of course, that coffee was the first thing created). Coyote was there, and Quetzalcoatl, and Brahma and Jehovah and Chronos and Gaia, and many more I cannot name.

One of them said, “Maybe it is time to begin.”

Said another, “Even though we have not yet created time, I think you are right.”

So they said, “Let it be!”

But it was not.

They were all old gods, many having gone through more cosmic cycles than I can count. They had all forgotten how things get started.

They looked around, wondering what to do next. On the edge of the crowd there was a very small person, a Child.

“Child, come forward,” commanded one of the gods. “Can you help us?”

“It is not long since I said my first Word,” said the Child. “It is not long since I took my first step. And I am learning to swim, and learning to write my name. Everything I do is a new beginning.”

So when the gods said again, “Let it be!” the Child gave a small push.

And it was.

The Universe flowered from nothingness; it inflated and expanded. Soon, it condensed into galaxies, and stars, and worlds, and us.

This is why we all begin as Children, taking first steps and speaking first words, repeating what our elders have done. And this is why we are given lives so short, in which we will always be near our beginnings.

So that if we are asked to help make a new Creation, we can say "Yes."

-Eric E. Sabelman  
28 July, 2009, at PYM

**Rolene Walker by Trudy "Myrrh" Reagan**

