

The Daily Miracle

Pacific Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Wednesday, Seventh Month Twenty-Ninth, 2009

Wednesday's Schedule

6:30-8:00	Bible Study
6:30-8:00	Transforming Quakers
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- 3:15	Plenary IV
3:30- 4:45	Plenary V
	Open Committee Meetings
5:00- 6:00	Dinner
6:45- 8:15	Interest Groups
8:30	Open time and 12-Step

Wednesday's Menu

Breakfast

Frittata with spinach
Mushrooms and potatoes
Cheese on the side
Kix, rice, granola, Cheerios, grits
Yogurt, raisins, brown sugar
Cottage cheese
Fruit; sliced cantaloupe
OJ, tea, coffee, milk

Lunch

Brown rice and beans

Dinner

Entrée: cauliflower potato dish
Lentil dish, brown tortilla
Raita and green, spicy sauce
Veg: veg option

Salad: mixed greens with 3 dressings
Fruit platters: watermelon
Dessert: coconut milk tapioca pudding
Beverage: ice tea, water at tables

Interest Group Locations: Wednesday

1. Racial Profiling in the Criminal Justice

System Sponsor: AFSC Location: Maple

2. Our Quaker Projects in Latin America

Hear Field Director Robert Brown from El

Salvador describe four education projects of

Palo Alto Friends Meeting; Donna Smith tell

of the Guatemala Scholarship program

enabling indigenous and low-income students

attend high school and college; Dottie Vura-

Weis report on Casa de los Amigos activities

in Mexico City. Sponsor: Latin/American

Concerns Committee

Location: Teachers Living Room, by the blue
Museum

3. Grass Roots Activism, Moving from right

intention to right action with Joe Morris and

Shan Cretin

Sponsor: Unity With Nature Committee

Location: tent

4. Building a Lesson from a Story Learning by

Doing with Sandy Farley and Susan Hopkins

Sponsor: Religious Education for Children

Location: Cypress Living Room

5. Healthcare Reform Hubert Morel-Seytoux.

Compare CA SB 810, HR 676, Obama Plan

Sponsor: Peace and Social Concerns

Location: Eucalyptus Living Room

6. *Faithfulness in Action, Supporting Leadings*

Sponsor: Ministry and Oversight

Location: Pine Living Room

7. *Youth Coordinator Position*

Sponsor: Ministry and Oversight Youth Coordinator Committee

Location: Garden Room Sequoia

8. *Friends House Moscow*

Sponsor: Support Committee

Location: Sequoia Living Room

Open Committee Meetings

Latin American Concerns Committee

Discuss the role of the committee in publicizing and linking projects and monthly meetings in Latin America

View the new website. Note: Someone who knows Dreamweaver is needed to maintain it.

Location: Maple

Religious Education for Children Committee

Our discussion will focus on best practices in religious education. We'd like you to share what's worked well in your Meeting, and what your concerns are. We'll share with you some of the great stuff we've heard about in surveying all the PYM Meetings this year.

And let our Committee know how we can serve your Meeting or worship group.

3:30 this afternoon in the Teachers Lodge.

Proposed Minute on Youth Coordinator

Further discussion and seasoning of the proposal to hire a Youth Coordinator has been scheduled as an interest group, 6:45 pm this evening in the Sequoia Garden Room.

The updated versions of the proposal and appendices (110 pages) are available online at 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.

Affinity Groups by Laura Magnani, Clerk of Ministry and Oversight

There is a long tradition in Pacific Yearly Meeting of convening affinity groups around a common concern or a common identity. Wednesday two will have a chance to come together: Friends of Color and Friends of European Descent. Just as women met in their own groups 30 years ago and men's groups met. Often times, LGBT Friends created groups to have safe space to discuss among themselves. Friends of Color will have a chance to meet among themselves. We ask that this tradition be respected and interested European American Friends take advantage of an opportunity of an opportunity to meet in their own space. (see below)

Gathering for People of Color and European Americans Concerned About Racism by Vanessa Julye

People of Color and European Americans concerned about and working on issues regarding racism will gather together to share with each other. We will also spend time in smaller racial/ethnic affinity groups. Wednesday, 8:30 pm. Location: Fox Vanessa Julye will be signing copies of her book, *Fit for Freedom, Not for Friendship*, in the AFSC Bookstore at 3:30 on Wednesday. Please stop by and take the opportunity to ask Vanessa questions about this important work. "The legendary status of Quakers in the

struggle for Black freedom undergoes serious scrutiny and critique in the courageous and visionary book. This timely examination is a challenge to us all in the age of Obama.” – Cornell West

Transformative Quakers

Be inspired by the incredible lives of these transformative Quakers, 6:30 am in the Garden room at the end of the Sequoia Lounge:

Wednesday – Lucretia Mott

Thursday – Joel & Hanna Bean

Friday – Kenneth & Elise Boulding

Bereavement affinity group

Have you lost a loved one recently? You are welcome to join our bereavement affinity group at Owl building 8:30 pm Wednesday. For more information, see Anthony Manousos.

JYM Information

Friends interested in more information about the current state of the JYM program can view copies of the letter sent to parents and FAP responsibilities at the back of Plenary tent and the Quiet Room. What follows is the community expectations approved by JYM this year;

Given that our goal in JYM is to build a nurturing, vibrant community of young people, to build trust and compassion, and to deepen our relationship with the Spirit, our community, and Quaker process, these are some of our community guidelines to ensure that our group is safe and connected. :)

-No sex, drugs, or alcohol. If you have a tobacco addiction, talk with FAP who will arrange for a spot where individuals can satisfy their nicotine addiction by themselves (no social smoking).

-Make sure everyone feels respected and that people's personal boundaries are not violated in any way. No means no and stop means

stop. Don't assume people feel comfortable being hugged, ask them if they are comfortable.

-We hope that everyone in the JYM program will participate in all group activities, because this is how we strengthen our community and connections, if you choose not to participate in an activity your parent or sponsor is responsible for you. You are always welcome.

-Quiet time at 11 PM, and lights out in Quiet Room. All lights off at 2 AM.

-Groups of 3 after dark: no one on their own
-We're trying to create a safe community and as much as you can help with that we appreciate (please don't be destructive)

- Recognize beauty in our differences. Be intentionally inclusive of people who have differences and don't fit social norms. Be extra inclusive of younger people moving up as well as all newcomers.

- All of us are responsible for ensuring that guidelines are met- we don't need to rely on FAPs, we can intervene directly. Respect our space. No rafters.

Special Food Needs Update

From Jan Turner: We now have compiled a list, for the kitchen, of attenders' special food needs. If you think we may have missed your request, or if you are not getting what you need, talk to Jan Turner. There will be a menu board at the door to the dining hall, with allergens in each menu item listed. Alternatives that have been requested will be available, upon request, in the kitchen, e.g., the cooks had gluten-free cookies available Tuesday supper, a first for this site. They also had gluten-free and soy-free stir fry.

They have also promised more protein foods for diabetics. Peanut butter is not ordinarily set out, due to the presence of children (and others) who are allergic to peanuts. Starting Wednesday, an alternative nut butter will be set out, and peanut butter will be available in

the kitchen, upon request, for those who need more protein.

Additional raw foods may be available in the kitchen. Rice bread is available in the kitchen. We are grateful for Walker Creek's efforts to accommodate both Unity with Nature's vegetarian direction and the many allergy and medical requirements of our attendees. A big thank you to Sunita, Claudia, and all the staff !!!

Choral Singing

Choral singing again on Wednesday at 4:45 pm until 5:45 pm by the piano in Maple.

Quaker Service in Mexico City

Friends! Interested in combining Quaker service, with travel south of the border? Mexico City Monthly Meeting has a position open for a Friend(s) in Residence, for periods of 3 to 6 months. This small Meeting, a part of our Yearly, could benefit from the experience of Friends well schooled in Quaker process. Fluency in Spanish is important, as is an interest in cultural diversity. Currently the Casa de los Amigos (home to the Meeting) offers lodging, and there are funds in PYM to cover travel expenses to and from Mexico City. You can find more information, as well as the application form at Mexico City MM's web site, <http://mexico.quaker.org>. If you're interested speak with Jean Lester, Darcy Stanley, or DJ Bloom, M&O's subcommittee for support of Mexico City MM.

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.

Meeting Representatives to PYM

Remember to attend the session to review the Futures Subcommittee's proposal on

Representative Committee and the role of Monthly Meeting Representatives.
Thursday evening, 6:45 to 8:15 pm, in tent.

Epistle Committee

Pacific Yearly Meeting sends our epistle "to Friends everywhere." If you have thoughts to share about your experience of spiritual community this week, please talk to a member of the Epistle Committee -- Kitty Bergel, Eli Fowler, Chris Mohr.

Quiet Room

The Quiet Room is now open – located in Trout cabin. In The Quiet Room you will find PYM loose-leaf binders for:

- State of the Meeting Reports
- Nominating Committee Reports
- PYM Plenary Minutes
- Budget Reports
- Memorial Minutes
- PYM Job Descriptions
- Epistles read in Plenary

Most of the binders are empty – awaiting the draft reports from this Annual Gathering. For early arrivals to the Quiet Room, a bonus awaits: free Quaker books from the Library of Marie Schultz. First come, first served! Please share nicely!

Meeting for Memorials

These Friends have passed away since our annual gathering in 2008:

Leo Baefsky, Lake County WG
Barbara Brady, Orange County
Lila Fidler Carey, La Jolla
Dorwin (Doc) Philip Cartwright, Santa Barbara
Frank Cooper, Davis
Geri Danzig, La Jolla
John (Jack) De Beers, San Francisco
Art Evans, Friends House WG
Mark Farmer, Orange County
Bill Hardy Haworth, Davis
Marilyn Howe, La Jolla
Elisabeth Jay, Berkeley

Lu Kuboshima, Pacific Ackworth WG
Beverly Labin, San Francisco
Pali Jae Lee, Honolulu
Roberto Martinez, San Diego
Anne Penery, San Diego
J. Robert (Bob) Sewell, Santa Barbara
Harvey Smith, Claremont
Hanne Maria Sonquist, Santa Barbara
Mary Alice Steinhardt, Redwood Forest
Joyce Kleger Tappan, Redwood Forest
Elizabeth Thompson, Orange Grove
Rebeca Valdiva, La Jolla
Miriam Von Seggern, Grass Valley

If you know of other PYM Friends whose names should be included in our Meeting for Memorials, please write their name and meeting on the list at the back of the plenary tent. If you are unsure whether or not a name should be included, talk to a member of M&O.

The Wordshop

“Yes, I did cry, once in my life. That was when I thought I had been misunderstood.” – Anna Bidder, Quaker, founder of Carendish College, Cambridge. The *Wordshop* is about spoken words, how we use them, how to be understood. This highly interactive group will wrestle with monosyllabic language and how to address an audience of 2000. *Please bring a book*, any book, more than 100 pages and not a picture book. This piece of pedagogic fun is conducted by Keith Wedmore. Feel Free to wander in late or leave early – although the first five minutes are the most important. No sign-ups, just come.
8:30-10 PM Wednesday, in Big Tent.

Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP)

AVP/California is offering transformative workshops in 16 prisons around the state on a regular basis, and in a number of community settings as well. Come see the map on display in Maple that shows these locations. Motel lodging for traveling facilitators is a major expense in AVP’s budget. Please look at the

map, and if you or someone you know lives near any of the institutions where we are active and might be able to provide 2 – 3 nights hospitality on an occasional basis to one of our volunteers, please give us your name and contact information on the sign-up sheet provided in Maple, so that we can talk to you. Thanks for your interest! Questions? - ask Barbara Babin, Sharon Beckman, Ann Boone or Stephen Matchett, among others.

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.

Becoming Climate Change Influencers

By Karen Street

The basic idea comes from *Influencer: The Power to Change Anything* by Kerry Patterson, et al. Step one is to choose vital behaviors, a few really important behaviors that will change the paradigm. Sex workers in Thailand now insist on condoms to help prevent the spread of AIDS. Delancey Street clients, who come from prison, homelessness, and drug use, are required to be responsible for others and to rat each other out when rules are broken, to help break the code of the street most come in with. What are vital behaviors for activists and the public working on climate change?

Vital behaviors for activists:

Behavior 1: Share your knowledge of the science and impacts of climate change, and help people handle their feelings.

The goal is to give people enough understanding of climate change to appreciate its importance and complexity, and give them enough background for constructive response.

Behavior 2: Choose a behavior change or set of changes that will reduce your GHG emissions by at least 10% this year. (This will require standing on an accurate scale.) Work with others on the same goal for a year. Do the following or its equivalent: form a support group, set goals, look at what's hard. You may wish to model yourself on 12-step programs.

The goal is to give people a realistic idea how much can be achieved by behavior change, and to gain insight into how people shed GHG emissions. Hopefully enough people change their behavior to effect a change in social mores leading to a shift in the behavior in society. It will at least increase your understanding of what it might take.

Behavior 3: Choose a significant technology or policy that Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (created to discern scientific and policy consensus) says is necessary, one outside your comfort zone. Learn why it is needed, and begin to advocate for it with a group that is not so comfortable with the policy.

The goal is to shift the recommendations we make, moving to important over comfortable.

Leadings

Copies of a new PYM document Faithfulness in Action: Supporting Leadings in Pacific Yearly Meeting are available at the back of the plenary tent. If you plan to attend the interest group, "Explaining Leadings in Pacific Yearly Meeting," on Wednesday evening, please pick up a copy and review it in advance. Faithfulness in Action has been prepared by the Subcommittee on Ministry

and Leadings of PYM M&O. It is still in draft form. We welcome your comments!

Unity with Nature Committee

by Joe Morris, Clerk

Please consider and bring the queries below for the dialogue on an emergent testimony of Harmony with Nature during Plenary IV Wednesday afternoon:

Have I sensed a presence of the Spirit in nonhuman species and the workings of Nature?

To what extent is seeking a right relationship between humans and the Earth community a part of your life?

As Friends, do we have a role in sustaining and healing the planet?

Submitted

BURNT NORTON

(No. 1 of 'Four Quartets') T.S. Eliot

Words move, music moves

Only in time; but that which is only living

Can only die. Words, after speech, reach

Into the silence. Only by the form, the pattern,

Can words or music reach

The stillness, as a Chinese jar still

Moves perpetually in its stillness.

Not the stillness of the violin, while the note lasts,

Not that only, but the co-existence,

Or say that the end precedes the beginning,

And the end and the beginning were always

there

Before the beginning and after the end.

And all is always now. Words strain,

Crack and sometimes break, under the burden,

Under the tension, slip, slide, perish,

Decay with imprecision, will not stay in place,

Will not stay still. Shrieking voices

Scolding, mocking, or merely chattering,

Always assail them. The Word in the desert

Is most attacked by voices of temptation,

The crying shadow in the funeral dance,

The loud lament of the disconsolate chimera

