

WORKSHOPS

Note: Unless otherwise indicated, workshops are suitable for all interested Friends and you are welcome to join in a workshop starting on any date. "Continuing" workshops will not repeat from the previous day, while "repeat" workshops will start afresh. Sign up for workshops when you arrive at yearly meeting.

Thursday

Discerning Our Role in Prison Issues, Bonnie McKeown and Earl Smith

In some ways the election of Barak Obama marked the nation's "triumph over race," but in the poorer corners of society, a new system has grown up over the past 40 years to prevent people from moving out of the poverty class.

Quietly, with a series of court decisions chipping away at the Bill of Rights, hundreds of thousands of Americans have been channeled from uninspired schools to drug infested streets, into a profit-making prison system. The incarcerated are mostly black men, but sometimes women, Latinos, and poor whites. Prisoners who have served their time, attempting to return to society, have been labeled felons for life, with scarcely more rights than black men in Alabama during the early 20th century Jim Crow era. Today's criminal justice system is not just infected with racial bias, it has become the mechanism for creating an American caste system, as Michelle Alexander documents in her book, *The New Jim Crow*.

How did this happen? How can we address the issue? With our testimony of equality, and our long history as leaders in prison reform, Friends are in a position to be of great help. Just by educating yourself on the issue, you can be part of the solution. (*Repeats Friday and Saturday*)

Support for the Journey: An Aging and Saging Group at Downers Grove, Dave and Dorothy Moorman

The first of three sessions by ILYM Ministry and Advancement Committee on aspects of preparing for the end of life. We will share about how the Aging and Saging group developed, its history, what the group talks about, and some of the discussion topics that we have found meaningful.

What Does It Mean to Hold Someone in the Light?,

Paul Buckley

In this workshop we will use worship sharing to explore what it means to hold someone in the Light and enter into worship to do so. Bring the names of those you wish to have so held.

(*Repeats Friday and Saturday*)

Discerning Action and Living Out Faith, Wil Brant

What believers should do and how they should live out their faith is a topic in The Epistle to the Romans. Actions and how those actions relate to faith is a topic of religious ethics. This workshop will explore what the Epistle to the Romans has to say to Quakers in relation to ethical issues of wickedness, obedience, judgment, and discernment as well as how Quakers "do" ethics in relation to living out their faith. It may be helpful to read through Romans on your own beforehand, since this will be more of a topical exploration and discussion than a verse by verse study. The workshop will have a 50/50 split between presentation of material and discussion.

(*Repeats Friday*)

Recordkeeping for Monthly Meetings, Cathy Garra

Orderly recordkeeping has been a hallmark for the Religious Society of Friends, whether for business minutes, membership, marriage and everything else. How do we take care of these records within our meeting and encourage their safe care for the future? Small meetings cope with rotating cardboard boxes and large meetings cope with accumulations at a meetinghouse. All meetings deal with conflicts between "keepers" and "tossers," as well as rapidly evolving information technology. How can we make sense of all of this and make full use of the resources available to Illinois Yearly Meeting and its monthly meetings?

We will explore these issues and more together, get acquainted with some resources available, share our true life adventure stories, and figure out how to make a start on a plan that works well for your meeting and its future.

(*Repeats Saturday*)

***"To ponder well the paths of my feet": Journaling and life in the Spirit**, Mary Garman

We will look at excerpts from journals, mainly written by Quaker women, and talk together about journal-keeping and its potential for deepening life in the Spirit. Some writing, some reflecting, some talking together.

Friday

Faith and Practice: Quarterly Meetings, ILYM Faith and Practice Committee

We will review and discuss draft text for a Faith and Practice section on quarterly meetings. Comments and suggestions gathered in this workshop will be used in preparing a revised version of this text, to be submitted to the yearly meeting in 2012, with a request for 5-year provisional approval.

Grief and Grieving, Janet Means Underhill

The second of three sessions by ILYM Ministry and Advancement Committee on aspects of preparing for the end of life. We will be opening to the many aspects of grief and how individuals and a meeting can help support a person who is moving through this part of their journey. We will examine words that can be helpful and hurtful to grieving people.

Emily Greene Balch: Bridge Builder to Peace, Women, and Internationalism, Chris Jocius

Reading aloud from "Emily Greene Balch: the Long Road to Internationalism" by Kristen E. Gwinn. Friend Balch was a cofounder of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom in 1919 and was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1946. Background material and book excerpts to be provided.

(Repeats Saturday)

***Bible Explorations, Dave Moorman and Maurine Pyle**

Do you love the Bible? Does it disappoint you at times? Never really looked into it much? This workshop is a congenial look at the Bible, both the good parts and the bad. If you'd like to share what you love or talk about what puzzles you about the Good Book, you might enjoy this workshop. Everyone is welcome, and the workshops are not sequential; drop in any day. Bring your favorite Bible. If you don't have one, we'll supply." He is able to do identical sessions on Friday and Saturday. *(Repeats Saturday)*

Discerning Our Role in Prison Issues, Bonnie McKeown and

Earl Smith

See Thursday description.

(Repeats Saturday)

What Does It Mean to Hold Someone in the Light?,

Paul Buckley

See Thursday description.

(Repeats Saturday)

Discerning Action and Living Out Faith, Wil Brant

See Thursday description.

Saturday

Faith and Practice: Marriage, ILYM Faith and Practice Committee

Review and discuss the text of ILYM's current Faith and Practice text on marriage, which was approved for a 5-year provisional period in 2007. Comments and suggestions gathered in this workshop will be used in preparing a revised version of this text, to be submitted to the yearly meeting when the current text expires in 2012.

Getting our Final Wishes on Paper, Peg Kruger

How Do We Be a Loving Presence?, David Garman

The third of three sessions by ILYM Ministry and Advancement Committee on aspects of preparing for the end of life. Peg Kruger, and possibly other members of Springfield Worship Group, will share their journey through the process of developing their final wishes and memorial planning. They will share some of the activities that helped their worship group tackle this difficult topic. Following her will be David Garman, who will shortly retire from 22 years as hospice chaplain. He will share from his experiences and answer questions. He asks, "How do we be a loving presence and listen to a dying loved one's story they want to share with us?"

Embodying Light: A Movement Workshop, Madelyn George

Explore true physical presence and spiritual embodiment through guided movement practices. Participants will embark on a journey from full internal awareness to loving communal connection, awakening to deeper insight about creativity and expression in everyday life. All levels of physical fitness warmly welcomed. Followed by discussion in the form of worship sharing.

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