

Workshops 2013

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 on site at yearly meeting.

A Quaker Behind the Dream: Charlie Walker and the Civil Rights Movement, Brenda Walker Beadenkopf

This workshop is based on an upcoming book about Philadelphia Quaker pacifist Charlie Walker and his many contributions to the Civil Rights Movement as an expert trainer in nonviolence. It begins with a PowerPoint talk describing the principles and theories of nonviolence and Charlie's work with Martin Luther King and other civil rights leaders--for instance, Charlie was on the training staff of the 1964 Mississippi Summer Project in Oxford, Ohio and helped organize the 1963 March on Washington and Poor People's Campaign. Then we move into role-playing to show how civil rights workers were trained. We role play sit-ins, a picket line, a Rosa Parks bus, and other scenarios, endeavoring to give all participants an opportunity to take part. Discussions after each role play will include emotional reactions to the harassment and how successful participants felt they had been in endeavoring to adhere to the disciplines of nonviolence. Questions are raised as to how these 'benchmarks' and disciplines of nonviolence could be viewed as practical applications of the teachings of Jesus and how they can be applied to everyday life. *(Fri. and Sat., repeats)*

Balancing the Federal Budget Between Military and Other Human Needs, Katherine Philipson, Hal Mead

A review of the active discussions now, and how we as Quakers may influence the direction of these. We will especially emphasize the peaceful prevention of war initiatives begun recently. Attendees will be encouraged to take info back to their monthly meeting. *(Fri. only)*

Bible Explorations, Maurine Pyle, Lucy Davenport, Dave Moorman

Friends will take part in discussions of the Bible. The discussions may spontaneously take a number of forms. This year we will be joined by Lucy Davenport, who has studied the use of the Bible by early Friends. The early Friends are folks like George Fox and Margaret Fell, who brought the Quaker way into being during the 17th century in England. *(Thurs. and Fri., repeats)*

Circle for Spirit-Led Activism, Tom Fairbank

We will discuss how Spirit is leading us to live out our testimonies, with an emphasis on social justice. The session will begin and end with silence. Discussion will use a circle format in which a talking piece is rotated to allow each participant space to share what is on their heart, as well as to aid us in listening to each other. *(Sat. only)*

Climate Change: A Review of Actions FCNL Has Taken Thus Far, Katherine Philipson, Hal Mead

A review of Quaker principles that motivate our action. Discussion of actions the group has already taken and an opportunity to communicate with your Congressperson. *(Thurs. only)*

Engaging in Conversations about Race, Class and White Culture, Vanessa Julye

We will spend time in both small and large groups identifying and exploring race, class and White Culture in our country and the Religious Society of Friends. We will spend time exploring the origins of White Culture, and class. We will also share different ways we have addressed racism and classism. *(Sat. only)*

Faith and Practice: Testimonies, ILYM Faith and Practice Committee

Participants will read draft text of our Faith and Practice's "Testimonies" section, discuss it, and make recommendations to the committee. *(Fri. only)*

Faith and Practice: The Light Within, ILYM Faith and Practice Committee

Participants will read draft text of our Faith and Practice's "The Light Within" section, discuss it, and make recommendations to the committee. *(Sat. only)*

First Day School Joys and Challenges: A Strategy for Small Meetings and Beyond, Erin Taylor, Sean West

One of the biggest challenges for Quakers--particularly in small meetings and worship groups--is creating a robust and consistent children's program that makes families feel welcome, that takes the spiritual needs of the youngest Friends seriously, and that does these things without overtaxing parents and others who are called upon to teach First Day School. In this workshop, the Macomb Worship Group will share the strategy we have developed for addressing this challenge with minimal burnout. Participants will brainstorm, share, and discuss ideas for making children's religious education work in small meetings and beyond. *(Thurs. only)*

Freedom AND Friendship: Building Joyful Bridges with the Black Community, Bonni McKeown

This workshop goes beyond the debate over why more African Americans aren't Quakers. Instead it asks: how can we work together toward common goals? In millennial America, we find our values and goals under siege by principalities and powers that threaten our democracy, our livelihoods, our families, our earth itself. What can we learn from brothers and sisters who have battled such dragons for over 400 years? How can we work together in their struggles--school closings, mass incarceration, and community violence? This workshop will present grassroots Black Community leaders -- different individuals each day -- who will discuss their lives and work. Through dialog we aim to build long term F(f)riendships and alliances. *(Thurs. and Fri., Continuing)*

Made Me a Communist: A Theo-Political Love Story, Charley Earp

"To Each Being, Holistic Abundance According to Their Authentic Needs, From Each Being, Holistic Generosity According to Their Authentic Capabilities." As a Pentecostal preacher's kid, I was fundamentally shaped by the story of Jesus and his earliest followers. I left the family tradition to explore actual communal living for 9 years inspired by the part of the Pentecost story that states, "all who believed held all in common." The ongoing economic crisis is confirming predictions of capitalism's instability that gave rise to the idea of Communism as originally a Christian idea later taken on by secular political movements. Occupy Wall Street in particular challenged the existing economic order and was a significant inspiration for calling for a rethinking of the lost tradition of religious communism. *(Sat. only)*

Reflecting on Joy and on Gifts Among Friends: Selected Readings, Chris Jocius

Participants will read selected Quaker writings aloud, ask questions about and comment on these texts, and share personal experiences of joy and gifts in their lives. *(Fri. and Sat., repeats)*

The Graham Cracker Game, Todd Knight

Todd Knight of Right Sharing of World Resources will lead The Graham Cracker game. This simulation game gives participants a feel for world inequity, both in terms of space and the distribution of world resources. The game is fun to play in a large group of any make-up. You can use it in older children's Sunday School classes, adult Sunday School classes, youth groups, and inter-generational groups. *(Thurs. only)*

The Joy(s) of Ministry Committee, Judy Wolicki, Wil Brant

“Where is the joy in working as a member of my meeting's Ministry Committee?” “What sustains those who work on Ministry Committees?” “How does your Meeting describe the work of its Ministry Committee?” A consultation among new, seasoned, and potential members of Monthly Meetings Ministry Committees, to be facilitated by members of ILYM's Ministry and Advancement Committee, this workshop will provide an opportunity for discussion and sharing on the mission, charge, and work of Ministry Committees (or whatever your meeting may call it) to encourage and support those who do the work, and to explore the larger vision of Ministry Committees. *(Fri. and Sat., Continuing)*

The Joys of Bolivian-U.S. Quaker Collaboration, Barbara Stanford

The Bolivian Quaker Education Fund brings together Quakers from different continents from very different cultural backgrounds, and very different Quaker traditions. The leaders will share their own spiritual journeys learning the life of the spirit through collaboration. Participants will share joys and challenges by discussing case studies of issues faced by Quakers in both countries ranging from theological differences to environmental issues to family violence. *(Thurs. only)*

What Should We Do With an Old Barn?, Bill Howenstine

We will meet on the north side of the old, large wood barn, look at it thoroughly (inside and out), hear something about its history and about uses made of similar old, timber frame barns. Perhaps we will feel led to make recommendations for ILYM. Lots of discussion and brainstorming. *(Thurs., Fri., and Sat., Continuing)*