

Interest Groups

A New Vision: Abundant Life

Sister Delores Dufner

Jesus came to bring abundant life, and as Christians we share in Jesus' mission. This presentation will describe the present environmental crisis and our counter-cultural mission to act on behalf of planet Earth. **Meet at Gathering Place**

Bringing Dialogue on Racism to your Community

Lynn Newsom and Steve Newsom

Learn how to use the DVD "Cracking the Codes: The System of Racial Inequity," a film by Shakti Butler, in your community to promote dialogue and increase understanding among diverse racial groups. The format will be experiential, using excerpts of the film to facilitate discussion.

Henrita 106

Building Beds, Building Community

Debbi Rasmussen and Michael Koppy

In 2014-15 the Steve O'Neil apartments were completed in Duluth, MN, providing housing for homeless families. Duluth-Superior Friends offered to build sixty-nine beds for the apartments. Through slides and discussion, we'll share our joy in working together, learning new skills and discovering the surprising gifts of hands-on community service. **Ardolf 105**

Curious About Couple Enrichment?

Gretta Stone and Jacob Stone

Join us for an informal demonstration and discussion of Friends Couple Enrichment programs. Learn how these programs can deepen and enhance couple relationships and enrich your meeting community. All are welcome; no partner required. **Brian: Lower Level East Lounge**

Death, the Prequel

Stasa Morgan-Appel

We all know we should do our end-of-life-planning paperwork. But it's not that simple. Together, using experiential exercises, worship-sharing, discussion, support, tenderness, worship, and laughter, we'll explore that hump we have to get over first. Based on Stasa's work with BrYM's Quaker Concern Around Dying and Death. **BAC 106**

Deepening in the Life of the Spirit

Rachel Ernst Stahlhut

FGC's Spiritual Deepening Program invites Friends to go deeper into relationship with each other and with Spirit, through grounding in Quaker roots, sharing spiritual stories, and exploring spiritual practices. Come participate in exercises from the program and learn how to bring it to your meeting this fall. **BAC: Family Theater**

Experiencing the Power of Spirit

Marcelle Martin

Helping Friends experience the Power of the Spirit is key to revitalizing meetings. We'll review many ways that Friends open to and join with God's presence and activity. We'll do an exercise together and reflect on moving beyond belief into experience. **BAC 104**

Experiment with Light Network in the U.S.

Lois Yellowthunder

Explore the idea of forming an Experiment with Light Network in the United States, similar to the EwL Network in Britain. EwL is a meditation practice developed by Rex Ambler (who is a plenary speaker at this Gathering) based on his study of early Friends' writings. **Ardolf 142**

FCNL: Civil Discourse in Uncivil Times

Christine Ashley and Riley Robinson

FCNL will talk to anybody in Congress about the causes we work on, even those who are spouting Islamophobia rhetoric, or lobbying to keep Syrian refugees out? Sometimes love can feel hard, where we have to remember that we don't have to like or agree with someone, to love them. **Ardolf 107**

Friends' Callings on Climate Change

Shelley Tanenbaum and Judy Lumb

Apres Paris and despues Pisac - The most far-reaching international agreement on climate change was reached in Paris late last year and two months later the world gathering of Friends in Pisac issued a statement on environmental sustainability. What are Friends called to do? How can we support each other? **Gorecki Center 2014C**

Good news on equality for Friends

George Lakey

George Lakey will share results from his research on the Nordic economic model. He will showcase how the once-poverty-stricken Swedes, Danes, Icelanders and Norwegians virtually abolished poverty and dramatically narrowed their wealth gap, while also increasing individual freedoms, and discuss possible lessons for the U.S. **Henrita 128B**

Is membership compatible with Friends' values

Joe Ossmann

A facilitated discussion of concerns that the practice of membership in Friends meetings is incompatible with our values. How is it divisive, classist, and contrary to equality, community, and simplicity? Is it even sacramental? Can we have a society in which we are all just friends? **BAC 107**

Israel/Palestine: Economic activism for peace

Lucy Duncan and Jennifer Bing

Learn about the current political context in Israel-Palestine, the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions call from Palestinian civil society organizations, the impact this tactic is having on the discourse, and how you can join in. Discuss how the Quaker Palestine Israel Network (QPIN) is building the movement among Friends to support peace. **Henrita 117**

John Calvi Reads His Journals

John Calvi

John Calvi's 2nd book "How Far Have You Traveled?" reveals how a sense of ones goodness brings new strength and depth to spiritual life, work, and healing. Reading from his journals, John will share the essence of this next book in progress. **Henrita 107**

Peace Works Story Circle – Share story AFSC Story

Lucy Duncan and Tony Heriza

Since 1917, AFSC has provided avenues for people to work for peace and justice accros the globe. In this interest section, we will share moments and experiences and then craft them into stories to add to the Peace Works web site. We need your stories to tell our story. **Henrita 119**

Prisoner Visitation and Support

Jerry Knutson

Prisoner Visitation and Support (PVS), a Quaker organization, provides monthly visits to Prisoners nationwide.

Visitors meet monthly with several prisoners for about an hour/prisoner. Many prisoners, incarcerated for decades, have never had a visit.

Information about PVS and a video will be presented. **BAC 131**

Public, equal education for all

John Fletcher and Gail Fletcher

The following topics will be introduced as a framework for sharing and discussion by attenders.

- 1) Sharing views on the importance of equal public education
- 2) Comments and experiences with desegregation and integration.
- 3) Views on current trends in public education. **Henrita 002**

Quaker Cloud

Erin Mullaney and Chris Pifer

This Interest Group is intended to share the services of the Quaker Cloud - a web toolkit for meetings looking to reach seekers, members, and attenders on the web. **Henrita 101**

Quaker Indian Boarding Schools: Facing our History

Paula Palmer

Why did 19th century Friends collaborate in the federal government's policy of forced assimilation of Native children? What was their experience in the Quaker Indian boarding schools? What does this history mean to Friends and to Native Americans today? Cadbury Scholar Paula Palmer gives slide presentation followed by worship sharing. **BAC 109**

Quaker Voluntary Service

Liz Nicholson

Quaker Voluntary Service is an experiment at the intersection of transformational spirituality and activism, a year-long program for young adults. This is an opportunity to find out more about what is going on in QVS today, and learn how to get involved, and perhaps bring QVS to your city! **Henrita 121**

QuakerSpeak

Sara Waxman and Gabe Ehri

Join Friends Journal for a special screening of QuakerSpeak! Explore videos watched worldwide nearly a million times on YouTube, including never-before-seen footage. QuakerSpeak's personal, intimate interviews offer an experience of Quakerism that is entertaining, informative, inspiring, challenging, inviting, unifying and collaborative. The director Jon Watts will Skype in for questions. **Henrita 102B**

Right Sharing of World Resources

Jacqueline Stillwell and Bruce Birchard

Right Sharing of World Resources works for equity through partnership with people throughout the world. Experience stories of newly empowered women micro-entrepreneurs in Africa and India. What does the "power of enough" mean for me personally and for the planet.

www.rswr.org **Ardolf 121**

Sparkling Still: Social Justice and First Day School

Sally Farneth Anne Collins, Erika Mittag, and Susan Hopkins

The Sparkling Still First Day School (FDS) model uses quality children's literature relevant to Quakers, Quaker history and testimonies to create FDS lessons for children ages 3 - 10.

Participants will be led in the process of creating FDS plans, using provided storybooks. The leaders will review SS teacher resources. **Henrita 012**

The Holocaust: A deeply personal pilgrimage

Arthur Fink

Spending a week at Auschwitz / Birkenau helped me connect with the Holocaust in a deeply personal way. I want to share my experience -- in stories and images -- to nourish rich discussion and worship sharing.

This will NOT be a confrontational session focusing on the horrors. **Henrita 120**

The Table

Kirsten Ebsen

Read-through of a draft of stage play about Catherine Evans and Sarah Cheevers while held at Inquisitor's Prison at Malta (1659-62). Faithful and Brave, they were Humble only towards God. Their spirits were never completely broken, though often close to death from neglect and psychological violence. Readers & listeners needed. **Ardolf 104**

Theological Diversity Among Friends

John Hunter

In the past theological diversity was feared as the painful wedge driving religious schism. Friends have the opportunity to recognize the fact of such diversity as a great strength for Quakers. Short presentation followed by structured, safe, personal sharing in small groups leading to a supportive, accepting, and validating experience. **BAC: Recital Hall**

TO Face IT

s. Lupe Guinier- Family

GOALS

To Expand on the Minute asking Friends to be more involved in Exploring and Undoing Racism.

To gather folks who interested in literature.

To discover how READ ALOUDS and prompts for discussion allow us to understand our interest in novels and characters as models for our lives. **BAC 108**

Where are all the White People?

Richie Schulz and Greg Elliott

An introduction to Showing Up for Racial Justice-Faith. SURJ-Faith is a network of predominately white people organizing and mobilizing around issues related to racial justice and white supremacy. This workshop will cover some of the principles of SURJ and discuss ways that Friends can "show up" for racial justice. **Henrita 118**

YUIR and Freedom School: Why Are People Poor

Lucy Duncan and Diaddigo-Cash

Poverty is often seen as failure. What if we analyze the systems that lead to poverty, and that poverty is a structural support of our economic system? We will take off layers of masks and undo assumptions upon which we've relied for an easy understanding about social inequality.

Ardolf 127