

2013 Yearly Meeting Program Sessions and Speakers

Plenary Session: Thursday, 7:00 – 8:30 pm, August 1

Stephen Potthoff: “Dreaming and the Natural World in the Lives of Early Friends”

Stephen Potthoff has been teaching in the Religion and Philosophy Department at Wilmington College since 2003, and spent his sabbatical year 2011-2012 as the Cadbury Scholar at Pendle Hill working on a book manuscript on dreams and ecospirituality. In his plenary address, he will be sharing material, insights, and inspiration from his Pendle Hill research on dreaming and visionary experience in the lives of early Friends.

Plenary Session: Friday, 7:00 – 8:30 pm, August 2

Maurine Pyle: “Opening and Hearing Our Stories”

Our lives are stories individually and collectively, woven together in our meetings for worship. Who are the Friends today? Where did we come from and where are we going? Let us begin by opening our hearts and listening deeply to what is hidden in each of our stories. The answers lie within our memories and spiritual journeys.

Maurine Pyle was born into a family of storytellers in Louisiana and enjoys listening to stories of spiritual journeys. She is a recorded minister of Southern Illinois Quaker Meeting in Carbondale, Illinois, a small meeting which supports her traveling ministry among the branches of Friends. As a graduate student in Linguistics at Southern Illinois University she became interested in the peculiar language of the Quakers, and this has led her to conduct a study of contemporary Quaker use of the metaphor.

Her story is that she has served as a monthly meeting clerk, yearly meeting clerk and field secretary. She has two adult sons, a large tribe of relations and many friends. She believes that her spiritual past has been guided by the Light of Christ and wonderful wise elders she has encountered along the way.

Workshop Wednesday, 1 – 2 pm, July 31

Friendly Adult Presence (FAP) training

This program is for adults wishing to volunteer to work with children in OYVM programs, and includes information from a spiritual and legal perspective.

Workshops: Thursday 1:45 – 3:15 pm, August 1

1. Rod Dixon – The End of the World as We Know It: Engaging Revelation with Early Friends

Readers sometimes have two extreme responses to the final book of the New Testament. The first is to obsess over it as a source for end-time speculation. The second, often as much a reaction to the excesses of the first as the text itself, is to ignore it entirely. This workshop will seek to introduce a more balanced approach to reading The Revelation using the insights of early Friends, who saw it as having both

personal and social dimensions. We will review the book's history and major themes, explore ways early Friends interpreted the text, and utilize the Friendly Bible Study Method to experience how we can engage the text in the present day. Attendees are encouraged to bring a Bible.

2. Ruth Dobyns—Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow: How Wilmington College Prepares Students to Live as Friends

Beginning with Benjamin Trueblood's statement as the 2nd President of Wilmington College (1874-1879) that "knowledge is for use and not merely for display," continuing to Sterling Olmsted's claim that Wilmington College prepares "practical idealists" during his tenure as Dean (1970s-1980s), to current President Jim Reynolds' desire to send Wilmington College students out into the world as "liberally educated professionals," education and Friends values have been intertwined throughout the College's history. This walk through the College's history will illustrate how the "practical idealists" of Wilmington College take the values of Friends with them out into the world.

Ruth M. Brindle Dobyns is curator of the Quaker Heritage Center, secretary of the Ohio Local History Alliance, and coordinator of the Westheimer Peace Symposium.

3. Anita Paul—Spiritual Opportunities of Aging

The last third of life is the time to focus more than we have on our spiritual life, to explore new avenues of self discovery, to dig deeper. The last third of life will also require of us spiritual fortitude as we negotiate as many changes as we experienced in the first third. Today is the only time we have to prepare for the loss and change that is inevitable in our tomorrow.

Anita Paul is a coordinator for NYYM's ARCH program (Aging Resources, Consultation and Help), serving seniors and disabled adults in NYYM, their families and Meetings. Anita has been a training designer and facilitator for over 30 years.

4. Maurine Pyle-- Laboring in Love

Friends have a valuable role model in John Woolman for learning how to listen deeply to our conflicts. He did not come to judge other Friends, but to labor with them in love over the divisive issue of slavery. In our times we are also struggling over social issues that divide us into different camps. This workshop will provide opportunities to practice deep listening and to appreciate the challenges we face today in our meetings. How can we remain Friends in difficult times?

5. Silent Worship

Friends are invited to gather, reflect, and share in a time of worship at T. Canby Jones Meetinghouse.

Workshops: Friday, 1:45 – 3:15 pm, August 2

6. Paul Buckley—The Challenge of Elias Hicks for 21st-Century Hicksites

In this workshop we will first consider what Elias Hicks had to say about our relationship with God, how we make a living, and our involvement with civil governments. The rest of our time will be spent reflecting on how we respond to the challenges this presents to 21st-century Friends.

Paul Buckley from Community Friends Meeting is known among Friends of all stripes for his workshops, short courses, and retreats and teaches occasionally at the Earlham School of Religion. Paul has written books on William Penn and Elias Hicks, and feels most comfortable with the 17th and 19th centuries. He also has a great interest in how Quakers read scripture, authored a widely-used pamphlet on the Lord's Prayer, and co-edited *The Quaker Bible Reader* with Stephen Angell. In addition, he has written several dozen articles on modern Quaker faith and practice.

7. Bill Cahalan-- Grounding Our Faith: Contemplative Work with the Land

How will Friends face the growing global Earth crisis in the coming years and decades? Working with our neighbors as we reconnect with our natural sources, such as soil, seed, and water, can open us to Spirit in each other and in the rest of creation. This grounds us literally and spiritually for the essential political activism we are called to as well. We will explore a contemplative work practice that immerses us in Earth process, including birth and death, rather than mainly seeking to transcend it.

Bill Cahalan is clerk of OYVM Earthcare committee, and has been our representative to Quaker Earthcare Witness. He works to grow a sustainable food economy in his regions, and with soil conservation in his neighborhood CSA project. He wrote the booklet *Belonging to Life: From Ecological Vision to Grounded Faith*.

8. Deborah Jordan—Moving with the Spirit: the Practice of Yoga

Yoga is an ancient spiritual tradition that can be useful for our stressful and/or sedentary lives today. Compatible with Quakerism's sense of deep listening and continuing revelation, yoga brings together body, mind, and spirit through movement, centering, and breath. We will have an opportunity to explore this practice in the company of Friends. Wear comfortable clothes, suitable for stretching. Bring a yoga mat if you can. Deborah Jordan has been practicing yoga regularly for 8 years, less regularly for many years before that. She recently completed her 200 RYT (teacher) training. She has found yoga to be an important practice in helping find balance on her spiritual path.

9. Stephen Potthoff-- Dream as Healing Path

The workshop will expand experientially on my talk about dreams among early Friends. I will introduce various dream work techniques we will work with in the workshop.

Participants are invited and encouraged to come bearing a dream or dreams they would like to work with and possibly share with others in the group.

Stephen Potthoff teaches in the Religion and Philosophy Department at Wilmington College, where he offers a course on Dreams and World Mythology. He has also led dream workshops at Pendle Hill and the Friends Conference on Religion and Psychology.

10. Rex Sprouse-- Listening for Divine Guidance in Meeting for Business

The purpose of the workshop is to lift up the Quaker belief and practice regarding meeting for business. We will begin with a few selected quotes about reliance on Divine Guidance during Quaker business meeting from George Fox through Mathilda Navias. After a discussion of participants' hopes for, ideals about, and actual experience of Quaker meeting for business, the facilitator will present practices that have served Friends well in conducting meeting for business. We will then move to role play and/or small-group discussion of hypothetical business meeting scenarios.

Rex Sprouse will serve as leader. Rex currently serves as Clerk of Fall Creek Friends Meeting, as Clerk of Whitewater Quarterly Meeting, as Co-Clerk of OVYM's Faith and Practice Committee, as a member of OVYM's Religious Nurture and Education Committee, as a member of FGC's Central Committee, and as a member of FGC's Committee for Nurturing Ministries. Diann Herzog will serve as elder. Diann currently serves as Clerk of Fall Creek Friends Meeting's Ministry and Counsel Committee and as Clerk of OVYM's Religious Nurture and Education Committee.

Intergenerational Service Project

Wednesday, July 31, 10 am – 2 pm

OVYM Annual Sessions will begin with an intergenerational work project for the third year. We now have a tradition established that gets bigger and better each year. We can't do much about the hot weather in July and August but we have been able to keep this project close to Wilmington College – right on the campus!

The Grow Food Grow Hope program maintains a 40-plot Friends of Hope Community Garden on the Wilmington College campus, giving families the location, the education and the assistance needed for them to grow their own produce. The goal is to help families establish their own backyard gardens as well as school yard gardens and other community gardens. It all results in healthier living.

We will be meeting with Tony Staubach, Project Manager, at 10:00 am on Wednesday, July 31st. We'll help with any work that needs to be done so wear old clothes and bring your lunch and something to drink. All ages are welcome, and encouraged, to join in. We'll learn about Grow Food Grow Hope and get to know each other better.

We'll finish up at 2:00 pm, an hour earlier than last year so that everyone can register and settle into their rooms. If you'd like to learn more about Grow Food Grow Hope please visit their website: www.growfoodgrowshope.com.