

**INTERMOUNTAIN YEARLY MEETING**  
**35th Annual Gathering**  
***"Telling Our Stories: Where is God in all This?"***  
**June 7 - 14, 2009**  
**Ghost Ranch**  
**Abiquiu, New Mexico**

**CALL TO INTERMOUNTAIN YEARLY MEETING**

Dear Friends,

"Telling Our Stories: Where is God in All This?" will be our theme for IMYM 2009 and Lucy Duncan, FGC staff and story teller, will be our guest. I hope that you will join us for worship, fellowship and listening to and telling each other the stories that have deepened our sense of the Spirit. Lucy will lead an Early Days workshop to help those who choose, explore and prepare some of these stories. Lucy and a few of those participating in the workshop, will then share stories with the Yearly Meeting as a whole.

One of my stories about my relationship with God, is the story of the wonderful community of Friends known as IMYM which has nurtured me most of my life and become my spiritual family. I hope you will become part of this story as we seek together, eat, sing, play, learn and study together, and grow as a community.

A friend recently quoted to me: "without love there are no stories and no dreams". Please bring your love and your stories and dreams. Please bring your tender, listening hearts. Please come prepared to transform and be transformed. Do not let finances or other barriers keep you away. Speak with your Meeting or communicate directly with us if you need assistance to participate so that we can try to provide the necessary support.

Penny Thron-Weber, Clerk

**CALL TO CHILDREN'S YEARLY MEETING**

This year, as last year, we are striving to thoughtfully knit the Children's Yearly Meeting (CYM) into the fabric of IMYM activities and concerns. We have designed each evening as an opportunity for our whole community to come together and enjoy playing together. On Thursday we will sing around the campfire. On Friday we will dance to the live music of the Sandia Hots and caller Richard Wilson. On Saturday we will share our talents and learn a bit about what has happened among different groups of Friends at Yearly Meeting. In addition to the evenings, CYM offers an opportunity for all ages to have fun and play throughout each day. Swimming will be from 1:15-2:15 each day (volunteers are always welcome), and CYM will participate in intergenerational Interest Groups (look for the sewing project and the Color Exchange). During the early days we provide care and activities in the mornings (when adult workshops are scheduled) and encourage families to play and nap together in the afternoons and evenings (no care or activities are scheduled). We look forward to welcoming the youngest among us to Children's Yearly Meeting 2009.

Valerie Ireland, Coordinator of CYM

**CALL TO JUNIOR YOUNG FRIENDS YEARLY MEETING**

Come to IMYM! IMYM gives you opportunities to meet new people, as well as see old friends, while learning about yourself and each other in the process.

If you've been to IMYM before: What was it like your first year at IMYM – or at least the first year you can remember? How has it changed? What is your best memory from IMYM or Ghost Ranch? And how many acronyms can JYF/IMYM have?

This year the theme of IMYM is our spiritual stories! We're going to be sharing our spiritual stories

with each other and discover who we are. During the early days, our keynote speaker Lucy Duncan will be running a three day workshop on our spiritual stories, and this workshop will be open to JYF's who choose it, and one of them may be chosen to tell their own story during Lucy's keynote address – and the JYF's will be there to hear it! We will also be sharing our own spiritual stories with each other throughout the week, and we will discover about ourselves and each other. And if you come for the early days, we'll be climbing the Pedernal – a high mountain you can see from Ghost Ranch - on Monday, and going on a horse back ride on Wednesday!

Make sure you bring your creative ideas, your sleeping bags and ground mat, bug spray, sunscreen and a hat. You can also bring some spare change for the cantina. Bring stories about yourself that have to do with your experiences of spirituality, and be ready to make some new stories!

UG2G2IMYM! (Or, if you are over 30, “You got to go to Intermountain Yearly Meeting!”)

Miranda Ireland, co-clerk – Boulder Monthly Meeting

Flora Quinby, recording clerk – Boulder Monthly Meeting

Adriana Puente-Reinhardt, regional rep – Tempe Monthly Meeting

Sabrina Birch, regional representative – Tempe Monthly Meeting

Mark Holdaway, adult facilitator – Pima Monthly Meeting

### **CALL TO SENIOR YOUNG FRIENDS YEARLY MEETING**

Once upon a time, there was a disparate tribe, spread across the rugged mountains of the West. Some of the tribe even live in exile as far as the barren, sunless wastes to the Northeast. Once a year, this tribe convenes in a sunny haven --- the mountains of New Mexico, at a mystic locale called Ghost Ranch, to battle the forces of darkness with our pacifist aggression. We call all Quaker adventurers to join us in our quest to sunbathe in the Light and massage away the tensions of the year. For your quest, you will require: white clothing to be spattered with the colors of Friendship; your bedroll and like equipment for nights (well, one) under the stars; sunblock to protect the fragile complexions of our Northern companions; a canteen to fight off dehydration during long treks in the wilderness; rations to share with your merry compatriots; songs and stories to share around the campfires; amusements to while away the lazy afternoons; swimming costume; and of course a cheerful countenance and desire for fellowship. The lands will be warded against: evil spirits, intoxicating substances (neither alcohol nor drugs), negative energy, potions and abnormal concoctions (no DEET or chemical fragrances, please), weapons of any sort, desires of the flesh, and electronic gadgetry. So hark: adventurers, troubadours, wanderers, vagabonds, storytellers and dreamers, seekers and valiant leaders, children of the Light; we have stories to tell, and Business Meetings of epic proportions to conduct.

Sarah Motz-Storey, Co-Clerk

Henry Easterling, Co-Clerk

### **CALL TO ADULT YOUNG FRIENDS YEARLY MEETING**

I am very moved and challenged by this year's InterMountain Yearly Meeting theme: *Telling Our Stories: Where is God in all This?* As a Young Adult Friend, I feel as though I am somewhere within the plot of an incomplete and unpredictable life story. Even trying to piece together the events and plot devices that have brought me to this moment in time feels confusing. I know several Young Adult Friends, myself included, who are struggling with leadings looming in our hearts like the monsters in children's storybooks, ready to gobble us up in the coming months or years. The plot of my story is about to change, and I can think of no better place to fortify myself to weather that storm than IMYM. I can't wait to sing, dance, play, hike, reflect, and worship with some of my best friends in the whole world, the IMYM YAFs! This is why I come to IMYM: to become both grounded and energized, to engage in a loving community, and to remind myself that I really can handle whatever plot twist God puts in my path. How about you?

What can we look forward to in the land of Young Adult Friends (YAFs) this year? In the character of the last several years, we are leaving things relatively unplanned, to allow ourselves to move with the Spirit.

We are vehemently inclusive, so although it is typically Friends in their 20's-30's who define themselves as "YAF," it's completely up to you – if you *feel* like a YAF, then you are welcome to join us! If you would like to share a dorm with other YAFs, there will be a YAF housing option so select in the registration packet. Last year we enjoyed a high ropes course experience during early days, many hikes throughout the Ghost Ranch trail system, evening worship sessions, music-making, sun-bathing, and sleeping out under the stars. Whatever combination of those or other activities we choose to entertain is up to us. Be prepared for warm (and often windy) days, and chilly nights (mid 40's). Even if you don't want to camp out, an extra blanket or sleeping bag can be nice!

As I warmly welcome you to IMYM this year, whether for the first time or the fifteenth, I invite you to join in a telling and hearing of stories. Let us bring forth the unfinished manuscripts from our minds, hearts, and spirits, no matter how unedited they are, and share those stories with one another. Let us revel in the beautiful and joyful parts, cry together for the tragedies, grip each other during the suspenseful, scary moments, bend under the collective weight of burdens, and laugh 'til our bellies ache at the jokes, comedic mishaps, and bloopers in our stories. And let us discover that of God in one another, our lives, our stories.

Our YAF coordinator William Alsup will be glad to address any questions, concerns, or ideas you may have prior to IMYM. Contact him at (314) 757-1030 or <pennswoods@earthlink.net>. See you in June!

In the Light,  
Andrew Banks

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

Please use the **imym.org** website after March 3 to find forms and information mentioned in this packet or contact your meeting's IMYM representative for a paper copy. There is more information on Ghost Ranch at [www.ghostranch.org/](http://www.ghostranch.org/).

No pets are allowed at Ghost Ranch. No illegal drugs or substances should be brought to Ghost Ranch in accordance with our commitment to them. Radio reception is very poor. Cell phones often don't work. Phone cards are sold at the gift shop and can be used at a phone outside the GR office. Internet access is available at the computer lab and wi-fi at selected locations. "Quiet" and "Lights Out" are at 10:00 pm.

#### **Every individual attending must submit a separate registration form.**

There are separate registration forms for adults and for Young Friends. There are also permission forms required for Young Friends. The Registration Checklist and the Adult Registration Form will help you complete the YF registration and permission forms, or ask the registrars at <imymregistrar2009@gmail.com> or by phone: Joanne Cowan, 303 444-0117 or Paula VanDusen, 303 756-9507

#### **Registration forms must be post-marked by April 20 or they will be considered late.**

Registrations post-marked after April 20 may be accepted at the discretion of the Registrars. Housing for late registrants may **not** be available and commuting may be necessary. We request a \$25 late fee per group to defray the expenses of late processing.

Make your check payable to IMYM for the full payment including the \$60 registration fee per adult. We ask everyone requesting financial assistance to pay their own registration fee.

Mail the completed registration(s) along with all appropriate attachments and payment **by April 20** to:

**Paula VanDusen, 2560 S. Jackson St., Denver, CO 80210.**

Your registration will be acknowledged.

## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

### Minute from Continuing Committee:

**”Friends are reminded of the availability of fellowship funds at the Monthly and Yearly Meeting levels; it is the intent and desire of IMYM that financial considerations not be a barrier to attendance of Friends at IMYM.” (CC-2008-09)**

Lack of funds should not prevent any member or active attender from attending IMYM. Everyone’s participation in the life of Yearly Meeting is what gives it strength of being.

If your Monthly Meeting has scholarship aid, it provides you with a check to IMYM for partial or full payment. Include that check with your registration submission. If the Meeting cannot fund the full amount you need, they will also provide a letter asking that the rest be supplied from the IMYM Scholarship Fund. Please include this letter with your registration. Information on each individual's scholarship is confidential.

## REFUND POLICY

The \$60 registration fee is NOT refundable. However, all other fees will be refunded if the registrar receives a cancellation notice on or before May 8. Normally there are no refunds for housing or meals for Friends who arrive late or who leave early. In exceptional cases, any refund will be mailed after Yearly Meeting concludes.

## ABOUT WORSHIP SHARING

Worship sharing is one of the highlights of IMYM for many Friends. Small groups gather with a leader, who may suggest a topic or allow one to arise from the group. All adults attending Yearly Meeting are assigned to one of the morning worship groups. The same group meets together every morning immediately after breakfast on Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Daily attendance promotes spiritual growth and community and often provides a spiritual home during Yearly Meeting.

Friends are also encouraged to participate in Intergenerational Worship Sharing immediately after lunch on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. This is the time our youth can reach out and inform us.

Indicate the kind of group(s) you prefer on the Registration Form. If you have concerns about being assigned to specific locations (such as being near the Children’s program or campsites), indicate that in the box “Tell the Registrars” on the last page of the registration form. Adults who do not indicate a preference are assigned to traditional outside worship sharing groups. If you will not attend a morning Worship Sharing group, please note this in “Tell the Registrars” so they won't assign you to a group.

## HOUSING

The housing fees include three meals a day -- **this is not optional**. Each “day” consists of dinner, housing that night, and breakfast and lunch the next day. Meal tickets necessary for early arrivals may be purchased from the Ghost Ranch office. Children under 13 years of age are charged half price on housing and meals, and there are no charges for children 3 years of age and under.

The fee for campers does NOT include meals. (See below.)

Friends with mobility impairment should not request to stay on the mesa due to the steep quarter- to half-mile walk down to most meeting rooms and the dining hall.

Housing types and prices are determined by the bathroom arrangements for each room. The registrars will do their best to provide the lowest occupancy of each room, but because we require almost every bed at GR, there is no guarantee of a private room if you select a private bath.

- Shared bath: multi shower facility (separate men’s and women’s) shared by multiple sleeping rooms.
- Semi-private bath: located between two sleeping rooms; each room has access to the bathroom.
- Private bath: a bathroom accessible from one sleeping room only

Lower Level

Lower level housing is in 14 buildings with 64 rooms; private, semi-private and shared or dorm-style bathrooms. All meals are included and linens and towels are provided. Several rooms in one of the buildings are large and will be assigned to families with young children. Certain rooms are disabled-accessible including ramps and bathrooms; there are a limited number of rooms with private, ADA bath facilities, and preference will be given to those with medical need. Please indicate your requirements on the registration form.

	<u>Lower Level Cost</u>
shared bath	\$68 per person per day, including meals
semi-private bath	\$76 per person per day, including meals
private bath	\$88 per person per day, including meals

New Mesa

Two newly constructed buildings with modern, well-furnished rooms with overhead fans and private bathrooms. Some adjoining rooms can be assigned as suites for families, and each building has one ADA room. There is an ice machine, laundry, and nearby parking. There is a steep quarter- to a half-mile walk down to most meeting rooms and the dining hall. We ask that you please park your car and do not use it for transport.

	<u>New Mesa Cost</u>
All private bath	\$88 per person per day, including meals.

Old Mesa

8 buildings with 48 summer-style rooms with bunkbeds and dorm-style bath facilities. Most rooms have sinks. All buildings have toilets and some have showers. A laundry room is nearby. Linens and towels are provided. There is a steep quarter- to a half-mile steep walk to most meeting rooms and the dining hall.

	<u>Old Mesa Cost</u>
Dorm	\$56 per person per day, including meals

Staff House

Staff House is reserved for Senior Young Friends housing. (Casitas are no longer available.) Staff House provides 22 rooms, most with 2 beds each, and 4 common bathroom-showers.

	<u>SYF Cost</u>
All shared baths	\$48 per person per day, including meals

**CAMPING (TENTS AND RVS)**

Upon arrival, campers must first check-in with IMYM Registration and after that with the Campground Host (located at the entrance to the campground), where you will select your campsite.

The campground has 32 tent sites, each limited to two tents. If two families/groups are sharing a site, please indicate this on your registration forms. Only one fee is required per site. The number of tent campers is limited to 120. There are 9 large RV sites and 10 small RV sites; the total number of persons in RVs is limited to 114.

Toilets, showers, ice machines and laundry rooms are located in the camping area. There is a bulletin board for messages and communication within the campground. Be sure to bring sturdy tents; strong and destructive winds are possible. Consider bringing a screened shade shelter to provide protection at your campsite from both bugs and the high altitude sun.

Campers may take meals in the dining hall. The cost of these meals is not included in the campground fees. The specific meals each camper will purchase in the dining hall must be indicated on the Registration Form and paid with your registration.

#### Campground Cost

Tent site \$19 per site per day

RV site \$29 per site per day

Optional: electrical hookup \$3 per day

#### **DINING HALL FOOD SERVICE:**

Breakfast - \$6.50: Hot food is served from 7:30-8:00

Cold items are also available from 7:00-8:30

Lunch \$8.00: Served 12:00-12:30

Dinner - \$10.00: Served 5:30-6:15

#### **MEAL AND FOOD PREFERENCES/SPECIAL NEEDS**

Ghost Ranch provides entrée selections at each meal for vegans, vegetarians, and omnivores. Soy milk, and a salad or breakfast bar with a variety of selections are available at each meal. A vegan selection will also be available at lunch and dinner. **Please note:** When you select the Vegan, Vegetarian or Omnivore option as you register, you are selecting for every meal you have ordered for every day you are in attendance. Different members of the same group/family can chose different options.

Friends with special dietary considerations — special foods, special supplements, allergies — can bring their own food with them. There are several refrigerators available for multi-day storage, and there is ice for personal coolers at the GR HQ and the kitchen, but there are limited facilities for preparing hot foods. Contact Susan Wiley, IMYM Special Needs Coordinator and Kitchen Liaison, to make arrangements in advance. Send her an email ([swiley@socorromentalhealth.org](mailto:swiley@socorromentalhealth.org)) and include IMYM in the subject line.

Friends are asked to direct concerns about food only to Susan Wiley (please try not to contact her during mealtimes). Susan is the only IMYM person authorized to discuss concerns with the kitchen staff.

#### **PERSONS WITH DIFFERING ABILITIES**

Children and adults with disabilities are welcome at Ghost Ranch. Barriers are being continuously identified, and Ghost Ranch is much more accessible than in the past. Wheelchair-accessible bedrooms and bathrooms, special diets, and hearing equipment, as well as other facilities, are available. Private automobiles may be used for non-walkers and golf carts are available. Indicate your disability information on the Registration Form or describe your particular requirements in a note accompanying your registration. Eligible persons with disabilities may help themselves and others by volunteering to be a golf cart driver (see next section). Contact:

## **VOLUNTEERING AT IMYM**

Our gathering is spirit led and volunteered powered. Volunteers run IMYM.

Your help in any area would be much appreciated and will enrich your experience. Please indicate on the registration form what you CAN do as a volunteer -- we need help with ALL JOBS. If you have questions about what is required, contact that job coordinator (see below). You will be contacted by the coordinator of your assigned job before YM begins.

### **Worship Sharing Groups**

You will be notified if you are assigned to be a worship sharing leader and you must attend a brief orientation for worship sharing group leaders in the Lower Pavilion Wednesday afternoon at 4:10 pm. If you have questions, contact Steve Finger, Worship Sharing Group Convener, [stevencfn@aol.com](mailto:stevencfn@aol.com) (928) 522-0535.

### **Children's Yearly Meeting**

We are in need of volunteers to make CYM a success for our kids! Please look at our CYM schedule and sign up on the volunteer list for the section of the day you are available and interested in. Volunteers are asked to be interactive with the kids, and show great curiosity and role modeling for the children.

**Volunteers are especially needed during swimming times, 1:15-2:30 Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday so we can have the best adult:child ratio possible for safety reasons.**

If you have a talent to share, or a story to tell, if you enjoy holding babies or cuddling / running after toddlers, if you enjoy reading books out loud or playing tag or splashing around in the swimming pool, then CYM would love your volunteer energy! Come share your Light with the youngest Friends, and enrich your Yearly Meeting experience. Children's Yearly Meeting is located near the Dining Room, so it is accessible to Friends of all ages who can help. We especially encourage Friends without young children to volunteer so that parents with young children have an opportunity to volunteer for other kinds of activities. We hope to be able to confirm with you prior to arrival at Ghost Ranch as part of our effort to coordinate volunteers so that you can choose your volunteer hours at times that work for you in the IMYM schedule. Contact Valerie Ireland at [vireland@comcast.net](mailto:vireland@comcast.net) or (303) 657-8238 with questions.

### **Junior Young Friends**

JYF'ers are a lively, smart, funny and creative group who like being with each other, and who are respectful of adults. Support people are needed for all activities – to serve as extra hands, extra eyes and extra hearts to enjoy and nurture this great age group. Volunteering for even just one activity will add a very special dimension to your IMYM experience. Contact Mark Holdaway at [mark@markholdaway.com](mailto:mark@markholdaway.com) or (520) 881-4666 with questions.

### **Registration**

Registrars need help both for the Early Days and for Regular Days. Especially busy times are Sunday and Wednesday afternoons and evening. Contact Joanne Cowan at [imymregistrar2009@gmail.com](mailto:imymregistrar2009@gmail.com) or 303-444-0117 with any questions.

### **Set up IMYM on arrival Sunday and take-down on departure Saturday and Sunday/Operations**

Those who can arrive after lunch on arrival-Sunday or leave an hour or two after lunch on departure-Sunday are

needed to put up and take down bulletin boards, signs and other IMYM supplies, and to help transport them in and out of storage. Chairs must be borrowed from various places around GR, and returned. Some of the take down work can be done on Saturday or early Sunday. If you have one of the shorter drives, Denver, Albuquerque, Las Cruces, Silver City, Flagstaff or Santa Fe, this is a good place to volunteer. Contact Eileen Haney at eileen-haney@cox.net or (520) 248-4670 with questions.

### **Golf Carts**

Drivers must be at least 21 years of age. This year we expect to have separate morning and afternoon drivers, so drivers will have time to eat lunch. Please include the Golf Cart Driver Volunteer Form with your registration. Upon arrival at Ghost Ranch, you must provide a copy of your driver's license and complete a Ghost Ranch liability release form. Contact Eileen Haney at eileen-haney@cox.net or (520) 248-4670 with questions.

### **Lower Pavilion Volunteers/ AV Volunteers**

One person per event is needed to gather volunteers and work with clerks/conveners to prepare the Lower Pavilion prior to each gathering. Volunteers determine the seating configuration appropriate for the next event (theater style for plenary sessions or creativity night, circular for interest groups, etc.), arrange chairs, and, if needed and able, set up the microphones and amps. Requires remaining a few minutes after a session to assure arrangements for next event. Contact Eileen Haney at eileen-haney@cox.net or (520) 248-4670 with questions.

**Communications /Information Center** is located at Ghost House, adjacent to the Registration area. Friends familiar with Ghost Ranch and Yearly Meeting are needed to staff this area for almost all hours that we are meeting. Contact Joanne Cowan at imymregistrar2009@gmail.com or 303-444-0117 with questions.

### **Daily Bulletin**

A Daily Bulletin, with breaking news, scheduling changes, items for business, and other announcements, is posted daily at the dining hall, communications center, camp houses, and on bulletin boards. One or two editors who are familiar with Ghost Ranch and IMYM are needed one or two hours each night to create and distribute the bulletin. Contact Joanne Cowan at imymregistrar2009@gmail.com or 303-444-0117 with questions.

## **GETTING TO GHOST RANCH**

Ghost Ranch is located 65 miles northwest of Santa Fe (forty miles beyond Española) on U.S. 84. The Ghost Ranch office phone is (505) 685-4333 (that is also the number by which you can be contacted in an emergency).

Meal service is not available at Ghost Ranch after 6:30 pm. If you are staying in Ghost Ranch housing, dinner is included on the day of your indicated arrival. Plan to arrive in time to check in at the Registrar's office, find your room, and arrive at the dining hall by 6 pm for dinner your first night.

### **Arriving by air**

The nearest major airport is in Albuquerque, 125 miles south of Ghost Ranch. Several rental car agencies are located at the airport. The new Rail Runner provides connecting train service to Santa Fe (<http://www.nmrailrunner.com/schedule.asp>). See Carpooling for arranging rides to Ghost Ranch.

### **Carpooling to IMYM**

Pick up those along the way and spread the good carbon footprint beyond your own meeting. Bez Booth McCauley (bezbooth@comcast.net) is coordinating rides with those driving through Albuquerque, and Bob Gaines (gaines@comcast.net) for those passing through Santa Fe.

### **Driving Directions**

Santa Fe can be bypassed by taking the Santa Fe Relief Route, NM 599. The exit for 599 off I-25 occurs

immediately after the turnoff to Madrid and NM41. After bypassing Santa Fe, 599 joins US 84 and US 285, with signs to Espanola and the Santa Fe Opera. Take US 84 N all the way to Ghost Ranch. Follow the signs to Espanola, but just before getting to the center of Espanola, you must TURN LEFT to stay on US 84, which goes around downtown Espanola. (Do not go toward Taos!) Look for the signs to Chama. US 84 will take you past Abiquiu.

Fourteen miles past Abiquiu, look for the Ghost Ranch sign on the entrance gate on your right between mileposts 224 and 225. It is a well-marked dirt road. Drive slowly to minimize dust.

Another way of bypassing Santa Fe and Espanola is through the “back route” from Bernalillo, 16 miles north of Albuquerque. Take US550 to Cuba. About 4 to 7 miles past Cuba turn right on NM96 northward to La Jara, Regina, Gallina, Coyote, Youngsville and the Abiquiu Dam. US84 is across the Dam and up the hill. Turn left on US84 and proceed 3 miles to the Ghost Ranch entrance.

We suggest that the quickest route for those driving from the Front Range area, Colorado, is south on Interstate 25 to Walsenburg, west on US160 over La Veta Pass to Alamosa, south on SR17/US185 to Antonito, then southwest to Chama on SR17. From Chama continue south on US 84. The GR entrance is on your left between mileposts 224 and 225, 36 miles south of Chama.

### UPON ARRIVAL AT GHOST RANCH

Follow the signs that point to IMYM and park in front of the Ghost Ranch office building. Then walk up the road to Ghost House where you will pick up your room assignment and welcome materials. Early Days registration begins June 7, at 1 PM. Registration will be open Sunday through Wednesday and as needed through the week.

### Early Days Seminar Descriptions

Early Day Seminars take place on Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday. Most take place in the morning, leaving afternoons free. If you have questions regarding seminars, contact the Interest Group organizers, Joann or Rob Pierson ([jpierson@aptec.com](mailto:jpierson@aptec.com), [piersro@earlham.edu](mailto:piersro@earlham.edu))

<b>EARLY DAYS Seminar Name &amp; Description</b>
<b>SESSIONS STARTING MONDAY</b>
<p><b>(1a) Lessons from the Inward Teacher: Telling Our Spiritual Stories</b> (Lucy Duncan): <u>Monday a.m. and p.m. and Wednesday a.m.</u> Our keynote speaker will teach participants a way to listen deeply to one another’s stories. The workshop is open to both “storytellers” and “listeners.” Lucy will spend some time preparing the group for attentive, grounded listening – a process akin to the clearness process, where listening opens up the story for the teller and helps them to discover the layers and meaning within. This process deepens connections, allows us to hear together the movement of the Spirit and gives voice to the workings of God among us. Each storyteller will have time to share a spiritual experience – that is, a time when they felt close to the divine, an encounter with a sense of opening and transcendence. This may be for one an experience with nature, for another a moment with a child, or a period of great sorrow, joy, or transition. ***Note there are two sessions – sign up for one or the other. Session (1a) meets Monday. Session (1b) meets Tuesday, and storytellers (from both sessions) may re-gather on Wednesday should Lucy and the participants discern way to share some stories during the plenary. Each session is limited to 8 listeners and 7 storytellers – please indicate which you’ll be! Storytellers, please prepare an 8-15 minute story about a spiritual experience to tell to the group. Lucy will be in touch in advance with those who sign up for this workshop, with ideas to help prepare.</p>

## EARLY DAYS Seminar Name & Description

**(2a) Awakening the Soul / Qigong** (Cynthia Smith): Monday a.m. The knot in the heart is the feeling of smallness that we know as fear, shame or pain. It is slowly unraveled, so gently undone, setting the heart free to move once again. In the silence of the process beneath the feelings of smallness, within lies a wealth we find revealed. Our own understanding, compassion for ourselves is the foundation of a heart that is healed. Awakening the Soul consists of 8 movements that are done while sitting in a chair. It is a form that is easy for beginners and people of all ages and fitness. It is a fairly simple form so that most people will be able to master it within three hours, so they can practice it at home.

**(3a) The "What?" and "So What?" of the Bible** (Judith Streit): Monday a.m. What does a critical reading of the Bible by scholars bring to the discussion? Learn about the ways biblical scholars approach the text. Understand the difference between historical and literary readings. On Monday, we will begin with an overview of the Bible generally followed by insights into the interpretation of the Hebrew Bible and New Testament (see session 3b and 3c below). Sign up for one or all sessions. Bring your questions and your Bibles! Rob Pierson may also join us to bring some early Quaker perspectives on the Bible into the conversation.

**(4) Racism and White Privilege** (Pelican Lee & Lynn Andrews): Monday and Tuesday a.m. In their "Minute on Racism," New England Yearly Meeting writes: "Those of us who have grown up with a white identity in America have a particular challenge in that we have been conditioned not to notice the system of racism and white privilege. Our well-intentioned attempts at color blindness can have the unfortunate result of blinding us to the system of racism in which we unwittingly participate." We will explore what this means. Two day workshop.

**(5a) Extended Worship** (Paula Palmer): Monday a.m. Worship, the un-seminar. See also (5b),(5c).

## SESSIONS STARTING TUESDAY

**(1b) Lessons from the Inward Teacher: Telling Our Spiritual Stories** (Lucy Duncan): Tuesday a.m. and p.m. and Wednesday a.m. – SEE (1a); this is a second independent session on Tuesday morning and afternoon. The session is limited to 8 listeners and 7 storytellers.

**(2b) Awakening the Soul / Qigong** (Cynthia Smith): Tuesday a.m. This is a second independent session that meets on Tuesday.

**(3b) The "What?" and "So What?" of the Old Testament** - (Judith Streit): Tuesday a.m. See (3a). This Tuesday session is the second one in a sequence. Attend one or all.

**(5b) Extended Worship** (Paula Palmer): Tuesday a.m. Worship, the un-seminar.

**(6a) Music and the Brain = Creative Spirit** (Carolyn Kuban): Tuesday a.m. In this hands-on seminar, music will be the entry-way into experiencing how our brain perceives our environment and enlivens our creative spirit. When we allow our experience of space, time and sound to expand, our spirit can travel with it. In this class, group interaction and leadership modeling will help nudge participants to let go--to play, to experiment. We will use simple musical instruments and props (scarves/ hoops, etc.) to reach our inner imaginings. If you have your own musical instrument, including percussion (drums/bells, etc.), bring it along. Wear comfortable clothes and shoes, should we move around a bit during in our musings. This is a two-day class for YAF age and up but feel free to attend one day only. (See also 6b)

**(7) Quaker Summer Camp** (Anastacia Easterling): Tuesday and Wednesday a.m. At Continuing Committee, the SYF decided to turn our daydreams and discussions of a Quaker summer camp into reality. Being Quakers, our first step was to form a committee; our second is queries and outreach to the Monthly Meetings to determine interest and resources; our third will be this two day work shop during Early Days. Please join us as we share our desires for and experiences of working in Faith in our communities. How can we live Quaker testimonies and share that experience with others? Our goal is to crystallize the vision and document the operational outlines of an IMYM affiliated Quaker Summer Camp to submit for discussion to Meeting for Business and the constituent Monthly Meetings. Two day workshop.

## SESSIONS STARTING WEDNESDAY

**(3c) The "What?" and "So What?" of the New Testament** (Judith Streit): Wednesday a.m. See (3a). This Wednesday session is the third in a sequence. Attend one or all.

**(5c) Extended Worship** (Paula Palmer): Wednesday a.m. Worship, the un-seminar.

**(6b) Music and the Brain = Creative Spirit** (Carolyn Kuban): Wednesday a.m. See (6a); this is a second session on Wednesday (attend one or both)

**(8) Discovering Your Story as Spiritual Journey** (Chris Griffin-Wehr): Wednesday a.m. This interest group will use Chris' recent book, *Travels in Place, A Journey into Memory Loss*, as a guide and springboard for discussion. Chris began to record the emotional twists and turns of the journey she and her mom shared while Chris was her mom's caregiver during the 6 years her mom descended into Alzheimer's dementia. It was in that writing, that Chris found the story of her own faith journey--a discovery she urges seminar participants to make in their own stories! Our time together will focus on the participants' exploring, recording, and sharing, their journeys! As Alan Ginsberg claimed, what it takes to be a prophet is to "share your secrets." Please join us for this group!

**(9) Walking Nature Home Into Our Daily Spiritual Practice** (Susan Tweit): Wednesday a.m. Spending time in nature makes us healthier in ways as measurable as lowering our blood pressure to benefits as intangible as raising our spirits. But we're all busy "doing": How can we find time to just "be" in nature? Even if we find the time, how can we discover what conservationist Aldo Leopold called "the community of the land" in the urban areas where most of us live, and draw on its strength, comfort, and wisdom? Join Susan J. Tweit, author of the new memoir *Walking Nature Home*, as she discusses her own journey from detachment to connection, and explore how to walk nature home to your daily life and spiritual practice.

## Interest Groups

Interest Groups take place on Thursday, Friday and Saturday afternoons from 2:30 pm to 3:40 pm. Since Interest Group scheduling has proven to be very dynamic, we are providing a **tentative list**, with more details to follow upon registration. Final Interest Group times and locations are posted each day during the Annual Gathering. If you have questions regarding interest groups, contact the organizers, Joann or Rob Pierson ([jpierson@aptec.com](mailto:jpierson@aptec.com), [piersro@earlham.edu](mailto:piersro@earlham.edu))

**(A) Lessons from the Inward Teacher** (Lucy Duncan): Interest group with this year's keynote speaker.

**(B) What Would John Woolman Do** (Tom Kowal): Examines our relationships with those who lack material wealth and privilege, particularly the "strangers in our land." Suggested readings prior to this session are: Wooman's "Plea for the Poor" and Danielle Short's "Seeing That of God in Our Immigrant Neighbors." Contact Tom for details ([tomandannette@comcast.net](mailto:tomandannette@comcast.net))

**(C) Journals, Journeys and Letters** (Vickie Aldrich): What do we do with the inherited documents of our Quaker relatives and friends?

**(D) Native American Concerns** (Tom Vaughn): Tom will talk about issues in higher education and the 36 tribal colleges in Indian Country.

**(E) The 2008 Compassionate Listening Delegation** (Julia Halaby): Report of training, insights and the trip to Palestine and Israel as a result of last year's IMYM keynote presentation.

**(F) Intergenerational: Learning to Listen Through Native American Story** (Laurie Roberts):

**(G) Intergenerational: Sewing Project** (Becky Shrader): Finish blanket project and small sewing projects for all ages.

**(H) Joint Service Project / WQW** (Mike Gray): Discuss progress towards new concepts.

**(I) Climate Matters: The Need for Involvement** (Elna Otter): We have been enjoined to care for all creation. Surely the anticipated devastating climate changes, even though brought about by activities we used to consider benign, merit our serious attention. Scientists call for strenuous, near-universal efforts to forestall disaster. In addition to an update on the current science, possibilities for grass-roots activism will be explored.

**(J) A Concern for Migrants** (Jim McPherson): No Mas Muertes, or No More Deaths, is a group whose primary objective is to find people in the desert who will die without help. The presenters will show slides illustrating the migrant's situation, invite comments and different points of view, and lead a discussion for participants concerning what we can do both as individuals and as members of our society to effect meaningful change.

**(K) Racism and White Privilege** (Pelican Lee): Video screenings related to topic.

**(L) Honoring Your Environmental Witness** (Ruth Hamilton): Ruth is clerk of Quaker Earthcare Witness Mini-grants. Her presentation features the expressive arts, and she will show a Power Point presentation of the 2008 QEW Mini-grant recipients.

**(M) Hymn Singing** (Eleanor Dart & Meredith Little):