**Western Half Yearly Meeting**

**Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)**

March 2017

Dear Friends,

The spring sessions of Western Half Yearly Meeting (WHYM) will be upon us before we know it. This year the Victoria Day weekend falls on **May 19th – 22nd.** We will meet, as usual, at Sorrento Centre, on Shuswap Lake near Salmon Arm. Friends from Manitoba to Vancouver Island look forward to this gathering as a time of renewal – of our spirits, our bodies, and our relationships. I have missed being with you, and am more excited than usual to be seeing you all soon!

This year, in the absence of a Canadian Yearly Meeting gathering, WHYM will host the **Sunderland P. Gardner Lecture** as our Saturday evening event. As a result, we expect larger than usual numbers in attendance. We welcome all of you who have never attended Western Half Yearly Meeting before, as well as those of you coming back for a visit!

While the main gathering begins in the late afternoon on Friday, many Friends choose to arrive on Thursday evening to take advantage of the opportunity for some informal retreat time during the day on Friday. The balancing retreat is always a popular attraction; other options might include music, art-making, visiting, time to read a book or a walk down to the lake. **If you would like to convene a group activity during this time, this would be very welcome - please let me know!**

Onsite accommodations vary from tent sites to simple heated cabanas (which accommodate 5-7 people) with fridges and hotplates, to wheelchair accessible, comfortable rooms with private baths. Meals may be eaten in the Sorrento dining room if pre-ordered. Many Friends share home-cooked meals at informal potlucks outdoors in the covered picnic area. A combination of dining room and potluck meals is also an option: some Friends will have access to cooking facilities, i.e. those who are camping or staying in cabanas; others may bring contributions that don’t require cooking, or purchase food to share in the village, which is within easy walking distance.

WHYM is an intergenerational community. There are programs for all ages as well as opportunities for quiet time and social times. All the treasured WHYM traditions of balancing, singing, campfires down by the lake, Worship-fellowship groups, Special Interest Groups and Meetings for Worship and Business provide the settings for us to learn, refresh ourselves, make new friends and renew our bonds with one another.

See you there!

In Friendship,



Stephanie Deakin Ricketts

Vancouver Island MM

WHYM Clerk (2014-2017)

Whym-clerk@quaker.ca

250-217-9706

**WESTERN HALF YEARLY MEETING MAY 19 - 22, 2017**

**Registration Information**

Please pay the full cost of the weekend, including all accommodation and meal requests, by including a cheque or money order with the registration form. A post-dated cheque, for no later than **May 15,** will be accepted.

**Note:** Please send your completed registration form, together with payment,or *if you filled out and emailed the registration spreadsheet, just your payment,*to the Registrar by **Friday May 5.** Mail registration forms (if applicable) and payment (cheque or money order) payable to Western Half Yearly Meeting to:

Teresa Engler, WHYM Registrar, 2042 Towne Centre Blvd, Edmonton, AB, T6R 3M7

**Registrations received after May 5 may not be able to get on-site accommodations or meals.** *Do not expect to be able to arrive on Friday or (worse) Saturday, without having pre-registered and expect to be able to purchase accommodation and meals.  If you think you want to attend, but there is a chance you might not be able to come at the last minute, register anyway!  If you register and can't attend you will get a refund. Please note that it is the registrar’s duty to provide a list all Friends attending WHYM to Sorrento Centre so they can bill us correctly and for insurance purposes.*

Any questions about registration or accommodation? Email whymregistrar@gmail.com or call 780.240.6460

**Registration at Sorrento will start at approximately 4 p.m. on Friday in the Spes Bona lounge.**

There will be no refund for meals that are requested on the registration form. However, once on site you may be able to privately sell meals you cannot use to other Friends. Meals may be purchased on site at least three hours in advance directly from Sorrento Centre administration – note that the availability of meals on short notice may be limited.

The Treasurer will give any registration refund adjustments (by cheque) during the weekend. Payment for additional charges will be expected upon arrival. There is no charge for registration, accommodation, or meals for children 4 years old or younger but we do need their registration information on the form.

**Some financial assistance is available.** Friends should apply first to their Monthly Meeting. If assistance from the Monthly Meeting is not sufficient, please submit a request in writing to the Treasurer, Graham Entwistle, **on the Saturday of WHYM**. Assistance is discerned and paid during WHYM. If you have questions about this, please contact Graham: graham@tektonten.com 604.506.0297

**Pet Policy:** Pets are welcome at Sorrento Centre. Some costs and restrictions apply. Please see the Sorrento Centre website for details: <http://www.sorrento-centre.bc.ca/pets.html>

**Sexual Harassment:** Desiring that the Society of Friends be both a loving community and an instrument of peace and healing in a violent and broken world, we expect that Western Half Yearly Meeting will be a place where everyone feels safe from sexual and gender harassment and abuse. Behaviour that reduces safety includes not only criminal acts such as assault and rape, but may also include jokes that are demeaning or sexually suggestive, unwanted touches or hugs, and hugs in which one person feels inferior or overpowered by another. Anyone who feels that he or she has been subjected to sexual or gender harassment or abuse is urged to discuss the matter with someone in the WHYM Continuing Meeting of Ministry and Counsel.

**Accommodation Information:** Accommodations are assigned on a first booked first served basis. Changes to sleeping arrangements may be made on site.

**Sharing of Accommodations:** Please note names of the Friends, registering separately, with whom you will be sharing accommodation. If you would like to share accommodation, but have made no arrangements, note your preferences and the registrar will try to accommodate you. Young Adult Friends should indicate if they would like to share a Young Adult Friends’ Cabana and the registrar will attempt to accommodate this. Depending on demand, almost all rooms are subject to sharing with an appropriate roommate.

**Teens Note:** It has been customary (but optional) for the teens to have their own accommodations, accompanied by a Friendly Adult Presence. Two portable schoolrooms will be used, one for males and one for females, which provide shelter and floor space. Teens opting for this shared accommodation should bring sleeping bags and mattress pads. There are no plans for a teen food co-op this year. If meal requests need to be changed as a result of a teen food co-op formation between now and then, please contact the registrar no later than **May 5**.

**Annual Young Friends Sorrento Garden Work Project:** Either Saturday or Sunday. Please note that participating teens will receive a free lunch in the dining room that day.

**Cabanas:** 14 simple structures with heat, electricity and cooking element, but no indoor plumbing. They sleep up to seven, in one double bed and four or five bunks. No bedding (aside from mattresses) or utensils are provided in the cabanas. As an affordable alternative between camping and the more expensive accommodation, consider sharing a cabana. To find someone to share with you can indicate to the registrar that you’d like to share, and with how many people – or bring f/Friends to share with! Please indicate on your registration form or your email the names of those with whom you are sharing. One person needs to be responsible for paying for each Cabana; arrangements can be made privately to share the cost. The registrar will not accept partial payment from individuals sharing a cabana.

**RV sites:** Partial hook-up includes water and electricity, full hook-up includes sewer.

**Tenting:** In the reserved campsite area near the cabanas and washrooms, or in orchard area.

**Lodges:** Richardson Hall rooms (formerly called Nova Vita) have various combinations of double beds and single beds, and all have private baths. There is one designated wheelchair-accessible suite in Richardson Hall, with 1 queen sized bed and a sofa bed. **There are no rooms available in Caritas rooms this year. Casita apartments will be available**. Casita is an apartment complex with 2 units on the upper level and one unit on the ground level. Casita 1 has 2 single beds; Casita 2 can accommodate as many as 5 persons; Casita 4 is an apartment with 2 bedrooms, a living room with sofa bed and dining area, a fully equipped kitchen, and full bathroom.

**Washrooms and other facilities:** Two men’s and two women’s washroom buildings are provided for cabanas, tenters and trailers, with hot water and showers. At each washroom, in an outdoor covered area, one or more fridges is available for our use. There is a small laundromat on site at the lower washroom. Please make brief use of the showers, leaving time and hot water for all.

**Cafeteria Meal Information:** The pre-paid voucher bought with registration is required for all meals. Meal times are 8:00 am, 12:30 pm and 5:30 pm. Special dietary requirements may be accommodated, if requested. These should be noted on your registration form and vegetarians should specify needs, e.g., vegan, ovo-lacto, etc.

**Children’s Program:**

Graham Entwistle and Barb Everdene of Vancouver MM have graciously agreed to facilitate the Children’s Program this spring. If you have an idea (or a fully formed plan!) for a children's session contact Graham at graham@tektonten.com.

**Saturday evening’s intergenerational event**: **Sunderland P. Gardner Lecture**

This year WHYM will host the SPG lecture normally delivered at the CYM annual gathering. The 2017 lecturer is Steve Fick, of Ottawa Monthly Meeting.

Falling into Grace

Death will inevitably make us an offer that we cannot refuse—to surrender into the vastness of a power that is beyond our ability to comprehend. In the meantime, our daily life offers us ongoing opportunities to begin that process of surrender – to “die before we die,” and in so doing, to awaken to a deeper aliveness--a “falling into grace” that turns our mortality into a spiritual companion.

Our Quaker ancestors considered death to be a spiritual event that involved the whole community. When we hide death away, or treat it primarily as a medical event to be managed by professionals, we discourage the dying from doing the profound soul work they need to do as they prepare to enter into this great mystery. As well, the living are robbed of what the dying process might teach them.

**WHYM RETREAT DAY with Balancing (maybe)**

Friday, May 19, 2017 at Sorrento Centre, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Re-Treat yourself to a day of community building and intergenerational fun, with a few different options for connection and reflection, to help us spiritually prepare for WHYM.

* Arrival for Retreat:  It is recommended that you arrive on Thursday night.
* Accommodation:  All usual accommodations are available at Sorrento Centre on Thursday night.  Note your needs on the registration form.
* Meals are available in the Sorrento dining room by signing up for them on the WHYM registration form, or you can supply your own food.
* Registration: If you plan to participate in Balancing, check the space “Balancing Retreat” on the WHYM registration form. There is no need to pre-register for other retreat activities; a schedule of times and locations will be available upon arrival at WHYM.

**THE BALANCING RETREAT**

**No leader / facilitator has been identified at this point for the balancing. However, we are confident that enough experienced Friends will be present to make it happen in a wonderful way.** If you are able to help lead this activity, please contact Stephanie: whym-clerk@quaker.ca, 250-217-9706

Feel your mind, body and spirit work together to find your centre. A WHYM treasured tradition of balancing will be self-led by experienced balancers. No experience is necessary. If you've never been exposed to balancing, imagine yoga with others, integrating the Quaker understanding of our connectedness.

* Please meet at Caritas to sign in and be ready to begin by 9:00 a.m. The day will progress from introductory poses to more advanced ones & it is important everyone is present at the start and throughout the morning. After lunch, we will continue with those still keen on working on more advanced balancing. Experienced balancers are encouraged to attend and help structure the day.
* **Children are welcome.** The first part of the day is (usually) especially designed to include younger children.  Depending on age, ability and interest, children may participate for the entire day.

**Other opportunities for…**  Worship sharing, art, writing, singing, a nature walk....

**If you would like to convene a group activity during this time, this would be very welcome - please reply to Stephanie: whym-clerk@quaker.ca, 250-217-9706**

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| Schedule for Western Half Yearly Meeting May 2017 |
| Begin | End |  |
| Friday, May 19 | Activity | Location |
| 3:00 | 7:30 | Arrivals and registration | Spes Bona |
| 5:30 |   | Supper | Dining Room or self cater |
| 6:30 | 7:30 | Teen gathering with teen adult resource person | Caritas Upstairs Lounge |
| 7:30 | 8:30 | Intergenerational Gathering for all | Caritas Meeting Room |
| 8:30 | 9:00 | Meeting for Worship | Caritas Meeting Room |
| 9:00 | 10:30 | Refreshments, singing, fellowship | Dining Room / Spes Bona / Richardson lounge (respectively) |
| Sat. May 20 | Activity | Location |
| 8:00 |   | Breakfast | Dining Room or self-cater |
| 8:55 | 10:05 | Children's Program | Richardson (lower level meeting room) |
| 9:00 | 10:00 | Worship Fellowship Groups (lists in Caritas) | As posted |
| 10:00 | 10:25 | Tea, coffee, juice break | Dining Room |
| 10:30 | 10:50 | Welcoming Meeting with children present | Caritas Meeting Room |
| 10:50 | 12:20 | Children's Program | Richardson (lower level meeting room) |
| 10:55 | 12:15 | Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business | Caritas Meeting Room |
| 12:30 |   | Lunch | Dining Room or self-cater |
| 1:00 | 2:00 | Free time  |   |
| 1:10 | 1:50 | Memorial Meeting | As announced |
| 1:55 | 3:35 | Children's Program | Richardson (lower level meeting room) |
| 2:00 | 3:30 | Special Interest Groups (posted in Caritas hall) | As posted |
| 3:30 | 4:00 | Tea, coffee, juice break | Dining Room |
| 4:00 | 5:00 | Meeting of Ministry & Counsel (including all members of MM M&C) | As announced |
| 4:00 | 5:00 | Balancing / free time | Lawn outside Dining Room |
| 5:30 |   | Supper | Dining Rm or Shared Meal at campground. |
| 7:30 | 8:45 | Sunderland P. Gardner Lecture | Caritas Meeting Room |
| 8:45 | 11:00 | Refreshments, singing, fellowship | Dining Room / Spes Bona / Richardson lounge (respectively) |
| Sun, May 21 | Activity | Location |
| 8:00 |   | Breakfast | Dining Room or self-cater |
| 8:55 | 10:05 | Children's Program | Richardson (lower level meeting room) |
| 9:00 | 10:00 | Worship Fellowship Groups | As posted |
| 10:00 | 10:20 | Tea, coffee, juice break | Dining Room |
| 10:00 | 10:30 | Quiet Worship (Childcare available thru M&C) | TBD |
| 10:30 | 11:30 | Meeting for Worship (Children present) | Caritas Meeting Room |
| 11:30 | 12:30 | Balancing/Free Time | Lawn outside Dining Room |
| 12:30 |   | Lunch | Dining Room or self-cater |
| 1:40 | 3:20 | Children's Program | Richardson (lower level meeting room) |
| 1:45 | 3:15 | Special Interest Groups (posted in main hall) | As posted |
| 3:15 | 3:40 | Tea, coffee, juice break | Dining Room |
| ***3:40*** | ***5:20*** | Children's Program | Richardson (lower level meeting room) |
| 3:45 | 5:15 | Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business | Caritas Meeting Room |
| 5:30 |   | Supper | Dining Rm or Shared Meal at campground. |
| 7:00 | 7:30 | Balancing presentation | Lawn outside Dining Room |
| 7:30 | 9:30 | Family Night | Caritas Meeting Room |
| Mon. May 22 | Activity | Location |
| 8:00 |   | Breakfast | Dining Room or self-cater |
| 9:00 | 9:15 | Farewell Meeting for Worship | Caritas Meeting Room |

**WHYM positions at rise of Fall 2016 sessions**

Terms end & begin at the rise of Spring WHYM, unless otherwise specified

Clerk                                                                           Stephanie Deakin (2014-2017)

Recording Clerk                                                               Maggie Knight (2016-2018)

Clerk’s Assistants / S.I.G. coordinators                        Heidi Dick (2016-2019)

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Children’s Coordinator(s) (Spring 2017)                            **Graham Entwistle & Barb Everdene**

Assistant Children’s Coordinator  (Spring 2017)

            (children’s coordinator in Spring 2018)

Registrars (Spring 2017)                                               Teresa Engler & Alex Wickenheiser

Assistant Registrar (Spring 2017)                            Nat Knight

            (Registrar in 2018)

Registrar (Fall 2017)                                                 Beth Curry (Shekinah)

Treasurer                                                                  Graham Entwistle (Fall 2016–Fall 2019)

Assistant Treasurer (2017-2019)                                Nathan Dick

            (Treasurer 2019-2021)

Finance Committee                                                    Tim Bartoo (2016-2019)

                                                            Mark Stanley (2014-2017)\*

                                                                  Celia Cheatley (2015-2018)

Continuing Meeting of Ministry and Counsel     Wesley Glebe (2016-2019)

                                                                                    Sarah Chandler (2016-2019)

                                                                                 Paul Hopkins (2014-2017)

                                                                              Mavis Dixon (2014-2017)

                                                                  Elizabeth Azmier-Stewart (2015-2018)

No-Interest Loans Committee                                David Stevenson

                                                                               Trevor Chandler

Representative to Representative Meeting               Heidi Dick (2015-2018)

Alternate Rep to Representative Meeting             Celia Cheatley (2016-2019)

Nominating Committee                                               Ruth Walmsley (2015-2018)

                                                                                     Graeme Hope (2016-2019)

                                                                                   Beth Curry (2016-2019)

Teen Adult Resource Spring 2017                         Shaun Bartoo

Teen Resource Alternate, Spring 2017

Adrian Dolling is unable to serve as Clerk’s Assistant this year. An alternate will be named at the opening session. Graham Entwistle & Barb Everdene were named as Children’s Program Coordinators after the rise of Fall HYM. Their appointment will be brought to the opening session for approval.

Nominating Committee had not yet discerned names of Friends willing to serve as Assistant Children’s Coordinator or fill the one open spot on Nominating Committee at rise of Fall HYM.

**Directions to Sorrento Centre:** Sorrento Centre is on the western side of the town of Sorrento, just off the Trans Canada Highway. Sorrento is approx. 80 km east of Kamloops and 25 km west of Salmon Arm. At Sorrento, turn north (towards the lake) off the Trans Canada at the Shuswap Lake Motel and look for the Sorrento sign just past the motel on Passchendale Rd. The Greyhound bus stops within a block of the Centre. Inform the registrar if you need transportation from a nearby airport (Kamloops or Kelowna) or the train station in Kamloops.

GoogleMap: <http://goo.gl/maps/eRKVu>



Where to go when you get to Sorrento:

