## SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (Draft v1)

- [1] Helping people heal: What does restorative justice look like? Quakers Fostering Justice Committee of CFSC invite you to share and discuss how healing in the criminal justice system can be achieved by restorative justice approaches. We will talk about principles of restorative justice, how they align with Quaker values and faith and our experiences of restorative justice. We welcome people to come and share their stories and experiences as well. Through this SIG, we hope to connect Quakers to the work of CFSC and the importance of healing within the justice system. [Verena Tan]
- [2] Canadian Quakers are 2017 Nobel Peace Prize winners: The "Religious Society of Friends, Canada," was a signatory, indicating support for the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons. The list of signatories was posted in the Nobel Prize Building. We should share in the accolades and follow the progress being made in a nuclear weapon ban. [Dale Dewar]
- [3] Friendly Outreach: Reaching Out to Seekers / Building a Welcoming Community: Do you want our community to grow and blossom? This SIG invites all those interested in inviting and welcoming newcomers to share ideas and celebrate what's working for different Monthly Meetings and gatherings. Whether it is updating your website, circulating printed materials, or hosting a community event, Friends are encouraged to come with their stories and, if possible, bring examples of outreach materials from their Meetings. Friends whose Meetings aren't actively engaged in outreach at this time are invited to come to share and explore ideas. Representatives from Publications and Communications Committee and Education and Outreach Committee will be present to hear your perspective, and will provide a list of ideas that Meetings may find helpful. [Hosted by Publications & Communications Committee and Education & Outreach Committee].
- [4] Relationships as Spiritual Practice This will be "A Taste of Couple Enrichment (CE)" an introduction to CE's core principles, which are applicable to any relationship (romantic partnership, friendship, parent/child, colleagues). The focus is on learning concepts and skills. The program is not confrontational and everything is optional. Ground rules assure safety and comfort for all participants. This SIG is open to anyone, whether coupled or not. [Signy Fridriksson and Steve Fick] \*\* We will also be exploring with Young Adult Friends whether they would be interested in "A Taste of Couple Enrichment" with their age group in mind.
- [5] Cancer and Me: Many of us have had the bodily experience of cancer and the physical, emotional and spiritual impact it has had on us. We will have the opportunity to share our experiences and to explore the gifts and challenges that cancer has brought to us. A Worship-Fellowship format will be followed. This SIG is open for anyone who has had a physical experience of cancer. [Signy Fridriksson]
- [6] Falling Into Grace: Meet to discuss Steve Fick's 2017 Sunderland P. Gardner Lecture focused on its core questions: death and dying and what they have to teach us about living. A Worship-Fellowship format will be followed. This SIG is open to anyone. [Steve Fick]

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- [8] Oracles: Revelation and Adventure: Tools for Spiritual Discernment: How do oracles help us to discover the store of wisdom, decisions, and ministry in our subconscious? Quakers often say "there is that of God in everyone". Ancient oracles began as a way to discern the commands or advice from the gods. My practice with oracles seeks self-knowledge and spiritual wisdom. The best oracles come from different eras and cultures that sought to answer the basic, eternal questions of life. Oracles are tools to enable good decisions for shaping our futures. The images and messages of the oracles represent myths, experiences, and objects from our wisdom culture that evolved from our shared ancestral experiences. In the right contemplative setting, oracles can awaken us to the spiritual yearning common to all humans. Random choices of cards, runes etc. begin the unpredictable and playful elements in our stories. [Lynne Phillips]
- [9] Reading and discussion of Novel: *Matty's Dread* [Gail Harwood]. Drought ravages Zimbabwe three years after the war. A bus takes three friends: Kuda, Kindo and Chafichu back to work in Dhuma Village a deceptively sleepy place where drama unfolds. A flat tire outside a neighbor's house sets into motion a series of events. This radically changes the lives of the friends irreversibly connecting them to the Boer Mathias Van der Merwe. Wading into the middle, three Canadians must choose, for in post-apartheid Zimbabwe even strangers learn that neutrality is an illusion.
- [10] Concerns around electronic surveillance and discernment of how we might best engage with digital communication tools. [Tim Kitz]
- [11] Hands-on training in open-source digital tools to protect from surveillance. [Tim Kitz]
- [12] Quaker Environmental Action Network. General Meeting, Updates, Planning and Strategy.
- [13] Lessons and Observations from Britain Yearly Meeting 2017: by Carol Bradley.
- [14] Principles of Quaker Faith hosted by SPG lecturer, Art Larrabee
- [15] What to Do about the United States? The erosion of democracy started before Trump's election, going back at least to 1980 or 1975. USA-established resistance groups include the American Civil Liberties Union, the League of Women Voters and Human Rights Watch who are working for immigrant & refugee rights, reversing gerrymandering and ending police violence against people of colour. Newer groups, from Indivisible to Our Revolution to The Pussyhat Project, appeal to younger and more radical Americans. In Canada, groups include Democrats Abroad (DA). DA organized buses to the Women's March in 2017 and to the March for Our Lives in Washington DC in April 2018. Some, including hundreds of Canadian university teachers, joined 6,200 academics worldwide who are boycotting conferences held in the USA. Participants will share our participation in pro-democracy and human rights work in the US and brainstorm ways to helping the United States regain human rights and democratic institutions. [Carl Stieren]
- [16] Isreal Palestine Working Group "No Way To Treat a Child" [Colin Stuart]