

Come to Quaker Center for an inspiring program about America's greatest poet and the Quaker world view at the heart of his work....



Walt Whitman and the Universal Light

December 5-7, 2008

with Jacob Stone (and a special appearance
by Walt Whitman himself, as portrayed by Rocky Wilson)

**"Stop this day and night with me and you shall possess the origin of all poems."
– from Song of Myself, by Walt Whitman**

What is this program about? Walt Whitman's poetry and prose speak of his sense of unity with all persons and things. Profoundly influenced by Quaker thought and practice, he celebrated the beauty of all life and of the entire creation. In the 21st century Whitman's poetry still has the power to excite and inspire us, and to help us see the divine everywhere. He exhorts us to love one another, to live our lives fully and authentically, to think for ourselves, and to see the universal light that is right before our eyes. His life and poetry have been inspirations for generations of Friends and others who seek a democratic and accessible spirituality.

During this retreat we will explore Walt Whitman's messages to us. In large and small groups we will use a worship-sharing format to read and discuss excerpts from some of his greatest poetry, prose and letters. We will also have opportunities to reflect in solitude on what he has tried to say to us. (Quaker Center's magnificent eighty-acre Redwood forest is an ideal place to hear Whitman's message of the universal light.)

This retreat will also offer a special Saturday night program in which Walt himself will speak to us in a one-man show by performance artist Rocky Wilson. Read about Rocky on the other side of this flyer.

Who should come to this retreat? Anyone is welcome at this program: Friend or non-Friend, religiously active or not, Whitman scholars or those who have never read his poetry. Whitman's message is truly universal, and can be a beacon for anyone.

Who will be facilitating this retreat? This retreat will be facilitated by Jacob Stone, with participation by Rocky Wilson. Read more about them on the other side of this flyer.

What is the cost for this program? The cost is a suggested sliding scale of between \$130 and \$210 per person, based on your discernment of your financial status. Nobody will be turned away because of inability to pay the fee. The fee includes the program, accommodations, and six meals.

Questions? Call or email us at Quaker Center. We'll be happy to answer any questions you have.

QUAKER CENTER

Box 686, Ben Lomond, CA

95005 (831) 336-8333

mail@quakercenter.org

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____ E-mail _____

We plan to pay \$ _____ on the **\$130 - \$210 sliding scale**. (See below for more on this.)

Diet Restrictions/Special Housing Requirements: _____

----- Detach Here and Return -----

YOU MAY ALSO REGISTER BY E-MAIL TO MAIL@QUAKERCENTER.ORG, AND SEND YOUR DEPOSIT BY MAIL. YOUR E-MAIL REGISTRATION WILL HOLD YOUR PLACE FOR ONE WEEK PENDING RECEIPT OF YOUR DEPOSIT. \$50 DEPOSIT PER PERSON, PAYABLE TO QUAKER CENTER. MAIL TO: **PROGRAM DIRECTOR, QUAKER CENTER, P.O. BOX 686, BEN LOMOND, CA 95005**

A NOTE ABOUT OUR SLIDING SCALE

- **Comprehensive rate:** The top of our scale covers all our costs. **(\$210)** Some participants choose to support Quaker Center's work by paying more than the comprehensive rate
- **Standard rate:** We hope most people will pay at least this amount. **(\$170)**
- **Special reduced rate: (\$130).** We never refuse access to our programs because of lack of funds. Scholarship support is available. Please ask if you are in need.

Schedule: You may arrive as early as 4:00 p.m. to register. The program begins with dinner at 6:30 on Friday. The weekend concludes about 2:30 p.m. after lunch and final cleanup

Food: Meals are vegetarian. Participants share in kitchen chores before and after each meal. Please let us know in advance about special dietary needs.

Lodging: Sleeping accommodations will be in the Orchard Lodge. Wheelchair access is available. Bring a sleeping bag or sheets and blankets, pillowcase, towel, soap, flashlight, and slippers. **NO PETS PLEASE** except for certified assistive animals. For those traveling from a distance, inexpensive housing may be arranged the night before or after the program

Refund Policy: All but \$15 can be refunded if you cancel more than one week before the program. After that the full standard deposit will be retained.

Transportation: See our website, www.quakercenter.org for directions. If you need to carpool or are arriving on public transportation let us know and we will provide whatever help we can.

ABOUT THE LEADERS



Jacob Stone currently serves with his wife Gretta as Co-Director of Ben Lomond Quaker Center. A Friend for many years, he rediscovered Walt Whitman's poetry about twenty-five years ago. "Leaves of Grass" has been a spiritual touchstone for him ever since. Twenty years ago he developed the first version of "Walt Whitman and the Universal Light", and has presented it in a wide variety of contexts since then.



Rocky Wilson is well-known among Friends as a modern-day Walt Whitman, a poet, dancer, teacher, puppeteer, writer, and leader of writing workshops. He lives in Camden, New Jersey, just a few blocks from Walt Whitman's home, and brings Walt Whitman to life in his one-man show.