

BEN LOMOND QUAKER CENTER invites you to:

**The Pursuit of Wisdom:
John Woolman, The Epistle of James,
and Ancient Desert Monastics
with Michael Birkel
October 25 – 27, 2019**



The wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to persuasion, full of mercy and good fruits, without any partiality or hypocrisy. And a harvest of justice is sown in peace by those who make peace.

~Epistle of James 3:17

What are the inward and outward dimensions of wisdom? To what interior transformation does wisdom invite us, and what are the consequences for our life with others? This program will be an invitation to listen to our elders from across the centuries as they reflect on the pursuit of wisdom. The first will be the Epistle of James, a radical ancient text that contains the roots of our Quaker testimonies. The second will be the Desert Fathers and Mothers, who withdrew from the rat race of the fourth century to look within and discover the states of the soul. Our final elder will be the eighteenth-century Quaker mystic and social reformer John Woolman, whose essay “A Plea for the Poor,” suggests that universal love is the business of our lives. Participants are encouraged to read these short texts, which they will receive, in advance of our gathering. The leader will do some talking, but most of our time together will be in a Spirit-led consideration of these inspiring writings.



ABOUT THE PROGRAM LEADER:

Michael Birkel is a member of Clear Creek Monthly Meeting (Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting) and teaches courses in spirituality and in interfaith studies at the Earlham School of Religion in Richmond, Indiana. He has written several books on Quakerism and spirituality and has traveled widely among Friends as a speaker and workshop leader. Michael loves old texts and a community of spirited readers with whom to explore them.

Registration for: *The Pursuit of Wisdom* Name(s): _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Medical or ethical dietary restrictions: _____

Accommodation or mobility concerns: _____

I/we plan to pay \$ _____/person on the \$160 - \$240/person sliding scale. (More below)

----- Detach Here and Return or Register Online at www.quakercenter.org -----

Check-in is from 4 PM to 6 PM. Dinner is served at 6 PM and the first program session will begin at 7:30pm. You can expect to be depart by 12:30 PM on Sunday after breakfast, final clean-up, the closing session and worship. We no longer require a deposit with your registration. We trust that you will "let your yay be yay" and you'll participate in this program if you register. If you absolutely must cancel, please do so at least two days in advance. Otherwise we may request \$50 payment for the food the cook has already purchased for you.

◆ **A NOTE ABOUT OUR SLIDING SCALE:**

- ✓ **Comprehensive rate:** The top of our scale covers all our costs. (\$240/person).
- ✓ **Standard rate:** We hope most people will pay at least this amount. (\$200/person)
- ✓ **Special reduced rate:** The bottom to our scale (\$160/person).

No one will be refused from our programs due to lack of funds. Please call or email us for financial aid.

- ◆ **CHILDCARE:** Quaker Center will offer at no charge *if the Directors receive at least two weeks advance notice*. We request \$25 to 50 per child over the age of 3 to cover the cost of meals.

- ◆ **ACCOMMODATIONS, THINGS TO BRING, AND FOOD:** Sleeping accommodations will be in the Orchard Lodge in semi-private rooms. **Bring a sleeping bag or sheets, pillowcase, towel, and toiletries.** Please do not wear or bring strongly scented toiletries. All meals at Quaker Center are vegetarian. We ask all participants to take turns working together on meal prep, dish crew, and cleaning at the end of the program. **Please tell us if you must leave early** so that we can make sure you get signed up for a final clean up task that can be done early.

- ◆ **PLEASE DO NOT BRING PETS.** Only service dogs trained to perform a specific task to palliate the disability of the dog's handler may accompany guests. **If you need to bring your service animal, you must call us in advance.**

- ◆ **TRANSPORTATION:** For directions, please see our website, www.quakercenter.org/directions/. If you are arriving by bus, let us know at least a day in advance if you need a shuttle and we will pick you up from the Main Street stop in Ben Lomond. **If you need to change your pick-up time., call the Quaker Center cell phone: 831-212-2631.**

DRIVING DISTANCES FROM:

- ◆ Los Angeles: 365 miles, 6.5 hours
- ◆ Sacramento: 150 miles, 2 hours, 45 minutes
- ◆ San Francisco: 90 miles, 2 hrs and 15 minutes
- ◆ San Jose Intl Airport: 35 miles, 50 minutes
- ◆ Santa Cruz, 12 miles, 25 minutes

To: Quaker Center at 1000 Hubbard Gulch Road

PUBLIC TRANSIT:

- ◆ **Amtrak:** Take the train to the San Jose Diridon Station
- ◆ **From the San Jose Diridon Station:** Take the 17 Express bus to the Cavallaro Transit Station in Scotts Valley.
- ◆ **From the Scotts Valley or Santa Cruz:** Take the 35 or 35A bus to Ben Lomond.
- ◆ **In Ben Lomond:** Get off at Highway 9 and Main Street and walk or call for a ride.

QUAKER CENTER

P.O. Box 686, Ben Lomond, CA 95005

www.quakercenter.org

831.336.8333

mail@quakercenter.org