

# Documents in Advance (DIA)

Fall Executive Committee Meeting, October 1, 2010

Fall Interim Business Meeting (FIBM), Saturday, October 2, 2010

to be held at the Palm Beach Meeting House

823 North A Street, Lake Worth, FL 33460; 561.585.8060

## Clerk's Welcome

Greetings SEYM Friends,

As our Fall Interim Business Meeting time approaches, I'd like to encourage and invite as many as possibly can, to travel to Palm Beach Meeting in Lake Worth the first weekend in October in order to participate in this event. Our interim meetings provide an essential element in our experience as Quakers, as we enjoy opportunities to better know one another, to understand the role of our Yearly Meeting in encouraging the vitality of our local Meetings, to help in the business of our Yearly Meeting, and to worship together, as we nurture a deeper sense of the Spirit moving among us. Participation in this and all Yearly Meeting events helps us deepen our experience and understanding of who we are as Quakers here in the Southeast.

So, please come to worship, listen, learn, share, and enjoy the fruits of the love which binds us as Friends. If you can, plan on allowing time in your stay to enjoy a visit to the beach. Salt air, beautiful mid-80 degrees-blue-green ocean water. Enough to bring a smile just thinking about it!

For those needing to make housing arrangements, please contact Ellie Caldwell, 561.790.5499 or email: [quakerellie@yahoo.com](mailto:quakerellie@yahoo.com)

Executive Committee gathers at 7PM Friday, Oct 1 at the Meetinghouse.

All are welcome.

Saturday Morning coffee at 8:30 AM.

Worship at 9:30.

Committees meet from 9:30 until noon.

Lunch

1:00 PM Business Meeting

If you have items for the agenda, please forward them to the appropriate committee clerks listed in the front of your SEYM directory, or send them to me.

I look forward to seeing you and wish safe travels for all.

Yours with warm regards,

Light and love,

Gary Arthur,

SEYM Assistant Clerk

<[garya365@gmail.com](mailto:garya365@gmail.com)>

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### Directions to Meetinghouse:

From Interstate-95

Take Exit #64, 10th Avenue North; go east

Turn RIGHT (south) onto North A Street approximately 0.1 mile

Arrive at 823 North A ST, LAKE WORTH on right

## INTERIM BUSINESS MEETING HOSPITALITY

Those Friends who would like to stay with someone from Palm Beach meeting should contact Ellie Caldwell : <quakerellie@yahoo.com>. She will match you up with what is available. If anyone needs transportation to and from the railroad, bus or airport, they too should contact her. Her cell is 561.685.9272.

Recommended motels and one B&B are:

New Sun Gate Motel, 1-800-315-9050—Near downtown Lake Worth

Super 8—1-561-585-3970—at Lantana Rd & I-95, 10 minutes south of mtg.

Comfort Inn 1-561-582-7878—Hypoluxo Rd, 15 minutes south of mtg.

Mango Inn—561-533-6900—near downtown LW, lovely setting, a little pricey.

Check out the websites for more information.

## FALL INTERIM BUSINESS MEETING SCHEDULE

### EC AGENDA

FRIDAY, October 1, 2010, 7:00 PM Executive Committee Meeting, Palm Beach Meeting House (All welcome.)

Opening Worship

1. Additions to agenda
2. Secretary's report/concerns
4. Follow-up: Reports of projects currently underway
5. New Business
6. Other
7. Review of minutes.

Closing worship.

### INDIVIDUAL COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDAS

**Please presume that if you are on a SEYM Committee that your committee will be meeting Saturday morning 9:30 to lunch.**

**If you are a first time attender at FIBM, please know that your presence at any committee meeting is welcomed.**

**If you are exploring what committee might light your fire, please feel free to pop in and out, and to chat with a Nominating Committee member at an appropriate time.**

### FIBM AGENDA

October 2, 2010

8:15 Fellowship, coffee

9:00 Opening worship

9:30 Introduction of YM Clerk and Clerk's table

Preliminary Nominating Committee report

Announcements

#### **Committee Meetings**

12:00 Lunch

1:00 Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business

1. Roll Call of Meetings and Worship Groups
2. Visitors

3. Announcements
4. Changes to agenda
5. Executive Committee Report
6. Worship and Ministry Report
7. Faith and Practice Report
8. Treasurer's Report
9. Finance Committee Report
10. Trustees Report
11. Gathering Committee Report
12. Youth Committee Report
13. Peace and Social Concerns Report
14. ProNica Report
15. Half Yearly Meeting Committee Report
16. Reports of Representatives to Organizations
17. Nominating Committee Report
18. Other business to come before the Meeting
19. Review of minutes
20. Closing worship

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## **TO ASSIST THE RECORDING CLERK:**

The Recording Clerk's role is to insure the records of our Yearly Meeting business sessions are accurate. SEYM minutes consist narrative minutes and the numbered approved minutes, written or electronic committee and representative reports, milestones, and other items directed by the clerk or Friends in attendance.

Friends who propose formal minutes should present such before the meeting or placement on the agenda. Committee clerks, representatives, and those who report on MM activities are requested to provide written or electronic versions (email, compact disc, flash drive, etc.) of their reports. To them we are most grateful.

If Friends have an extended minute of concern that will be presented for consideration, they are requested to please email it prior to the business meeting or before your time on the agenda to Clerk of Interim Business Meeting, Gary Arthur and/or to our substitute recording clerk, since Ed Lesnick is unable to be present at FIBM 2010.

Thank you for your cooperation.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

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### Archives Committee Report

Archive Committee Report – September 2010

Peter Day <p1rd@me.com>

The committee has made some progress on one of its three major objectives. This is to make safe the archival materials stored in the Smathers Library in Gainesville.

During the summer we hired Celine Hickey a high school junior, the daughter of Florence Turcotte, the archivist in charge of our materials in Gainesville. Celine was asked to remove staples and other metal fasteners, sort papers, and store them in labeled acid-free folders in special archival boxes. She spent almost a full morning with Connie Ray on July 21, and learned a lot from Connie's familiarity with the records.

Celine reports that she has re-housed and re-folded 12 new boxes worth of materials. She estimates that it represents 8-10 of the old (bankers) boxes. She hopes to continue to work after school and perhaps on Saturdays to get to the point where she has re-housed all of the un-processed boxes, but it is hard to estimate how long this will take. There are about 4 or 5 of these left, not counting the boxes that the Committee has already finished. To date Celine has worked for a total of 38.5 hours. Her hourly rate is \$8 which means that the committee has spent \$308 of the \$500 budgeted. The sum remaining will cover a further 24 hours of Celine's work. The committee has made tentative plans for a work-day in September in Gainesville and will decide whether or not to continue Celine's part time work.

The second objective, to organize the archived papers and catalogue and index them, has been deferred until we are satisfied that the records are safe.

The third objective is to ensure that SEYM and the Monthly Meetings deposit their records regularly so that they are not lost. Two years ago meeting clerks and recording clerks were reminded by emails of the need to safeguard archives and either to bring them to Orlando at WIBM or send them directly to Gainesville. A short statement to this effect is on the SEYM web site. In spite of these reminders very few new materials have been received for archiving during the last several years.

#### Random ideas gleaned from my visit to the SEYM archives this summer

—Connie Ray, Archive Committee Member

First of all, Celine Hickey has done a very good job in removing many offending metal things. So, it was worth the money from our budget to hire her. She also put things into files. Amazing! And then she put them right back where she found them. She's a polite young lady. Flo had to tell her not to hesitate to correct me when I made archival mistakes.

Needs to work on (in my opinion at least. We may change priorities especially since Peter always has better ideas than I do.):

1. Separate out SEYM minutes from other documents
2. The establishment of Orlando and Gainesville Meetings need to be refilled in the Monthly Meeting documents of these meetings. I think that is where a researcher would look for them.
3. Many boxes contain randomly filed documents, maybe on the same topic. They need to be put in chronological order at the least.
4. Lyn, we are missing directories from 1992 – 2006.
5. Some records have been placed in boxes as they arrive. I think we need to find those and place them in their monthly meeting records. This is why I think organizing documents at interim business meeting and then

transporting them to Gainesville is our best method. Whoever brings them up can either give them to me or become the Gainesville point person (fat chance, but if I die, somebody should be point person).

6. Should DIA's be placed with corresponding SEYM minutes?
7. Orlando documents are scattered in several different boxes. Are there enough of them to warrant placing in a separate small box? By the way, Flo want us to start using the small boxes and have them carefully labeled. That way researchers can find the things they need more easily. Boy, haven't we learned that! At some point in our organizing of these documents, we will need to take them out of the big boxes. I'm not suggesting that we have arrived at that place yet. (The thought of that process makes me want to hide under a table.)
8. Some of the folders may need to be re labeled: SEYM (what the stuff is) date(s). Actually Celine has already done a lot of that.
9. Lyn, you are correct that the minutes for 1996 – 1998 are missing. Either that or they have wandered into another box. If you still can't track them down, and we locate them here, we can have copies made and sent to you. [Note from Secretary Lyn' memory with conversations with former YM Clerk Gay Howard. It seems that Recording Clerk Bob Allenson provided numbered minutes only and no narrative minutes.]
10. The first book of Gainesville Monthly Meeting Minutes (1952 – 1956) was copied. My box is empty. Ergo I brought them to the archives sometime or other. They need to be found and put with Gainesville documents. Again the need for a system instead of randomly mailing stuff in to Flo. I didn't mail the Gainesville documents, but still they've gone missing.
11. Lyn, you are absolutely right on when you mention that the Nominating Committee reports are not always filed with minutes. I have tried to stress the need for such insertions in the Gainesville Meeting Minutes and it is even more important to have these reports, **every time they are changed**, added to the SEYM minutes. It is important for researchers as well as us to be able to find out who had what job when.

## Committee for Earthcare

## Committee on Ministry for Racism

Committee for Ministry on Racism  
Fall 2010 report

As announced at SEYM YBM-2010, our Walton Lecturers for SEYM 2011 will be Vanessa Julye and Donna McDaniel, authors of *Fit for Freedom, Not for Friendship: Quakers, African Americans and the Myth of Racial Justice*, about the history of race relations in the Society of Friends. In the months until April, we hope each meeting is considering issues around racism in the Society of Friends, our meetings, and our daily lives. Please look for the monthly email the Committee is sending out to meeting and worship group contacts. First on our list should be reading their book—we guarantee your eyes will be opened. Yes, we Quakers have had some exemplary history in civil rights, but we have also had some abysmal failures. We found ourselves easily drawn into the fascinating history; the 1950's/60's are especially interesting when you actually lived through that time. FGC Bookstore sent the following: "If any order is 5 or more copies of a single title for any book we carry, we offer a 20% discount when folks buy it, but it needs to be in one order, so folks could combine orders. The other option would be a virtual book table in which the meeting gets assigned a code for 2-3 months and for any orders with that code, the meeting receives a credit, either cash or books. It wouldn't give members a discount on individual orders of the book, but you would get credit for the orders. You can see more here: [http://www.quakerbooks.org/book\\_tables/virtual\\_book\\_tables.php](http://www.quakerbooks.org/book_tables/virtual_book_tables.php) <[http://www.quakerbooks.org/book\\_tables/virtual\\_book\\_tables.php](http://www.quakerbooks.org/book_tables/virtual_book_tables.php)> "

—Ellie Caldwell, Wendy Clarissa Geiger

## Faith and Practice Committee Report

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## Finance Committee Report

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### Treasurer's Report

SEYM Treasurer

Report for the DIA for 2010 FIBM

Preliminary Results of last Fiscal Year (June 1, 2009 thru May 31, 2010)

General Fund Cash Flow and Budget Performance

The General Fund for the 2009-2010 fiscal year ended with a positive cash flow of \$6,140.68, resulting from a total income of \$78,455.09 offset by total expenses of \$72,314.41, each to be compared to the approved balanced General Fund Budget of \$77,594.00 for both income and expenses.

Unrestricted donations received from individuals totaled \$3,337.00 (including \$230.00 received with the Yearly Meeting Gathering registrations but restricted for the General Fund), which exceeded the budgeted request of \$3,300.00. Many, many thanks to the generous individuals who contributed!

In response to last year's annual apportionments request, the Meetings and Worship Groups contributed a total of \$64,016.00 to support the General Fund, amounting to 98% of the total apportionment request of \$65,614.00. As decided at Yearly Meeting in 2009, twenty (20) of our affiliated Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups were requested to contribute specific amounts in support of our annual budget; fifteen (15) contributed their requested amount or more (Thank You Very Much!), three contributed at least three-quarters of their requested amount, and one contributed two-thirds of its requested amount.

Other Cash Flow Results

Notable results in other areas included a surplus of \$418.77 from the Half Yearly Meeting (after having pre-paid the deposit to reserve a new site at Camp Ithiel for HYM 2010) and a surplus of \$727.59 from the Yearly Meeting Gathering and Walton Lecture, both of which surpluses were transferred, in accordance with standing policy, to the General Fund. The Michener Lecture was supported from the General Fund in the amount of \$166.06. Publications showed a net income of approximately \$1,844 on sales.

Balance Sheet

At the end of the 2009-2010 fiscal year, the Yearly Meeting and its Trustees had a combined net worth of \$345,487.22, which is an increase from the Fiscal Year's beginning value of \$269,256.91. The increase is attributable in part to the above-noted positive cash flow for the Fiscal Year's operations, but mostly to the unrealized increase in the value of the various invested funds of both entities during the year. The requested discernment is still underway as to how best to separate the fiscal reporting of the two entities.

Status at end of First Quarter of this Fiscal Year (June 1, 2010 thru August 31, 2010)

The General Fund ended the First Quarter with a net cash expense (deficit) of \$2,191.30, resulting from a total income of \$13,196.38 (vs. the proportional budget of \$21,800 for this time period) offset by total expenses of \$15,387.68 (vs. a budget of \$17,429 for this time period).

Unrestricted donations received from individuals during this First Quarter totaled \$370.00, which is 42% of the proportional budgeted expectation.

In response to this year's apportionments request, eight Monthly Meetings or Worship Groups have contributed a total of \$9,401.63 this Quarter to the General Fund, amounting to 54% of the proportional budgeted request. These meetings appear to be on a regular program of contributing quarterly or more frequently, which is a great help to the Yearly Meeting's cash flow.

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**Half Yearly Meeting Committee Report**

# **Half Yearly Meeting at**

## **Camp Ithiel**

**2034 Hempel Ave.  
Gotha, Florida 34734  
407 293-3481  
google Camp Ithiel**

**Thursday—Firstday Nov. 25-28, 2010**

**Thanksgiving Dinner will be served at 6:00 pm**

This year we will be gathering at Camp Ithiel for our Annual Thanksgiving Potluck dinner and family weekend. Bring your favorite Thanksgiving dish to share. Come and join us for some fun, great food, and lots of outdoor activities. Don't forget that Saturday night is 'Talent Night.'

## **Practical Ideas to Greening and Living with Nature**

What more can we do? On Friday evening we will be having a round table discussion about our individual (and collective) practices of living with nature. The discussion will be about what folks are doing to conserve, recycle, reduce, reuse, live with nature and respect it. It could include gardening tips, conservation of water, electricity, taking one's own drinking cup/mug to meetings, personal crusades, etc. , any topic that fits with simple living with nature. Kathy Hersh will be bringing her computer to make notes, and get it in publishable form. This will be a good inter-generational activity.

Pete Ackerman is bringing his telescope, so we will all be able to see the stars and talk about what is visible in the night sky.

Saturday evening is the talent show. Everyone start working on your best talent.

This is a new temporary site to hold our Half Yearly Meeting as Wekiwa Springs State Park is closed for repairs this year. Please go to Camp Ithiel's website for information on amenities. We will have 4 lodging rooms with bunk beds (bring your own bedding) and bathrooms, room for RV parking and tenting, as well as a fire pit overlooking the lake and a covered bench area overlooking the lake for morning worship. There is a children's play ground and an auditorium that will hold 200 people. The kitchen is huge! We will be going to Wekiva Springs State Park to canoe and nature walk. Registration opens at 4:00pm

Please register ONLINE ASAP.

**Call Andrea if you have any questions: 813 787-0956**

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## Nominating Committee Report

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## Peace and Social Concerns Committee Report

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## Worship and Ministry Committee Report

SEYM Worship & Ministry Com. Mtg. Invitation & agenda for FIBM DIA 2010

*"Paying attention to others' journeys of faith, I become more aware of impulses which push me towards perfectionism one day and discouragement the next. The discouragement...comes from reaching for an ideal growing out of our own heads..."*

*"The early Quaker doctrine of 'perfection' grabs my attention. It promises healing of the wounds which left me so full of hidden fear. Often I use the term 'spiritual maturity,' a term which captures some of the meaning of the Greek word teleios, when I try to understand Jesus' call in Matthew 5:48: 'Be ye perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect' (KJV)... What speaks to me about perfection is the thought that the Greek term used in the Bible for 'perfection' is more about coming to completion or wholeness..."*

*"To become 'perfect' as Jesus meant is a process of growing into a maturity of spirit visible in our actions...(I)t is a state of being open to God's love flowing through us to others. Perfect love is an inward state of being. It is about becoming part of the wholeness of life and an attunement to all that is divine so complete that it frees the heart from fear." - Margery Post Abbott, To Be Broken and Tender - a Quaker theology for today, pages 56 and 57, Friends Bulletin Corp. 2010*

Dear Friends,

Please, consider participating the SEYM Fall Interim Business Meeting hosted by Palm Beach Meeting on the afternoon of Saturday, October 2nd, 2010, preceded by SEYM committee meetings that morning. Especially, if you are a member of your meeting's Worship & Ministry Committee - or, have an interest in such matters - you are welcome and encouraged to participate (even just visit for a while) in the SEYM Worship & Ministry Committee meeting on the morning of October 2nd in Palm Beach Meeting House.

These items are on the agenda: tending to the needs of the January 2011 Michener Lecture (to be given by Lloyd Lee Wilson); bringing names forward for the 2012 Michener Lecture; tending to needs of the SEYM/SAYMA gifts of ministry gathering at the Tallahassee Meeting House in November; discussing queries for meetings to use in our Spiritual State of the Meeting reports; and, discussing the intervisitation project. SEYM Worship & Ministry Committee, also, holds in Tenderness and Wholeness Fall Interim Business Meeting proceedings, and Friends at the clerks' table. Please, see the SEYM Operational Handbook for further information about the SEYM W&M Com.

SEYM Friends are invited to bring forth to SEYM W&M Com. names of Friends who could possibly deliver future Michener Lectures. The Michener Lecture is for the spiritual nurturing of SEYM Friends. Contact Lyn Cope to purchase past Michener Lecture pamphlets in print.

For Friends not traveling to Palm Beach Meeting House for FIBM and committee meetings on Saturday, October 2nd, 2010, please, center where you are and support those gathered at FIBM And the committee meetings by holding those Friends and proceedings in Tenderness and Wholeness. Thank you.

Gentle blessings,

Wendy Clarissa Geiger and Nancy Triscritti, co-clerks, SEYM W&M Com,  
WCG: (904)764-1722 - NT: (813)929-4355

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## YM Gathering Committee Report

### Gathering Committee Report

The Gathering Committee has been working on organizing SEYM 2011 for April 20-24, 2011. Our new Activities Director Ann Jerome has been lining up workshops and interest groups. Let her know right away if you have a leading in that direction. Our speakers will be Vanessa Julye and Donna McDaniel, authors of *Fit For Freedom, Not For Friendship*. We hope meetings are getting ready for YM2011 by reading the book and thinking about the history of race relations in the Society of Friends. We'll give a short report after the committee meeting on Saturday morning, Oct 2.

—Ellie Caldwell, Clerk, Gathering Committee

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## Youth Committee Report

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### REPRESENTATIVES TO QUAKER/OTHER ORGANIZATIONS' REPORTS

SEYM Representatives to a Quaker Organizations: When you participate in a Friendly activity on behalf of SEYM or on behalf of your organization, you re requested to submit a Report for publication either in the newsletter or in a DIA (FIBM; WIBM; YBM) so that the wider community of Friends may learn of your activities on our behalf.

Please help keep the business meeting running smoothly by submitting your report for the this FIBM-DIA. Then plan to give a short update Saturday afternoon; remember to provide Recording Clerk.

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**AFSC**

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**AFSC/SERO**

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**AFSC/SERO-EMAP**

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**FCNL**

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**FGC Central Committee Rep**

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**FWCC**

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**Friends Peace Team**

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**Florida Council of Churches**

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**FLGBTQC**

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**QEW**

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**QUNO**

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## PRONICA BOARD REPORT

**NOTE:** SEYM appoints three Board Members to the ProNica Board. Board members appointed are as follows: Lyn Cope (2011), Kathy Hersh (2012), Herb Haigh (2013).

David Johns, Executive Director, submitted the following report.

ProNica's first mission is Empowering Nicaraguans. New project partners in Rio Blanco were found when a delegation lived within the community. The community is four hours from Managua in the highlands or northern Nicaragua. A strong leader recognized the opportunity and submitted proposals for several needs. Overflowing twenty-year-old latrines were overdue for attention. ProNica provided funds to replace ten latrines. Los Quinchos struggle to feed 200 children in 4 locations. They've cut staff and sold vehicles. Acahualinca Women's clinic puts their clients and services first, foregoing basics such as their own salaries and office supplies. As the economy is bleak in the first world; it is dire in developing nations.

Delegations for 2010 included St Petersburg's Eckerd College, Washburn University of Topeka KS, Trinity University in Texas, University of Florida, Harlem, Street Squash, and Canadian Inuits. The latter two groups were true cultural exchanges as they performed their heritage drumming, dancing.

The Inuits specifically wanted to meet indigenous Nicaraguans. A first for ProNica, we collaborated with eastern Nicaragua indigenous groups. That connection is made for the future. The Harlem high school kids experienced their first latrines, flying insects, fire-cooked tortillas, as they lived with host families in both urban & rural communities. Read about StreetSquash on their blog: <http://streetsquashgoestonicaragua.blogspot.com/> Find more stories in the September newsletter, in your mailbox now or online at ProNica's website.



2011 delegations are lining up. Gesundheit! Institute returns in January right after Washburn. The 2009 delegation of 15 clowns brightened the days of hospitalized children, women prisoners, terminal cancer patients, and street children in the markets. New delegation from Redlands CA comes from high recommendation from last year's new Texas Trinity University. University of Florida, lead by ProNica board member and Gainesville Friend Tim Fogarty is planned for May. These delegations serve ProNica's second mission to educate North Americans about Nicaragua and help cover administrative costs so that all donations go directly to projects.

Six Haverford volunteers served 8 weeks after their 10-day orientation delegation. Four project partners benefited from these enthusiastic students. Six-month volunteer Hannah Bowen begins service 15 September. Hannah is from the same Quaker meeting as AVP presenters Kit & Ev Pilgrim.

October Friends Witness Tour is full. The 5-15 November tour needs 2 more for the minimum to proceed. If you seek a life-changing experience, call the stateside office today.

In November, former ProNica stateside coordinator Lin Jorgensen travels to purchase pottery for NCECA conference next March/April in Tampa Bay area. Potters for Peace and ProNica are jointly sharing costs and outreach and profits. Exposure with this international group will promote Nicaraguan potters' work.

In September ProNica began paying \$200 a month rent for office space at St Petersburg meeting. ProNica was honored to be nominated for the 2010 WMNF Peace and Humanity award. Sheridan Crumlish estate was finally settled; ProNica received \$72k. An ecstatic Board is searching investments in Nicaragua, such as WCCN, which manages micro-credit loans for small businesses, farmers and women.

The next ProNica quarterly meeting is Saturday 20 November in Miami where Friends of ProNica plan several outreach events. Lillian Hall will participate. Hopefully, premier Nicaraguan reggae singer-songwriter Philip Montalban, whose family lives in Miami, will perform. Please join us as project grant awards for 2011 are decided.

Respectfully submitted,  
Davida Johns

**NOTE:** SEYM also appoints two assistant Recording Clerks to help out as needed, and three Information and Technology Consultants to assist the office and committee clerks on an as-needed basis. Three Publications Consultants assist the office in discernment of submitted manuscripts. These appointees are not asked to provide reports.

## EC/OFFICE REPORT REGARDING SEYM'S 501C3 STATUS.

**NOTE:** We are pleased to announce that following a great deal of angst since May of this year, and much labor on the part of former YM Clerk Dan Vaughn, SEYM's non-profit status has now been reviewed and reapproved. By some reckonings, this issue was first raised nine years ago and never fully resolved. It came to a head in May with receipt of a letter stating that SEYM would lose its 501c3 non-profit status. The following excerpts from Dan Vaughn's myriad emails indicate the scope of our efforts.

June 9

Dear Lyn:

I plan to write and then fax a letter to the IRS attaching copies of SEYM articles of incorporation and bylaws in support of a request that our classification be changed from "religious organization" to an "association of churches," thus exempting SEYM from the 990 filing requirement.

Would you please send me .pdf copies of current articles and bylaws, with your certification on the last page of each, that the foregoing document is a true and correct copy of the articles of incorporation/bylaws of Southeastern Yearly Meeting. You should sign as administrative secretary of SEYM.

Thanks,  
Dan

Begin forwarded message:

From: Daniel Vaughn <DVAUGHEN@CFL.RR.COM>  
Date: June 11, 2010 6:47:46 AM EDT  
To: Gary Arthur <garya365@gmail.com>  
Subject: 990 Exemption Summary

Dear Gary:

Charitable Organizations (such as the Red Cross), even though exempt from Federal Income Tax, and even though contributions to which are tax deductible, are nevertheless required to file an information return with the IRS called a Form 990. This form reports their income, assets, operations, and contributors, among other information. (See [http://www.marketingexpress.irs.gov/public/videos/topic\\_1.html](http://www.marketingexpress.irs.gov/public/videos/topic_1.html)) A short form return can be filed if their gross receipts are less than \$25,000. The 990 form is available for public inspection (see, e.g., <http://www.irs.gov/app/ePostcard/>, or <http://www.guidestar.org>). There is a substantial fine for failing to file, and their recent threat to SEYM was to revoke its tax exempt status for failing to file for three consecutive months. SEYM has never filed the form. Lyn reports, however, that some Meetings regularly file the form.

Churches are exempted from filing the form under the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitutional prohibiting laws "respecting the establishment of religion." So the issue is whether SEYM is a "church." The IRS regs include "association of churches" in its list of organizations exempt from the filing requirement. It is into that category that SEYM clearly falls.

How or when or why SEYM was classified by the IRS as a charitable organization rather than as a church is lost in the dark mists of history. The last time the issue surfaced we were assured informally by a tax attorney that we did not have to file the form. We did nothing then to clarify our status with the IRS.

Now that the IRS has threatened to revoke our tax exemption, something must be done. I suggested that we hire a tax professional to present our case to the IRS. That did not happen. Given the 6/2/10 deadline imposed by the IRS, I volunteered to call them for an extension, and to explain. I was politely told that if a reclassification was desired, an application therefor must be filed "asap." I was given a Revenue Procedure

number (96-10) and a fax number.

This fool accordingly rushed in where angels fear to tread, hoping to do no harm to SEYM's status. We are in an extremely risky position, however, not because we are not entitled to the exemption, but because we have an incompetent advocate. It is very important, in other words, that a tax professional be employed immediately to review what has been filed, correct it or supplement it, if necessary, and to be available to respond to any further inquiries from the IRS incident to that filing. Until that is done, we should not rest.

Peace,

Dan

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Aug 9, 2010  
Dear Friends:

I had a call this afternoon from Maria Tritch, of the IRS in Cincinnati. Here are my notes of that telephone conversation:

"Maria Tritch  
513-263-4089

She responded to my letter on SEYM's exemption from filing Form 990 by a letter sent out this past Friday. As we spoke, however, and as she reviewed the website with me, she decided that the letter she sent was not relevant to what we were requesting. She thought we were requesting to be exempt from 990 filing because we were "affiliated with an association of churches." The letter she sent sought additional evidence of that "affiliation."

| When I explained that we were seeking exemption because we WERE an association of churches, she had to do some additional research before responding. She wanted to  
| look at our original application file, and to review the website more carefully. She would then call me and fax me a new letter explaining what she needed in order to  
| act upon that request.

| She then called me back about fifteen minutes later and said she had enough information from the website upon which to base a "foundation" change to our status from  
| "religious organization" to "association of churches." We should disregard the letter she sent out on Friday, and she will be sending us another letter shortly confirming that change in "foundation status." The effect of the new letter will be to exempt us from filing form 990."

Peace,  
Dan

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August 10  
Dear Friends:

This evening I received another call from Maria Tritch of the Exempt Organization unit of the IRS. She was calling to discuss the effective date of her exemption letter. I was able to give her the date of the original exemption letter because Lyn had sent me a copy of that letter some months ago. Maria Tritch asked me to fax a copy of that letter to her, since it would take some time for her to retrieve it from their archives (I picture that memorable scene from Raiders of The Lost Ark). I have done so.

| Since that original letter was addressed to "The Incorporated Trustees of Southeastern Year-

ly Meeting, Religious Society of Friends,” however, we had to establish that the two organizations were one and the same. I led her to the Florida Department of State website where she was able, from her own computer, to download and print the name history of SEYM, and verify the identity between SEYM, and the entity to which the original letter had been addressed.

She was happy to learn, when I read to her the pertinent paragraph of the original IRS letter, that the code section under which the exemption had then been granted was the code section pertaining to churches. That “nailed it down” as far as she was concerned. She thought there must have been some “processing error” on the part of the IRS in re-classifying SEYM as a “religious organization” instead of as a church.

There is accordingly no change from my previous email. A letter recognizing SEYM as an “association of churches” - and therefore exempt from filing Form 990, effective March 8, 1971, should issue from her office in due course.

Peace,

Dan

**NOTE:** the office continued to receive dunning notices from the IRS with increasing frequency. All in all, there must have been twenty communications back and forth between me, Dan, and the IRS. In the meantime, the office received notice that we were being denied our claim for 501c3 non-profit status and that all taxes were due immediately and a huge penalty would be assessed due to our not filing in a timely manner.

Subject: Status of 990 Exemption

Date: Wednesday, September 1, 2010 5:14 PM

From: Daniel Vaughn <dvaughen@cfl.rr.com>

To: Lyn Cope <admin@seym.org>, Gary Arthur <garya365@gmail.com>, Susan Taylor <susantaylor410@gmail.com>

Conversation: Status of 990 Exemption

Dear Lyn:

I spoke with Maria Tritch this afternoon. Here are my notes of the call:

Called on 9/1 and left message for a call back. She called back at 4:45 PM. Her manager had requested that she research the file and find out why the change to religious organization from church had been made. She did so. Apparently it was an error in the cover letter responding to SEYM request for a copy of its exemption letter. She has reported that to her manager. Her recommendation for the change back to church went to the manager on 8/27. Normally it takes a week or so for him to act on it. She hopes I will have a letter in hand within a week or ten days. As for the recent correspondence from the collection unit, she recommended I call them and ask for an extension - as long as I can get - explaining what we are doing and our understanding of the status of our request. I will call them tomorrow.

Dan

**NOTE:** Finally the correct letter arrived! See following page.

Curiously on its heels, a letter from the IRS arrived saying that we were not filing the 941 tax for employees correctly. This happens every year due to SEYM’s Fiscal Year falling in mid-quarter tax cycle. This year was different: we would have been assessed a huge fine BUT the IRS would excuse us this time.

Several phone calls from the office have now determined that the issues are threefold:

1. SEYM is required to file electronically — I have been doing this.
2. SEYM is required to pay the 941 tax immediately following the first of the month following the month it is due but before the 15th. If filed it the month it is due, IRS credits payment to previous month and then posts non-payment even if this means the previous month show overpayment. *If payment is NOT recorded by the IRS by the 15th*, a huge daily fine is added.
3. Thirdly, due the secretary’s salary not being equally divisible by 12 [variable pennies off for 3-4 months for Social Security and Medicare payments], I vary the amount sent for FICA to compensate. IRS does not like this irregularity.

**Internal Revenue Service  
Director, Exempt Organizations  
Rulings and Agreements**

**Department of the Treasury  
P.O. Box 2508  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45201**

**Date: SEP 02 2010**

Southeastern Yearly Meeting Religious Society of Friends  
P.O. Box 510795  
Melbourne Bch., FL 32951

**Federal Identification Number:**  
59-1226463  
**Person to Contact – ID#:**  
Maria Tritch – 02-03386  
**Contact Telephone Numbers:**  
877-829-5500 Phone

Dear Applicant:

This letter is in response to your request for confirmation of your exemption from Federal income tax.

You were recognized as an organization exempt from Federal income tax under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code by our letter of March 8, 1971. You were further determined not to be a Private foundation within the meaning of section 509(a) of the Code because you were an organization described in section 170(b)(1)(A)(i).

Contributions to you are deductible under section 170 of the Code.


You are not required to file Form 990, Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax.

Please let us know about any future changes in the character, purposes, method of operation, name or address of your organization. This is a requirement for retaining your exempt status.

We have sent a copy of this letter to your representative as indicated in your power of attorney.

Because this letter could help resolve any questions regarding your exempt status, you should keep it in your permanent records.

If you have general questions about exempt organizations, please call our toll free number shown in the heading.

Sincerely,  


Robert Choi  
Director, Exempt Organizations  
Rulings and Agreements