

## DOCUMENTS IN ADVANCE

Fall Executive Committee Meeting: Friday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2014  
**FALL INTERIM BUSINESS MEETING**  
Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014

### Dear Friends,

It's fall. I see mothers walking young children to school, teenagers with backpacks at the bus stops, "school zone" signals flashing once again. The "seasonal" aisle in the grocery store seems to have turned bright orange overnight. And some mornings, the air is just a little bit crisp when my dog and I go walking.

For us as Friends, fall is the time we begin to look forward and lay plans for winter and spring. Next April's Gathering starts to take shape, final plans for January's Michener Lecture are laid, and our budgeting needs for next year begin to peek through this year's commitments. When we gather for Fall Interim Business Meeting, we come refreshed from summer, thirsty for the communion of Friends, ready to create together a near and long-term future that will express and nurture our faith and our vocation.

All are welcome at Fall Interim Business Meeting, as at all SEYM events, and this is a perfect time for new Friends to experience the joy of our yearly meeting. Come in readiness to give and to receive, to lead and be led, to hear and be heard. I look forward to seeing you there.

In the Light, Ann Jerome, Clerk, Executive Committee and Interim Business Meeting



Hosted by

## SARASOTA MEETING

3139 57<sup>th</sup> Street, Sarasota, FL 34243

### Directions to Meetinghouse

From I-75 take Exit 213: University Parkway, International Airport, drive west (towards Sarasota) on University Pkwy about 3.5 miles to N. Lockwood Ridge Road. Turn left onto N. Lockwood Ridge Road take the 3rd right onto 57th St. The Meetinghouse is the first driveway on the right.

### Quaker Hospitality contact:

Julie Snape: 941-323-4206; [fjordchi@gmail.com](mailto:fjordchi@gmail.com). Let Julie know how many, which nights, special needs

### Clerk of Sarasota Monthly Meeting:

Nancy Corindia: [nancy.corindia@yahoo.com](mailto:nancy.corindia@yahoo.com); 941-706-1985

**Meals:** *Those requiring vegan/special diets please bring your own.*

**Wi-Fi:** Sarasota Meeting has wi-fi.

**Hotels:** Here are some recommended nearby hotels; visit their websites for more information

**Courtyard Sarasota Bradenton Airport:** 850 University Pkwy., Sarasota, FL 34234. From \$103/night

**Hampton Inn & Suites Sarasota-Bradenton Airport:** 975 University Pkwy, Sarasota, FL 34243. From \$97/night

**Hyatt Place Sarasota:** 950 University Parkway, Sarasota, FL 34234. From \$100/night

**Sleep Inn Sarasota Bradenton Airport:** 900 University Pkwy., Sarasota, FL 34234. From \$59/night

# FALL INTERIM BUSINESS MEETING

## SCHEDULE & AGENDA

### Friday, October 3

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#### Executive Committee Meeting, open to all

6:30 pm Fellowship  
7:00 pm Worship followed by EC meeting

### Saturday, October 4

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#### Fall Interim Business Meeting

8:00 am Coffee and snacks  
9:00 am Worship  
Nominating Committee preliminary report ..... page 3  
Announcements  
9:30 am Committee meetings – all are welcome to attend  
12 noon Lunch  
1:00 pm Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business:  
Roll call of meetings and worship groups  
Welcome of visitors  
Announcements  
Executive Committee report  
Nominating Committee report ..... page 3  
Worship and Ministry Committee report..... page 4  
Treasurer's report  
Youth Committee report  
Gathering Committee report ..... page 5  
Half Yearly Meeting Committee report..... page 5  
Committee on Earthcare report ..... pages 6 & 7  
Peace & Social Concerns Committee report  
ProNica report  
Representatives to Organizations  
Reading back the minutes  
4:30 Closing worship  
5:00 Fellowship; dinner at a local restaurant

### Sunday, October 5

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10:00 am Worship with Sarasota Friends

#### Other reports in these Documents

Committee for Ministry on Racism ..... page 8  
Memorial Minute for Elizabeth Rapp..... page 9

# Southeastern Yearly Meeting Nominating Committee Report

## Fall Interim Business Meeting

### Tenth Month 4, 2014

*The Quaker meeting is a faith community, grounded in the shared experience of God's guidance and grace felt in our meetings for worship, our meetings for worship with a concern for business, and our fellowship...Many Friends describe the experience of their first visit to meeting as "coming home." It is only with God's Spirit that such a diverse group of individuals can realize and embody the kind of unity, belonging, and community that answers to that of God within us.*

...*"Blessed Community: Quaker Faith, Testimony, and Practice,"* **SEYM Faith and Practice**

The work of the Nominating Committee continues to be grounded in centering ourselves in the Spirit, and trusting the guidance there, as we discern way forward in filling vacancies for service within the blessed community of Southeastern Yearly Meeting. Our experience has been that serving the Yearly Meeting is one way to deepen the sense of our belonging to, and being, the Yearly Meeting. Service has brought joy to us and been a part of strengthening our community. We continue to ask all the rest of the Yearly Meeting community to join us in our discernment and give us your insights into who might have the gifts SEYM needs for various positions. How are we each led as part of the Yearly Meeting family?

It is with joy that we bring forward for final approval the nomination of Bill Carlie (Orlando) for a three-year term as Membership Recorder for the Yearly Meeting. Interim approval was given at the Executive Committee (EC) meeting, sixth month 14, in order that he could begin serving at the rise of that EC meeting:

**Southeastern Yearly Meeting, meeting as Fall Interim Business Meeting, approves the nomination of Bill Carlie (Orlando) for a three-year term as Southeastern Yearly Meeting Membership Recorder. His term will end in 2017.**

The Committee realizes that though our priorities are to find Friends to fill terms that expire in 2015, we hold a broad view in our support for the future of SEYM and are also looking ahead for Friends to serve in positions that will become open at later dates.

We are seeking a Friend, or Friends, to be mentored this year by the current Gathering Co-Clerks in order that they will be able to step into the position of **Gathering Clerk or Co-Clerks** in 2015. The current Co-clerks will be stepping down at the end of their term and are clear that their service for this aspect of SEYM will be completed at that time.

We are also seeking a Friend to serve as our **annual Gathering Registrar**. It is important that this Friend enjoys communicating effectively with people and is competent in working with numbers. Peter Crockett, current Co-Clerk of the Gathering Committee, has been updating the description of the Registrar's duties in the **SEYM Operational Handbook, Procedures and Job Descriptions** ([www.seym.org](http://www.seym.org)) because many changes have occurred since the original job description was written.

We continue our discernment for the **Interim Business Meeting/ EC Clerk, Treasurer and a Trustee**, all of whom need to be brought forward and approved at Yearly Meeting sessions, 2015. Please see our prior reports for committee member and clerk openings. An updated report will be given during FIBM meeting for worship with a concern for business sessions.

Trusting in God's guidance, with gratitude,  
Susan Taylor (Tallahassee), Nominating Committee Clerk for the Committee  
Cheryl Demers-Holton (Gainesville); Eduardo Diaz (Miami); Andrea Hoskins (Miami)

## WORSHIP & MINISTRY COMMITTEE REPORT

"For some reason, the most vocal Christians among us never mention the Beatitudes. But, often with tears in their eyes, they demand that the Ten Commandments be posted in public buildings. And of course that's Moses, not Jesus. I haven't heard one of them demand that the Sermon on the Mount, the Beatitudes, be posted anywhere." - Kurt Vonnegut

"Church is not a museum of good people; it's a hospital for the broken."--- Jeff Bethke (quoted in a sojo.net blog post "*Viral: Why I Hate Religion But Love Jesus*" by Matthew Santoro)

### **Dear Southeastern Yearly Meeting Quaker Meetings and Worship Groups,**

The SEYM Worship & Ministry Committee invites you to participate in the various SEYM standing committees' meetings as we meet the morning of Fall Interim Business Meeting, Saturday, October 4th, 2014, at Sarasota Meeting House. If you are part of your meeting's Worship & Ministry Committee, you are most welcome to sit in on the SEYM W&M Com. meeting. You may visit the different committee meetings and see which one suits your gifts and interests.

SEYM W&M Com. has on our meeting agenda: tend to needs for the Michener Lecture(r) in January 2015; discern the needs for leading an intensive workshop on "centering" at the 2015 SEYM Gathering at Eastertime. As SEYM Gathering Com. has requested W&M Com. develop this opportunity on "centering."

Benigno Sanchez-Eppler will deliver the 2015 Michener Lecture. SEYM Friends are welcome to suggest names of and information on potential Michener Lecturers who are Quakers. The Michener Lecture is for spiritually nurturing SEYM Friends and is delivered at the Orlando Meeting House the Sunday afternoon after the Winter Interim Business Meeting held there on the Martin Luther King Weekend.

In the Light of Christ's Heart,

Wendy Clarissa Geiger and Nancy Triscritti, co-clerks of SEYM Worship & Ministry Committee

## **GATHERING COMMITTEE REPORT**

Fall Interim Business Meeting, October 3, 2014

**SEYM Gathering and Annual Sessions 2015: April 1-5 (no foolin')**  
**working theme: "Grace, Empowerment, and Discernment"**

**Walton Lecturer: Nancy Irving**, retired General Secretary of FWCC.

Please read Nancy's plenary address for the 2012 Salt and Light Conference. I believe it will touch you. Here's the link and it's on the SEYM website!

<http://www.saltandlight2012.org/PlenaryAddress-NancyIrving>

We're looking forward to a rich workshop program again this year thanks to many talented SEYM Friends as well Friends from Quaker organizations around the country.

### **We are looking for:**

- A Registrar for the Gathering 2015
- Clerk(s) for Gatherings 2016-18
- A Volunteer Coordinator for 2015

**Which of the above best suits you?** (We recommend against "(e) all of the above.")

## **HALF YEARLY MEETING REPORT**

Join us for Half Yearly Meeting at Wekiwa Springs State Park in Apopka, FL, over Thanksgiving from November 27-30, 2014. You can relax in nature while having time for those deep conversations with Friends on a hike or in a rocking chair on the porch. Come on our traditional canoe outing and prepare to share your talent at the annual Family Talent Show.

Our environmental theme this year is Speak For the Trees!, a Dr. Seuss-inspired program connecting children's literature with activism. And our youth program will be focusing on The Ties That Bind with the practical activities of knot tying and emergency shelter building, along with the more deeply held idea that HYM is a place for the youth to connect with each other.

HYM thrives when you share your creativity with us. Contact us if you're interested in managing a meal, presenting an environmental workshop, or leading worship sharing: [dustin.lemke@gmail.com](mailto:dustin.lemke@gmail.com) or [beeg742@yahoo.com](mailto:beeg742@yahoo.com). Register online at [seym.org](http://seym.org); if you cannot register online, contact the clerk to be registered online over the phone: (813) 766-3510.

**Clerk, Dustin Lemke**  
**Registrar, Beeg Camarota**

# EARTHCARE COMMITTEE REPORT

July, 2014

**Dear Friends,**

As many of you know, SEYM at our past Gathering approved a minute on climate change brought forward by the Earthcare Committee. We are grateful to our Clerk, Phoebe Andersen, for pointing out that minutes are only as good as the actions they inspire. The first step as a community is to discern what actions we are led to in regard to the climate change minute.

At the same Yearly Meeting the Earthcare Committee brought forward a proposal for a Released Friend with attention to earthcare. The Earthcare Committee is asking that all Monthly Meetings initiate discernment on that proposal (attached below) and submit comments to us.

Friends, this is a profound decision with both climate and financial implications for SEYM. We ask every Friend in our Yearly Meeting to participate in our discernment.

Here are the initial descriptors we put forward in the proposal.

The Release Friend for Earthcare:

- will help SEYM focus on planetary healing, and Earthcare concerns
- will seek deeply for their own leadings and the guidance of the Spirit in Earthcare
- will work with Monthly Meetings to discern and implement their Meeting's leadings of the climate change minute
- will provide support to Monthly Meeting for their Earth-centered work.
- will become a liaison between SEYM and other Quaker environmental organizations, such as Quaker Earthcare Witness, Friends Committee on National Legislation, Quaker United Nations Office and Earth Quaker Action Team to share experiences and support.

Please consider the following in your discernment: the nomination process; the selection process; funding sources; and any other feedback you would like to offer.

We recommend that this person be a member of SEYM and under the care of the Earthcare Committee. We also recommend that she or he have a committee of support in their Monthly Meeting.

Because of the urgency of the concerns for Earth, we implore you to begin the discernment and feedback now. We are holding Earth in the Light.

Barbara Letsch, Brad Stocker, co-clerks for the Earthcare Committee

[bjletsch@gmail.com](mailto:bjletsch@gmail.com), [brstocker@yahoo.com](mailto:brstocker@yahoo.com)

P.S. All questions and comments are most welcome

## **Proposal and Minute**

### **From SEYM's Earthcare Committee**

### **For a Released Friend to do Environmental Work**

Climate scientists report that we are now at 400 ppm of carbon in the atmosphere. The biosphere's optimal capacity for life as we know it is 350 ppm., and yet carbon continues to rise. Well-intentioned people may disagree about the implications of those numbers, but some have described the current environmental crisis as slow moving planetary suicide. We also recognize that Florida, as a peninsula, is particularly vulnerable.

SEYM Friends have become increasingly aware of environmental issues. Many of us are working as much as we can in our Monthly and Yearly Meetings and cannot take on another major responsibility. Thus, creating and funding a position for environmental released Friend is one way for our Yearly Meeting to acknowledge and put resources into addressing climate crises.

We offer the following initial job description: This released Friend will:

- Work within their own leadings and the guidance of the Spirit in work within SEYM on planetary healing
- Provide a liaison with other Quaker environmental organizations, such as QEW, FCNL, QUNO and EQAT, with an emphasis on new methods and successes in earthcare work.
- Work with monthly meetings to season and implement their meetings leadings for the Earth.

The Earth Care Committee offers the following minute:

We propose that SEYM take one year to season and discern way forward in creating a position of released Friend with a concern for the Earth.

SEYM will seek the Light concerning approval of a position of Released Friend with a concern for the Earth from April 2014 to April 2015.

During this time the Earthcare Committee will seek input from all Worship Groups and Monthly Meetings to refine and improve the purpose and job description for a released Friend.

We will work with the finance Committee to secure funds for payment of a Released Friend, with an intention of funding a 10 hour position plus travel allowance.

We will work toward funding the position and hiring the released Friend by summer, 2015.

Southeastern Yearly Meeting

## COMMITTEE FOR MINISTRY ON RACISM

Wendy Clarissa Geiger, Ellie Caldwell, co-clerks

"Whites are taught to think their lives are morally neutral, normative, average and ideal so that when we work to benefit others this can be seen as work which allows 'them' to be like 'us.'" - Elizabeth Mimmich (from the 2013 annual report from the Racial, Social and Economic Justice Com. of New England Yearly Meeting)

"When an individual is protesting society's refusal to acknowledge his dignity as a human being, his very act of protest confers dignity on him." - Bayard Rustin

The recent events in Ferguson, MO where a white policeman shot an unarmed black man once again gives us an opportunity to wake up: race issues in America are not over, as so many white people would like to assert. In our Quaker Meetings in Florida, we have heard, "I'm tired of talking about race," "Don't you think we're done with that subject?" "I'm sorry, but I'm all out of energy for that one, need to work on a bigger issue like peace."

We can pretend all we want, but over 250 years of slavery has taken a toll on our planet and left an evil scar that will need even more years of work to heal.

Nicholas Kristof, 8/28/14, New York Times: The problem is not "overt racism" but "a large swath of people who consider themselves enlightened, who intellectually believe in racial equality, who deplore discrimination, yet who harbor unconscious attitudes that result in discriminatory policies and behavior." Does that sound like anyone we know? Does that sound like ourselves at times?

A blog by ManicPixieDreamMama: "A Mother's White Privilege" eloquently lays out the fears she doesn't have for her 3 sons because they're white. She follows with "10 Ways (White) Parents Can Fight Racism," suggestions for raising children with great race awareness and understanding.

We don't need more rhetoric or false promises. We don't need surface niceness about race. Each of us needs to commit ourselves to this work as Quakers have always done: stand for justice, expand our "safe" circle of friends, talk with each other, and become even more awake, aware, and vigilant.

### Resources:

- [www.theroot.com](http://www.theroot.com) and The Black Agenda Report offer myriad articles on racism and racism awareness work.
- The Ella Baker Center (in California), Color of Change, Tim Wise, and Roots Action do much-needed racism awareness work.
- [www.beyonddiversity.org](http://www.beyonddiversity.org) of Beyond Diversity Resource Center offers "The Anti-Racist Cookbook - A Recipe Guide for Conversations About Race That Goes Beyond Covered Dishes and Kum-Bah-Ya" by Robin Parker and Pamela Smith Chambers.
- [www.beyonddiversity101.org](http://www.beyonddiversity101.org) is the website of 2007 Michener Lecturer Niyonu D. Spann's 5-day workshop.
- [www.trainingforchange.org](http://www.trainingforchange.org) was founded by 2004 Michener Lecturer George Lakey.
- And, we commend to you Friends General Conference's plethora of writings and ideas on racism and racism awareness work among Friends. [www.fgcquaker.org](http://www.fgcquaker.org) Click the header "Deepen" and under "Enrichment" is "Help Your Meeting Challenge Racism." Explore links throughout this section for encouragement, enrichment, understanding, and ways forward.
- FGC sponsors Quakers' attendance at the annual White Privilege Conference. Reflections by WPC attenders may be found on the FGC website.
- Also, consider purchasing the phenomenal, deeply moving (according to Wendy) 2011 Quaker Press of FGC published book, BLACK FIRE - AFRICAN AMERICAN QUAKERS ON SPIRITUALITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS, edited by Harold D Weaver, Jr., Paul Kriese, and (a former long-time SEYMer) Stephen W. Angell, with Anne Steere Nash and forward by Emma Lapsansky-Werner. \$23.95. FGC Bookstore can be found on the Internet as well as by phone at 800-966-4556.

## Memorial Minute for Elizabeth Rapp

Elizabeth Marjorie Rapp, member of St. Petersburg Monthly Meeting and beloved attender at Lake Wales Worship Group, passed away Fourth Month 17, 2014 in Lake Wales, at age 97. Lake Wales Worship Group held a heartfelt memorial meeting for her at the home of David and Catherine Price, following a regular meeting for worship on June 1, 2014. Those in attendance included Elizabeth's niece, Barbara Wallace Hills and grand nephew, Matthew Kosboth.

She was born Elizabeth Marjorie Wallace in 1917 in Minetto, NY. A 1939 graduate of the University of Rochester's nursing program, she worked for many years as a registered nurse. In 1943, she married Lester L. Rapp and moved to Norwich, NY, where they raised their son, William (Bill). After moving to Clearwater, Florida in 1971, she continued to work at a local hospital. About 1980 she retired and the couple moved to Lake Wales, Florida. After Lester died in 1984, Elizabeth did volunteer work at Bok Tower Gardens until the late 1990's.

Elizabeth began attending Lake Wales Worship Group in the fall of 1986 and continued until the end of 2013. Her steadfast attendance helped hold the group together when few others came. In mid-2001 Elizabeth became a member of St. Petersburg Meeting. She read Friends' literature extensively and took her turn providing religious education when there were children at meeting. A big event for the Worship Group was the surprise 80<sup>th</sup> birthday party held for Elizabeth in 1997.

Here are some comments that Friends have made about Elizabeth:

By Marion Paulsen, correspondent for Lake Wales Worship Group during the 1980's:

"Elizabeth was a very knowing person. Her gentle, loving spirit showed in the way her face would light up when she saw a young child."

By Cecelia Yocum: "She's a honey!"

From Chris DeRoller and Mike Clark, former attenders of Lake Wales Worship Group:

"Elizabeth was one of those wonderful people whom we have met through Quaker meeting that made us decide to officially become Quakers. She was wonderful at making young children and their parents feel welcome and important. She was always calm, understanding and interested in the children. When she was with the children, she was totally present for them. She shared her beliefs and stories. More importantly, she listened to the children and to us.

"She also helped us to be better parents by being such a positive role model with the kids. It is hard to be angry with your child when you see her being appreciated by someone like Elizabeth. We would make the extra effort to get to Quaker meeting because it was such a delight to be in her presence and hear her quiet messages."