

## SOUTHEASTERN YEARLY MEETING GATHERING 2017

### Activity Descriptions

*(In Alphabetical Order)*

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#### **Format Key:**

- *Worship – Self Explanatory*
  - *Recreation – Self Explanatory*
  - *Workshop – usually 50% or more is interactive*
  - *Presentation - lecture, video, etc. with 20% or less interaction (mostly Q&A)*
  - *Facilitated discussion – with no more than 10-15 minutes of presentation*
  - *Interest Group – Self Explanatory*
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#### **AT HOME AMONG THE STARS: EMBRACING OUR COSMIC NATURE**

In our scientific age, being open to progressive revelation often challenges our traditional concepts of God, creation, and the meaning of life. This presentation offers a contemporary view of the origin, evolution, and potential future of humanity from a cosmic perspective. It is not particularly technical and, therefore, suitable for both adults and children from upper elementary school and above. Although primarily secular in its perspective, the content is relevant to theists and non-theists alike.

This presentation offers a new perception of what it means to be fully human. The following questions will be addressed:

- What role has evolution played in our development?
- What is natural spirituality?
- How can we actualize our cosmic design?
- What future is possible for mankind?

Leader: Rick Brice: “Over the past fifteen years or so I have actively sought a deeper understanding of our place in the universe. As a member of Clearwater Friends Meeting for the past five years, I have pursued that interest within my Quaker community and have sought to share my discoveries with others. For the past two years, I have been writing a book that reflects many of the concepts I hope to present.”

*Friday, 2:45-4:00 PM Room 2 (New day/time)*

Format: Presentation      ● *For More Information: 727-505-9440; nprick@yahoo.com*

Note: The documentary film “Journey of the Universe” featuring Brian Thomas Swimme will be presented in a separate session on Thursday (see below). Participants will find that attendance at that viewing will contribute to a more fundamental understanding of the concepts being addressed.

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#### **BEING A PARENT AND A FRIEND**

We will share resources, advices and queries related to being a parent and a Friend. We will explore concerns and opportunities together. This session is open to all who are parents, were parents, might be parents, support parents and were parented. Your silenced personal electronic device is welcome in this session for research purposes.

Leader: Elizabeth A. Jenkins (Orlando MM). “I am led to present this opportunity in response to requests from f/Friends and family and affirmation that our shared experience encourages our faith and strengthens our practice. I have been a parent; a teacher for children, youth and adults; a parent-child enrichment instructor; and a child care program administrator for decades. I am a grandparent and a child. BA, English Literature, Post-Graduate Certificate in Education, M. Ed. and post-graduate credit in Early Childhood Education.

*Thursday, 10:15-11:30 AM Room 2*  
Format: Facilitated Discussion

● *For More Information:* 407-803-2110;  
elizabethjenkins1@gmail.com

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### **BIBLE STUDY—LECTIO DIVINA**

We will study a preselected Bible verse using this ancient method that involves reading, reflection, response and rest. After the practice we will worship-share about our experience. This is another method that can be easily taught to your meeting.

Leader: Jerry Knutson (Orlando MM & Monongalia (WV) MM) was a residential student for 1.3 years at Pendle Hill and has an MDiv from Earlham School of Religion.

*Friday, 4:15-5:30 PM (Room 2)*

Format: Workshop

● For more information: 301-616-5115 (text preferred);  
almostluddite@yahoo.com

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### **CAPP (CHILD ABUSE PROTECTION PROGRAM) TRAINING**

Thanks to our staff of SEYM CAPP-registered, dedicated volunteers, we are able to have a Youth Program that offers our young people a full schedule of fun, creative, and enriching activities at our gatherings! The SEYM-sponsored Child Abuse Protection Program training covers child abuse prevention, bullying prevention, and other topics.

(Note: Attendance at this training is limited to those who have pre-submitted the application forms.)

*Saturday, 2:45-4:00 PM (Room 1)*

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### **CHANTING**

This simple form of sacred music, sung as a group with improvised harmony, creates a richly worshipful space. Come sing, move, or simply listen -- no particular musical ability is necessary.

Leader: Kody Hersh (Miami MM) experienced his first chanting workshop at the Friends General Conference Gathering in 2008. Since falling in love with the music, form, and spirit of worship created by sacred chant, he has led or co-led a chanting workshop for SEYM Friends every year.

*Saturday, 2:45-4:00 PM Chapel (between the dining room and the lake)*

Format: Worship

● *For More Information:* 786-246-2566; kody.hersh@gmail.com  
**(Middle School to Adult)**

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## (LET'S TALK ABOUT) CLIMATE JUSTICE AND SEYM COMMUNITIES

This workshop builds on the Pendle Hill Powerful Faith-Based Organizing for Climate Justice conference convened Spring 2016 and will share information collected to date by the SEYM Field Secretary for Earthcare (FSE) regarding vulnerable populations and climate change risks in the SEYM counties or county equivalents. The workshop will explore opportunities for collaboration with faith-based and other organizations; strategies to minimize adverse impacts; and potential actions toward transition. Workshop participants are encouraged to bring local Earthcare concerns.

Leader: Beverly Ward (Tampa MM) is SEYM's Field Secretary for Earthcare Witness

*Friday, 2:45-4:00 PM (Room 3)*

*Format: Workshop*

● *For More Information: 813-928-8823;*

*fsearthcare@seymquakers.org*

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## FCNL & CITIZEN LOBBYING (New Entry)

A discussion of Friends Committee on National Legislation, how to get involved in citizen lobbying and why it works

Leader: Aurelio Anderson (Tallahassee MM) is a volunteer Advocacy Corps Organizer for FCNL

*Thursday, 2:45-4:00 PM (Room 1)*

*Format: Workshop*

● *For more information: 850-980-1028;*

*Real280903@gmail.com*

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## FINDING GOD IN DIFFICULT PEOPLE

In the challenging times ahead, Friends will be called to engage in healing rifts and wrongs in our communities. The work we can do will be easier if our own meetings are loving, forgiving, and united. Participants will bring a brief written description of a difficulty being currently experienced in their meetings involving a person(s). These descriptions will not mention names nor places. The descriptions will be placed in a hat, drawn at random, and read aloud. After a few moments of silence, we will share possible solutions employing best Quaker practices: compassionate communication, win-win strategies, and tender mercies. When ample strategies have been discussed, another description will be pulled from the hat and discussed. The last 10 minutes will be reserved for silent worship.

Leader: Kathy Hersh (Miami MM) "I am an experienced AVP and HIPP facilitator, and a certified facilitator for the Anti-Defamation League. I give workshops on bias reduction and conflict resolution in schools. I have been a Quaker (officially) for 26 years and actively involved in the Yearly Meeting for most of that time. Because of my expertise in bullying prevention, I have often been asked for advice by Friends in MMs having problems due to the aggressive behavior of individuals trying to influence or control meeting decision making. I have taken Arthur Larrabee's clerking course 3 times, learning more each time about the rigors and rewards of following Quaker process."

*Friday, 2:45-4:00 PM (Room 1)*

*Format: Facilitated Discussion*

● *For More Information: 305-667-6779;*

*hershkathy@gmail.com*

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## #FriendTweetsMyMind: SOCIAL MEDIA IN THE MANNER OF FRIENDS

Social media can be a powerful means by which we can create and interact with community, but it can also disquiet our lives. Are you cautiously embarking on a new interest in social media? Refining your online habits to be more closely aligned to your values? Seeking to boost your Meeting's visibility in your community or the visibility of Quakers around the world? If so, please come and share your experience - and inexperience - in this multi-generational, safety-minded, interactive workshop.

We will discuss the benefits and drawbacks of social media, exploring several specific outlets including Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. We'll look at ways that Quakers use these as tools, and how we could use them more. We'll conclude with a skill-share. Friends wanting help are encouraged to bring a smart phone or tablet. Friends willing to help are encouraged to do the same.

You do not have to be on Twitter, Facebook, or any other kind of social media outlet to attend. All are welcome.

*Leader:* Jen Ambrose (Gainesville MM). "As someone who uses social media on a daily basis, both professionally and personally, I aim to use it in a way that is meaningful to me, and to help others to do the same. When our Meeting moved to a more secluded location, I turned to social media to keep our presence more visible in the community. In doing so, I learned that not all our members are comfortable in this new online world! I presented a forum to my own monthly meeting to address some concerns and am happy to do the same for yearly meeting.

*Saturday, 2:45-4:00 PM Room 3*

Format: Workshop ● *For More Information:* 352-213-5212; [adaptojen@gmail.com](mailto:adaptojen@gmail.com)

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## INTRODUCING QUAKERISM 101

Q 101 is a course designed to familiarize new members and attenders with the faith and practice of Friends and to strengthen the understanding of long-time members. (**Note that this is not the course, but an introduction to the course**). We will review the 90 page curriculum booklet that includes advance preparation, 6 two hour lesson plans, assignment sheets and resource section. The six units cover history, the Light within, Quaker Universalism, Worship & Ministry, Living in the Light and Business practices. Anyone who is at ease facilitating groups can lead these sessions; it is not necessary to be a Quaker scholar.

*Leader:* Lisa Stewart (Palm Beach MM) began facilitating Quakerism 101 sessions about 15 years ago in her meeting. Her Meeting has scheduled this course about six times since and finds it very important in helping the participants to focus and understand that Quakerism is not an "anything goes" religion. "I think every Meeting should offer this frequently".

*Thursday, 10:15-11:30 AM (Room 4)*  
Format: Presentation and Workshop

● For more information: 561-713-7053  
[beachplumlisa@gmail.com](mailto:beachplumlisa@gmail.com)

(NOTE: The Official Q 101 Curriculum will be an integral part of this presentation. Please contact Lisa if you intend to participate so that she can print sufficient copies. The cost is \$8)

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## INVOKING THE PRESENCE OF GOD

This double workshop is presented under the care of SEYM's Worship and Ministry Committee. Invoking the presence of God is an experiential learning opportunity.

- How do people do it?
- What is your practice?

*Leader:* Eduardo Diaz (Miami MM) is an experienced workshop facilitator and has been engaged in many Quaker organizations for many years. He has been involved in interfaith ministry since 1975 and currently serves as co-chair of the Clergy Dialogue of the Miami Coalition of Christians and Jews. He also currently serves on both the SEYM and Miami Friends Meeting Committee on Worship and Ministry.

*Saturday, 2:45-5:30 PM (Room 2)*  
*Format: Workshop*

● *For More Information: 305-255-5817;*  
*avpmiami@aol.com*

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## IS CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION FOR YOU?

With no draft and a Selective Service registration system linked automatically to getting a state driver's license, the idea of military service generally and conscientious objection in particular is simply "out of sight and out of mind." Yet, Selective Service registration for men turning 18 (and probably women in the future) is still required and it is the precursor to a draft. Little thought is given either to the consequences of registration or to the formulation of a peace testimony as these teenagers move into adulthood. The goal of this Quaker House sponsored workshop is twofold. First, it will help young people and their adult mentors explore their leadings towards nonviolence and conscientious objection. Secondly, it will lay a foundation for a young person's claim as a CO, especially if a draft is reinstated. The workshop will give an overview of these questions and provide the participants with a full spectrum of references materials, worksheets, exercises, and procedures for deeper study and discernment. Whether a young person (male or female) decides to go this route or not, searching within one's soul about the Peace Testimony and personal participation in war is essential.

*Leader:* Curt Torell (Chapel Hill MM, NC) Educator, counselor, and organizational development consultant with M. Div. a Ph.D. in psycho-educational processes, was a draft counselor and studied under Arlo Tatum from Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors. When his oldest son in 1999 turned 18, he realized that Selective Service had no place to claim a CO status. So, with his Meeting, he developed a process where young people learn about conscientious objection and come before the meeting with a CO letter declaring their beliefs. Since then, he co-authored FGC's Raising Conscientious Objector Consciousness Among Our Youth, an article in Friends Journal; expanded the curriculum for all people of conscience; conducted workshops and for monthly and yearly meetings, other faith communities, and schools.

*Saturday, 4:15-5:30 PM (Room 1)*  
 Format: Workshop

● *For More Information:* 919-968-2174;  
 curtnpatty@aol.com

Note: The workshop is for BOTH young men and young women AND for adults, parents, and other Peace & Social Concerns folks.

## **JOURNEY OF THE UNIVERSE**

For millennia, our perception of the material universe has been heavily influenced by the creation stories that have been handed down through the ages. However, in light of our current scientific knowledge about the cosmos, it is evident that a new story is needed to more accurately convey the events that have led to the emergence of humanity. "The Journey of the Universe" is an award-winning documentary film that weaves scientific facts into a tale that honors the wonder of our unfolding cosmic adventure.

This is a must-see for anyone who is seeking a greater understanding of where we have come from and how we have developed. The material is easy to understand and suitable for nearly any age group. Swimme captures the essence of our journey in a profoundly simple statement when he observes, "Over the course of fourteen billion years, hydrogen gas has transformed itself into mountains, butterflies, the music of Bach and you and me."

Leader: Rick Brice: "Over the past fifteen years or so I have actively sought a deeper understanding of our place in the universe. As a member of Clearwater Friends Meeting for the past five years, I have pursued that interest within my Quaker community and have sought to share my discoveries with others. For the past two years I have been writing a book that reflects many of the concepts I hope to present.

*Thursday, 10:15-11:30 AM Room 1*  
 Format: Presentation

● *For More Information:* 727/505-9440;  
 nprrick@yahoo.com

(Note: Those who view this documentary may wish to attend the presentation "At Home Among the Stars", shown on Saturday (see above). It carries this theme further and addresses the implications of our cosmic nature and the potential future of humanity.

## **LAUGHTER YOGA**

Experience the joy of unconditional laughter. No Jokes---No Kidding! Sense of humor not required.

Laughter Yoga is the unique concept that anyone can laugh for no reason at all. Laughter is started as an exercise in a group. It soon becomes real and contagious laughter. You will feel great as you get the most fun workout you have ever had.

Leader: Joel Cook (Palm Beach MM) is a certified Laughter Yoga Leader and certified Laughter Yoga Teacher. He trained with Dr. Kataria, Founder of the Laughter Yoga movement in 2011. He has been leading Laughter Yoga groups since 2010.

*Friday, 4:15-5:30 PM (Room 4) – ALL AGES WELCOME*

Format: Recreation: ● *For more information:* 772-267-9156; j1cook@yahoo.com

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## MANAGING MEETING FINANCES: TIPS & TECHNIQUES

Are you a Meeting Treasurer or member of a Meeting's Finance Committee? Are you considering becoming one? SEYM's Clerk of Finance Committee is offering professional accounting guidelines and investment tips (both DOs and DON'Ts). Not just a presentation – questions are most encouraged.

Leader: Peter Schmidt (Tampa MM) has been SEYM Clerk of Finance Committee since 2013. He has a degree in Accounting & Finance and has spent many years in various professional accounting and executive management roles.

*Friday, 4:15-5:30 PM (Room 1)*

Format: Presentation and Workshop

● For more information: 727/512-1594  
grazerstr@hotmail.com

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## "MARKING THE QUAKER PATH": Toward A Method For Friends' Practice

A presentation to introduce Robert Griswold's Pendle Hill Pamphlet #439: "Marking the Quaker Path: Seven Key Words Plus One." Beginning with exploring our own condition, Griswold's pamphlet suggests a route toward deepening our practice with steps along the way. Following, a quote from near the beginning and then from near the end: "We cannot gather the strength to undertake a genuine spiritual path unless we become aware of the condition that has been keeping us from finding our way forward." "The statement that we should love each other is not a good idea. It is not a suggestion. It is not something for us to consider from time to time. Divine Reality has blessed us and because of this we are commanded to love and be a blessing to all. There is no exception to this command."

Leader: Peter Crocket (St.Petersburg MM). "As a seeker for more depth to my practice, this pamphlet was what I had been waiting for. It emphasizes a way to go about our practice, pointing out difficulties we will surely encounter, and ways to deal with them."

*Thursday, 2:45-4:00 PM (Room 2)*

Format: Presentation:

● For more information: 727-403-4626;  
peterc33rock@yahoo.com

(Note: The Pendle Hill Pamphlet will be for sale at the SEYM Bookstore or may be purchased ahead of time from QuakerBooks).

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## MEETING FOR REMEMBRANCE

The Meeting for Remembrance is a time to gather in a worship-sharing mode to remember those who are or have been important in our lives. All are invited to participate as you feel led, speaking or being held in stillness when memories are too tender for words.

Leader: Member(s) of SEYM Worship & Ministry Committee

*Saturday 12:30-1:15 PM (Room 4)*

Format: Worship.

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## NATURE WALK

Practice seeing things and sharing the wonder. Plus a little ecology and theology. Maybe a little history, too. **Definitely intergenerational.**

Leader: Tor Bejnar (Tallahassee MM): "I'm a non-practicing geologist ( I studied structural geology and geochemistry), a practicing "Environmental Specialist" (I review financial instruments for a state agency.), and read a lot about our diminishing Arctic sea ice. Therefore, I come to "nature walks" with an eye for and an interest in detail (but without the experience or practice of a biologist or native Floridian).

*Thursday, 2:45-4:00 PM (meet at the bench in front of auditorium building)*

Format: Recreation ● For more information: 850-245-8743; atbejnar@centurylink.net

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## PADDLING AND BIRDING

For this intergenerational activity, we will rent canoes from the LEC (\$5/hour; The LEC canoes are really nice and pretty new), or you can use your own kayak/canoe if you bring it. We will paddle across the lake to the rookery and then into the canals under the bridge. This will be a double--length workshop. Slower paddlers can cut across coves while the Speedy Gonzales's can go deep into the coves. Expect to see many large birds and beautiful scenery

Children must wear life jackets and should be accompanied by their parents (or must have parents' permission slip signed AND a designated responsible adult)! We will all try to stay in sight of the group at all times. Bring water, sunscreen, insect repellent and your best attitude. No alcohol, no horse play and no swimming--alligators.

Leader: Jerry Knutson (Orlando MM & Monongalia MM WV) is an amateur bird watcher, canoes 3 times a week when in FL and facilitates many paddle trips with "Meet ups." He has some training in water rescue and CPR, but is a facilitator and NOT responsible for individuals.

*Saturday, 2:45-5:00 PM (meet at the front desk in the dining hall lobby)*

Format: Recreation ● For more information: 301-616-5115 (text preferred); almostluddite@yahoo.com

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## PINK SPIT: LOOKING AT CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES OF RACISM

Storyteller Katie Green will perform an autobiographical story and facilitate discussion about how children are exposed to and experience racist attitudes. Together, we will examine symptoms of racism, recognize White privilege and discuss our childhood experiences without shame or blame. We will prayerfully and playfully look at ways we can interrupt intolerance.

Leader: Katie Green (Worcester MM, NEYM and a recent snow-bird to Clearwater MM) has been telling, creating, and teaching storytelling for over 25 years. She is a nonviolence trainer and has presented too many workshops on conflict resolution to count. She is also a trained volunteer mediator and a facilitator for Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP)



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*Saturday, 4:15-5:30 PM (Room 3)* **New day/time** ● For more information: 774-364-0468  
Format: Workshop [Quaker@katiegreenstories.com](mailto:Quaker@katiegreenstories.com)

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### **QUAKER RESPONSE IN A POLITICALLY DEVISIVE CLIMATE**

How do we as Friends address deeply-seated concerns about political issues while maintaining our sense of Quaker spirituality and Quaker worship? How do we not let current events create unrest within our Meetings? We will try to mutually address these questions in a worship-sharing process

*Thursday, 2:45-4:00 PM (Room 3)*

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### **QUAKER UNITED NATIONS OFFICE**

So just what is the Quaker United Nations Office? What does it do? How does it do it? What are the highlights from last year and this year? Is there a role for SEYM Quakers to play?

Leader: Warren Hoskins (Miami MM), is SEYM's representative to QUNO.

*Friday, 2:45-4:00 PM (Room 4)*  
Format: Presentation

● For more information: 305-609-9704;  
[warrenhoskins@gmail.com](mailto:warrenhoskins@gmail.com)

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**RETREAT SESSIONS** presented by Peterson Toscano, our 2017 Michener

**#1: Beyond Lightbulbs and Polar Bears. Overcoming Shame and Fear: Leading in a Time of Climate Change**

Through interactive thought experiments, personal reflections, facilitated discussion, and a live performance, participants will think outside of the box when it comes to responding to climate change and consider their next significant steps.

*Wednesday, 7:00-8:30 PM (Auditorium)*

**#2: You Already Have Skin in the Game—Justice, Pets, and Coffee Beans**

Through a series of lively (but not difficult) activities, we will explore our personal passions and how they are already connected to a changing planet. Discover new ways that we are already concerned about climate change and didn't even know it. (Oh, and learn about the pets of the future.)

*Friday, 1:15-2:30 PM (Auditorium)*

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## SABAL TRAIL PIPELINE AS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR QUAKER WITNESS

This workshop provides basic knowledge about the origin, current status and future plans for the Sabal Trail Pipeline throughout the state of Florida and its actual and potential impact on the ecosystem and its residents. Participants are given an opportunity to add to the basic knowledge the group is working with, from their own experience of STP or similar pipeline.

The second movement of the workshop involves examining some queries that arise from Quaker testimony and witness with an opportunity to generate more queries to be used within the group and brought to participants' home meetings.

The third and final movement of the workshop involves silence that allows participants an opportunity to understand better how their own Quaker testimony and witness, as they personally understand it, engages or needs to engage the STP. The Silence may be enriched by participant leadings.

*Leader:* Tim Fogarty (Gainseville MM). "My monthly meeting is currently engaged in understanding and resisting the STP as part of our Quaker witness through our Peace and Social Concerns and Earth Care Witness. I am current co-clerk of my home meeting's P&SC. I have a history of participating in faith based non-violent actions to resist social projects that threaten human life and other elements of our ecology and that also offend against our faith testimony or practice. Our monthly meeting is having a forum on this topic in February."

*Thursday, 10:15-11:30 AM (Room 3)*

Format: Workshop ● For more information: 336-430-7791; [tgfogarty62@gmail.com](mailto:tgfogarty62@gmail.com)

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## SHARING OUR EARTHCARE CONCERNS

Worship sharing and conversation of our individual and Meeting concerns and leadings regarding Earthcare concerns and sustainability.

*Leaders:* Bill Carlie (Orlando MM), assisted by Catherine Price (Lake Wales Worship Group). Both are members of the Earthcare Committee; Bill is co-clerk. "It is the sense of the Earthcare Committee to reach out to members of our Monthly Meetings to share more deeply on our concerns and leadings regarding Earthcare issues".

*Friday, 4:15-5:30 PM (Room3)*

Format: Workshop

● For more information: 407-388-4789  
[williamcarlie@embarqmail.com](mailto:williamcarlie@embarqmail.com)

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## **TRUE ISLAM vs THE EXTREMISTS**

In this period of time in which terrorism has many US citizens confused about what Islam is all about, here is a Powerpoint presentation that features an 11-point campaign that aims to educate and unite Muslims and Non-Muslims against extremism that poses a national security threat.

Leader: Khalid Minhas MD is the Public Affairs Director for the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community of Miami and has given this presentation on several occasions at temples, churches and universities.

*Saturday, 2:45-5:30 PM (Auditorium)*  
Format: Presentation

● For more information: 786-376-3111;  
minhaskh@yahoo.com; mansurab@yahoo.com