

Southeastern Yearly Meeting *of the Religious Society of Friends*

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Winter Executive Committee Meeting

Friday, January 12th, 2018

Winter Interim Business Meeting

Saturday, January 13th, 2018

Documents In Advance

Greetings Friends,

I want to invite you all to come to Orlando Meeting for a weekend of fellowship and business, capped off on Sunday by luncheon and the Michener Lecture and workshops. The lecture is always thought provoking, as well as, an opportunity grow deeper in your experience of Quakerism.

Come and join us!!

---Phoebe Andersen, EC & IBM Clerk

Hosted by Orlando Friends Meeting • 316 E. Marks St., Orlando, Florida 32803



Directions to Meetinghouse:

From I-4: Exit onto SR50, go east two blocks to Magnolia; turn left, go north four blocks to light; turn right on Marks St., go east to Meetinghouse at 316 E. Marks St; turn right into driveway or onto Broadway.

From East-West Expressway: Exit at Magnolia; go north to Marks St.; turn right, go east to Meetinghouse at 316 E. Marks St.; turn right into driveway or onto Broadway.

Parking: in the lot behind the Meetinghouse & Webster Cottage, and on Broadway Avenue.

Hospitality: for overnight hospitality in a Friend's home contact Ray Jenkins: rayjenkins65@yahoo.com; or phone (9am-5pm only) 407-803-2109.

Hotels:

• **Courtyard by Marriott**, 730 N. Magnolia, Orlando 32803. **To get a discount, call the hotel direct at 407-996-1000 and ask for the SEYM GROUP RATE by Dec. 11.** Double rooms (any beds, 1-2 people) are \$119 + tax per night, which includes parking. After Dec. 11, standard rates apply (\$227+/night, dbl room) www.marriott.com

• **Best Western**, 2014 W Colonial Dr, Orlando, FL 32804. \$112/night dbl. room. bestwestern.com

Wi-Fi: Orlando Meetinghouse & Cottage have wi-fi.

SCHEDULE

Friday, January 12th: Executive Committee Meeting

7:00 pm Executive Committee Meeting, *all are welcome!*

Saturday, January 13th: Interim Business Meeting

8:00 am Coffee & snacks
9:00 am Opening Worship
Nominating Committee preliminary report
Announcements
9:30 am Committee meetings: *All are welcome to attend.*
12 noon Lunch served by Orlando Friends
1:00 pm Meeting for Business
Opening Worship
Spiritual/Inspirational Reading
Agenda Review and Correction
Roll call of Meetings and Worship Groups
Welcome of Visitors
Announcements
Executive Committee Report
Nominating Committee Report
Worship & Ministry Committee Report
Treasurer's Report
Half Yearly Meeting Report..... p. 3
Gathering Committee Report
Youth Committee Report
Earthcare Committee Report
Field Secretary for Earthcare Report.....
Peace & Social Concerns Committee
Ministry on Racism Committee Report..... p. 4
Archives Committee Report
Representatives to Organizations pp. 5-6
Reading back the minutes
4:30 Closing Worship
5:00 Fellowship
5:30 Dinner at a local restaurant

Sunday, January 14th: Michener Lecture & Seminars

“Remixing the Quaker Tradition: Renewal in a Participatory Culture”

presented by C. Wess Daniels

See all Michener Lecture and WIBM details on our website

Michener Lecture page: <http://seymquakers.org/news-events/michener-lecture/>

Business Meeting page: <http://seymquakers.org/business-meeting/>

Half Yearly Meeting 2017

The annual Half Yearly Meeting SEYM gathering over Thanksgiving weekend (November 23 -26) again was celebrated at the Youth Camp in Wekiwa Springs State Park. Damage from Hurricane Irma left snags and felled trees across some sections of the river necessitating changes in the planned canoeing activities, but the storm didn't damage the enthusiasm of the participants or the beauty of the location.

Thanksgiving day itself was rainy and misty but the fog burned off by Friday with refreshing weather throughout the weekend. For our turkey dinner we had almost 40 people, with a total of about 48 adults and 9 children during the entire weekend. The figures are estimates because we had a few "no-shows" and a number of late and/or unannounced participants which made an accurate headcount difficult. But, the Youth Camp area has ample cabins, so last minute juggling on the Registrar's part found accommodations for everyone.

Half Yearly Meeting has a minimum of structured activities but plenty of opportunities for hikes, swimming and canoeing, with an emphasis on connecting with our wider SEYM Quaker community and ample time for personal reflexion.

We had a number of families at HYM for the first time. Impromptu Monopoly and card games kept a number of the youngsters engaged while the older set tended to take full advantage of the rocking chairs and a good book. On Friday evening, there was a remembrance ceremony/workshop led by Jane Westberg and Kody Hersh on the Doctrine of Discovery, the 1493 Papal Bull issued by Pope Alexander VI that played a central role in the justifying Spanish conquest of the New World and the U.S. policy used to take Native American lands for European settlement. The ceremony models the taking of lands and abuses against indigenous peoples — the 400 broken treaties, massacres of defenseless men, women and children and the forced assimilation of many indigenous children, who languished and died in boarding schools, separated from their families, their language and their culture. The impact of the workshop was powerful and highly emotional. The hope was expressed that this ceremony be held at the SEYM gathering so that more Friends can experience this awakening.

In sharp contrast to the seriousness of the Friday workshop, we had our annual NO TALENT NECESSARY talent show Saturday night, hosted by Vincent Cosomono and Aurelio Anderson.

An informal poll of participants at the gathering overall was very positive. Some even viewing it as transformational. At our "look ahead" meeting we discussed some of the issues that needed to be addressed, like trying to get people to register early so we can get more accurate head counts so food purchases can be more efficiently handled. And while there were posted sign-up sheets for meal preparation and clean-up, it was noted that many of the same people were stepping up to take responsibility and that a better method might be to have sign-up for tasks as part of the on-line registration process. The canoe trips will be back in full next year

During the gathering, in-coming HYM Clerk Jerry Knutson and Registrar-to-be Brian Olson, were in close contact with out-going Clerk Carl Hersh and Registrar Beeg Camarota so hand-over issues should be minimal in 2018.

Final figures were not available, but it seems that, as in the past, the expenses and income should be about even. We were able to grant all scholarships requested, while still suggesting that the individuals, their Meeting and HYM/SEYM each contribute one-third of the cost. We have had a stated policy that no one should not come to HYM because of money issues.

--- Carl Hersh

Committee for Ministry on Racism Report

Winter Interim Business Meeting January 13, 2018

"From my point of view, no label, no slogan, no party, no skin color, and indeed no religion is more important than the human being."
----James Baldwin)

The Committee for Ministry on Racism invites everyone interested to join us for our meeting Saturday morning, January 13, as we discern way forward for the committee. Though the agenda is too full to be completed at one meeting, it is a beginning. In 2018, we look forward to more frequent meetings via teleconference.

Committee members: Co-clerks: Wendy Clarissa Geiger (Jacksonville), Susan Taylor (Tallahassee). Cheryl Demers-Holton (Gainesville), Minerva Glidden (Orlando).

Frequent attender: Beverly Ward (Tampa), SEYM Field Secretary for Earthcare

Agenda

- Worship
- Welcome and Introductions
- Remembering Indigenous Peoples of FL. Beginning to discern our response to the Doctrine of Discovery or Doctrine of Christian Discovery. Please see Background Notes.
- FCNL work relating to Native Americans (www.fcnl.org)
- **The Movement for Black Lives**- The American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) endorsed its platform
- Draft cover letter for minute **17YM08**, to be sent with the minute and the Thirteenth Amendment of the U. S. Constitution, to all Yearly Meetings. Please see Background Notes. A first draft will be presented.
- FGC Institutional Assessment: Training for the Assessment has begun.
- Compiling resources for creating a society without racism. Items for SEYM Committee web page
- Next steps for the committee
- Closing worship

Blessings in the Spirit,

Wendy Clarissa Geiger
Susan Taylor
for the Committee

Florida Council of Churches Report

Winter Interim Business Meeting Report 2018

The Florida Council of Churches (FCC) has been active with a number of events since Fall Interim Business Meeting. As a member of the board, I have been involved in planning and participation. I remain active in FCC work with the Organize NOW Tampa Climate Justice Committee and continue to work with the design team for the 2018 the Florida Climate Action Network Assembly.

I worked with the FCC and others to organize the Indigenous Wisdom Day Gathering at Sacred Lands, St. Petersburg, Florida, on 9 Tenth Month 2017. The Gathering was attended by approximately 100 people and included a viewing of the film, *Doctrine of Discovery*. The film was followed by a panel discussion led by four members of indigenous tribes, a potluck, and drumming and signing. Charlie Gerdes, St. Petersburg City Council, read a proclamation that recognized the date as Indigenous Peoples Day.

In its Unity work, the Florida Council of Churches (FCC), (<http://www.floridachurches.org>) has focused this year on racial injustice. The FCC convened a gathering with the theme, If Not Us, Who? If Not Now, When?: End Hate, Hunger & Homelessness, 30 Eleventh Month through 1 Twelfth Month at New Bethel New Bethel AME, Lakeland, Florida. The goal of the Gathering was to establish a faith network that repudiates racism in food, shelter, and safety. The FCC board has scheduled a second gathering to be held at New Bethel AME, 29 and 30 Eleventh Month 2018.

FCC continues to work on its Faith Reforming Justice in Florida initiative, Moratorium on Death Penalty, and other initiatives. The next event will be the 2018 Climate Action Network Assembly, which is expected to include elected officials from across Florida who will speak on their local actions to address climate degradation.

Submitted by Beverly Ward
SEYM Representative to Florida Council of Churches

Friends General Conference (FGC)

Report of SEYM Representatives

Ed Lesnick, Kay Lesnick, and Gerry O'Sullivan are your current representatives to Central Committee. Ed is SEYM representative to FGC's Executive Committee and serves on the CPSI – Communications Committee. Both Ed and Kay are completing their second terms on Central Committee. SEYM will select two new representatives at the Annual Gathering and business sessions. Gerry continues her current term.

This past July, about one thousand Friends from the United States, Canada and overseas, joined for the FGC Annual Gathering, held at Niagara University. The campus is nearby the magnificent Niagara Falls, an ideal location to become re-invigorated by the Spirit and share in the community of Friends around the theme: Ripples start where spirit moves.

An in-depth look at the Friends Gathering is at www.fgcquker.org/gathering. Videos of evening plenary sessions are on YouTube. The 2018 Gathering is to be held at the University of Toledo, July 1-7. The focus is the very relevant theme: The Power of Truth.

The saying goes, "FGC is more than the Gathering." Much information on FGC Programs is available for Friends and their monthly meetings on the FGC website. The online Spiritual Deepening program has been received enthusiastically.

FGC's Central Committee is solely responsible for making final policy decisions affecting the FGC organization and program, approving the annual budget, and making changes in the corporate by-laws.

On October 26-29, your representatives attended the annual Central Committee meeting in Reisterstown, Maryland. It was a time of profound worship, close fellowship and an opportunity to learn about and carry out FGC's work.

We spent more than 10 hours discerning where God is calling FGC to serve Friends and seekers. In its role as our governing body, Central Committee successfully focused on defining the organization's most important areas of focus to guide decisions about particular programmatic activities. FGC still has adequate short-term reserves, but we must implement a plan for long-term fiscal sustainability. This view was eloquently enunciated by the Adult Young Friends in attendance when, as a group, they voiced their call for Unity on a commitment to a plan to preserve FGC for the benefit of their future children and grandchildren. In response to their leadership, Central Committee minuted this directive:

Frank Barch, FGC Presiding Clerk, noted the Central Committee's charges the Executive Committee

1. Make progress in 2018 and further progress in 2019 toward a sustainable budget
2. To make and implement a plan to achieve a sustainable budget in two years for the 2020 Fiscal Year budget
3. Central Committee charges and empowers Executive Committee to make programmatic decisions and pursue fundraising opportunities.

Work has already begun to implement this mandate. Mindful of the "bedtime story" that Marvin Barnes, Assistant Presiding Clerk read, *The Little Engine that Could*, To paraphrase: "I think we can, I believe we must, I know we will."

SEYM Field Secretary for Earthcare (FSE) Report

Winter Interim Business Meeting 2018

Overview

Provide focus and coordinate efforts on environmental work in the SEYM region.

Friends, this report is provided an update of the activities of the SEYM Field Secretary from 1 Ninth Month through mid-Eleventh Month 2017. The also includes a number of planned activities through First Month 2018. Please share your suggestions, thoughts, and concerns with the FSE Anchoring Committee or me. Thank you for continuing to hold this work and me in the Light.

Communication with the Anchoring Committee

Communication with the Anchoring Committee has included email contact, efforts to schedule a telephone conference call, and individual contacts with committee members. Visits to Monthly Meetings, Alternative Violence Project (AVP) workshops, and other visits provided opportunities for in-person contacts with committee members.

Meeting with Monthly Meetings (MMs), Worship Groups (WGs), and Others

Perform visits to Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups within SEYM to help them discern their leadings in care of the Earth, and to provide information and coordination among Meetings.

As a reminder, the suggested visitation request process: "Meetings can issue invitations to the [SEYM] administrative secretary, FSE, or the Anchor Committee. We will all conference over the invitation and subsequent planning" (Phoebe Andersen, 3 Tenth Month).

A Google calendar showing requests for visitation and FSE has been created and shared with the Anchoring Committee and the Co-Clerks of the Earthcare Committee. Upcoming visits are shown below. MMs and WGs continue to request visits, particularly in conjunction with retreats and AVP workshops.

Contact Information

- The SEYM Administrative Secretary established an email account: fsEarthcare@seymquaker.org.
- A free conference calling number has been established, 1-712-770-8055. The conference code is 662814.
- Skype: phdant.
- Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/7545638812>.
- appear.in: <https://appear.in/fsearthcare>.
- Telephone number: 813.928.8823.
- Snailmail: 13705 Lazy Oak Drive, Tampa, FL, 33613.4923.

Half Yearly Meeting, 2017

I attended and participated the 2017 Half Yearly Meeting Gathering, including giving the No Talent Show. Sixthday through Firstday, I worked with individual and small groups of youths and youths-in-Spirit on a proposed Earthcare "pocket guide". Using photographs shared by Ezra Merleaux; the SEYM Queries and Advices "Care of the Natural World"; and, other references, participants were asked to design pages for the pocket guide. The individual designs were photographed. Sample designs will be provided at Winter Interim Business Meeting.

Clearwater Monthly Meeting, 29 Tenth Month 2017

I participated in the Monthly Meeting's annual retreat at A.L. Anderson Park in Tarpon Springs. After the rise of Meeting, Clearwater Friends provided their usual superb potluck meal. Following Meeting for Eating, the retreat on Earthcare began with opening worship. (I have been asking Monthly Meetings or Worship Groups, in advance, to consider their individual and corporate callings on unity with Nature.) After sharing with members and attenders my individual calling and efforts, Friends shared their work and concerns. Friends expressed considerable interest in continuing to discern what activities could be undertaken as a Meeting, which may include collecting data on individual members and attenders households' carbon footprints. (Thanks to Tom Corindia and Sarasota Monthly Meeting for making available their work in this area!)

Sarasota Monthly Meeting, 5 Eleventh Month 2017

Following Fall Interim Business Meeting, members of the Sarasota MM Peace and Social Concerns Committee asked that I return to participate in their meeting to help the Meeting discern future Earthcare activities. Of particular concern was the Meeting's and the community's preparedness, in general, to extreme events. In response to this and other concerns, the Committee is planning to "map" the members' and attenders' resources and needs with the goals of improving communication and planning, shelter, and recovery efforts in the case of extreme events.

Circus McGurkis, St. Petersburg Meeting, 11 Eleventh Month 2017

Cecilia Yocum, several other Friends from Tampa Monthly Meeting, and I hosted a table at Circus McGurkis. Cece and I were joined by another member of the Living Mirror Playback Theatre troupe and provided a "strolling" performance for about an hour. The theme of the performance was, "Tell me about your Circus McGurkis Experience: First time? Comparison? Today?"

Palm Beach Monthly Meeting, 16-18 Second Month 2018

I will participate in this Monthly Meeting's annual retreat. The working title is "Unity with Nature: How am I Called to Care for the Earth?" Barb Letsch has been facilitating Earthcare thoughts during t Adult Firstday Meeting for Learning. At the Meeting's request, I shared my input with suggestions on readings related to water and Pamela Boyce Simms's Cadbury article.

Tallahassee Monthly Meeting, 23-24 Second Month 2018

Tallahassee MM's retreat was postponed due to Hurricane Irma. We also are working "Unity with Nature: How am I Called to Care for the Earth?" I have been in contact with Juan Reza who has suggested consideration of the issues related genetic modification during the retreat.

Interactions or Collaborations between and among other SEYM committees

- The Ministry on Racism: I continue to share information on Florida Council of Churches (FCC) Reform Justice Campaign and other resources;
- Earthcare: continue to maintain telephone and email contact with the co-clerks and other committee members. I participated in the Committee meeting during FIBM. The committee seeks to expand its work to help Friends and others make the connections between social justice and Earthcare. I continue to work with Jack Braden and Brad Stocker, SEYM's representatives to Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW) as an at-large member of QEW. (More details below.);
- FCC: See the FCC Report for Winter Interim Business Meeting 2018;

- Peace and Social Concerns: Email and face-to-face contact with members of SEYM Peace and Social Concerns Committee. Cecilia Yocum and I are planning to conduct a workshop on Bystander Training during the 2018 SEYM Yearly Meeting Gathering.
- Quaker United Nations Office: Working with Warren Hoskins to build links.
- Right Sharing of World Resources: Working with Nilufer Wilkins to build links, including QEW United Nations Working Group.
- Youth Committee: I continue to reach out to the Youth Committee through Mira Tanner and Cecilia Yocum. The Circus McGurkis activities mentioned above included youth activities at the regional level. Also, as mentioned above, were the “pocket guide” and individual activities during Half Yearly Meeting.

The Wider Quaker World, Interfaith Groups, Other Environmental Organizations

To communicate and collaborate our regional concerns with national organizations including Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW), Earth Quaker Action Team (EQAT), Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL), and Friends General Conference (FGC). To be a Quaker Presence at specific events, including those arranged by others.

In the wider Quaker World, interfaith groups, and other environmental organizations, I have listed existing memberships, partnerships, or collaborations that may be part of an outreach effort. These include, but are not limited to:

- Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP), Tampa Bay completed basic workshops for Sarasota (23 Ninth and 28 Tenth Months) and Gainesville (18-19 Eleventh Month);
- American Friends Service Committee (AFSC): Awaiting decision on at-large membership.
- The Bridge of Tampa: Provided Bystander Training as a member of the Living Mirror Playback Theatre troupe on 14 Tenth Month 2017, sponsored by The Bridge of Tampa. More than 25 participants took part in the two-and-one-half hour workshop. Based on the favorable evaluations, additional workshops are in the planning phase;
- Clark Atlanta University, Department of Political Science: Dr. Kurt Young, Lena Young Green, and I continue to work on social justice issues, particularly in regard to transportation projects;
- The Fellowship of Friends of African Descent: continue to interact with FFAD and am working to strengthen linkages with QEW UN Working Group. I anticipate more activities leading up to and during the 2018 FGC Gathering;
- First Unity, Saint Petersburg (FL), is a member of the spiritual community of Unity Worldwide Ministries. I met with members of First Unity to discuss how SEYM developed the FSE position and to share activities that individual MMs/WGs are taking. I know and have worked with several members of First Unity through their work with Florida Interfaith Climate Action Network.
- Florida Interfaith Climate Action Network (FL-ICAN): Members of the FL-ICAN Design Team, including me, and others developed an Indigenous Wisdom Day Gathering at Sacred Lands, Saint Petersburg, 9 Tenth Month. In addition to a viewing of “The Doctrine of Discovery”, a panel of four indigenous people of North America discussed their traditions and histories. This was followed by a potluck dinner for the more than 100 participants, drumming, singing, and watching the sun set.

I continue to work to populate the online platform, Qiqochat, <http://seymquakers.qiqochat.com/> as another communications and information-sharing resource including online access through Zoom;

- Friends Committee on National Legislation, Energy and Environment: I continue email and other contacts with several FCNL staff. During the 10th Month QEW Steering Committee

Meeting, I met with Scott Greenler, Program Assistant for Energy and the Environment, and expressed my interest in FCNL's Bipartisan Climate Solutions Caucus. Friends can find more information at "Who Is in the Bipartisan Climate Solutions Caucus?"

<https://www.fcnl.org/updates/who-is-in-the-bipartisan-climate-solutions-caucus-772>;

- Friends General Conference: Preparing to assist with the 2018 Gathering. This may include, but is not limited to conducting a workshop, making a presentation, or providing as yet unspecified support to QEW;
- Friends Peace Teams (FPT): Face-to-face and email contact with members of FPT. Working to link FPT to QEW UN Working Group, see below;
- Friends United Meeting: Additional contact was made during the QEW Steering Committee Meeting at Pendle Hill during 10th Month. Geeta McGahey continues to be a liaison person. With the addition of Bob McGahey to the Outreach Committee, I have additional linkages to FUM;
- Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC): I continue to work to link FWCC to QEW UN Working Group. As mentioned earlier, I anticipate learning of the status of my nomination early in 2018;
- The Initiative on Coastal Adaptation and Resilience (ICAR): I continue to work with ICAR through the Florida Council of Churches and Jan Booher, board member of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Boca Raton (UUFBR);
- Living Mirror Playback Theatre (LMPT), Tampa: In addition to the Bystander Training mentioned above, Cece Yocum, two other members of LMPT, and I provided two Adult Firstday School sessions 10 and 24 Ninth Month at Tampa Monthly Meeting. I continue to plan to provide Bystander Training in the Gainesville area. This is being coordinated with Ann Kinnebrew, Ignite Applied Theatre, and Bonnie Zimmer, Gainesville MM and FSE Anchor Committee Member;
- National Academies of Sciences, Transportation Research Board (TRB), Environmental Justice Issues in Transportation and the Women's Issues in Transportation Committees: continue to participate as "Friend" of the Women's Committee. I have another year as the research coordinator for the Environmental Justice Committee and plan to attend the committee meeting 9 First Month 2018;
- Organize NOW/F.I.R.E., Climate Justice Committee: I continue to assist the local committee in planning climate justice survey and have built a link with the Orlando office;
- The Pachamama Alliance: I continue to have contact with members through the FL-ICAN network. Members of the Alliance also helped convene the Indigenous Wisdom Day at Sacred Lands, mentioned above;
- People Against D.O.T. Discrimination (P.A.D.D.), Tampa: I continue to work with group on identifying potentially adverse impacts and finding ways to avoid, mitigate, or minimize the same as related to the proposed toll roads in Tampa and other areas of Florida. We continue to wait on a decision regarding an application to the Environmental Protection Agency through the Tampa Heights Junior Civic Association for small grant funding to train community members for outreach, education and environmental data collection;
- QEW: As a steering committee member of QEW, I work on two committees or working groups. As a member of United Nations Working Group (UNWG), I have been focusing on the International Decade for People of African Descent for the last year. I am co-clerking the Water Circle, which will be the focus of the 2018 UNWG IDPAD event. I am and will continue to reach out to Friends to help me develop this area with Florida as a case example.

I also work with the Outreach Committee, clerked by Mary Jo Klingel. We completed a survey of Yearly Meeting representatives to QEW to learn of their YM activities, needs from QEW,

and other information. The analysis of the responses has been completed and the Committee will publish a piece in *BeFriending Creation*, which I will share with SEYM. The Committee continues to discern the information provided in the responses;

- Sierra Club, Tampa Bay: Remain in contact via email, snailmail, etc. Am a member of the local Sierra Club Speakers' Bureau. The Tampa Bay Sierra Club members also were active in the local Indigenous Wisdom Day Gathering. I also remain in contact with Merrilee Malwitz-Jipson, Sierra Club Florida;
- Society for Applied Anthropology, Risk and Disasters Topical Interest Group (TIG): Linking TIG to QEW UN Working Group;
- Sunshine Citizens, Tampa: part of the outreach effort with P.A.D.D.;
- Sunshine State Interfaith Power and Light: working with this group through FL-CAN;
- Unitarian Universalist Fellowship: I joined Jan Booher, board member of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Boca Raton (UUFBR), and other partners to collect data and report on the King Tides in the Shorecrest neighborhood of Miami. (See *Rising Together: Shorecrest, Miami + Community Health Mapping Initiative 2017*, <http://reacttoolkit.net/index.php/rising-together-shorecrest-miami-2017/> and "We got through Irma. And now the king tides are coming." [http://www.miamiherald.com/news/local/community/miami-dade/article174515151.html - 2](http://www.miamiherald.com/news/local/community/miami-dade/article174515151.html-2)). We are in the process of finalizing the report of our findings, which will be shared on the SEYM website when complete.

Jan Booher and I also were interviewed by ninth grade students at Miami's Cushman High School for their virtual reality (VR) film project. The students are enrolled in an elective class, "Before It's Too Late", that addresses how climate change will impact Miami and the rest of Florida. This film will focus on faith-based communities, their attitudes, and initiatives around climate change;

- University of South Florida, Institute on Black Life (IBL), Advisory Committee: Continue work the Institute. I am revising a paper for publication with the director of the Department of Africana Studies and chair of the Institute, Dr. Cheryl Rodriguez on African Americans and environmental justice issues in Tampa.
- University of South Florida, Patel College of Global Sustainability (PCGS): I continue to work with the college. In addition to Dr. Joseph Dorsey, I will be working with Dr. Christian Wells on a local project.

Social Media

I continue to blog, "fsEarthcare Processing", for the SEYM website. The SEYM Administrative Secretary also has created a webpage, <http://seymquakers.org/faith-in-action/field-secretary-for-earthcare/>. Currently, the page contains the blog, the job description, and other links. I am in contact with the secretary on how best to populate this page, e.g., calendars, social media, etc. I tweet @fsesecretary; FB, <fb.me/FsEarthcare>. These links and others are included the signature of my emails.

Qiqochat

The Qiqochat subcircle for SEYM, <http://seymquakers.qiqochat.com/>. In addition to a communication platform, this site also can be a repository of documents, e.g., white papers, presentations, etc. I am in the process of populating the circle.

Other Issues

I am working on a white paper focusing on water issues in Florida and welcome input from Friends. This paper will be shared in upcoming MM/WG retreats and other visits and QEW activities.

Ongoing contact regarding the pipelines and related concerns has been maintained with Peter Ackerman, Lake Worth Monthly Meeting, and Panagioti Tsolkas.

I continue preparations for the 2018 SEYM Gathering and will continue to work with the SEYM Earthcare Committee on climate justice issues, with a particular concern in regard to the impacts of extreme events.

Summary

I continue to be led by the gifts that are shared by Friends in this Yearly Meeting and beyond. Thank you.

Beverly Ward