

SOUTHEASTERN YEARLY MEETING GATHERING 2017

Activity Descriptions

(In Alphabetical Order)

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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AVP MINI-WORKSHOP

AVP stands for “Alternatives to Violence Project.” The project began in 1975 when inmates at Green Haven Prison in New York State asked local Quakers to help them teach incarcerated youth how to resolve conflicts nonviolently. The success of the workshops quickly spread by word of mouth, and the program took root in many State and Federal prisons throughout the country, as well as in community settings. This Mini-Basic Workshop is a hands-on experiential and practical workshop in conflict resolution and non-violence. The workshop teaches interpersonal conflict resolution skills, improved listening and communications skills, builds trust and fosters cooperation and creative conflict management and is fun.

Leaders: Elaine Martin and Willie Hager (both Jacksonville MM), members of SEYM’s Peace & Social Concerns Committee, are trained AVP facilitators.

Where/When: *Friday, 2:45-5:30 PM Room 3*

Format: Workshop

For More Information: 904-716-6138; EMartin227@comcast.net

THE BENEFITS OF ISSUE CAMPAIGN ORGANIZING

Presentation and discussion regarding Campaign Organizing and its benefits. Past Jacksonville issue campaigns from the past four years will be referenced to include successful tactics used avoidance of pitfalls.

Leader: Willie Hager (Jacksonville MM) Campaign Organizer re; #Takeemdownjax-current, Nathan Forrest High School name change - success, #HRO 2016 - success, #ACON (Angela Corey Out Now!) - success.

Where/When: *Thursday, 2:45-4:00 PM; Room 3*

Format: Workshop

For More Information: 904-465-3250; VFPJAX@mail.com

BIBLE STUDY #3: PUTTING YOURSELF IN THE STORY

In this method of Bible study we will write the story from the perspective of characters in the selected passage—then we will read our story and worship share on how we felt the Spirit working during the process.

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

Where/When: *Friday, 2:45-4:00 PM Room 1*

Format: Workshop

For more information: (text preferred) 407-595-4880; almostluddite@yahoo.com

CAMPAIGNS FOR NON-VIOLENT SOCIAL CHANGE

We will discuss the rationale of developing a campaign and the logistics/steps to incorporate the talents of those involved. Willie Hager will present the progress of "Take em Jax", a campaign in Jacksonville to remove confederate related symbols and statues there. Please bring your questions and examples from your own experience and the successes and difficulties you might have encountered. Sponsored by the Peace and Social Concerns Committee of SEYM which is promoting the idea of campaigns for social justice.

Leaders: **Willie Hager** (Jacksonville MM) has been instrumental in the work of Take em Down Jax and other campaigns. **Cece Yocum** (Tampa MM) has been involved in SEYM campaigns with the Farmworkers and stopping Mountain Top Removal. She has lobbied in congress with the help of FCNL and been an avid letter to the editor writer (both of these skills are tools that can be used in a campaign). Cece, along with Dustin Lemke and April Merleux. participated in a week long workshop at FGC on building campaigns

Where/When: *Thursday, 10:15-11:30 AM; Room 1*

Format: Workshop

For More Information: 813-417-1655; ceceyocum@aol.com

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 applications)

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

For More Information: 850-421-6111; vmariner@gmail.com

CENTERING DOWN INTO “THAT OF GOD” WITHIN

This workshop has three parts:

1. guided meditation through a cycle of attitudes (awestruck - grateful - trustful - committed - responsive)
2. feedback: responses from 'waste of time' or skeptical to unity or emptiness
3. sharing experiences of timelessness or the uncanny

Leader: Bob Allenson (Tallahassee MM) has led a variety of workshops at Tallahassee Meeting, SEYM, and at other Churches. He earned M.Div degree at Union Theological Seminary (NY), majored in Hebrew Bible and studied ethics under Reinhold Niebuhr. He senses a “ministry in spiritual encouragement.”

Where/When: *Friday, 4:15-5:30 PM Room 2*

Format: Workshop

For More Information: *850-956-2817; allenson@centurylink.net*

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.

Where/When: *Saturday, 4:15-5:30 PM, Chapel (between the dining room and lake)*

Format: Worship *(Middle School to Adult)*

For More Information: *786-246-2566; kody.hersh@gmail.com*

EXPLORING ROOT CAUSES OF CRISES FACING HUMANITY AND GIFTS FRIENDS (QUAKERS) HAVE TO OFFER FOR HEALING

See Spiritual Unification (below)

FCNL – FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION

The Friends Committee on National Legislation lobbies Congress and the federal administration to advance peace, justice, opportunity, and environmental stewardship. Founded in 1943 by members of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), FCNL fields an expert team of lobbyists on Capitol Hill and works with a grassroots network of tens of thousands of people across the country to advance policies and priorities established by our governing General Committee. SEYM appoints representatives to the general committee, who are all Quakers, and the organization is guided by Quaker

principles. We Friends are FCNL. Learn more about the organization, how it works, and current issues.

Leaders: To be determined

Where/When: *Saturday, 2:45-4:00 PM Room 2*

Format: Presentation

FIRST MEETING: GEORGE FOX AND MARGARET FELL

The session begins with ten minutes of background about Fox's journey from Pendle Hill to Swarthmore Hall, and his short stay at Margaret's home. Maps, video clips, photos of a dramatic re-enactment, and spoken audio clips from the writings of Fox and Fell introduce the historic meeting of these two founding personalities. Next, the group shares in the reading of a 20-minute play developed from the novel "A Peaceable Kingdom, Part I: Children of the Light" by Quaker novelist Jan de Hartog. The play is formed from the dialog in the first chapter of the book. Closing discussion centers on queries dealing with the play's portrayals of Fox and Fell, as well as its illumination of early Quakerism.

Leader: Gary Evans (Orlando MM) is a retired college fine-arts professor. He has lead sessions in the "Conversations to Explore" series at the Orlando Meeting. "The Fox/Fell presentation went very well there, and is one of a series I have developed using art, music and drama to illustrate Quaker themes."

Where/When: *Friday, 4:15 – 5:30 PM Room 1*

Format: Presentation

For more information: 336-769-6243; garyevansfl@yahoo.com

FWCC – FRIENDS WORLD COMMITTEE FOR CONSULATION

These are particularly challenging times to be a Quaker around the globe; whether we are new or seasoned, young or old, silent or programmed Friends. One way we support each other, learn, and grow together is through the Friends World Committee for Consultation. SEYM representatives to the Section of the Americas will not only offer an overview of FWCC's work, its current issues and challenges, but also share their personal experiences. Come hear some great stories!, learn why FWCC's work is important to Quakers.

Where/When: *Thursday, 2:45-4:00 PM Room 2*

Leaders: Eduardo and Clara Diaz (Miami MM), Sarah Hernandez (Sarasota MM) and Nancyrose Logan (Gulf Coast WG) are all SEYM representatives to FWCC Section of the Americas.

Format: Presentation

HAPPINESS: CREATING A PATH TO SPIRITUAL HEALTH

Examination of the multiple aspects of happiness: biological, neurological, personal, cultural, and spiritual with exercises that will be completed within the workshop to strengthen participants ability to generate positive approaches to life as well as to take with them and share.

Leader: Jennifer H. Mendoza, PhD (Sarasota MM) is a psychologist in private practice as well as in hospital work. "Following the election in 2016, there was a notable increase in negativity and feelings of hopelessness that I also experienced. When I called my oldest son and told him how I felt, he replied 'Come on, Mom, get your Quaker on.' So I decided to dust off my prior research on happiness and also attended an additional workshop on the subject."

Where/When: *Saturday, 4:15-5:30 PM Room 2*

Format: Workshop

For More Information: 941-224-5027; drjhmendoza@gmail.com

HOW GOES IT WITH YOU AND GOD?

"How goes it with you and God?" is a question that Puritan Mary Rowlandson asked others in 1676. In the workshop, we will explore our relationship with God and how we got there. We will reflect on and share religious experiences, spiritual revelations and challenges. Telling stories of our spiritual journey brings us closer to our Faith and to each other.

We will work individually and in small and large groups. Silent worship, worship sharing and journaling will be part of this workshop.

Leader: Katie Green (Clearwater MM and Worcester, MA MM). "Serving as Clerk of Worcester Friends Meeting and being on the Ministry & Counsel Committee of NEYM furthered my understanding of Quaker practices and testimonies. I have given and benefited from many workshops at NEYM Sessions, Woolman Hill and Pendle Hill. I am a storyteller, educator, writer, and lifelong student. I love the power of story to bring us closer to each other, our environment and God.

Where/When: *Thursday, 10:15-11:30 AM Room 4*

Format: Workshop

For More Information: 774-364-0468; quaker@katiegreenstories.com

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.

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

Format: Recreation

For more information: 772-267-9156; j1cook@yahoo.com

THE LIGHT SHINES IN THE DARKNESS

The world today seems full of darkness. It can be seductive to rage against the darkness, but we are called to show the Light that has never been overcome by darkness. Together we will explore how we can show a light so lovely that people will want with all their hearts to know the source of it. (Workshop sponsored by Worship & Ministry Committee).

Leader: Joel Cook (Palm Beach MM)

Where/When: *Saturday, 4:15-5:30 PM (Room 4)*

Format: Workshop

For more information: 772-267-9156; j1cook@yahoo.com

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

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

Format: Worship.

NON-VIOLENT BYSTANDER TRAINING

Discussion of Nonviolent Bystander Training: What is Bystander Training? What it and what it is not. Why do it? For Quakers how does it support nonviolence? What Quaker principles do we want to uphold? What are different levels of bystander situations?

Goals - Learn 1) when and how to step into a problematic situation. 2) to be aware of what is happening around us in public and center ourselves despite fear. 3) to reach out and support the targeted person 4) to de-escalate the situation by shifting the attention away from the attacker, if possible.

Review handouts of do's and don'ts of bystander training. Observe large group demonstration and practice in group role plays

Leader: Beverly Ward & Cece Yocum (both from Tampa MM) have facilitated two prior workshops on this topic and have facilitated AVP role play scenarios in AVP workshops numerous times. "We believe we as Quakers can make a difference when people are being harrassed." Cece has had bystander training at a workshop with AFSC and the American Psychological Association.

Where/When: *Saturday 2:45-5:30 PM Room 3*

Format: Workshop

For More Information: 813-417-1655; ceceyocum@aol.com

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.

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

Format: Recreation

Note: *Weather permitting*

For more information: 407-595-4880 (text preferred); almostluddite@yahoo.com

PEACEBUILDING EN LAS AMÉRICAS (PLA)

We will discuss the purpose of PLA, a working group of Friends Peace Teams - developing long-term relationships with communities across Latin America to create programs for peace building, healing and reconciliation. PLA provides grassroots solidarity, accompaniment, finances, and training to communities and organizations in Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador and Colombia.

In this presentation, we will highlight the work of Women Human Rights Defenders, Mercy DreamWeavers, in San Pedro Sula, Honduras; Victim/Survivors of Armed Conflict in Colombia; AVP with National Civil Police in Guatemala; and War Victims Demanding Reparations for Disappeared, a Grassroots community-based trauma healing program for CoMadres in El Salvador.

We will discuss ways SEYM Friends can help PLA and how to become a volunteer.

Leader: Cece Yocum (Tampa MM) has been the clerk of PLA for over ten years and has traveled to Guatemala and Colombia to visit our partner groups.

Where/When: *Friday 2:45-4:00 PM (Room 2)*

Format: Presentation

For more information: 813-417-1655; ceceyocum@aol.com

PRISONER VISITATION AND SUPPORT

Prisoner Visitation and Support (PVS), a Quaker organization, provides visits to prisoners in Federal and Military Prisons throughout the USA. PVS needs more visitors. Visitors usually meet with several prisoners once/month for about an hour/prisoner. The same prisoners are visited monthly. Many prisoners have been incarcerated for decades and have never had a visit.

Leader: Jerry Knutson (Orlando MM), has been visiting prisoners in WV since 2007 and now also visits prisoners in FL during the winter.

Where/When: *Saturday, table talk during dinner*

Format: Discussion

For more information: 407-595-4880 (text preferred); almostluddite@yahoo.com

QUNO - 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.

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

Format: Presentation

For more information: 305-609-9704; warrenhoskins@gmail.com

ROOTS OF INJUSTICE, SEEDS OF CHANGE: TOWARD RIGHT RELATIONSHIP WITH NATIVE PEOPLES

The workshop begins with a participatory exercise in which participants, who represent Native Americans, hear the voices of America's past – the Native Peoples and the European popes, monarchs, and colonizers – and the voices that today are calling for healing and right relationship among all peoples and with the land. The exercise is followed by a period of reflection and sharing, typically using a “talking circle” or worship-sharing format. A Resource Kit is provided so that groups can pursue further study of the issues and consider what “right relationship” might mean in their own circumstances.

Leaders: Jane Westberg (Miami MM and long-time attendee of Boulder MM) is a long time member of Boulder's Indigenous Peoples Concerns (IPC) Committee. "Over the years we've been involved in many projects with Native Americans. In 2012, we invited Jennifer Preston of the Canadian Friends Service Committee to come to Intermountain Yearly Meeting to lead us in the KAIROS' blanket exercise developed to present the seldom taught history of Canada from the Indigenous Peoples' point of view. This powerful experience led Paula Palmer from our committee to create the exercise in terms of the history of the U.S from our Native Peoples' point of view. I helped present this workshop at the FGC in Greeley and for other groups. I'm eager for people in SEYM to know this history and for us to work toward right relationship.

Kody Hersh (Miami MM) is a member of Christian Peacemaker Team's Indigenous Peoples Solidarity Team.

Where/When: *Saturday, 10 AM - noon in the Auditorium*

Format: Workshop

For More Information: *JWestberg@mac.com; 305-606-1505*

SANCTUARY EVERYWHERE

What does "sanctuary" mean to you? When do you feel as though your heart can rest, as though you are in the place where the tensions and furor of the world is released, the place where you feel you can be your whole and most clear self?

For too many, sanctuary is elusive—for undocumented immigrants, for Black people targeted by the police, for Muslims, for queer and trans folks. Walking down the street can feel perilous as the systems of state-sanctioned violence, white supremacy, homophobia, and xenophobia render so many vulnerable.

In response to the rising tide of hate and oppression, AFSC and community members across the country are coming together to create a sense of Sanctuary Everywhere—working as activists and people of faith to create the sense of fairness and sacred space for all people. We long to create Sanctuary Everywhere so that refuge from oppression is not needed anywhere.

Leader: Lis-Marie Alvarado (Miami MM) is the Organizing Coordinator for Immigrant Rights with AFSC's Miami office since November 2015. Lis-Marie has an extensive background in labor and immigration organizing with a variety of organizations in the Florida area and is currently working on spreading the Sanctuary Everywhere initiative with the support of the Miami Friends Meeting.

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

Format: Workshop

For More Information: *786-523-2805; LMAlvarado@afsc.org*

SEXUALI-TEA

A combination tea party and lightly facilitated conversation space for Friends to discuss sexuality-related topics, including sexual identity, discernment, relationships, LGBTQA+ issues, sexuality issues and controversies in Friends communities, and sexual ethics.

Leader: Kody Hersh (Miami MM) is a sexuality educator and youth worker with a concern for sexuality in general, and sexual ethics in particular, in Quaker community.

Where/When: *Thursday, 2:45-4:00 PM in the Gold Room Lounge*

Format: Facilitated Discussion

For More Information: *kody.hersh@gmail.com; 786-246-2566;* (Note: Advance notice to the facilitator preferred for youth attendees)

SPIRITUAL UNIFICATION

recognizing everything is connected
there is a oneness, wholeness, unity of all creation...

EXPLORING ROOT CAUSES OF CRISES FACING HUMANITY AND GIFTS FRIENDS (QUAKERS) HAVE TO OFFER FOR HEALING

areas we will touch on:
silence, spirit, truth, extent of light within, continuing revelation,
sense of unity decision making, advises, queries

Leaders: *Jack Bradin* (Palm Beach MM), is one of SEYM's Representatives to QEW for the last 26 years and is a delegate to UN-ECOSOC (Economic and Social Council Committee) assembly, appointed by QEW's United Nations working Group (UNWG).

eric maya joy is a released friend under the care of his home Meeting (Olympia MM of North Pacific YM) which body guides his continuing revelation that Light pervades [is within] all life spirit. eric has spent many years across the country with Quaker Earthcare Witness. He believes that we as Friends have an important part to play in this deepening unification and seeks and nurtures effective way forward with Friends everywhere.

Where/When: *Friday 2:45-4:00 PM (room 4) and Saturday 4:15-5:30 PM (Room 1)*

Note: This is a 2-part offering, but attendance at both is not mandatory.

Format: Interest Group

For More Information: *Jack: 917-822-9551; greenebank@gmail.com*
eric: 530-477-1277

WATER AND CLIMATE JUSTICE: THE SEYM CASE EXAMPLE

Participants will learn about the U.S. environmental justice movement, the UN Working Group Earthcare Coalition, and the disproportionate adverse impacts of climate change on communities of color. SEYM communities and water issues will be used as case examples. The water issues will include discussions on sea level rise, access to clean water, and displacement. Participants are encouraged to bring questions, local

examples, concerns, etc. We will work on local, regional, and international responses toward transition.

Leader: Beverly Ward (Tampa MM), SEYM's Field Secretary for Earthcare, has extensive educational, professional, and experiential environmental justice knowledge. She is a member of Quaker Earthcare Witness United Nations Working Group.

Where/When: *Thursday 10:15-11:30 AM Room 2*

Format: Workshop

For More Information: *813-928-8823; fsearchcare@seymquakers.org*

WHY ARE WE LED TO CARE FOR THE EARTH?

A sharing of our concerns and convictions toward Earthcare issues. The workshop will include an exploration of other faith statements and resources on Earthcare issues. A goal is to begin work on our own SEYM Statement of Faith on care for the natural world.

Leaders: Bill Carlie (Orlando MM) and Bonnie Zimmer (Gainesville MM). Bill is Co-Clerk of the SEYM Earthcare Committee and a Wetlands Ecologist. Bonnie Zimmer (Gainesville MM), a member of Earthcare Committee is an Environmental Scientist

Where/When: *Wednesday 7:00 PM, in the auditorium*

Format: Workshop

For More Information: *williamcarlie@embarqmail.com; 407-388-4789*

WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS: INVITING THE SPIRIT TO LEAD US

Quaker business process opens the way for the promptings of the Divine among us. Business meeting is worship, and we experience the Presence in our midst. This workshop will cover the basics of Quaker process, including clerking, with a focus on how each part of the process opens the worshipping community to the leadings of the Spirit. Workshop participants will be encouraged to share their experiences of meeting the Divine in business meeting

Leader: Elizabeth ("Betsy") Meyer (Concord NH Friends Meeting), served as the Presiding Clerk of Baltimore Yearly Meeting for four years (2010 -2014) and as Clerk of Interim Meeting for two years before that. She also served as Clerk of Sandy Spring (MD) Monthly Meeting. For many years, she was part of the leadership of the Baltimore Yearly Meeting Spiritual Formation Program, leading many retreats. "Many times, I have felt the presence of the Spirit among us in business meeting, and others have told me of their own similar experiences. It is important that Friends provide opportunities to share their stories of Spirit-led business. This kind of sharing deepens our faith and renews our commitment to Quaker process."

Where/When: *Saturday, 2:45-5:00 PM Room 4*

Format: Workshop

For More Information: *301-922-7633; efmeyer99@gmail.com*
