

# Southeastern Yearly Meeting Gathering & Annual Sessions

March 28 - April 1, 2018

United Methodist Life Enrichment Center, Fruitland Park, Florida

## DOCUMENTS IN ADVANCE

Dear Friends,

***Welcome to our 54<sup>th</sup> Annual Gathering of Southeastern Yearly Meeting!***

You are invited to join us in the annual renewal of our ties of fellowship, both within this yearly meeting, and as we welcome visitors from afar and first time attenders to our blessed gathering community!

SEYM Annual Gatherings include lots of hugs, plenty of smiles, laughter and singing from our hearts, and opportunities for deep listening for the guidance of the Spirit in all we are led to undertake together.

We are especially pleased to bring you Sa'ed Atshan and his Walton Lecture, two retreat sessions facilitated by SEYM committees, and Beverly Ward, SEYM Field Secretary for Earthcare presenting a workshop and report.

Again, welcome to our 54th Yearly Meeting Gathering. You are invited to have some fun, get some rest (or not), learn something new, and be renewed as we love each other in the Spirit.

*In Friendship,*



Bill Carlie, clerk, SEYM

### **TO SEYM CLERKS, OFFICERS, & REPRESENTATIVES:**

We are continuing our format for yearly meeting business sessions. Please remember that:

- **ALL reports from SEYM Officers, Committee Clerks and Representatives need to be shared with SEYM Friends in written form.**
- **If any of the above reports are missing from the DIA, then please bring 50 copies of each missing report to share with Friends and the clerks table, and email the original report to the recording clerks so it can be attached to the minutes of Yearly Meeting.**

Written reports are important, to inform SEYM Friends, to include in our minutes, and for our archived records. The DIA is created for that concern and is then posted on the website and emailed to all the meetings and worship groups of SEYM. This allows time for worship, as well as seasoning and discernment of any action minutes brought to SEYM. Please hold us in the Light as we continue this process.

Southeastern Yearly Meeting  
Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business

AGENDA

March 28 - April 1, 2018

“It is our concern that Friends should work with one another in humble and loving spirit, each giving to others credit for purity of motive, notwithstanding differences of opinion, and being ready to accept the decision of the Meeting even when it may not accord with his own judgment. The mutual forbearance and understanding which are produced by a constant dwelling under the power and control of Christ do much to prevent jealousies, misunderstandings, or any breach of love.”

*Christian Faith and Practice in the Experience of the Religious Society of Friends, London Yearly Meeting, 1935 revision*

**Executive Committee Meeting** • Wed., March 28 • 2:30 – 5:30 pm • Room 2

**Committee Meetings** • Thursday, March 29, 2018 • 1:15 – 2:30 pm

*See Bulletin Board for locations*

**First Plenary Session** • Thursday, March 29, 2018 • 4:15-5:30 pm

Open, centering worship

A Reading from a Yearly Meeting Epistle, the Bible, &/or a Friend’s writing

Welcome

A few words from your clerk

Roll call of Monthly Meetings & Worship Groups, including their milestones (in writing)

Introduction of Visitors & Reading of Letters of Introduction

General announcements (*Please bring written announcements to the clerk prior to session.*)

Agenda review with corrections as necessary.

Appointment of *Ad hoc* Committee for SEYM Epistle 2016

Nominating Committee preliminary report, Kathy Hersh, clerk..... pp 6-10

Review of Minutes for approval

Open Worship

## Second Plenary Session • Thursday, March 29, 2018 • 7:00-8:15 pm

Open, centering worship.

General announcements *(Please bring written announcements to the clerk prior to session.)*

Review & approval of Executive Committee Minutes, *Phoebe Andersen, EC Clerk*

Review & approval of Interim Business Meeting Minutes, *Phoebe Andersen, IBM Clerk ... pp.11-12*

Trustees Report, *Jack Bradin, Clerk*

First Reading: Action Minutes from SEYM Committees & Representatives

*provide copies to the Clerk's table*

Review of Minutes for approval

Open worship

## Third Plenary Session • Friday, March 30, 2018 • 10:00-11:45 am

Open, centering worship.

A Reading from a Yearly Meeting Epistle, the Bible, &/or a Friend's writing.

Welcome of Friends and Visitors not previously introduced.

General announcements *(Please bring written announcements to the clerk prior to session.)*

Treasurer's report, *Joel Cook, Treasurer*

First Reading of 2018-2019 Budget, *Peter Schmidt, Finance Committee clerk ..... pp. 15-16*

Worship and Ministry Report, *Clara Diaz, clerk*

Peace and Social Concerns Report, *Cece Yocum & Elaine Martin, co-clerks*

Friends Peace Teams & Peace Building en las Americas, *Cece Yocum, representative..... pp. 22-26*

FLGBTQC Report, *Stephanie Preston, representative*

Ministry on Racism Report ..... pp. 13-14

Review of Minutes for approval

Open worship

## Fourth Plenary Session • Friday, March 30, 2018 • 1:15 – 2:30 pm

- Open, centering worship
- A Reading from a Yearly Meeting Epistle, the Bible, &/or a Friend's writing
- Welcome of Friends & Visitors not previously introduced
- General announcements (*Please bring written announcements to the clerk prior to session.*)
- Havana Unprogrammed Meeting for Worship Report, *Mercedes Soca, representative*
- ProNica Report, *Stateside Coordinator & others* .....p. 36
- FWCC Report, *Clara and Eduardo Diaz, FWCC representatives*
- FGC Report and Epistle, *Ed Lesnick, representative* ..... pp. 20-21
- FUM Observer report
- Quaker House Report, *Elaine Martin, representative*..... pp. 27-28
- Florida Council of Churches report ..... p. 17
- FCNL report ..... pp. 18-19
- AFSC Report
- QEW report
- QUNO report
- Review of Minutes for approval
- Open Worship

## Fifth Plenary Session • Saturday, March 31, 2018 • 1:15-2:30 pm

- Open, centering worship
- Welcome of Friends & Visitors not previously introduced
- Reading for Approval of Action Minutes from SEYM committees and representatives.  
(for minutes under revision from second plenary)
- Second Reading & Approval of Budget, 2017-2018, *Peter Schmidt, Finance clerk* ..... pp. 15-16
- Field Secretary for Earthcare & Anchor Committee, *Beverly Ward, FSE & others* ..... pp. 29-35  
Teens and YAQs are invited
- Committee for Earthcare Report – Update SEYM on other projects and process of fundraising efforts for the FSE, *Bill Carlie & Brad Stocker, Co-Clerks*
- Youth Committee Report ..... p. 12
- Young Friends – Report of Young Friends concerns & minutes to Yearly Meeting
- Young Adult Quakers – Report of YAQ activities and concerns
- Laughter Yoga (5 mins.)
- Review of Minutes for approval
- Open worship

## **Sixth Plenary Session • Sunday, April 1, 2018 • 9:00-10:45 am**

Open, centering worship

A Reading from a Yearly Meeting Epistle, the Bible, and/or a Friend's writing.

General announcements – (Please bring written announcements to the clerk prior to session.)

Second Reading for approval of Nominating Committee report, *Kathy Hersh, clerk.....pp. 6-10*

Gathering Committee report, *Stephanie Preston & Andrea Hoskins, co-clerks*

Epistles – Wee Friends, Young Friends, & Teen Friends (*This will occur whenever these Friends arrive in the auditorium.*)

SEYM Epistle – reading & approval

A few words from your clerk

Minutes of appreciation

Review of Minutes for approval

***Our Gathering will close with First Day Meeting for Worship at 11:00 am***

## Nominating Committee Report Yearly Business Meeting 2018

The Nominating Committee would like to thank all of you who have come forward to serve our Yearly Meeting and those of you who have extended your commitment. The work of this committee has been greatly assisted by many of you who have made suggestions of people whose gifts you have recognized and we appreciate your help.

We live in very stressful times when just taking care of ourselves and our loved ones fills our days with challenges. It is hard to say "yes" to one more thing. Our annual retreat becomes even more needed than ever. Many hands and hearts go into making the Gathering happen and carry on the interim work that makes the Gathering possible and enriches our fellowship and the work of our meetings throughout our state and beyond.

As a Yearly Meeting, we decided decades ago to build a strong youth program. In order to sustain that dedication to our youth, we need more volunteers for the Youth Committee and the Gathering Committee. We need youth advocates who have ideas and love sharing the energy field that the children provide us. Because of the dedication of past youth leaders, our SEYM youth have reminded us to put in action our testimonies. They have led us on marches to support the Coalition of Immokalee Workers, to protest mountaintop removal, and moved us to hire a Field Secretary for Earthcare. They are not periferal. They are at the heart and soul of our YM and their presence ensures our future.

When so many of you have given so much, it is hard for us to ask for more. But that is what you have entrusted us to do.

If you are able and led to help, please note on the attached list the specific areas where the needs are and speak to either Ellie Caldwell, Beverly Ward, Elaine Martin, or Kathy Hersh. We will be happy to discuss the possibilities.

Peace, love and Light,

Kathy Hersh  
Nominating Committee clerk

# Nominating Committee Report WIBM 2018

slate of Officers, Committees, Representatives, & Appointees  
**Nominees for consideration are in bold**

## OFFICERS

Yearly Meeting Clerk .....	Bill Carlie .....	Orlando.....	2020
Interim Business Meeting (IBM) & Executive Committee (EC) Clerk .....	Phoebe Andersen.....	Tallahassee.....	2018
<b>(After YM 2018) .....</b>	<b>Elaine Martin.....</b>	<b>Jacksonville .....</b>	<b>2021</b>
YM & IBM Assistant Clerk .....	Nancy Corindia .....	Sarasota.....	2020
Co-Recording Clerks, Yearly Meeting .....	Jan Dahm .....	Tampa.....	2018
.....	Lisa Erazmus .....	Tampa.....	2018
<b>YM Recording Clerk (after YM 2018) .....</b>	<b>Richard Frechette.....</b>	<b>Ft. Myers.....</b>	<b>2021</b>
Recording Clerk, IBM .....	Michael Shell.....	Jacksonville.....	2019
Assistant Recording Clerks .....	.....	.....	.....
Treasurer .....	Joel Cook .....	Palm Beach.....	2020
Membership Recorder .....	Ed Lesnick.....	Orlando.....	2020
Young Adult Quakers Clerk .....	.....	.....	.....
Young Friends Clerk .....	.....	.....	.....
Young Friends Recording Clerk.....	.....	.....	.....

## TRUSTEES

.....	<b>Jack Bradin .....</b>	<b>Palm Beach .....</b>	<b>2021</b>
.....	Neil Anderson.....	Tallahassee.....	2020
.....	Jean Larson.....	Gainesville.....	2019
.....	Eileen Zingaro.....	Clearwater .....	2019
.....	Mike Flanery .....	Clearwater .....	2020
YM Treasurer(ex officio) .....	Joel Cook.....	Treasure Coast .....	2020

## CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION PROGRAM (CAPP)

Coordinator .....	Vicki Mariner .....	Tallahassee.....	2019
Trainer .....	Vicki Mariner .....	Tallahassee.....	2019
Trainer .....	Sandy Lyon.....	Gainesville.....	2018
Trainer .....	Ellie Caldwell.....	Palm Beach.....	2019

## COMMITTEES

Archives	Clerk .....	Bill Rapp .....	Lake Wales .....	2018
	.....	Phoebe Andersen.....	Tallahassee.....	2020
	.....	.....	.....	.....
	.....	.....	.....	.....
Earthcare	Co-clerk.....	Brad Stocker .....	Miami.....	2020
	<b>Co-clerk.....</b>	<b>Bill Carlie .....</b>	<b>Orlando .....</b>	<b>2021</b>
	.....	Jack Bradin .....	Palm Beach.....	2020
	.....	Mike Flanery .....	Clearwater .....	2020
	.....	<b>Al Geiger .....</b>	<b>Jacksonville .....</b>	<b>2021</b>
	.....	Harold Branam.....	Savannah.....	2019
	.....	Beverly Ward.....	Tampa.....	2019

.....Catherine Price ..... Lake Wales ..... 2019  
 .....Bonnie Zimmer ..... Gainesville ..... 2019

## Faith & Practice

*on sabbatical until 2019*

Clerk ..... Phoebe Andersen ..... Tallahassee ..... 2017  
 .....

## Finance

Clerk ..... Peter Schmidt ..... Tampa ..... 2019  
 ..... Shawna Doran ..... Gainesville ..... 2018  
 ..... Tom Corindia ..... Sarasota ..... 2018  
 ..... **Steve Donachie** ..... **Miami** ..... **2021**  
 ..... **Carl Hersh** ..... **Miami** ..... **2021**  
 Clerk, Trustees (ex officio) Jack Bradin ..... Palm Beach ..... 2018  
 Asst. YM Clerk (ex officio) .Nancy Corindia ..... Sarasota ..... 2020  
 YM Secretary (ex officio).... Vicki Carlie ..... Orlando  
 Treasurer (ex officio) ..... Joel Cook ..... Treasure Coast ..... 2020

## Half-Yearly Meeting

Clerk ..... Jerry Knutson ..... Orlando ..... 2021  
 Registrar ..... Brian Olson ..... Miami ..... 2021

## Ministry on Racism

Co-clerk ..... Susan Taylor ..... Tallahassee ..... 2020  
 Co-clerk ..... Wendy Clarissa Geiger ..... Jacksonville ..... 2020  
 ..... **Minerva Glidden** ..... **Orlando** ..... **2021**  
 ..... Cheryl Demers-Holton ..... Gainesville ..... 2020  
 ..... **Beverly Ward** ..... **Tampa** ..... **2021**  
 ..... **Kathy Hersh** ..... **Miami** ..... **2021**

## Peace & Social Concerns

Co-Clerk ..... Elaine Martin ..... Jacksonville ..... 2019  
 Co-Clerk ..... Cece Yocum ..... Tampa ..... 2019  
 ..... Warren Hoskins ..... Miami ..... 2019  
 ..... Willie Hager ..... Jacksonville ..... 2019  
 ..... Mercedes Soca ..... Miami ..... 2019  
 ..... Mike Flanery ..... Clearwater ..... 2020  
 ..... **Peter Harrell** ..... **Gainesville** ..... **2021**  
 ..... Eileen Zingaro ..... Clearwater ..... 2018  
 ..... Phil Stone ..... Clearwater ..... 2020  
 ..... Caroline Kaufman ..... Clearwater ..... 2020  
 ..... Peter Ackerman ..... Palm Beach ..... 2020

## Publications

Clerk ..... Phoebe Andersen ..... Tallahassee ..... 2018  
 ..... Sandy Branam ..... Savannah ..... 2018  
 ..... Stephanie Preston ..... Orlando ..... 2018  
 ..... Mercedes Soca ..... Miami ..... 2020

## Worship & Ministry

Clerk ..... Clara Diaz ..... Miami ..... 2020  
 ..... Nancy Corindia ..... Sarasota ..... 2018  
 ..... Eduardo Diaz ..... Miami ..... 2020  
 ..... Nancy Fennell ..... Ft. Myers ..... 2018  
 ..... Tom Fennell ..... Ft. Myers ..... 2018  
 ..... Nancyrose Logan ..... Sarasota ..... 2019  
 ..... Mimi McAdoo ..... Sarasota ..... 2019



.....Nancy Triscritti ..... Tampa .....2021  
 .....  
 .....

YM Gathering  
 Co-Clerk.....Stephanie Preston ..... Orlando..... 2018  
     **Seeking new Co-Clerk .....2021**  
 Co-Clerk.....**Andrea Hoskins.....Miami.....2020**  
 Program Coordinator .....Richard Frechette ..... Ft. Myers ..... 2018  
     **Seeking new Prog. Coordinator .....2021**  
 Registrar .....**Andrea Hoskins.....Miami.....2020**  
 Bookstore.....Gerry O’Sullivan ..... Miami..... 2018  
     **Seeking .....2021**

Youth Committee  
 Clerk .....Mira Tanna..... Orlando..... 2019  
 ..... Vicki Mariner ..... Tallahassee..... 2018  
 ..... Aurelio Anderson ..... Tallahassee..... 2018  
 ..... Caroline Chen..... Palm Beach..... 2020  
 ..... Jennifer Mendoza ..... Sarasota..... 2018  
 ..... Kate Sundberg..... Sarasota..... 2018  
 ..... Cecelia Yocum ..... Tampa..... 2019  
 ..... **Jenn Ambrose .....Gainesville .....2021**  
     **Seeking new members..... 2021**  
 ..... **2021**  
 ..... **2021**

**REPRESENTATIVES TO ORGANIZATIONS**

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American Friends Service Committee Corporation, AFSC/Philadelphia  
 .....Chris Lazurek ..... Savannah .....2019  
 .....Stacey Lazurek.....Savannah .....2019

Friends Committee on National Legislation, FCNL/William Penn House  
 ..... Nancy Corindia ..... Sarasota..... 2020  
 ..... Karen Putney ..... Tampa..... 2018  
 ..... Lou Putney ..... Tampa..... 2020  
 ..... Aurelio Anderson..... Tallahassee..... 2020  
 ..... Sandra Schwartz..... Clearwater .....  
 ..... Catharine Price ..... Lake Wales .....  
 Friends General Conference, FGC Central Committee  
 .....Ed Lesnick ..... Orlando..... 2018  
 ..... Kay Lesnick ..... Orlando..... 2018  
 ..... Gerry O’Sullivan ..... Miami..... 2019  
 ..... **Minerva Glidden .....Orlando .....2021**

Friends World Committee for Consultation - FWCC  
 ..... Clara Diaz ..... Miami..... 2019  
 ..... Eduardo Diaz ..... Miami..... 2018  
 ..... Sarah Hernandez ..... Sarasota..... 2018  
 ..... Nancyrose Logan ..... Sarasota..... 2020

Friends Peace Teams ..... **Cecilia Yocum ..... Tampa .....2021**  
 ..... Shawna Doran ..... Gainesville ..... 2018

Florida Council of Churches ..... Beverly Ward..... Tampa..... 2019

Florida Impact, Contact Person..... Phil Anderson ..... Tallahassee..... 2019

Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender & Queer Concerns - FLGBTQC	.....Sara Humphrey .....	Orlando.....	2021
Historic Peace Churches: Quaker, Mennonite, and Church of the Brethren			
South Florida.....	Warren Hoskins.....	Miami.....	2019
North Florida .....	.....	.....	.....
Palmetto Friends Gathering.....	Phoebe Andersen .....	Tallahassee.....	2020
.....	Neil Andersen .....	Tallahassee.....	2020
Quaker Earthcare Witness.....	Jack Bradin .....	Palm Beach.....	2019
.....	Brad Stocker .....	Miami.....	2019
Quaker House .....	Elaine Martin .....	Jacksonville.....	2020
Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO) .....	Warren Hoskins.....	Miami.....	2019

**APPOINTED OBSERVERS TO ORGANIZATIONS**

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FUM General Board Observer.....	Kody Hersh.....	Miami.....	2018
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---submitted by Nominating Committee

*servng through to rise of YM 2018*

clerk.....	Kathy Hersh .....	Miami.....	2018
.....	Ellie Caldwell.....	Palm Beach.....	2018
.....	Beverly Ward.....	Tampa.....	2019
.....	Elaine Martin .....	Jacksonville.....	2018

**Naming Committee** appointed at June EC:

- Peter Schmidt
- Stephanie Preston

**Incoming Nominating Committee**

.....	Ellie Caldwell.....	Palm Beach.....	2018
.....	Beverly Ward.....	Tampa.....	2019
.....	<b>Ed Lesnick.....</b>	<b>Orlando.....</b>	<b>2021</b>
.....	.....	.....	<b>2021</b>
.....	.....	.....	<b>2021</b>

## Fall Interim Business Meeting Numbered Minutes

- 17FIBM01. Friends approve the nomination of Phoebe Andersen, Tallahassee Meeting, for the position of EC & IBM Clerk, to fill the position left vacant when Lisa Stewart moved to NY. The term will end at rise of YM 2018.
- 17FIBM02. Friends accept the Memorial Minute for Cathy Gaskill, which will be recorded in these minutes.
- 17FIBM03. Friends approve the nomination of Catherine Price (SPMM Lake Wales) to be an SEYM Representative to FCNL.
- 17FIBM04. Friends accept the Nominating Committee report.
- 17FIBM05. Friends accept the Worship & Ministry Committee report.
- 17FIBM06. Friends approve the June and Fall Executive Committee minutes.
- 17FIBM07. Friends approve the outgoing Treasurer's Annual Report for FY 2016-2017.
- 17FIBM08. Friends accept the Treasurer's Report for the First Quarter of FY 2017-2018, with thanks.
- 17FIBM09. Friends accept the Youth Committee report.
- 17FIBM10. Friends accept the Gathering Committee Report, with thanks.
- 17FIBM11. Friends accept the Peace & Social Concerns Committee report, with thanks.
- 17FIBM12. The Ministry On Racism Committee Report in the Documents In Advance is accepted.
- 17FIBM13. Friends accept the Earthcare Committee Report. We thank the committee, Brad Stocker, Beverly Ward, and QEW.
- 17FIBM14. Friends accept the Field Secretary for Earthcare report, with thanks.
- 17FIBM15. Friends accept the ProNica report. We expressed gratitude for the resolution of ProNica's recent difficulties, and thank ProNica stateside for their efforts.
- 17FIBM15. Friends accept the reports from our Representatives to Friends Peace Teams, FWCC, FCNL, and Quaker House, with our gratitude.
- 17FIBM16. Friends enthusiastically thank Sarasota Friends for their wonderful hospitality and great food.
- 17FIBM17. Friends thank the Administrative Secretary for her efforts in serving as substitute Recording Clerk for Executive Committee and Interim Business Meeting.

## Winter Interim Business Meeting Numbered Minutes

- 18WIBM01. SEYM of the Religious Society of Friends requires leaders of SEYM-sponsored youth activities to be SEYM Child Abuse Prevention Program (CAPP) registered. SEYM liability insurance ONLY covers SEYM-sponsored events and youth activities. SEYM CAPP registered training may take place at any location approved by SEYM. If a monthly meeting sponsors a youth activity with SEYM CAPP registered leaders, it must have its own sexual misconduct liability insurance.

18WIBM02. SEYM of the Religious Society of Friends agrees that training for the Child Abuse Prevention Program (CAPP) may be provided at monthly meeting locations within SEYM provided that (1) all required individual paperwork, including background checks, is processed through the Yearly Meeting office before the training occurs; (2) the trainer is a SEYM-registered and designated CAPP trainer; and (3) the monthly meeting holds sexual misconduct liability insurance.

18WIBM03. SEYM of the Religious Society of Friends authorizes the Treasurer to disperse funds in the amount \$5,000.00 payable to Friends Peace Teams (FPT) and earmarked for the Peacebuilding en las Américas (PLA) Coordinator position. The purpose is to provide urgently needed money to support the work of the FPT-PLA Coordinator. These funds may be taken from the general funds available to SEYM, in the most timely manner possible.

## Youth Committee Report

In May 2017, Youth Committee (YC) received a proposal from Kody Hersh seeking to become an SEYM Youth Worker. Through discussions with Kody, YC has come to view Kody's leading as a spirit-led desire to serve SEYM as a volunteer coordinating youth and young adult events. YC recognizes Kody's gifts and talents in working with young Friends as evidenced by his work coordinating the high school group at annual gathering. Kody has worked to foster an inclusive community with SEYM youth, to deepen the spiritual lives of our young Friends and to develop engaging youth programming. YC also recognizes the great benefit to having such a position, as YC members have not had the time and energy to connect SEYM youth outside of annual sessions. Young SEYM Friends often have few peers in their monthly meetings or worship groups, making the connection to other SEYM youth more vital. YC envisions that this position could be modeled loosely on other volunteer service positions such as those offered by Quaker Voluntary Service or Mennonite Voluntary Service, which support their volunteers with housing, health insurance and a basic stipend. To this end, YC is requesting member meetings to consider whether they may be able to provide housing for Kody, beginning possibly in January 2019 for a 2-3 year commitment. YC estimates that SEYM would need to commit approximately \$15,000 per year to cover insurance, stipend and costs associated with this position. YC is working on a more detailed budget and volunteer job description. YC requests the support of SEYM to consider ways to raise funds needed to support a volunteer Youth Coordinator position.

--Mira Tanna, Clerk, Youth Committee, Feb. 7, 2018

# Committee for Ministry on Racism Report

SEYM Annual Gathering Business Sessions March 28- April 1, 2018

*"We are committed to lifting and deepening the leadership of those most affected by systemic racism, poverty, the war economy, and ecological devastation and to building unity across lines of division." - From Fundamental Principles of the [revived] Poor People's Campaign, a National Call for Moral Revival. [www.poorpeoplescampaign.org](http://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org)*

*Differences are not divisions. \*\*\*\* Talking IS action. \*\*\*\* Prayer is internal action. - Wendy*

*A QuakerSpeak video uplifting Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL - the Quaker lobby in the public interest) is titled "How Mysticism Informs Quaker Activism." It is entirely an interview with one white Quaker woman of Mt. Toby Meeting in Massachusetts, Jennie Isbell. She acknowledges a common fear among contemplatives, mystics, and peace & justice activists: "One thing that kept me out of being an activist was fear of getting it wrong and needing to know more than I could stand to know, more than I was interested in knowing!" - Wendy*

*Some white Friends find facing racism scary and impossible for an hour or a week per year. Let us white Friends live our lives in such ways as to reduce and eliminate the terror, the scary micro-aggressions, the indignities, the diminishment born of racism Friends of Color face 24/7/365. Let us white Friends challenge and prioritize our commitments in transforming the Religious Society and society around us so we white Friends would welcome living lives as Friends of Color. - Wendy*

*Christians will not be comfortable, but will be comforted. - Wendy's vocal ministry*

*"Go to the places that scare you." - Pema Chodron*

*"My activism pays my rent for living on this planet." - Alice Walker*

Welcome Friends. The Committee for Ministry on Racism warmly invites you to our meeting Thursday, March 29, at 1:15 PM (place to be posted) and join with us as we continue to discern way forward as a committee and prayerfully consider what our concerns are regarding racism. We hope you will find time to visit the Committee for Ministry on Racism table display in the auditorium and converse with members of the Committee at YM Gathering and contact us throughout the year with questions, answers, requests, suggestions, concerns, and comments regarding racism awareness work.

Since Winter Interim Business Meeting, Vicki Carlie has faithfully sent to all U.S. Yearly Meetings SEYM's minute on working to remove the exception clause (allowing slavery) in the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution which otherwise outlaws slavery. She has likewise followed through with the Committee's request to post on the Committee's SEYM website page, the link to Peggy McIntosh's essay: *White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack*. Please honor the copyright requests on the link, including not to re-post the document electronically.

Susan Taylor, Committee co-clerk, plans to attend the White Privilege Conference, in Grand Rapids Michigan, April 4 – April 7, 2018: "Super People & Super Powers: Prepare to be the Future of Social Justice Work." "The White Privilege Conference (WPC) was established and is organized by African American Professor Dr. Eddie Moore, who wanted to provide a challenging, collaborative and comprehensive experience. The conference strives to empower and equip individuals to work for equity and justice through self and social transformation." (FGC website: [fgcquaker.org](http://fgcquaker.org)). The Committee encourages other SEYM Friends to discern whether or not you feel led to attend. A discount for Friends is available when you register through the FGC website. Search "White Privilege Conference." There, you will find Friends' comments about their experiences of the WPC they attended.

*“White Privilege is the other side of racism. Unless we name it, we are in danger of wallowing in guilt or moral outrage with no idea of how to move beyond them. It is often easier to deplore racism and its effects than to take responsibility for the privileges some of us receive as a result of it... once we understand how white privilege operates, we can begin addressing it on an individual and institutional basis.” ~Paula Rothenberg, (whiteprivilegeconference.com)*

The Committee also invites Friends to attend Kody Hersh’s and Jane Westbrook’s Retreat Session 2, Saturday, March 31, 10 am.-noon. Roots of Injustice, Seeds of Change: Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples. Please see the description of this powerful workshop on the SEYM website: (seymquakers.org) or in Documents in Advance. Thank you, Jane and Kody!

Please, hold in Wholeness & Tenderness a concern that SEYM Friends make a statement on racism - as a YM; and, monthly meetings and worship groups consider this opportunity for making a statement on racism, too, for offering to local communities, media, and wider Quakerdom.

In Tenderness and Wholeness,

Wendy Clarissa Geiger (Jacksonville) Co-clerk

Susan Taylor (Tallahassee) Co-clerk

and members, Minerva Glidden (Orlando) and Cheryl Demers-Holton (Gainesville).

**Budget presented here is a draft only; numbers may change by Yearly Meeting**

**SEYM General Fund Budget FY 2018-2019 -1st draft - WIBM**

	Annual Budget \$ FY2014-15	Actual \$ FY2014-15	Annual Budget \$ FY2015-16	Actual \$ FY2015-16	Annual Budget \$ FY2016-17	Actual \$ FY2016-17	Annual Budget \$ FY2017-18	1st 1/2 Actual \$ FY2017-18	Proposed Budget \$ FY2018-19	Change frm 2017-18 budget
<b>Income</b>										
2000 Income										
2001 Donations										
2002 Individual Donations (& In-Kind: GF Acct#2006)	\$ 2,200	2,208.75	\$ 2,000	2,341.00	\$ 2,000	2,536.00	\$ 2,000	400.00	\$ 800	-1,200.00
2003 Meetings & Worship Groups - Apportionments	\$ 58,748		\$ 58,290	57,195.23	\$ 60,880	54,630.00	\$ 61,870	24,206.00	\$ 72,585	10,715.00
2003 Meetings & WGs - Others (GF Accts #2013,2023)		59,210.00		400.00		125.00				
2060 Donations - Restricted		550.00								
2001 Other Donations - Restricted (GF Accts#2004,2060)										
<b>Total 2001 Donations</b>	<b>\$ 60,948</b>	<b>61,968.75</b>	<b>\$ 60,290</b>	<b>59,936.23</b>	<b>62,880.00</b>	<b>57,291.00</b>	<b>63,870.00</b>	<b>24,606.00</b>	<b>\$ 73,385</b>	
2200 Investment Earnings										
2203 Savings account interest	\$ 8	6.23	\$ 10	6.25	\$ 10	20.00	\$ 10	12.00	\$ 20	10.00
<b>Total 2200 Investment Earnings</b>	<b>\$ 8</b>	<b>6.23</b>	<b>\$ 10</b>	<b>6.25</b>	<b>\$ 10</b>	<b>20.00</b>	<b>\$ 10</b>	<b>12.00</b>	<b>\$ 20</b>	
2306 Miscellaneous Income (& GF Accts#2316,2380)										
2316 GuideOne Insurance Dividend		350.28					\$ -	95.00		
<b>Total 2000 Income</b>	<b>\$ 60,956</b>	<b>62,325.26</b>	<b>\$ 60,300</b>	<b>59,942.48</b>	<b>62,890.00</b>	<b>57,311.00</b>	<b>63,880.00</b>	<b>24,713.00</b>	<b>\$ 73,405</b>	
2700 Transfers in FROM other classes										
2711 Donations to GF through other classes										
2712 Michener Lecture to GF/insurance	\$ 150	150.00	\$ 150	150.00	\$ 150	150.00	\$ 150	0.00		
2732 Gath/Walton to GF/insurance	\$ 900	900.00	\$ 900	900.00	\$ 900	900.00	\$ 900	0.00		
2750 Surplus from HYM										
2752 HYM to GF/insurance	\$ 450	450.00	\$ 450	450.00	\$ 450	450.00	\$ 450	0.00		
2804 From Trustee's Funds										
2815 for Bertsche Outreach Travel	\$ 1,670	1,762.98	\$ 1,800	1,855.76	\$ 1,500	1,828.00	\$ 1,800	872.00		
2820 for Secretary's Salary	\$ 3,900	4,110.10	\$ 4,200	4,326.43	\$ 3,800	4,261.00	\$ 4,500	2,034.00		
<b>Total 2804 from Trustee's Funds</b>	<b>\$ 5,570</b>	<b>5,873.08</b>	<b>\$ 6,000</b>	<b>6,182.19</b>	<b>5,100.00</b>	<b>6,089.00</b>	<b>6,300.00</b>	<b>2,905.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	
<b>Total 2700 Transfers in FROM other classes</b>	<b>\$ 7,070</b>	<b>7,373.08</b>	<b>\$ 7,500</b>	<b>7,682.19</b>	<b>6,600.00</b>	<b>7,589.00</b>	<b>7,800.00</b>	<b>2,905.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 68,026</b>	<b>69,698.34</b>	<b>\$ 67,800</b>	<b>67,624.67</b>	<b>69,490.00</b>	<b>64,900.00</b>	<b>71,680.00</b>	<b>27,619.00</b>	<b>\$ 73,405</b>	
<b>Expenses</b>										
2999 Expenses										
3000 Administrative										
3001 Bank Service Charges	\$ 20	0.00	\$ 20	30.00	\$ 20	0.00	\$ 30	0.00	\$ 30	
3002 Credit Card service fees	\$ 70	0.00	\$ 10	0.00	\$ 10	0.00	\$ 10	0.00	\$ 10	
3006 Contract Labor	\$ -		\$ -	0.00	\$ -	0.00	\$ -	0.00	\$ -	
3080 Duplication (& GF Acct#6000)	\$ 4,500	1,545.07	\$ 2,000	1,143.94	\$ 1,000	1,076.00	\$ 1,000	1,035.00	\$ 1,500	500.00
3106 Liability Insurance	\$ 1,500	1,393.55	\$ 1,700	1,282.00	\$ 1,400	1,369.00	\$ 1,540	1,361.00	\$ 1,700	160.00
3107 Youth Worker CAP Certification Program	\$ 150	222.60	\$ 150	103.35	\$ 150	87.00	\$ 150	16.00	\$ 150	
3146 State Fee for Non-Profit Corporation	\$ 61	61.25	\$ 60	61.25	\$ 60	0.00	\$ 60	0.00	\$ 60	
3200 Office Supplies	\$ 600	943.01	\$ 900	831.00	\$ 500	718.00	\$ 800	414.00	\$ 800	
3270 Payroll Expenses - Employee Salary	\$ 24,877	26,546.14	\$ 27,600	28,080.00	\$ 29,200	36,095.00	\$ 30,400	18,049.00	\$ 36,000	5,600.00
3271 Payroll Expenses - Employee Benefits	\$ -		\$ -		\$ -	0.00	\$ -	0.00	\$ -	
3272 Payroll Expenses - Employer Taxes for Staff	\$ 1,903	2,211.24	\$ 2,100	2,148.08	\$ 2,200	2,763.00	\$ 2,390	1,381.00	\$ 2,755	365.00
3380 Postage & Shipping	\$ 700	674.47	\$ 900	222.35	\$ 500	384.00	\$ 500	272.00	\$ 500	
3381 Post Office Box Rental	\$ 150	78.00	\$ 80	160.00	\$ 200	152.00	\$ 150	86.00	\$ 150	
3400 Office Equipment	\$ 400	77.90	\$ 400	0.00	\$ 400	1,417.00	\$ 400	235.00	\$ 400	
3500 Professional Svcs (& GF Accts#3536,3556,5187)	\$ 3,075	2,054.28	\$ 1,580	1,854.50	\$ 1,400	1,325.00	\$ 1,400	0.00	\$ 1,400	
3640 Rent, Office & Off-site Storage Unit	\$ 1,320	1,374.72	\$ 1,400	1,477.40	\$ 1,400	1,591.00	\$ 1,400	906.00	\$ 1,400	
3642 Office Rent								0.00	\$ -	
3643 Storage Unit								0.00	\$ -	
3700 Repairs	\$ 350	204.00	\$ 100	102.09	\$ 200	102.00	\$ 200		\$ 200	
3816 Software	\$ 600	803.92	\$ 800	706.44	\$ 1,400	1,230.00	\$ 800	740.00	\$ 800	
3840 Telephone & Internet Service	\$ 2,000	2,298.15	\$ 2,000	1,511.44	\$ 2,000	1,598.00	\$ 2,000	807.00	\$ 2,000	
3860 Travel Administrative (& GF Acct#9003)	\$ 2,500	926.04	\$ 2,000	817.82	\$ 2,000	1,394.00	\$ 2,000	170.00	\$ 2,000	
3900 Website Fees (& Off-site E-Data Storage)	\$ 800	464.88	\$ 800	965.30	\$ 1,000	910.00	\$ 1,000	360.00	\$ 100	
<b>Total 3000 Administrative</b>	<b>\$ 45,576</b>	<b>41,879.22</b>	<b>\$ 44,600</b>	<b>41,496.96</b>	<b>45,040.00</b>	<b>52,211.00</b>	<b>46,230.00</b>	<b>25,832.00</b>	<b>\$ 51,955</b>	
4000 Committees Operating Expenses										
4309 Archives	\$ 550	389.78	\$ 550	100.00	\$ 550	0.00	\$ 550	0.00	\$ 550	
4329 EC & IBM (& GF Acct#7000)	\$ 100	0.00	\$ 100	0.00	\$ 100	0.00	\$ 100	0.00	\$ 100	
4339 Faith & Practice	\$ 50	0.00	\$ 50	0.00	\$ 50	0.00	\$ 50	0.00	\$ 50	
4349 Finance	\$ 50	26.24	\$ 50	0.00	\$ 50	0.00	\$ 50	0.00	\$ 50	
4359 Nominating	\$ 50	0.00	\$ 50	0.00	\$ 50	0.00	\$ 50	0.00	\$ 50	
4369 Peace & Social Concerns	\$ 200	0.00	\$ 200	231.84	\$ 450	250.00	\$ 450	0.00	\$ 450	
4389 Youth Committee	\$ 50	0.00	\$ 50	0.00	\$ 50	0.00	\$ 50	0.00	\$ 50	
4379 Publications					\$ 50		\$ 50		\$ 50	
4399 Worship & Ministry	\$ 150	65.00	\$ 150	0.00	\$ 150	0.00	\$ 150	0.00	\$ 150	
4429 Earthcare	\$ 50	0.00	\$ 500	414.75	\$ 500	368.00	\$ 500		\$ 500	
4469 Ministry on Racism	\$ 50	0.00	\$ 50	0.00	\$ 50	0.00	\$ 50	0.00	\$ 50	
4489 Young Adult Quakers	\$ 50	0.00	\$ 50	0.00	\$ 50	0.00	\$ 50	0.00	\$ 50	
<b>Total 4000 Committee Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 1,350</b>	<b>481.02</b>	<b>\$ 1,850</b>	<b>746.59</b>	<b>2,100.00</b>	<b>618.00</b>	<b>2,100.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>\$ 2,100</b>	

**SEYM General Fund Budget FY 2018-2019 -1st draft - WIBM**

	Annual Budget \$ FY2014-15	Actual \$ FY2014-15	Annual Budget \$ FY2015-16	Actual \$ FY2015-16	Annual Budget \$ FY2016-17	Actual \$ FY2016-17	Annual Budget \$ FY2017-18	1st 1/2 Actual \$ FY2017-18	Proposed Budget \$ FY2018-19	Change from 2017-18 budget
5000 Donations to Organizations				550.00						
5007 AFSC	\$ 200	200.00	\$ 200	200.00	\$ 200	200.00	\$ 200	0.00	\$ 200	
5008 AFSC-SERO	\$ -		\$ -	0.00	\$ -	0.00	\$ -	0.00	\$ -	
5018 Earham School of Religion	\$ 100	100.00	\$ 100	100.00	\$ 100	100.00	\$ 100	0.00	\$ 100	
5027 FCNL	\$ 300	300.00	\$ 300	300.00	\$ 300	300.00	\$ 300	0.00	\$ 300	
5028 QEW	\$ 200	200.00	\$ 200	200.00	\$ 200	200.00	\$ 200	0.00	\$ 200	
5030 FLGBTQC	\$ 100	100.00	\$ 100	100.00	\$ 100	100.00	\$ 100	0.00	\$ 100	
5037 FGC	\$ 1,200	1,200.00	\$ 1,200	1,200.00	\$ 1,200	1,200.00	\$ 1,200	0.00	\$ 1,200	
5038 Florida Coalition for Peace & Justice	\$ 100	100.00	\$ 100	100.00	\$ 100	100.00	\$ 100	0.00	\$ 100	
5047 Florida Council of Churches	\$ 200	200.00	\$ 200	200.00	\$ 200	200.00	\$ 200	0.00	\$ 200	
5048 Florida Impact	\$ 300	300.00	\$ 300	300.00	\$ 300	300.00	\$ 300	0.00	\$ 300	
5057 Friends Journal	\$ 100	100.00	\$ 100	100.00	\$ 100	100.00	\$ 100	0.00	\$ 100	
5058 Friends Peace Teams	\$ 250	250.00	\$ 500	500.00	\$ 500	500.00	\$ 500	0.00	\$ 500	
5067 FUM (often restricted to specific Project(s))	\$ 500	500.00	\$ 500	500.00	\$ 500	500.00	\$ 500	0.00	\$ 500	
5068 FWCC	\$ 1,450	1,450.00	\$ 1,450	1,450.00	\$ 1,450	1,450.00	\$ 1,450	0.00	\$ 1,450	
5077 Pendle Hill	\$ 100	100.00	\$ 100	100.00	\$ 100	100.00	\$ 100	0.00	\$ 100	
5078 ProNica	\$ 4,000	4,000.00	\$ 4,000	4,000.00	\$ 4,000	4,000.00	\$ 4,000	0.00	\$ -	-4,000.00
5085 Quaker House of Fayetteville NC	\$ 200	200.00	\$ 200	200.00	\$ 200	200.00	\$ 200	0.00	\$ 200	
5087 Quaker Life	\$ 100	100.00	\$ 100	100.00	\$ 100	100.00	\$ 100	0.00	\$ 100	
5089 Quaker UN Office	\$ 100	100.00	\$ 100	100.00	\$ 100	100.00	\$ 100	0.00	\$ 100	
5097 William Penn House	\$ 100	100.00	\$ 100	100.00	\$ 100	100.00	\$ 100	0.00	\$ 100	
Total 5000 Donations to Organizations	\$ 9,600	9,600.00	\$ 9,850	10,400.00	\$ 9,850.00	9,850.00	\$ 9,850.00	0.00	\$ 5,850.00	
8000 Representative Travel						536.00				
8160 Annual Representatives	\$ 4,000	5,082.09	\$ 4,000	2,063.31	\$ 4,000	1,683.00	\$ 4,000	1,018.00	\$ 4,000	
8360 Other Travel (Misc. & Observers)								129.00	\$ -	
8460 Travel Support to SEYM Business					\$ 1,000	1,100.00	\$ 1,000	0.00	\$ 1,000	
8560 Attendance at SEYM-approved Activities							\$ 1,000	0.00	\$ 1,000	
Total 8000 Representative Travel	\$ 4,000	5,082.09	\$ 4,000	2,063.31	\$ 5,000	\$ 3,319	\$ 6,000	\$ 1,147	\$ 6,000	
8500 Contingency	\$ 2,000	0.00	\$ 2,000	300.00	\$ 2,000	1,900.00	\$ 2,000	0.00	\$ 2,000	
2999 Other Expenses										
Total 2999 Expenses	\$ 62,526	57,042.33	\$ 62,300	55,006.86	\$ 63,990.00	67,898.00	\$ 66,180.00	26,979.00	\$ 67,905	1,725.00
9000 Transfer out to other classes										
9004 for Youth Programs	\$ 2,500	2,500.00	\$ 2,500	2,500.00	\$ 2,500	2,500.00	\$ 2,500	0.00	\$ 2,500	
9005 for Gathering Youth	\$ 2,000	2,000.00	\$ 2,000	2,000.00	\$ 2,000	2,000.00	\$ 2,000	0.00	\$ 2,000	
9060 for Triennial Travel Reserves	\$ 1,000	1,000.00	\$ 1,000	1,000.00	\$ 1,000	1,000.00	\$ 1,000	0.00	\$ 1,000	
9061 Excess FYE Rep Annl Trvl to Triennial Trvl Rsrsv	\$ -	0.00								
9210 for Michener Lecture Support										
9450 for HYM Support										
Total 9000 Transfer out to other classes	\$ 5,500	5,500.00	\$ 5,500	5,500.00	\$ 5,500.00	5,500.00	\$ 5,500.00	0.00	\$ 5,500	
Total Expenses	\$ 68,026	62,542.33	\$ 67,800	60,506.86	\$ 69,490.00	73,398.00	\$ 71,680.00	26,979.00	\$ 73,405	1,725.00
Net Income	\$ 0	7,156.01	\$ -	7,117.81	\$ 0.00	-8,498.00	\$ 0.00	640.00	\$ -	



# Florida Council of Churches Report

Yearly Meeting Report 2018

I am working with the Florida Council of Churches (FCC) as a member of the design team to convene the fourth Florida Interfaith Climate Action Network (FL-ICAN) Assembly. Please hold the date 18 Fifth Month 2018 and check the FL-ICAN website, <http://interfaithflorida.com/> or the FCC website, <https://floridachurches.org/interfaith-climate-action-network/> for registration and other information.

As part of the assembly efforts, we are continuing to work with members of the indigenous communities for a 2018 Indigenous Wisdom Gathering during FCC Unity work continues. I will be meeting with the Board of Directors prior to Yearly Meeting on 16 Third Month in Gainesville, FL. In my report at Yearly Meeting, I will provide updated information on FCC's planned 2018 Gathering, 29 and 30 Eleventh Month and other board activities.

Friends may be interested in FCC's Executive Director, Rev. Russell Meyers keynote address from the 39<sup>th</sup> annual Interfaith Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Services, 14 First Month 2018. "Walking Together with Compassion" can be found at this link, <https://floridachurches.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Walking-Together-with-Compassion.pdf>.

Submitted by Beverly Ward  
SEYM Representative to Florida Council of Churches

## FCNL REPRESENTATIVE REPORT to SEYM 2018

It is with gratitude to Friends of Southeastern Yearly Meeting, that we submit this report. When we gather with Friends from around the country at the FCNL Annual Meeting and renew our commitment to work and witness for the world we seek, you are with us in heart and spirit. You, our Quaker community, support us and encourage us in our effort to be persistent, patient, prophetic and spirit-led. Gathering with the broader community of Friends, as the Friends Committee on National Legislation, we are grounded by this vision.

*We seek a world free of war and the threat of war.*

*We seek a society with equity and justice for all.*

*We seek a community where every person's potential may be fulfilled.*

*We seek an earth restored.*

SEYM was represented at the FCNL annual meeting in Washington, D.C., November 2-5th of 2017, by our appointed FCNL General Committee members Nancy Corindia (Sarasota MM), Aurelio Anderson (Tallahassee MM), Catherine Price (SPMM Lake Wales), Karen Putney (Tampa MM), Lou Putney (Tampa MM), and Sandra Schwartz (Clearwater MM).

The work of this annual meeting was focused by the theme, "Learn. Lobby. Lead.". 450 attendees from throughout the U.S. participated in this activist weekend and completed over 200 lobby visits to their respective House and Senate offices. Through training and guidance by FCNL staff the focused ask by all was as follows:

- 1) Oppose increased military spending; and, if funding for military programs is increased,
- 2) Advocate for increased domestic spending by a comparable amount;
- 3) Support a reliable and timely audit of Department of Defense spending.

Our Florida delegation included the SEYM Representatives listed above as well as Tracy Booth (Treasure Coast WorshipGroup) and Ormand Derrick (Sarasota). Friends and like minded activists are welcomed and encouraged to attend the Thursday and Friday lobby training and join with their state delegation of Quakers to lobby.

We were pleased to be able to meet with staff and directly with two House Representatives. We shared our concerns, offered information and most importantly, listened. Building a relationship with our members of Congress is a work in progress and we were pleased that the staffers from Senator Rubio and Senator Nelson's office remember the "FCNL Quakers" from previous lobby visits. We did not all participate in each visit but were a full delegation in meeting with the Senators offices.

Thursday November 2nd meetings with:

Rep. Kathy Castor  
Rep. Brian Mast  
Rep. Dan Soto staff  
Rep. Gus Bilirakis staff

Friday November 3rd meetings with:

Rep. Vern Buchanan staff  
Sen. Marco Rubio staff  
Sen. Bill Nelson staff  
Rep. Charlie Crist staff

The work of the General Committee of FCNL ran Friday through Sunday noon and included, plenaries involving speakers and presentations as well as meeting for worship with attention to business in the manner of Friends. We also had opportunity for worship sharing, for a variety of workshops to become informed and build our skills and to network with other Friends. Our sessions ended on First Day with worship that was both pastoral and unprogrammed, speaking from our experience of this gathering and to our need to be spirit-led.

At this 2017 FCNL Annual Meeting we were filled with gratitude to be able to celebrate the end of our the very successful Capital Campaign which was supported by so many SEYM Friends and friends! This 5 year Capital Campaign enabled us, FCNL, to purchase and complete the “green restoration” of the building adjacent to the current FCNL offices. This space is open and operating as the “Quaker Welcome Center” on Capitol Hill. It is envisioned and purposed to strengthen our Friendly persuasion presence, to be a neutral meeting place to bring members of Congress and Congressional staffers together to engage in civil dialogue, and to expand our our ability to be a resource for citizen witness and activism. Funds raised are also designated to increase our cross country Advocacy Corp, to support our Friends in Washington program, to strengthen the FCNL Young Adult programming and to sustain our lobby efforts.

LOOKING FORWARD - 2018 is the FCNL 75th Anniversary. A time to remember and rededicate ourselves to our work and witness in Washington D.C. Thinking about those who came before and looking to the future, there are events planned around this anniversary and Friends are encouraged to participate when able. Please check out the ongoing information posted at [FCNL.org](http://FCNL.org) regarding Friends 75 years of advocacy.

“In the midst of World War II, on June 11-12, 1943, fifty-two Friends from fifteen U.S. Yearly Meetings met at Quaker Hill, Richmond, Indiana, to lay plans for the establishment of the Friends Committee on National Legislation. The aim was to seek as wide support as possible among Friends, both for appointment of Yearly Meeting representatives to FCNL and for their financial support. The Richmond meeting released the following statement regarding the establishment of a Washington office:

Friends have a responsibility to contribute...to the shaping of wise and right legislation in those areas in which our principles and the causes we believe in are most closely affected...These critical times...are bringing home to us acutely the sweeping role which government is playing in shaping life, both national and international.”

We encourage SEYM Friends to ask us about our experiences with the FCNL staff, the Annual Meeting and our lobbying. We would welcome the opportunity to be a resource to all SEYM Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups regarding joining in this work and witness.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Putney on behalf of the SEYM Representatives appointed to FCNL

## Friends General Conference SEYM Representatives Report to YBM 2018

Friends General Conference (FGC) is an association of local and regional Quaker organizations primarily in the United States and Canada. FGC is a volunteer-led association.

With divine guidance, staff and volunteers provide services and resources for individual Quakers, Quaker meetings and people interested in the Quaker faith and practice. The work of FGC can be summarized into three areas of endeavor:

- Help Friends deepen Quaker worship and practice
- Support welcoming and inclusive Quaker communities
- Support Quaker outreach

FGC Central Committee, which is FGC's governing body, is responsible for setting strategy through listening to what Spirit is calling us to do for the Religious Society of Friends and the world.

SEYM Representatives Due to the FGC "rotation" (term limit) requirements two new representatives to FGC will be appointed at SEYM Yearly Meeting 2018. These Friends will attend the 2018 Central Committee sessions along with our current SEYM representatives.

Ed Lesnick (Orlando) is SEYM's representative to Executive Committee and a member of FGC Communications Committee. Kay Lesnick (Orlando) is a member of the FGC Christian and Interfaith Relations Committee. Ed and Kay's current terms are ending in 2018. Gerry O'Sullivan (Miami) serves on the Long Range Conference Planning Committee. Also invited by FGC to Central Committee is Susan Taylor (Tallahassee). Susan has been co-opted by Central Committee to serve on the FGC Nominations Committee. SEYM's three designated representatives participate in plenary sessions and committee meetings. Your representatives are grateful to be engaged in this ministry on behalf of southeastern Quakers and Friends throughout North America.

### **Frank Barch, FGC Presiding Clerk, offers the following Update on FGC Central Committee:**

For 2017, Central Committee's primary task was to listen deeply and consider these questions:

What is the essential, urgent, and inspiring work that our affiliated Yearly and Monthly meetings want Friends General Conference to do for the good of our faith, our faith community, and the world in which we live?

What overarching work and goals will allow us to make the greatest positive impact, attract needed talent, funding and enthusiasm, and let go of things that keep us from doing the greatest good that we can do now?

**Highlights:** The format of this year's Central Committee session was entirely new - with a focus on small group sharing, a panel discussion, concise committee reports, an introductory video for newcomers to Central Committee all designed to enhance opportunities for the exchange of ideas among Monthly and Yearly meetings, both large and small. The energy released was exciting and, for many, exhausting. The significant changes in format, the unrelenting focus on FGC's future direction, the anxiety of a budget that has improved over the past few years and is still not yet unsustainable, all funneled into intense discussions and worship until, finally, the body arrived at unity around direction for the way forward.

Our spiritual communities in which we are all enriched by racial and other differences. We heard Canadian Friends have some different needs from U.S. Friends - differences based on culture and history. We learned Canadian Friends often need to 'translate' our 'Americanisms.' We were called to become a stronger binational organizational by noticing and honoring national differences.

Throughout Central Committee, Friends often rose to affirm the powerful impact FGC has had on individual Friends and Quaker communities. Goodwill for FGC mingled with concerns about possible future programming restrictions due to budget constraints. This tension between our hopes and dreams and FGC's constrained fiscal/people resources was palpable, disquieting, and energizing.

We learned about social media outreach experiments that have proven successful.

We acknowledged regrets and pain over the laying down of loved programs and the dismissal of loved staff.

Young Adult Friends spoke with passion about the power of FGC's ministry in their lives, and their desire to have their unborn children and grandchildren also benefit from transformational experiences through FGC. They urged Central Committee to bring more focus to FGC's work, and they insisted that Central Committee must commit to moving forward within the confines of a sustainable budget.

**A Way Forward:** During Central Committee, clarity emerged on our future strategic priorities. They are:

Continuation of the FGC Gathering and fellowship opportunities that ground and transform lives

Ministry on Racism - This program is doing important work (including the Institutional Assessment on Race), and we expect to build upon that work as FGC respond to the recommendations coming out of the Assessment.

Clearinghouse Yearly Meeting Connector – FGC should step more fully into being the vehicle through which yearly and monthly meetings learn from each other, which includes cross yearly meeting fellowship and sharing.

Religious education - An umbrella for Spiritual Deepening Welcoming Friends "Outreach" and Faith and Play. We heard quite a bit about the importance of religious education, excitement about the Spiritual Deepening eRetreats, and a hope that the Spiritual Deepening eRetreat platform might be a tool to connect Friends across yearly meetings in a multitude of ways for sharing and learning around a variety of topics.

**What's Next?** Central Committee Friends charged that FGC makes programmatic decisions and pursue fundraising opportunities to continue our financial progress in 2018 and 2019 to achieve a sustainable budget for the 2020 Fiscal Year. We are grateful to the many Friends who support FGC's work financially, and to the many Friends who donate their time and expertise to serve Friends Together, we are doing good work through many programs while transforming FGC into an organization with a clearer focus.

Since several priorities named by Central Committee are broad, the Committee for Discernment" Planning and Priorities. CDPP and Executive Committee will use Central Committee's directives to develop a specific plan for the next 18 months, and a vision for FGC that will span the next several years.

**2018 FGC Gathering** – Registration begins April 1. This year the Gathering will be held at the University of Toledo, Toledo, Ohio, July 1-7.

---submitted by Ed Lesnick, SEYM Representative to FGC

# Friends Peace Teams

Peacebuilding en las Americas (PLA) *a Working Group with Friends Peace Teams*

---Cecilia Yocum, SEYM FPT Representative

## HISTORY

SEYM was one of the first Yearly Meetings to sign on to Friends Peace Teams (FPT) as a supporting yearly meeting. FPT's founders Elise Boulding and Mary Lord have visited SEYM meetings in the past. SEYM has provided financial support as well as supported the work of volunteers including Gay Howard, Caroline Lanker, Daniel Doan, Shawna Doran, Nadine Hoover myself and others. Please see <https://friendspeaceteams.org/> for more information.

I have just stepped down as the clerk for Peacebuilding en las Americas for over 10 years and was on the working group prior to that. Our working group has partner groups in El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala and Colombia. I was also the clerk of Friends Peace Teams for several years and have been active with FPT for over twenty years.

SEYM helped immensely with spiritual and financial support for me to visit Rwanda three times and Burundi two times. I remember being on a conference call when Elise Boulding said she heard from Friends in Rwanda saying that they "could not move. They were frozen." It took FPT several years to develop the capacity to visit with Friends in Rwanda and Burundi and listen to their needs and discern how we could accompany them on their journey to recovery. Together we chose tools such as Alternatives to Violence to help the gacaca judges and many others, such as returning excombatants and communities torn apart. We also worked together to develop trauma resiliency programs with an AVP style approach that could be used in many communities. With very few mental health professionals, we had to develop programs that could offer emotional support to many.

At the same time, I was also working with Peacebuilding en las Americas (PLA). After describing to Alba Arrieta, a Colombian peacebuilder, what FPT was doing in Rwanda and Burundi, she decided she wanted to see it for herself so Val Liveoak, Alba and I went on an exploratory trip. As we sat in workshop with men and women from a rural Burundian community, ex combatants, displaced persons in rural Burundi and heard their stories, Alba began crying saying "We need this in Colombia." We began making plans to develop a trauma resiliency program that we could test out in Colombia.

Later we adapted the program for Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador and these are still going on today, along with AVP and other programs. Bev Ward from Tampa Meeting accompanied me on a trip and helped facilitate a program for families of the "false positives." At that time it was believed that several hundred young men had been killed and dressed in clothing of the FARC to make it seem that the Colombian army was making headway against the FARC. Later we found that thousands of young men had been killed in this manner. We met briefly with members of the United Nations who were beginning their investigations. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/%22False\\_positives%22\\_scandal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/%22False_positives%22_scandal)

## THE FUTURE

We want to continue to provide accompaniment, project financing, Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) training, and skill-building to communities and organizations in Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador

and Colombia, places where the violent legacies of civil war and systemic violence perpetuate social inequality and injustice. PLA works to develop long-term relationships to create programs for peacebuilding, healing and reconciliation. Our programs build on extensive Quaker experience combining practical and spiritual aspects of grassroots peacebuilding.

A recent grant from the Southeastern Yearly Meeting (and a number of other yearly meetings) has helped secure funds for our coordinator, Monica Maher, for the next six to eight months at least. The grant from SEYM was a tremendous help to PLA and this now allows us to go forward with several other projects.

Another Monthly Meeting is considering a grant for Honduras and El Salvador, for which we are grateful for their discernment.

We always work with partner groups in Honduras, El Salvador, Colombia and Guatemala and are guided by them in understanding the needs in their areas.

**We are looking for help with two projects described below:**

## **EL SALVADOR**

In 2014, Peacebuilding en Las Americas (PLA) partnered with CoMadres, an organization co-founded by former Archbishop Oscar Romero and made up of over 400 mothers and relatives of the *disappeared* who have maintained a consistent voice of nonviolent resistance since El Salvador's twelve-year civil war. AVP workshops have trained 85 members of CoMadres with three CoMadres Facilitators now training other war survivors across the country. PLA provides funding, co-facilitation and accompaniment to make sure this crucial work continues.

Many Co-Madres members faced unspeakable suffering: witnessing loved ones tortured and killed, or living with the crippling uncertainty of whether their missing family members are alive or dead. Despite 25 years of advocacy and demands for justice, the government has provided few resources to help communities recover, heal and prosper. With your support, AVP and Trauma Resiliency workshops have become an integral part of CoMadres inspiring work to offer concrete tools to war survivors still struggling under the weight of trauma and social injustice.

"I was afraid to talk in front of others, but I learned how to overcome this fear thanks to AVP. These workshops make us feel better. It is like there is someone helping us and we don't feel alone anymore," said Mercedes Alas, a CoMadres member and AVP Facilitator.

"They have shown a tremendous capacity to reinvent themselves, to be resilient...We contribute to their ability to talk, to rediscover their ability to raise their voices against individual and structural violence and the injustices and problems that occur each day," said Salomon Medina, AVP El Salvador National Coordinator.

We invite you to join CoMadres Facilitators and other peacebuilders whose courage and creativity are transforming extreme conflict into collaborative actions for justice.

A pending project in El Salvador is Facilitator Training in Urban El Salvador with At-Risk Youth and I can provide an updated grant request in the near future.



## COLOMBIA

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: AVP Workshops in Colombia with Communities Reintegrating Ex-FARC Guerillas. This is a high priority project, which needs funding.

PLA tends to work in areas where there is a high need and a place where we think we can make the best use of our resources. The location for this project is Caldono, the Department is Cauca, northwest Colombia.

This particular location was selected because of a contact in Caldono with a Pentecostal church, which supported the peace accords and has been the sponsor of the AVP workshops (many evangelical churches did not support the peace accords.)

That Pentecostal Pastor is very involved in the civil peace committee and peace implementation. The area is a former Red Zone (controlled by the FARC) so has been selected within the peace accord for the DDR process (disarmament, demobilization and re-integration of the guerrillas). It is an area where the National AVP Coordinator and her colleagues have experience, so they know how to navigate the dangers of travel there.

There will be 16-20 participants in each workshop, both community members and ex-FARC members. These are areas designated in the peace accord as sites of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) of the ex-guerrilla forces; during the war these areas were controlled by the guerillas.

The grant request information is reported below:

1. The need in Colombia for the workshops in Cauca, Caldono (former Red Zone) is US \$2100 in 2018.
2. The plan is for 1 Basic, 2 Advanced, 2 Trauma Resiliency, and 1 Facilitator Training. Total workshops: 6 x \$350 per workshop. This works out to about a little less than \$20 per person per workshop.

This work is very important, urgent, as the demobilization of the FARC into the communities is taking place. Please let me know if you have any questions.

***Gracias!***

### EVALUATION AND OUTCOME MEASURES:

At the end of every AVP workshop session, there is a collective verbal evaluation so that the workshop can unfold in line with participant feedback; ongoing evaluation is an inherent part of the workshop methodology and facilitators adapt to the group as they work.

There is also a facilitator team evaluation at the end of each day, and a final written evaluation by participants at the end of each workshop.

The last session of each workshop involves participants talking together about next steps, so that all follow-up is initiated by participants. All activities are voluntary, and one volunteers only oneself. Thus, the participants will assess the AVP workshop series at every step of the process.



Anticipated results, based on past experience, are: increased energy and enthusiasm among participants; greater cohesion and collaboration among the groups; improved ability to come up with a variety of creative solutions to difficult conflicts at home and in the community; greater self-esteem and collective hope; a strong beginning of healing of trauma experiences, and participant support groups for ongoing individual and collective healing.

Methods used to measure progress will be the workshop evaluations as well as close ongoing contact between facilitators and participants throughout and after the process to assess the emergence of the qualitative results expected. AVP facilitators in each region are change agents committed to offering AVP workshops and also to modeling non-violent creative action as a way of life. Therefore, another expected outcome is an increase in quantity and quality of the pool of AVP-trained persons who support each other as a community striving to put the tools of non-violence into practice in everyday life.

## FEEDBACK:

I will provide periodic feedback to the yearly meeting and monthly meetings about progress of the programs.

### WAYS YOU CAN HELP:

*All of our programs are made possible by people like you who help raise funds and donations to keep this vital work going.*

- **Become A Sustainer** One way to insure ongoing support is to become a sustainer by pledging to raise \$500 annually to one of our programs
- **Join a delegation to visit PLA partners**
- **Join our Working Group**
- **Host a Talk at your Meeting, school, church, community group or organization**  
PLA Working Group Members or staff could meet with your group to speak about the programs, their impact and how you can become part of the work.

Thank you from the Peacebuilding en Las Americas Initiative!  
**Friends Peace Teams – PLA Working Group**

## CONTACT:

Please see <http://pla.friendspeaceteams.org/index.php/news/> for information about our ongoing projects in Honduras, El Salvador, Colombia and Guatemala.

Our most recent audit for the year ending in 2016 for FPT is at <https://friendspeaceteams.org/about-us/finances/>.

Please feel free to contact me for more information at [ceceyocum@aol.com](mailto:ceceyocum@aol.com) You can send checks to Friends Peace Teams, 1001 Park Ave, St Louis Mo. 63104-3720 and earmark a check for PLA, if you would like. You can also use Paypal.

## Peacebuilding en las Americas: Presentation at Yearly Meeting

As a member of the Peace Psychology Division of the American Psychological Association and a member of a Working Group on Women and Peace, I will be making a presentation on “Grassroots Peace Work of Women Activists in Honduras” at the American Psychological Association. During SEYM, I would like to present information I have gathered up to that time.

Women in Central America are stepping forward to address issues of structural and interpersonal violence as never before.

This presentation will highlight the peace work of women activists and their organizations. Through interviews and case studies, we will explore the obstacles these women have encountered, both personally and as a group, and how they overcame these barriers.

One example of a barrier to peace efforts in Honduras is that many women find it difficult to step out of their homes by themselves without their husbands’ permission before they can take part in peace issues. Workshops and support groups for women by Mercy Dreamers, and Alternatives to Violence, help them take these steps.

These same groups have also supported Tolupanes indigenous communities who are protecting their homeland against illegal mining, as well as Garifuna women dealing with domestic violence and stopping illegal developers of tourism on their lands.

Another barrier to peace is the high rate of murder and violence toward women in Honduras. To address this problem, a number of women activists have been volunteering in the prisons and offering workshops on nonviolence.

From these and other case studies, participants will discuss how their actions might spur us to try new ways to look at the barriers we face and inspire us to take innovative actions.

--- Cecilia Yocum, Friends Peace Teams Representative

## ***Dear Southeastern Yearly Meeting,***

Thank you for your support in the past year. You have been part of providing free services of healing and help to those bearing the heavy burdens placed on them by a militarized society and in supporting our efforts to make this a more peaceful world.

Quaker House successfully navigated a transition between directors in September. Many of you know and love Lynn and Steve Newsom. They retired at the end of August, and I have stepped into their shoes, buoyed by faith, hope, and knowledge of your support. I wish I could be with you at the annual meeting this year, but I know that I am leaving our representation in the good hands of Elaine Martin. My sincere thanks to her dedication.

### **Mission: Counseling/Support to Service Members and Their Families and Education**

**GI Rights Hotline:** Quaker House provides two counselors with 17 years of experience to the Hotline, which takes calls from anywhere service members are stationed in the world. As we continue in unabated war and conflict since 2001, calls to the Hotline have been increasing. This year, our two counselors answered an average of **246 calls a month** (initial calls—not counting the follow-up with clients) for a total of 2,948 calls. Our counselors share some of the stories of young people caught in terrible situations and environments in our newsletters. These articles can be found on our web site under both news and the blog.

**Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, and Moral Injury Counseling:** We have a licensed therapist who provides in-person counseling at Quaker House to members of the military and their families. We rely on donations to continue providing this important service free of charge. Working part time, our counselor has spent **1,860 hours with clients** over the past four years. We receive referrals from Ft. Bragg victim advocates, the community, and from the GI Rights Hotline. Quaker House has participated, by invitation, at several mental health and victim advocate summits on Ft. Bragg.

**Moral Injury Education:** Quaker House was involved in several presentations educating people about moral injury, including at the Ashville (NC) Veterans Administration. The moral injury effects on drone operators was an important part of a Conference Against the Use of Drones in War at Duke Divinity School, which we attended. This coming October, we have been invited to participate in a two-day conference dedicated to moral injury education and promotion of healing therapies and efforts.

**Bowe Bergdahl:** Bowe Bergdahl is the soldier who left his post in Afghanistan in an attempt to report problems he saw in his chain of command. He was immediately captured and horrendously tortured for almost five years by the Taliban and an associated group. After his return to the United States, he was court-martialed with a possible sentence of life in prison, and many of the hearings (including sentencing) occurred at Ft. Bragg. Quaker House was there to be a presence of peace and understanding to Bowe amid official and widespread hate and condemnation, as well as to witness and share the proceedings with the rest of the world. Please see the newsletter article and blog posts for more detailed accounts, found on our web site.

**Quaker House Hopes:** I would like to start two monthly **Warrior Writers** groups at Quaker House—one geared towards service members and one geared toward family members/community (but both groups would be open to anyone). Warrior Writers is a well-established and respected program. I need to be trained as a facilitator (building on my degree in English), which would be the only expense of adding this

program to Quaker House services. We are in the process of applying for grants, but these grants only cover a portion of the cost. This would be a beneficial and healing program to the military community. Our GI Rights Hotline counselors have seen the clarifying effects of writing out personal thoughts and experiences for service members as they work on their conscientious objection discharge applications.

### **Mission: A More Peaceful World**

#### **Conscientious Objection Education and Support:**

Quaker House has conducted workshops geared toward youth, parents, and meetings about conscientious objection: what it is, discerning leadings, and compiling documentation files, and we had an article on the topic published in the *Friends Journal*. On March 16, we are hosting a play, *This Evil Thing*, on tour from England about the experiences of WWI conscientious objector. I will also be leading one of the new “sampler” workshop sessions this summer at Friends General Conference, addressing the interplay between the Peace Testimony, conscientious objection, and moral injury. We are looking forward to further expanding our work in this area in the coming year.

#### **Peace Advocacy:**

In the past year, we hosted a presentation on the Peace Corps, conducted an Alternatives to Violence Project workshop, and were active in the local community addressing problems in race relations. We also attended and reported on the public hearings on North Carolina’s connection to the CIA torture program after 9/11. Please see our blog report for the current relevance of this information for communities nationwide!

Thank you for supporting us. We think of our donors and Friends with gratitude daily.

---*Kindra and all of us at Quaker House*

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Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram

# SEYM Field Secretary for Earthcare (FSE) Report

Yearly Meeting 2018

## Overview

*Provide focus and coordinate efforts on environmental work in the Southeastern Yearly Meeting (SEYM) region.*

In addition to updating information provided through Winter Interim Business Meeting 2018, this report summarizes my efforts to provide focus and coordinate environmental work in the SEYM region and beyond over the past year. This includes work with the wider Quaker world; faith-based, local, and other environmental groups; and, individuals.

## Communication with the Anchoring Committee

Regular communication with the Anchoring Committee has been maintained throughout this period. This had included email contact, face-to-face meetings, and other contacts with committee members. Monthly and Interim Business Meetings, Alternative Violence Project (AVP) workshops, and other visits provided additional opportunities for contact with committee members. By the time of the 2018 Gathering, I will have facilitated a Meeting for Learning or other Earthcare Gathering for the Monthly Meeting of the 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 2016).

## Contact Information

- The SEYM Administrative Secretary established an email account: [fsEarthcare@seymquaker.org](mailto: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.

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. All prior and upcoming visits are shown below. MMs and WGs continue to request visits, particularly in conjunction with retreats and AVP workshops.

### ***Orlando Monthly Meeting, 26 Fourth Month 2017***

This visit was made in conjunction with the Third Florida Interfaith Climate Action Network (FL-ICAN) Assembly, 24 Fourth Month and the People's Climate March, 25 Fourth Month. The Monthly Meeting provided hospitality, which facilitated my participation in the assembly and march.

### ***Tampa Monthly Meeting, 13 Fifth Month 2017***

As clerk of the Meeting's Peace and Social Concerns Committee, I co-convene with Marjorie Arnaldi, an Art of Fearlessness show.

### ***Sarasota Monthly Meeting, 21 Fifth Month 2017***

I visited with Sarasota MM following the AVP Mini-Basic Workshop on 20 Fifth Month. This visit was a partial follow up to an Earthcare visit during Third Month. Friends have been sitting with their findings from a Meetingwide survey of households' carbon footprints. Consideration is being given to what can be done on the individual, Meeting, and community level.

### ***Gainesville Monthly Meeting, 25 Sixth Month***

I visited with this MM, again, following an AVP Mini-Basic Workshop.

### ***Orlando Monthly Meeting, 16 Seventh Month***

I attended Meeting for Worship and provided a brief report on the Friends General Conference 2017 Gathering.

### ***Clearwater Monthly Meeting, 29 Tenth Month 2017***

I participated in the Monthly Meeting's annual retreat at A.L. Anderson Park in Tarpon Springs. (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! As detailed later, I made a second visit to Clearwater Meeting.

### ***Half Yearly Meeting, 2017***

I attended and participated the 2017 Half Yearly Meeting Gathering, including 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 were provided at Winter Interim Business Meeting 2018.

### ***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 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, Michele Germain, and provided a “strolling” performance. The theme of the performance was, “Tell me about your Circus McGurkis Experience: First time? Comparison? Today?”

### **Clearwater Monthly Meeting, 28 First Month 2018**

At the request of the Meeting, the Responsible Earthcare 101 was held on 28 First Month. An overview of the concept of a carbon footprint, activities that contribute to it, and practical ways to reduce it were provided. Friends also explored ways to discuss Earthcare issues with others. Pamphlets recommended by Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW) from the *Earthcare Toolkit* also were shared. We will continue to explore the Meeting’s leadings, which may include community events with Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church.

### **Palm Beach Monthly Meeting, 16-18 Second Month 2018**

I will participate in the 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 Adult Firstday Meeting for Learning. At the Meeting’s request, I shared my input with suggestions on readings related to water, including QEW’s *Water is Life* pamphlet, and Pamela Boyce Simms’s Cadbury article, <https://buddhistquaker.wordpress.com/2017/03/16/quaker-pathways-forward/>.

### **Tallahassee Monthly Meeting, 23-24 Second Month 2018**

Tallahassee MM’s retreat, originally planned for Ninth Month 2017, was postponed due to Hurricane Irma. We also will work with the query, “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. At the request of the Meeting, I have suggested several water related environmental films to be viewed prior to the retreat. The Meeting also is reading the QEW pamphlets, *Contemplative Action in a Time of Climate Change*, and *Water is Life*.

### **Interactions or Collaborations between and among other SEYM committees**

*These interactions between and among SEYM committees help to facilitate communication and collaboration of our regional concerns with national organizations and to be a Quaker Presence at specific events.*

- The Ministry on Racism: I continue to share information on Florida Council of Churches (FCC) Reform Justice Campaign and other resources. I also have added my name to the nominations for the Committee for the term beginning 2018;
- Earthcare: I maintain telephone and email contact with the co-clerks and other committee members and participated in the Committee meetings during Interim Business Meetings. The committee is working to help Friends and others make the connections between social justice and Earthcare. As an at-large member of QEW, I work with Jack Braden and Brad Stocker, SEYM’s representatives to QEW. (More details below.);
- FCC: See the FCC Report for the 2018 Yearly Meeting;
- Peace and Social Concerns: In addition to sharing time with the Ministry on Racism and Earthcare Committees, I keep in 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 (QUNO): In addition to working with Warren Hoskins to build links, I also am working with QUNO through QEW;
- Right Sharing of World Resources: I continue to share information with Nilufer Wilkins to build links, including QEW United Nations Working Group.
- Youth Committee: I work with 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. I also have been reaching out to individual Meetings by sharing resources and information.

### ***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 have been a part of the 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). We are planning an advanced workshop for Gainesville;
- American Friends Service Committee (AFSC): I have been accepted as an at-large member of the AFSC Corporation and will attend the 2018 Annual Meeting the AFSC Corporation 13-14 Fourth 2018 Month.
- 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 (FFAD): I continue to work with FFAD and am working to strengthen linkages with QEW UN Working Group. I participated in informal gatherings of FFAD during the 2018 Friends General Conference 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.



FL-ICAN Design Team is working on a fourth assembly, which will be held on 18 Fifth Month 2018 in Orlando. More information will be posted soon at InterFaith Florida, <http://interfaithflorida.com/>.

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 to maintain contact with several FCNL staff. During the 10<sup>th</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup> Month. Geeta McGahey continues to be a liaison person. With the addition of Bob McGahey to the Outreach Committee, I have additional contact to FUM;
- Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC): I continue to work to link FWCC to QEW UN Working Group;
- The Initiative on Coastal Adaptation and Resilience (ICAR): I 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. A Bystander Training is planned for 17 Third Month 2018, Temple Crest Association, Temple Terrace, FL;
- National Academies of Sciences, Transportation Research Board (TRB), Environmental Justice Issues in Transportation and the Women's Issues in Transportation Committees: I am a "friend" of these committees;
- 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 reaching out to Friends to help with this work.

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, including increasing our outreach activities;

- 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). The report of our findings is available on the *Rising Together* website, <http://reacttoolkit.net/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Shorecrest-Report-by-Street-PW-20171131-1.doc>.

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 and the Patel College of Global Sustainability (PCGS): I continue to work with the University, primarily through these two units.

### **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](https://www.facebook.com/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.

## United Nations International Decade for People of African Descent (IDPAD)

As mentioned earlier, I am co-clerking the Water Circle for the United Nations High Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development side event to be convened during Seventh Month 2018. The IDPAD is the focus of the QEW UN Working Group through 2024. (See QEW, <https://www.quakerearthcare.org/article/united-nations-international-decade-people-african-descent> and the Earthcare Coalition site, <https://undecadeforpeopleofafricandescent.wordpress.com/>.)

In preparation for the 2018 side event and in conjunction with visits and retreats, I have been recommending a number of films, most can be found on YouTube or Vimeo:

### **Water Scarcity:**

- Running Dry: Call To Action (19:18 mins)
- The Coming Global Water Crisis - (Documentary, HD) (6:22 mins)

### **Oceans/Sea Level Rise:**

- Ocean Frontiers: The Dawn of a New Era in Ocean Stewardship (1:20:54 mins)
- National Geographic - Earth Under Water In Next 20 Years (45:08 mins)
- Major Sea Level Rise in Near Future | Jason Briner | TEDxBuffalo (18:53 mins)

### **Climate Change:**

- Al Gore: The Case for Optimism on Climate Change (25:08 mins)
- Gavin Schmidt, The emergent patterns of climate change (12:04 mins)
- Climate change: Oh, it's real., 10 Ted Talks, [https://www.ted.com/playlists/78/climate\\_change\\_oh\\_it\\_s\\_real](https://www.ted.com/playlists/78/climate_change_oh_it_s_real)

### **Florida**

- Florida Wildlife Corridor Exhibition (56 mins)
- The Forgotten Coast: Return to Wild Florida (56 mins)

## Summary

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

---Beverly Ward

# ProNica News

## ***Dear SEYM Friends,***

Closing down its Nicaraguan operations has allowed ProNica to focus on its restructuring. By implementing a new online fundraising platform we are becoming a more viable fundraising organization. We have chosen Process Donation, a nonprofit start-up that has a representative in St Petersburg with a Masters degree in Nonprofit development. She has helped us start our training in peer to peer fundraising and we will soon be testing with the first campaign being conducted by Yarrow herself. Soon when you go to our website to donate you will see another button next to “donate now” that will say “fundraise”, one click and it will help you set up a simple campaign of your own. On a webpage provided you will be able to tell your story of how ProNica has touched your heart, perhaps you took a witness tour or have been a supporter for many years, or may have watched Quinchos grow up and go on to become happy functional adults. Peer to peer allows you to send an email invite to any or all of your contacts directing them to visit your page. This process has allowed many small nonprofits to grow large donor bases very quickly such as the many successful relief organizations at work in Puerto Rico after hurricane Irma.

Our dear Friend Rebecca Wheaton has become our Nicaraguan liaison who is coordinating with stateside and our partners in Nicaragua. She is helping to set up a simple procedure that will enable us to upload blog posts and photos from our partners in real time as the events unfold. We hope to raise funds for the children, families, schools and clinics. As the needs develop we need to be at the ready and we believe our new website will be the perfect venue to reach out for the help that is desperately needed. We have also organized banking protocol for the partners allowing us to wire funds directly to the designated recipients as needed. This new protocol alone has significantly reduced administrative costs previously associated with disbursing donations.

Although we have closed down El Centro our Managua office, our liaison Rebecca is currently visiting partners, renewing trust and establishing the new relationship outlined here that we believe will ultimately empower our partner organizations to begin the process of connecting to the world through the power of social media.

I want to tell you it’s all going to work out and that ProNica has a bright new future but the truth is we will need your help, we need financial support and spiritual guidance. This has been a very difficult and painful year with the closure, and the separation from our in-country director has been costly. Seeing ProNica through the storm was the most daunting thing I have ever faced in my professional life and I believe it is by the grace of God we have persevered. We ask that SEYM continue to hold us in the light and support us in assisting our dear friends in Nicaragua.

Best,

Yarrow Ries  
ProNica Executive Director