

Southeastern Yearly Meeting (SEYM) Field Secretary for Earthcare (FSE) Report

Winter Interim Business Meeting 2018

Overview

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

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

Communication with the Anchoring Committee

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

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

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

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

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

Contact Information

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

Half Yearly Meeting, 2017

I attended and participated the 2017 Half Yearly Meeting Gathering, including giving the No Talent Show. Sixthday through Firstday, I worked with individual and small groups of youths and youths-in-Spirit on a proposed Earthcare "pocket guide". Using photographs shared by Ezra Merleaux; the SEYM Queries and Advices "Care of the Natural World"; and, other references,

participants were asked to design pages for the pocket guide. The individual designs were photographed. Sample designs will be provided at Winter Interim Business Meeting.

Clearwater Monthly Meeting, 29 Tenth Month 2017

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

Sarasota Monthly Meeting, 5 Eleventh Month 2017

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

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

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

Palm Beach Monthly Meeting, 16-18 Second Month 2018

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

Tallahassee Monthly Meeting, 23-24 Second Month 2018

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

Interactions or Collaborations between and among other SEYM committees

- The Ministry on Racism: I continue to share information on Florida Council of Churches (FCC) Reform Justice Campaign and other resources;
- Earthcare: continue to maintain telephone and email contact with the co-clerks and other committee members. I participated in the Committee meeting during FIBM. The committee seeks to expand its work to help Friends and others make the connections between social justice and Earthcare. I continue to work with Jack Braden and Brad

Stocker, SEYM's representatives to Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW) as an at-large member of QEW. (More details below.);

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

The Wider Quaker World, Interfaith Groups, Other Environmental Organizations

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

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

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

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

- Friends Committee on National Legislation, Energy and Environment: I continue email and other contacts with several FCNL staff. During the 10th Month QEW Steering Committee Meeting, I met with Scott Greenler, Program Assistant for Energy and the Environment, and expressed my interest in FCNL's Bipartisan Climate Solutions Caucus. Friends can find more information at "Who Is in the Bipartisan Climate Solutions Caucus?" <https://www.fcnl.org/updates/who-is-in-the-bipartisan-climate-solutions-caucus-772>;
- Friends General Conference: Preparing to assist with the 2018 Gathering. This may include, but is not limited to conducting a workshop, making a presentation, or providing as yet unspecified support to QEW;
- Friends Peace Teams (FPT): Face-to-face and email contact with members of FPT. Working to link FPT to QEW UN Working Group, see below;
- Friends United Meeting: Additional contact was made during the QEW Steering Committee Meeting at Pendle Hill during 10th Month. Geeta McGahey continues to be a liaison person. With the addition of Bob McGahey to the Outreach Committee, I have additional linkages to FUM;
- Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC): I continue to work to link FWCC to QEW UN Working Group. As mentioned earlier, I anticipate learning of the status of my nomination early in 2018;
- The Initiative on Coastal Adaptation and Resilience (ICAR): I continue to work with ICAR through the Florida Council of Churches and Jan Booher, board member of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Boca Raton (UUFBR);
- Living Mirror Playback Theatre (LMPT), Tampa: In addition to the Bystander Training mentioned above, Cece Yocum, two other members of LMPT, and I provided two Adult Firstday School sessions 10 and 24 Ninth Month at Tampa Monthly Meeting. I continue to plan to provide Bystander Training in the Gainesville area. This is being coordinated with Ann Kinnebrew, Ignite Applied Theatre, and Bonnie Zimmer, Gainesville MM and FSE Anchor Committee Member;
- National Academies of Sciences, Transportation Research Board (TRB), Environmental Justice Issues in Transportation and the Women's Issues in Transportation Committees: continue to participate as "Friend" of the Women's Committee. I have another year as the research coordinator for the Environmental Justice Committee and plan to attend the committee meeting 9 First Month 2018;
- Organize NOW/F.I.R.E., Climate Justice Committee: I continue to assist the local committee in planning climate justice survey and have built a link with the Orlando office;
- The Pachamama Alliance: I continue to have contact with members through the FL-ICAN network. Members of the Alliance also helped convene the Indigenous Wisdom Day at Sacred Lands, mentioned above;
- People Against D.O.T. Discrimination (P.A.D.D.), Tampa: I continue to work with group on identifying potentially adverse impacts and finding ways to avoid, mitigate, or minimize the same as related to the proposed toll roads in Tampa and other areas of Florida. We continue to wait on a decision regarding an application to the Environmental Protection Agency through the Tampa Heights Junior Civic Association for small grant funding to train community members for outreach, education and environmental data collection;
- QEW: As a steering committee member of QEW, I work on two committees or working groups. As a member of United Nations Working Group (UNWG), I have been focusing on

the International Decade for People of African Descent for the last year. I am co-clerking the Water Circle, which will be the focus of the 2018 UNWG IDPAD event. I am and will continue to reach out to Friends to help me develop this area with Florida as a case example.

I also work with the Outreach Committee, clerked by Mary Jo Klingel. We completed a survey of Yearly Meeting representatives to QEW to learn of their YM activities, needs from QEW, and other information. The analysis of the responses has been completed and the Committee will publish a piece in *BeFriending Creation*, which I will share with SEYM. The Committee continues to discern the information provided in the responses;

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

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

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

Social Media

I continue to blog, "fsEarthcare Processing", for the SEYM website. The SEYM Administrative Secretary also has created a webpage, <http://seymquakers.org/faith-in-action/field-secretary-for-earthcare/>. Currently, the page contains the blog, the job description, and other links. I am in contact with the secretary on how best to populate this page, e.g., calendars, social media, etc. I

tweet @fsesecretary; FB, fb.me/FsEarthcare. These links and others are included the signature of my emails.

Qigochat

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

Other Issues

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

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

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

Summary

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

Beverly Ward