

Southeastern Yearly Meeting (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.
- 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 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 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>. 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

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