Clerk’s Welcome
Dear Friends,
This is a time of year for all kinds of celebrations and commemorations. The birth of a great Light unto the world and the promise of a brand new year bring gratitude for all we’ve been given and hope for all that is to come. It’s a perfect time, even amid the hubbub, to return to the silence in which we remember who we are as Friends. Let’s share the joy that springs from that inner stillness and allow our Light to shine brightly in the world.
In a very short time, we’ll be together in Orlando for a highlight of our Quaker year. Winter Interim Business Meeting is an intensive planning session: the annual budget develops, with all the projects and commitments it implies; the Gathering takes shape as its program is finalized; committees working from a distance come together in person. It’s a time when the elves are busy preparing SEYM’s future. All are welcome, and it’s an especially good moment to jump in if you’re new to the Yearly Meeting’s business.
And after our business sessions there is the delight of the Michener Lecture. Please join us in Orlando for a weekend of warmth, work, joy, and fellowship. I look forward to seeing you there.

In the Light,
Ann Jerome, Clerk, Executive Committee and Interim Business Meeting

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

Directions to Meetinghouse:
From I-4: Exit onto SR50, go east two blocks to Magnolia; turn left, go north four blocks to light; turn right on Marks St., go east to Meetinghouse at 316 E. Marks St; turn right into driveway or onto Broadway.
From East-West Expressway: Exit at Magnolia; go north to Marks St.; turn right, go east to Meetinghouse at 316 E. Marks St.; turn right into driveway or onto Broadway.
Parking is available in the lot behind the Meetinghouse & Webster Cottage, and on Broadway Avenue.

Wi-Fi: Orlando Meetinghouse & Cottage have wi-fi
Hospitality: contact Martha Morris at (407)843-2257 or morris842810@bellsouth.net for overnight hospitality in a Friend’s home, or for any questions.

Hotels: Here are two recommended nearby hotels; visit their websites for more information.
Courtyard by Marriott: 730 N. Magnolia, Orlando 32803; 407-996-1000. Say you are part of SEYM and get the group rate: Double rooms are $119 + tax per night, parking free. The Marriott no longer has its breakfast buffet, but you can order (and pay for) a full breakfast.
Mt. Vernon Best Western: 110 S. Orlando Ave., Winter Park 32789; 407-647-1166. $129 + tax for a standard room, $116 + tax for AAA members; free parking. No SEYM group rate. You can buy breakfast in the hotel dining room.
**SCHEDULE**

**Friday, January 17th: Executive Committee Meeting**
7:00 pm Executive Committee Meeting

**Saturday, January 18th: Interim Business Meeting**
8:00 am Coffee and snacks
9:00 am Opening Worship
   Nominating Committee preliminary report
   Announcements
9:30 am Committee meetings: *All are welcome to attend.*
12 noon Lunch
1:00 pm Meeting for Business

**AGENDA**

Roll call of Meetings and Worship Groups
Welcome of Visitors
Announcements.................................................................pp. 5-6
Executive Committee Report
Nominating Committee Report............................................. pp. 3-5
Worship & Ministry Committee Report.................................. p.6
Treasurer’s Report
Youth Committee Report .................................................... pp. 12-18
Gathering Committee Report................................................ p. 7
Half Yearly Meeting Committee Report.............................. p.8
Archives Committee Report................................................ pp. 8-10
Peace & Social Concerns Committee
ProNica Report ............................................................................. pp. 19-22
Representatives to Organizations
Reading back the minutes

4:30 Closing Worship
5:00 Fellowship, dinner at a local restaurant

**Sunday, January 19th: Michener Lecture & Seminars**
9:00 am coffee, morning snacks & fellowship at Orlando Meetinghouse
9:30 am Worship with Orlando Friends

**OR**
10:00 am Worship with Winter Park Meeting
Crosby YMCA Wellness Center, 2005 Mizell Ave., Winter Park, FL 32792
12:00 noon Michener Luncheon hosted by Orlando Meeting
1:00 pm **Michener Lecture:** Deborah Fisch will present:
   “Growing the Beloved Community… & Sharing It With The World”
2:30 pm Seminar I
3:30 pm Tea
4:15 pm Seminar II
5:30 pm Close
SEYM Nominating Committee Report
Documents in Advance for Winter Interim Business Meeting, January 18, 2014

Our meetings are living entities, not theories. … We can’t nurture our spirits in isolation from all the other ways we relate to each other – our spiritual lives can’t be separated out. Whether we want it to be this way or not, we inevitably find that our whole being is engaged in spiritual growth.


Southeastern Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice

As we Friends gather in the Christ Spirit, God’s love and/or the Source on the Martin Luther King Jr. weekend, it is nurturing to be holding in the Light, Deborah Fisch and her prayerful lecture, “Growing the Beloved Community and Sharing It With the World.” The Nominating Committee is grateful to be a part of sitting with Friends and discerning with them where they might be led to serve in order to help deepen our connection with the Spirit, and therefore, our beloved SEYM community.

Below is an update on the work of the Nominating Committee:

Yearly Meeting Clerk: Phoebe Andersen, nominated for a second term ending in 2017.

Assistant Clerk and Interim Business Meeting/Executive Committee Clerks:
Under discernment. Their terms will be staggered so that one will serve one year, and the other 2 years, before three-year terms resume. Presently, their terms both end in 2014.

Treasurer:
Neil Andersen (Tallahassee) nominated for another year- term ending in 2015.
The committee discerned with him that there was a need for continuity in the Treasurer’s term during the transition period with new SEYM staff members.


Trustees: Mimi McAdoo, Sarasota, nominated for another term, ending in 2017.

Archives Committee:
- Clerk - Connie Ray, (Gainesville) nominated for term ending 2015.
- Sybil Ann Brennan (Gainesville) has laid down her membership on the committee because of illness. Please hold her in the Light.
- There are at least two positions under discernment, one to fill Sybil Ann Brennan’s unexpired term ending in 2016 and the other for a term ending in 2017.

Committee for Earthcare:
- Clerk position under discernment- term ending in 2017.
- Barbara Letsch (Palm Beach)- nominated for a term ending in 2017
- Three other positions under discernment- terms to be staggered before resuming three-year terms.

Committee for Ministry on Racism:
- Two or three other members under discernment, with terms to be staggered before resuming three-year terms.
Faith and Practice Committee has been on sabbatical for a year, which will end at the rise of Yearly Meeting Sessions, 2014.

- **Clerk**, Phoebe Andersen, re-nominated for a term ending in 2017
- Two other positions under discernment, with terms to be staggered before resuming three-year terms.

Half Yearly Meeting Committee:

- **Registrar**- Shauna Coolican, (Palm Beach) has laid down her membership on the committee.
- Under discernment for a Registrar to complete Shauna Coolican’s unexpired term ending in 2015.
- **Food Coordinator**- Martha Morris (Orlando) has laid down her service as Food Coordinator. Her term was to end in 2015. The Half-Yearly Meeting Clerk is working with Friends on another model for coordinating food preparation.
- **SEYM Youth Committee Clerk**- under discernment for term ending in 2017.
- Other members on the Committee- under discernment with Half Yearly Meeting Clerk, Dustin Lemke. Number of members for the Committee also under discernment.

Peace and Social Concerns Committee:

- Four members under discernment- terms to be staggered before resuming three-year terms.

Worship and Ministry Committee:

- **Co-clerk**, Nancy Triscritti (Tampa), nominated for extended term ending in 2015.
- Ann Kelley (Palm Beach)- nominated for extended term ending in 2015.
- Under discernment for another member who is a regular attender of her/his monthly meeting (ideally, though not necessarily, an active member of its Ministry and Nurture Committee) and who is usually able to attend Committee meetings- term ending in 2017.

Yearly Meeting Gathering Committee:

- **Program Coordinator**- in discernment for term ending in 2017.
- In discernment on two other members- terms ending in 2017.

Youth Committee:

- **Clerk**- Under discernment. Term ending in 2017.
- Dustin Lemke (Tampa)- nominated for a second term- ending in 2017.
- Josh Rumschlag (St. Petersburg)- nominated for a second term- ending in 2017.
- In discernment on another member or two with terms ending 2017

**Trainer for SEYM’s Child Abuse Prevention Program**: Trains Yearly Meeting volunteers with the Youth Program. (Please see Yearly Meeting Child Abuse Prevention Program Manual, www.seym.org)

- Under discernment for someone not on the Youth Committee who is a social worker or psychologist and/or has had experience in the child abuse field. Ideally, he or she should be able to attend at least one (more would be helpful) Interim Business Meeting and the Yearly Meeting Gathering. The Nominating Committee has had difficulty finding someone, so as with other open positions, please contact the committee with your ideas.

**ProNica Board Appointees**:

- Kathy Hersh (Miami)- nominated for another year- term ending in 2015
- The Yearly Meeting records show that another position is open in 2014, but ProNica’s records show that that position will not need filling until 2015. The Nominating Committee is researching this.
Representatives to Quaker Organizations:

**Friends Committee on National Legislation/William Penn House**

- Two positions under discernment for terms ending in 2017.

**Friends General Conference, Central Committee**

- Under research and discernment, one position to fill the unexpired term of Frank Perch (Savannah), if he is unable to continue to represent SEYM after his move to Philadelphia. Term ending in 2016.

**Friends World Committee for Consultation:**

- One position under discernment - term ending in 2017.

**Historic Peace Churches:** One representative

- Position under discernment. One-year term.

**Palmetto Friends Gathering**

- Neil Andersen (Tallahassee) - term ending, 2017.
- Phoebe Andersen (Tallahassee) - term ending, 2017.
- Ellie Caldwell (Palm Beach) - term ending, 2017.

Thank you, Friends, for holding the work of the Nominating Committee in the Light, or in Tenderness and Wholeness, and for coming forward with names of Friends who might possibly serve.

With love, in the Light,
Susan Taylor, Clerk, Nominating Committee, for the Committee.

**Other members of the Committee:**
- Gary Arthur (Gainesville)
- Martha Morris (Orlando)
- Barbara Wolfe (Tampa)

A Reminder to assist Recording Clerks:

As you prepare the reports for FIBM, we want to ensure the records of our Yearly Meeting’s business sessions are accurate. Minutes will consist of what Friends approve with a brief explanation (numbered minutes), written or electronic committee and representative reports, milestones, and other items directed by the clerk or Friends in attendance.

It would be appreciated if Friends who propose formal minutes would present such before the meeting or placement on the agenda in electronic form if at all possible. Similarly, if committee clerks, representatives, and those who report on MM activities could provide electronic versions of their reports, we would be most grateful.

If Friends have an extended minute of concern that will be presented for consideration, please e-mail us prior to the business meeting so we have the opportunity to get the items in accessible documents prior to the meeting. This would be of great help.

With deep gratitude in the Light,
Jan Dahm and Lisa Erazmus, SEYM Recording Co-clerks, ljerazmus1@verizon.net
SEYM Faith & Practice in Print!

The Southeastern Yearly Meeting Faith & Practice will be in print very soon!!! We fully expect that this book will be available at Winter Interim Business Meeting. After WIBM, the Faith & Practice will also be for sale from the SEYM office at seym.org and from the FGC Bookstore at Quakerbooks.org.

The intent of the committee in writing this edition of the SEYM Faith & Practice was to make it a straight forward teachable document, easy to read, and easy to be used in our meetings and by all SEYM Friends. With those uses in mind, it is offered to you at a reduced price of $16 (the suggested retail price for a comparable book would normally be about $22). Our Faith & Practice is being printed by Lightning Source, a subsidiary of Ingram Corp. (the printer for Barnes & Noble) and it promises be a high-quality, bound book ready for lots of use among Friends.

A tremendous amount of donated time, effort, and dedication has gone into putting our Faith & Practice into a bound book form. Many thanks are due to Phoebe Andersen, the Faith and Practice Committee, Ellie Caldwell, and Lyn Cope for their heroic efforts in seeing this project through!

Worship & Ministry Committee report to WIBM 2014

"Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for in doing so some have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those who are in prison as though you are in prison with them, those who are suffering as though you yourselves were suffering." Hebrews Ch. 13 Vs. 1-3

Dear SEYM Friends,

One aspect of the work of the SEYM Worship & Ministry Committee is in encouraging spiritual hospitality of the person, family and meeting/worship group.

Please, consider participating in the Worship & Ministry Committee Meeting the morning of the Winter Interim Business Meeting at the Orlando Friends Meeting House on Saturday, January 18th, 2014. This is, especially, nurturing for members of Worship & Ministry Committees of monthly meetings and for those considering joining such a ministry in your monthly meeting. You're welcome to dip into the committee meetings to see what's going on, trying a few of them to see where you find a "fit."

If overnighting in Orlando is not for you, please, consider traveling to Orlando Friends Meetinghouse on Sunday, January 19th, 2014, and attending the Michener Lecture with Deborah Fisch, a European American staff member of Friends General Conference, the network of most unprogrammed meetings in the U.S. with headquarters in Philadelphia, PA. Wendy has only known Deborah Fisch to speak from her center. Come be spiritually filled and renewed in Deborah Fisch's loving, gentle ways. Indeed, come and be spiritually filled and renewed simply by being with around 75-100 Friends in Southeastern Yearly Meeting!

SEYM Worship & Ministry Committee has the task of discerning who future Michener Lecturers will be. Your input is welcome! The person(s) need to be Quaker and be able to deliver a lecture and facilitate a two-session workshop/seminar following the lecture that spiritually nurture and nourish SEYM Friends.

For Friends not traveling Martin Luther King Weekend to Orlando Friends Meeting House, please, hold in Wholeness and Tenderness those who will be traveling to Orlando and the proceedings from Friday evening to late Sunday afternoon.

Thank you for your consideration of these matters. For more information, contact Nancy Triscritti or Wendy Clarissa Geiger.

In the Love of Christ's Heart,
Nancy Triscritti and Wendy Clarissa Geiger, co-clerks of SEYM W&M Committee
Gathering Committee Report  to Winter Interim Business Meeting: January 2014

Our SEYM Yearly Meeting Gathering will be held April 16-20, 2014, at the Life Enrichment Center, Leesburg, Florida. We are quite looking forward to this year’s Annual Gathering to connect with so many Friends, relax a little, and join in some great learning opportunities.

Our theme in 2014 is “Quakers in the 21st Century: How do we address our traditional testimonies in our modern, electronically driven world?”

J. Brent Bill, Coordinator of FGC’s New Meetings Project, will lead the retreat and give the J. Barnard Walton Lecture. You can learn more about the New Meetings Project at http://www.fgcquaker.org/deepen/outreach/new-meetings-project/new-meetings-toolbox and more about Brent Bill from an interview on the QuakerBooks site: http://www.quakerbooks.org/interviews/the_art_of_faith_an_interview_with_author_j_brent_bill_a_new_member_of_the_fgc_staff.php

Some of Brent’s publications are available at QuakerBooks: Sacred Compass, A Modest Proposal, and Holy Silence.

We have a wealth of wonderful workshops to choose from thanks to SEYM Friends who offer them.

We will also be celebrating….

50 Years of SEYM!

HEAR YE! HEAR YE! Once in a lifetime opportunity for Southeastern Yearly Meeting history buffs and event planners!

The first gathering of SEYM was during the 1963 Easter weekend in Avon Park, Florida.

The 2014 Annual Gathering will celebrate “50 Years of SEYM.”

All are invited to help plan and coordinate our Celebration!

Some ideas that have already emerged are:

1. Gathering group photo and cake on Saturday before Walton lecture
2. A photo of every Meeting or Worship Group, a brief history (dates established & meetinghouse built), current activities (newsletter, Circus McGurkis, etc) to be displayed at the Yearly Meeting Gathering
3. a time line of American Quaker organizations
4. Add your ideas!

If you would like to contribute your ideas, your energy, or your stories of our history (of your Meeting or of SEYM), please contact SEYM Gathering Co-Clerk Davida Johns: seymgatheringclerks@gmail.com
**Half-Yearly Meeting report**

Two things stand out for me about Half Yearly Meeting.

First, as a single person who lives 1,000 miles from family, Thanksgiving can be an awkward time. My friends graciously invite me to their homes, but I actually enjoy telling them that, instead, I have a Quaker event in a state park to attend. Then it’s relaxing to head to Wekiwa with a sense of purpose and place to have time among Friends.

Second, families certainly make Half Yearly Meeting special: parents and their children romp through the woods; grandparents and grandchildren make crafts together; couples get some quality time for themselves. And then we all become a big, extended, adopted family - looking at the stars and discussing where we are in our faith (my favorite youth moment this year!), identifying birds on the Wekiva river, and licking the cake mix bowl in the kitchen.

So with our families and our adopted Quaker family, we connect with nature and find peace.

This year, we had 56 people take part in HYM. A big thank you goes to Orlando Meeting for their support: bringing the turkey, planning events (nature walks and Park Ranger talks), and attending as day-use guests. The Miami Meeting also brings a spark to HYM with the large number of folks they bring from so far away; their passion for this event is contagious. And lots of individuals and other meetings help in so many other ways; the hands-on, community-driven nature of Half Yearly Meeting is rewarding!

Reimbursements and final accounting are still taking place, but it looks like HYM will break even as it usually does. For next year, I have three main goals: better advertising and attendance, more folks taking ownership roles, and more hugs for everyone (this is a special request from Leo Merleaux!).

Consider attending (Nov 27-30, 2014) and becoming involved at whatever level you can.

Peace,
Dustin Lemke HYM Clerk

**Archives Committee Report** June 5 2013

On Thursday May 30th and Friday the 31st members of the Archives Committee, Sybil Brennan, Peter and Sue Day, Bill Rapp and Connie Ray met to work on the SEYM records stored in the Smathers Library at the University of Florida, Gainesville. On the 30th we were at the library from 10.30 am until 4.50 pm and on the 31st from 9.30 am until 4.50 pm. We are grateful to Gainesville MM for enabling Bill to spend two nights in the meeting house. Bill had earlier travelled from Lake Wales to Melbourne Beach May 13-16 to collect early records prior to their transfer from outgoing administrative secretary Lyn Cope, to Vickie Carlie, the incoming administrative secretary. Bill brought four boxes of records to the Smathers Library.

The committee undertook several tasks: continue sorting and filing of records from Melbourne Beach, incorporate new deposits of minutes from Clearwater MM and newsletters and minutes from Gainesville MM, review and organize a collection of photographs, and examine contents of boxes, with labels indicating possible duplication and overlap, to discard duplicate records. The committee thanks Florence Turcotte, the resident archivist, who provided guidance, materials, and access to the storage area. To help defray the cost of materials (acid-free folders, separator papers, archival storage boxes, and labels) SEYM makes a modest annual grant to the Library.

There are 33 archival boxes and on Thursday a selection of about 15 were available for us to work on, undisturbed, in a large u-shaped arrangement of tables and chairs. On Friday some boxes were returned to storage and others brought out for further work.

Attached is a list of the boxes, or rather the labels on each of them. The labels are not entirely accurate. They were intended initially just to be a guide to the box contents as record sorting progressed. They are our first, and incomplete, step in preparing an index. Each box contains a number of labeled acid–free folders in which the records are stored in date order. Sometimes the most recent records are at the front, and in other cases at the back, of the folders. Folder labels are in pencil so that they can be erased and edited.

The largest group of boxes (23) is made up of the records from the YM. These include minutes of annual gatherings, representative meetings, interim business meetings, and various committees, documents in advance, directories, financial records, newsletters, correspondence, and copies of published lectures. They date from 1951 onwards. Three of these boxes have still to be sorted.
Sorting has been an iterative process. Each document we examine raises questions: which folder and box should it go in, is it a duplicate, is it worth keeping, if there is no appropriate folder or box should one be created? We had to be cautious at first and made up too many folders, with labels that were too detailed. We later decided to combine SEYM minutes so that a folder for a year will hold all the various minutes for that year. We have also reduced the number of boxes by discarding duplicate records and combining the contents of some boxes. We can usually only visit the library once a year and so each time we go there we have to re-learn what to do.

The records from MMs and WGs are disappointingly incomplete. Only 7 MMs have deposited enough records to justify one or two separate boxes, 15 others (in one box of 21 folders) are represented by few records (in some cases a single document). Our efforts to contact Clerks and Recording Clerks to seek information on records in their care have mostly been unsuccessful and to date have only resulted in new deposits from Palm Beach, Clearwater and Gainesville — both of the last two MMs are represented on the archive committee.

The committee spent part of one lunch hour discussing the likely future for the SEYM records. Our present arrangement with the University of Florida is that all the documents deposited in the archive remain the property of the YM, MMs and WGs that created them. Because of this UF is unable to provide any service beyond custodial care. If SEYM were to donate the records to UF would this mean that the records would be indexed and accessioned by the archive staff of the Smathers Library when deposited? We have no answer to this question. In November 2012 we approached Friends Historical Collection at Guilford College, North Carolina who provide this sort of archival service for some YMs and MMs. FHC is interested in exploring taking on the SEYM records. However, in return they would require unspecified financial support in the form of a line item in the annual budget of each depositing organization. FHC has the advantage of being a major and substantial collection of Quaker books and records for scholars. However, it is 600 miles or more away from most of us. The State Archive in Gainesville is closer, has the advantage of being a collection of Florida records, and has, so far, cost the YM rather little.

We believe these issues need to be discussed by the SEYM executive committee and eventually by the YM. In the meantime the committee plans to continue the slow work of sorting and consolidating the records deposited to date to provide the basis for an accurate list, or catalogue. We also would ask that those meetings with records that are not in the Smathers archives consider carefully how they are now safeguarding and storing their records. The committee presently has no list of these, or where and how they are stored.

**SEYM Archives** List of boxes in the Smathers Library Archive

**SEYM Records:**
- Record of discipline correspondence 1964-1992
- Reports and Letters 1969-76, Intentional Community 1972-76
- Documents in Advance 1963-91
- Historical, Epistles, Minutes, Clerk Correspondence
- Minutes 1951-1986
- Minutes 1972-1994
- Minutes 1990-2009
- Friends Correspondence
- Friends Records – Finances
- Finance 1965-1998
- Papers Correspondence A-N
- SEYM Directories 1951-1978
- SEYM Directories 1979-2012
- SEYM Newsletters 1954-2011
- Unsorted -1*
- Unsorted –2*
- Unsorted -3*

*Boxes of unsorted SEYM records transferred from the storage in Melbourne Beach in May 2013
SEYM RECORDS - MMs and WGs:
Clearwater MM 1958-2012
Fort Myers MM
Jacksonville MM - 1
Jacksonville MM – 2
Orlando MM
Palm Beach MM Minutes, Newsletters, Membership records (missing 2001-10)
Sarasota MM
Miscellaneous MMs and WGs (each line represents a folder)
  Augusta History
  Augusta MM 1991-92
  Daytona Beach MM 1954-79
  Deland Lakeland photo album 2009
  Deland/Orange City 2005-2010
  Ft. Lauderdale 2000
  Lake Wales 1982
  Miami
  Ocala 1979, 1982
  Ogeechee Friends Meeting 1983-1991
  Savannah Friends WG 1979-82
  Space Coast MM Declaration of Interdependence 1983, Newsletter 1997
  St Petersburg MM News 2000-06
  St. Petersburg Newsletters & History (1917-74 by C N Jacob)
  Tallahassee 1960-63 (Laid down 5.28.63), 2004
  Tallahassee – Prison Correspondence 1975-76
  Tampa Newsletters 1979-82
  Tampa Correspondence 1970-1981
  Venice-Englewood WG 1982
  Winter Park Correspondence (origin) 1971-2003
  Winter Park Newsletters (2) 2004

Submitted by Peter Day, Clerk of Archives Committee

COMMITTEE FOR MINISTRY ON RACISM Report to WIBM 2014

"As hard as it is to believe in non-violent co-operative action as a way of changing the world for the better, it is easier to believe in than that burning and wrecking and shooting will make things better." ---drpsycho1960 (comment left on a music video)

At SEYM Fall Interim Business Meeting 2013, Wendy Clarissa Geiger was approved as co-clerk of SEYM Committee for Ministry on Racism, joining Ellie Caldwell in that position. We are both European American Quaker womyn writers and poets.

Please, consider reading and discussing and/or worship sharing around the Pendle Hill Pamphlet #415: "Living Our Testimony on Equality - A White Friend's Experience," by Patience A. Schenck of Baltimore Yearly Meeting. For information and to place an order, visit www.pendlehill.org and find their bookstore or call 1-800-742-3150, ext.2. This pamphlet may, also, be ordered from the Friends General Conference Bookstore at 1-800-966-4556. The back cover explains: "The principle of human equality is a testimony that Friends are both proud of and challenged by. Proclaiming the importance of equality among peoples is far easier than living equality, day to day and interpersonally. Pat Schenck has dedicated years of study, self-examination, and experimentation to living racial equality in a society that still supports inequality in its institutions. Writing openly and personally about her successes,
failures, and discoveries, she shares her stories and offers wisdom to white Friends, in particular, who wish to create more diverse, welcoming, and fully supportive communities of all races in our meetings and in our lives. Discussion questions included."

I am currently writing two articles regarding racism. One focuses on my practices regarding racism awareness work. I use the term "racism awareness work" instead of the commonly used "anti-racism work." For it is worded positively, and I want all White folk to feel welcome in this work, however deeply mired in one's racism a person may be. A person may feel folk are "against" White persons for harboring racist tendencies or for being darn proud of one's racism, wherever one is along the racism spectrum. "Anti-racism" might be interpreted as being 'anti-people.'

The other article is a list of phenomena regarding racism that we do not yet have a term/word in the English language for. One entry regards White folk wanting to talk of racism if only we feel good and do not feel distress, guilt, shame, and/or embarrassment. That's like staying dry while swimming in the ocean or staying clean while playing in the mud. Talking racism is messy stuff. White folk being uncomfortable talking about racism is no comparison to People of Color experiencing racism 24/7. I love talking about racism and welcome such conversations, whether you are beginning such a journey or are well into it.

Carry On!
Wendy Clarissa Geiger, co-clerk (with Ellie Caldwell)
SEYM Committee for Ministry on Racism

Epistle From FGC Central Committee for sessions held October 27-29, 2013.

To Friends Everywhere:

One hundred thirty seven Friends from fifteen yearly meetings gathered on a beautiful fall weekend at the Pearlstone Retreat Center near Reisterstown, Maryland for the 2013 annual meeting of the Friends General Conference Central Committee. Our worship and deliberations have been deeply blessed. We have been swept by an awareness of opportunity and new energy. As one Friend said: “There is a deep and powerful stream flowing here, and we are invited to plunge in.”

Two years ago, Friends General Conference defined three areas of focus to guide our work—Deep Worship, Loving Community, and Outreach. Focusing on these three priorities has already yielded good fruit and opened new doors as we consider how we are called to nurture Quaker faith and practice.

We heard from our General Secretary, Barry Crossno, a call for us to take up the challenge of reaching out to and accompanying the thousands of seekers who visit our meetings each year. We heard of new energy around our work in religious education, and how we are re-envisioning it as spiritual formation. We heard how eager Friends meetings are to take advantage of the online services offered by our new Quaker Cloud, which hosts monthly meeting websites and a meeting “minute manager,” and will soon be offering a meeting directory feature. We heard how the new approach to planned giving being pioneered by our Stewardship Services program liberates Friends to give more generously to all the charities they support. We heard of the new books coming out of our two publishing programs—FGC’s QuakerPress and QuakerBridge Media—and were encouraged to hear of renewed efforts to preserve and extend the ministry offered by our bookstore—QuakerBooks of FGC. We heard how our New Meetings project is reaching out to dozens of clusters of scattered Friends and seekers, and helping to establish new worship groups across the country. We heard of continued excitement about the outreach-inreach work of our Quaker Quest program.

This weekend, we dedicated a period of time each evening to diversity work, exploring together the challenge of how to be an ally to those experiencing discrimination and injustice. Dedicated this time has been very valuable. We encourage monthly and yearly meetings to consider engaging in this work. It has helped us to experience our own humanness, our weakness, and our common longing to do better. We still have much work to do, as individuals and in our Friends’ communities, to be truly welcoming and to live the Truth that we are all family. We are committed to carrying forward this work. We know that when we enter into the presence of the Divine together, experiencing and living out the love that binds us and opening our hearts to the world, way will open. We have experienced this weekend a taste of divine grace, and the way opening to new opportunities and new discoveries. We have been blessed.

Submitted to these DIAs by Ed Lesnick, SEYM Representative to FGC Central Committee
December 2013 SEYM Youth Committee Report:

Greeting to our SEYM community from the Youth Committee. We will be in Atlanta MLK weekend as our juniors and teens bring the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW) Fair Food Campaign to the teens of Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting & Association (SAYMA). We look forward to seeing you in person in April at Yearly Meeting. Let me tell you how youth committee work unfolded this fall.

7 juniors and teens (from Jacksonville, Tampa, St Pete, Sarasota and Miami Monthly Meetings) plus 1 elementary sibling gathered at the October Fall Interim Business Meeting (FIBM) in Palm Beach to plan youth program events for the upcoming year. (See attached flyer for the 2013/14 SEYM Youth Program) We had delayed our annual Memorial Day planning retreat until after our SEYM youth delegation returned from bringing the CIW Fair Food Campaign to the FGC Gathering this summer in Greeley, CO. While youth were planning the activities for the upcoming year, adults serving on the youth committee and some SEYM parents met to sort out the logistics of running the all ages youth program at Yearly Meeting.

After the success of their work at FGC, the teens decided to continue working on the Fair Food campaign in the upcoming year. Rather than taking up a new and different issue, they wanted to deepen their involvement with the CIW. Friday evening of FIBM, teens skyped with Claire Comiskey of Interfaith Action to find out how they could best serve as allies of the CIW in the upcoming year. Claire described a big push to expand the Fair Food campaign into the Southeastern U.S. to match Publix’s expansion into that region. Teens found out that our SEYM youth group could best serve the CIW by reaching out and activating Quaker youth in that region. SEYM youth workers had been in touch with SAYMA youth workers since they visited our Yearly Meeting in 2010 to help reinvigorate SEYM’s youth program. We had been hoping to do a joint event at some point. Clearly the time had arrived.

Knowing that former SEYM youth worker Erica Schoon is Friend in Residence at Atlanta Friends Meeting, youth texted her to find out which weekend the SAYMA Youth retreat was meeting in Atlanta. The answer was MLK weekend and she offered to host the group at the Meeting house for a few days on either side of the SAYMA youth retreat so that our youth could also participate in Atlanta events celebrating the MLK holiday. This particular blend of civil rights and farm worker rights is a perfect extension of the dialogue between SEYM youth, Dr. Vincent Harding (long time civil rights activist) and Lucas Benitez (co-founder of the CIW) that happened at the FGC gathering this past summer.

Teen Clerk Kate Sundberg began an e-mail dialogue with SAYMA youth workers. Right away they welcomed a SEYM delegation to their MLK weekend event. They also began the process of considering a proposal to include a Fair Food presentation in the weekend events and in time approved that idea.

I found inexpensive airline tickets ($69/$99) between Tampa, Ft Lauderdale, Jacksonville and Atlanta so our far flung group could converge in Atlanta that weekend without having to spend 16 - 20 hours of the weekend in cars or buses. With youth committee approval, I went ahead and booked those tickets while the deal was still available. We will have one group flying from Tampa and another group flying from Ft Lauderdale. Connie Guenther (Jacksonville MM) offered to drive a Northern FL
contingent up to Atlanta to save money. These travel expenses will follow the same formula we’ve used in the past: 1/3 SEYM youth committee fund, 1/3 monthly meeting, 1/3 individual.

In late October, Kate traveled to NYC to see the CIW receive the Roosevelt Medal and participate in a range of Fair Food Campaign activities. (See attached report from Kate about trip)

Back from New York, SAYMA was still reluctant about including an action to Publix in the weekend events. Kate adapted the letter Sarasota Monthly Meeting teens had written to the youth of the Historic Peace Churches in January 2012 urging SAYMA youth to consider Dr Vincent Harding’s view that the best way to celebrate Dr Martin Luther King’s birthday is not to attend a parade but to take action for change. (see attached letter to SAYMA youth) After more discernment, SAYMA agreed to incorporate an action to a local Publix into the weekend events!

Kate also contacted Atlanta Friends school and arranged for our SEYM delegation to present the Fair Food campaign to a group of middle schoolers on Friday morning of the MLK weekend.

In preparation for the Atlanta trip, on December 14th 9 SEYM youth (representing Jacksonville, Tallahassee, Tampa, Sarasota, Miami Monthly Meetings) and 7 SEYM youth workers and parents travelled to Immokalee for a follow-up immersion visit. The purpose of this trip was to deepen the involvement of the youth already active in the Fair Food Campaign as well as to introduce the issue to youth that are new to the SEYM middle school and high school youth program. This visit included a tour of the CIW radio station where they learned about broadcasts to educate farm workers in the fields and a special two hour women’s program on Sunday mornings. They also learned more about the CIW anti modern day slavery campaign. (See attached photos of Dec 14th Immersion Visit and Testimonials from youth that are entering their second year as allies of the CIW.)

We have a great year of youth events ahead of us. At the same time, the handwriting is on the wall for considerable change in the youth program. As high school seniors, two of our stalwart teens are entering their final year in the SEYM youth program, another North Florida teen is relocating to MN this summer (several years ago another teen relocated temporarily to the Northeast and has yet to return.) Other teens that were active in these last three years (but not anchored into their home Monthly Meetings) are entering the upper grades of rigorous academic high school programs or simply shifting their focus to other extracurricular activities. Looking ahead to next year, we may have as few as 3 high school students active in our youth program, two of them ninth graders. At the same time, we have a new group that has just moved into the junior (middle school program) and another cluster in our elementary group. There is always a natural ebb and flow in programs. But it is crucial for monthly meetings to create solid relationships with the young people in their midst as well as strong connections with the Yearly Meeting youth programs so that these young people stay active as they mature.

respectfully submitted,
Ann Sundberg, Youth Committee Clerk
Southeastern Yearly Meeting’s Youth Program

Welcomes all Quaker Youth in our Region

For more information contact
Ann Sundberg, SEYM Youth Committee
941-358-9851 annsundberg@verizon.net
I began my visit in New York with a presentation to the Brooklyn First Day School committee before meeting on Sunday about the SEYM Youth’s work with the Coalition of Immokalee Workers.

During meeting I presented to a large group of elementary aged kids with the help of two people from the New York Community Farmworker Alliance, an ally of the CIW, using the pyramid street theater. We presented to the entire meeting at rise of meeting with the pyramid I had taught during First Day School. On Tuesday we participated in an action to Wendy’s with the CIW and the winners of the Food Sovereignty Award. The action was very well attended but the managers of the Wendy’s would not accept a letter. That evening I went to the Food Sovereignty award’s ceremony with winners from all over the world. The Coalition of Immokalee Workers won this award last year. On Wednesday morning, I presented to a group of 50 high school students at Brooklyn Friends School. They are interested in working with food justice or getting involved in some other issue that is more local like the SEYM Youth have done this past year. That evening was the Roosevelt Awards Ceremony where the CIW was awarded the Freedom from Want award. This was an amazing experience and very exciting to see the CIW awarded such a special prize. I also attended the CIW after party at El Museo Del Barrio where I met other people from Interfaith Action as well as the farmworkers in the CIW that came from Immokalee. Overall, my trip to New York was amazing with all the events that I was able to attend and the outreach to other Quaker teens I was able to do.

Kate Sundberg

“Somewhere we have heard that the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice… Today, for the first time in the history of the south, this dream is coming true for farmworkers in Florida’s agriculture. For the first time, we have a place at the table. In our struggle for better wages and working conditions, we are confident that this recognition will help us to arrive to the day in which our dreams will be made fully real.” — Gerardo Reyes, accepting Freedom from Want Medal on behalf of the CIW
Dear Southern Appalachian Young Friends,

We are the SEYM Quaker Youth and we would like to discuss the Fair Food Campaign with you. The Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW) is asking consumers to pressure major food companies to pay one additional penny per pound for tomatoes, as well as to commit to fair working conditions.

The reason for this movement is because of the hardships that tomato pickers in Florida face. They have to carry 32 pound buckets of tomatoes on their shoulders and run them to a moving truck. They get 50 cents per bucket, so they have to fill a bucket every 3 minutes to make minimum wage. Sometimes the crew leaders make them “top off” their buckets with extra tomatoes and they don’t get paid for the extra amount. They don’t have enough money to pay for fair housing and some live in cramped trailers with up to 15 people.

Since the start of this campaign 10 years ago, Yum Foods (KFC, Pizza Hut, Taco Bell), McDonalds, Chipotle, Trader Joe’s, and Whole Foods have all signed The Fair Food Agreement. Right now Wendy’s & Publix are the big focus of the Coalition of Immokalee Workers because Wendy’s is the only one of the top five fast food restaurants that hasn’t signed and Publix is such a dominant corporation in Florida. By gaining Publix’s support, other competing supermarkets (i.e. Sweetbay, Wal-Mart) will be more likely to sign on to the agreement.

We, the Quaker Youth, got involved after we visited Immokalee and learned first-hand about the Fair Food Campaign. We heard about the appalling working conditions and witnessed the living conditions of farmworkers and spent time with an Immokalee worker who helped us understand the issue more thoroughly. We also took a street theatre workshop from a worker from the Immokalee Coalition and a translator from Interfaith Action and learned how to effectively publicize the issue in a more creative manner.

When we asked the coalition “What can we do to help the cause?” They suggested that we write to Wendy’s and Publix. As a group of concerned youth, we wrote a letter to both Wendy’s & Publix asking them to sign on to the Fair Food Campaign, in hopes that a letter from kids would capture their attention. Next we brought the issue to our Fall Interim Quaker Business Meeting, hoping to gain Minutes of support from Meetings belonging to the Southeastern Yearly Meeting. So far we have gained eight Minutes of support from Quaker Meetings all over Florida. We also gained support at our Southeastern Yearly Business Meeting and then led an action to Wendy’s with 150 Quakers at Friends General Conference, a national gathering of Quakers, in Colorado in July, 2013.

We plan to use everything we have learned so far to continue bringing this issue to our wider Quaker Community. There is still far more work to do on this issue. Publix is expanding into the Southeastern U.S. (opening new grocery stores) so the Coalition of Immokalee workers have asked us to reach out to Quaker Youth in the Southeast and mobilize them. We propose organizing an action to Publix on Sunday after rise of Meeting when we participate in your MLK Weekend gathering.

We urge you to start to consider what your heart calls upon you to do. This summer we had the chance to meet Dr. Vincent Harding, a long time civil rights activist and speechwriter for Dr. Martin Luther King. He told us that the best way to remember Dr. King over MLK weekend would be to take action and do something important to continue fighting for human rights. Planning and participating in an action to help farmworkers would be a great way to honor Dr. Martin Luther King.

With your support we all should be able to make a more significant difference in this movement.

Sincerely,
The SEYM Quaker Youth

December, 2014
We rented a van to build community during the ride.

Feeling the weight of the 32 pound bucket that workers fill and lift up to a truck every 4 minutes over the course of a ten hour day to earn minimum wage.

Presentation by Emilio Faustino Galindo (farmworker)
Claire Comiskey (translator)

Walking tour of Immokalee with Emilio Faustino Galindo (farmworker)
Carmen Mason (translator)

SEYM youth with Emilio Faustino Galindo (farmworker)
Claire Comiskey (translator)

CIW radio station tour

The delicious lunch
This campaign has given me a sense of giving people the opportunities that I have. To help the underprivileged and support a cause that my dad used to support. It feels as though I’m continuing the tradition as a young 18 year old man. -Aurelio Anderson

I believe that the Fair Food Campaign has allowed me to be more aware of things that go on around me. It has also given me a new perspective on how I should view people; I feel that I am able to make a change. That people, including myself, need to take more action to produce good results. I love being able to feel that a group is able to make a difference so long as they try.
-Jocelynn Benton

Working as an ally to the CIW on their Campaign for Fair Food has been a great experience. It has really opened my eyes to the terrible conditions farmworkers face in our own backyard. Getting to know the Immokalee farmworkers has been very inspiring because they have achieved so much by standing up for what is right. I have also learned great leadership skills which have empowered me to step up to more leadership roles. -Kate Sundberg

The Fair Food Campaign has helped me by opening my eyes to farm workers. Before we were involved in this campaign, I didn’t really realize the extent of the issue. After I realized how big the problem was I wanted to help. The Fair Food Campaign has helped me find my voice to advocate for other people.
-Lis Sundberg
Gallo Pinto (Rice and Beans) - In place of St. Pete Meeting’s usual potluck during Thanksgiving week, members of the Peace and Social Concerns Committee prepared generous portions of rice and beans, asking Friends to donate to ProNica what they would ordinarily spend on their potluck dish. The inspiration came from the awareness that nearly 80% of Nicaraguans live on less than $2 per day, making it very common for Nicaraguans to eat three meals per day of rice and beans—with meat or vegetables rarely included. The luncheon raised awareness and over $400 in donations from St. Pete Friends and the wider community.

Music for Social Change - For the second year in a row, Sarasota Friends are hosting a concert to benefit ProNica featuring Tom Nielson, Music for Social Change. Proceeds will support the women’s clinic in Acahualinca, Nicaragua. For more information, contact Sarasota Friend and ProNica board member, Johannes Werner at 941-330-0303, and check out the event on Facebook here.

Kathy Hersh’s reflections on the December 2013 Board Retreat and Friends Witness Tour in Nicaragua:

I am almost at a loss for words about our visit. One word which kept coming up for me was "historic." Isn't this the first time that our project partners, staff, board and advisors have met together under one roof? It's what the partners had been waiting for. Our partners love ProNica, not just because we help make possible their crucial work but because they feel personal attachments to the ProNica people they have come into contact with. They feel accompanied. They truly do. Now, they feel more connected than ever because of the presence of board members and our Quaker Witness folks - Kurt, Marlene, and Nancy, whose presence was greatly appreciated.

Of course, everyone fell in love with Tere. She claims to be shy but she was in her element in Nicaragua. She is entralling when she gets turned on and has the timing of a comedian. She was so impressed with the projects and the quality of the people running them. Her ability to communicate in Nicaraguan vernacular was just the ingredient we needed. Obviously, Laura speaks Nica Spanish fluently. But to have a member of the board, a volunteer, a "gringa Nica" as they lovingly and jokingly called her, is very special. (I was declared an honorary Nica, the presumption being that I must have Nicaraguan blood to feel so at home.)

It will take me a while to process all that I saw. How I wished I had had a certain documentary cameraman with me. Zelinda Rocca is a force of nature. I do feel we need to do a documentary about the story of Los Quinchos. I learned the origin of their name, finally, a touching tribute to a young boy named Joaquin (Quincho) who was killed by the National Guard under Somoza for running messages to the Sandinistas. Nicaragua's world famous folkloric group, Los Mejia Godoy, wrote a beloved song in his honor and Los Quinchos named themselves after the boy in the song.

The retreat/workshop was perfect. And I don't use that word very often. We began by stretching and visioning, a la Kitty Madden's exercises with the mothers to be at the Casa Materna. Many had just gotten off long bus rides and appreciated the gentle stretching. Then Laura introduced the altar exercise in which we all left personal symbols representing our work and commitment. Nancy lay the key to her house on the altar,
saying "Mi casa es su casa." (My house is your house.) Pam put her medallion of the Virgin of Guadalupe and her wedding band. Herb put the ProNica budget. I put my notebook, camera, and a bracelet representing my anti-bullying work. Adilia put a picture of Jesus and her cell phone, representing her faith and her network. Everyone's tokens were heartfelt and appropriate. The whole thing took about an hour, there were so many of us. BTW, Kurt was our semi-official photographer and videographer. His photos are beautiful. He took over 3,000 and edited them down to about 300. If he hasn't already, he is planning to send them to you. (Maybe we should think about a book of his photos with ProNica's history and philosophy.)

Maria Elena led us in a hilarious leadership exercise which required us to wrap "mummies" with toilet paper and tape. This was surprisingly instructive, as well as being an ice breaker. Although, truthfully, I don't think there was any ice to break.

Then Tere and I led a discussion on culture, what it is, what we learn and how we learn it and how we adapt to other cultures. It was a deep and frank discussion with much sharing all around. We could have discussed it all day but we managed to cover a lot in just one hour. After we finished for the day, a rainstorm came sweeping in that drove us into the center of the patio, dragging chairs behind us. It was like a giant blessing, bringing us physically together around the altar.

After a delicious dinner, we gathered to listen to Oscar playing the guitar and singing some popular Nicaraguan songs from the revolution and before. Then Philip Montalban and his son Thomas came to give us a house concert. We had a rafter raising good time with just about everybody taking a turn dancing, even Marlene! Milton collapsed in giggles nearly every time Marlene said or did anything. Her personality and affect simply cracked him up. The consejo members were there and they enjoyed the revelry.

Johannes was so good about entering into deep discussions with our partners, after Tere and I had conked out from all the dancing, singing and joke cracking.

In sum, a good time was had by all and we are a unified group of committed souls who are now linked by names and faces and memories of the joy we shared in each other's company.

Kathy

P.S. Next year in San Ramon. We are invited and we all think it would be wonderful. We'd love to have a reunion every year.
Responsible Global Citizenship – ProNica’s Educational Delegations in Nicaragua planned for 2014 include groups from:

- Haverford College
- Rutgers University
- Washburn University Bonner Scholars
- Washburn University School of Nursing
- Eckerd College
- The College of New Jersey
- High School Educators Tour sponsored by George School
- July Friends Witness Tour

To participate in ProNica’s mission of fostering better global citizens through educational delegations, contact us about available dates or refer groups to the stateside office at stateside@pronica.org.

ProNica Presence at FGC 2014 Gathering - Volunteers are sought to represent ProNica at the 2014 FGC Gathering near Pittsburgh. Are you considering attending the Friends General Conference Gathering from June 29-July 5? Would you like to share SEYM’s’ 26-year concern in Nicaragua with the wider Quaker world? There are opportunities to join with other volunteers to:

- Wear a ProNica sticker on your nametag, responding to questions, directing Friends to our Facebook page, and promoting the ProNica workshop at the Gathering
- Set up and break down artisan crafts for sale with a display in the FGC bookstore
- Post ProNica flyers in elevators, at the cafeteria and in other common areas
- Pass out newsletters after plenaries
- Set up, break down and transport a display in the Quaker org area

Reflections on the December 2013 Board Retreat and Friends Witness Tour in Nicaragua by St. Petersburg Friend, Marlene Springer:

Nicholas Kristof recently, in addressing a St. Petersburg audience, reminded us “you have won the lottery of life.” Few experiences do more to make that statement a personal reality than visiting the projects of ProNica in Nicaragua: the graduation of proud pre-school children who had recently lived on the town dump; the house and farm for children rescued from a life on the street; services for battered women in a place named for a beautiful 27 year old whose husband had beaten her to death; a community whose courage and resilience had helped them relocate themselves after a civil war, and certainly not least, the graduation of students from a beauty school so generously resurrected and supported by Pam and Herb Haigh. The reminders of pain and suffering are countered by the beauty of Nicaragua, the crater lakes, the fields of drying coffee beans; the smoke rising from the distant volcano. These are wonderful, and yet vividly painful memories of the ProNica tour so expertly arranged by Melissa in the U.S. and Laura Hopes I Nicaragua. Laura’s management skills, her expert translating, her good humor and kindness as she guided us through our long days are all evidence of the fine job she is doing—she even found delicious brownies to go with the wonderful Nicaraguan coffee. So thanks Laura, and your fine assistant Milton, and all the staff at the Quaker house for an experience that will renew our commitment to all those who haven’t yet won the lottery.
Ellie Caldwell on donating monthly to ProNica:

Despite our near Luddite-reputation, many Quakers are using internet banking for bill paying and donations to their Meetings and non-profit groups such as ProNica. We might not be led to give $120 or $240 a year, but $10 or $20 a month doesn’t seem like a big deal. (One large pizza, as someone once said at SEYM Gathering.) Automatic giving also adds stability to ProNica’s budget as they know they can depend on certain donations each month.

ProNica is one of the best Quaker organizations I know. They have staff on site and stateside, they involve Nicaraguans in programs, their purpose is to serve people’s needs and not tell them what they need, and they’re in the work for the long haul.

With the world economic situation making people nervous about giving away money, it’s more important than ever that those who can consider giving a little more to make up the difference. Automatic donating makes it easy, simplifies our lives, and helps out a stellar organization. What’s not to like?

2014 Grant Requests - For specific ways to offer solidarity to our grassroots partners in Nicaragua, the 2014 funding requests are available for review here.

Donate to invest in a more peaceful and just world - To set up a secure recurring monthly gift to ProNica through your credit card or PayPal, please visit: https://donatenow.networkforgood.org/pronica

“Our project partners told us, ‘because you’re Quakers we feel we can talk freely with you.’”

- Herb Haigh

Quaker House Caretaker of more than 20 years, Panchita Fletes with Director the Acahual Women’s Center, Maria Elena Bonilla