

Southeastern Yearly Meeting *of the Religious Society of Friends*

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Fall Interim Business Meeting

Saturday, October 5, 2019

and

Youth Program at Fall Interim Business Meeting

Friday, October 4, through Sunday, October 6

See page 2 for details

"Community is a place where the connections felt in the heart make themselves known in the bonds between people, and where the tuggings and pullings of those bonds keep opening up our hearts."

Parker Palmer, 1977

Hosted by

Tampa Monthly Meeting

Tampa Friends Meetinghouse, 1502 W Sligh Avenue, Tampa FL 33604
[1/2 mile west of Zoo Tampa at Lowry Park on opposite side of Sligh Avenue]

Hospitality:

• For overnight accommodations in Friends' homes, please contact Nil Wilkins, 813-963-2566, ngwvet@aol.com

Recommended nearby accommodations:

• **LaQuinta Inn and Suites Tampa Central**
3826 W. Waters Ave., Tampa
813-490-9090 • www.wyndhamhotels.com

• **Hampton Inn Tampa Veterans Expressway (Airport North)**
5628 W. Waters Ave., Tampa
1-877-461-1402 • www.hamptoninn3.hilton.com

• **Tampa Stadium Hotel**
4750 N. Dale Mabry Hwy, Tampa
(813) 877-6061 • tampastadiumhotel.us



Youth Program at Fall Interim Business Meeting

Friday, October 4, through Sunday, October 6

Join us in Tampa the weekend of October 4-6 for our next youth and families event! Families with kids up to 18 years old are invited to pitch tents Friday and Saturday nights in a “family camping neighborhood” on the grounds of Tampa meetinghouse.*



Friday evening we'll have a board game night from 7-9pm. On Saturday, kids can enjoy a mix of play, worship, workshops, and a morning service project at the [Sustainable Living Project](#), a community garden and learning center near Tampa Meeting.

Parents and other caretakers are encouraged to participate in SEYM committee meetings, worship, and discernment. Simple breakfasts and snacks will be provided. Bring board games to share and clothes to get messy in!

RSVPs to YYACoordinator@SEYMQuaker.org are helpful, but not required.

**** You can also join us for the day, request overnight hospitality from local Friends, or stay in a hotel.***

Fall Interim Business Meeting

Schedule, Agenda, and Documents in Advance

Friday, October 4

Executive Committee Meeting

- 6:30 pm Fellowship
- 7:00 pm Executive Committee meeting, all are welcome

Saturday, October 5

Fall Interim Business Meeting

- 8:00 am Coffee & snacks
- 9:00 am Worship
 - Nominating Committee preliminary report
 - Announcements
- 9:30 am Committee meetings – all are welcome to attend
- 12 noon Lunch provided by Tampa Friends
- 1:00 pm Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business

Draft Agenda:

- Opening Worship
- Spiritual/Inspirational Reading
- Agenda Review and Correction
- Roll call of Meetings and Worship Groups
- Welcome of visitors
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- Gathering Committee Report
- Treasurer’s Report
- Earthcare Committee Report
- Worship & Ministry Committee Report
- Finance Committee Report
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- Reports from Representatives to Other Organizations
- Reading back the minutes
- 4:30 Closing worship

Sunday, October 6

- 10:00 am Worship with Tampa Friends

Summer Executive Committee Meeting Minutes, June 8, 2019

Fall Interim Business Meeting 2019

SEC2019.01 In absence of an Executive Committee Clerk, Friends approve designating Bill Carlie, YM Clerk, as acting clerk for this meeting.

SEC2019.02 In the absence of Liz Dykes, EC/IBM Recording Clerk, Friends approve designating Vicki Carlie as acting recording clerk for this meeting.

SEC2019.03 Signatories on existing bank accounts

The SEYM Executive Committee agrees that the SEYM Treasurer, Treasurer of Trustees, Yearly Meeting Clerk, and Administrative Secretary shall be signatories on the Southeastern Yearly Meeting checking and savings accounts at Bank of America. To this end:

For the checking account,

- Victoria Carlie shall be removed as signatory.
- Susan Wade and William Carlie will be added as signatories.
- Joel Cook and Neil Andersen will remain signatories.

For the savings account,

- Lyn Cope-Robinson, Caroline Lanker, and Daniel Vaughen shall be removed as signatories.
- Joel Cook, William Carlie, and Susan Wade shall be added as signatories.
- Neil Andersen will remain a signatory.

SEC2019.04 New bank account for payroll

Executive Committee of Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends approves the opening of a second checking account at Bank of America to be used exclusively for payroll. Signatories on this account shall be:

- SEYM Treasurer: Joel Cook
- SEYM Treasurer of Trustees: Neil Andersen
- SEYM Clerk: William Carlie

SEC2019.05 We are sad to hear that Jacksonville Friends are considering laying down their Meeting. Friends recall how much Jacksonville Monthly Meeting has contributed to the life of SEYM over the decades.

We agree to place the concern for support of Jacksonville Meeting in the hands of the Worship & Ministry Committee.

SEC2019.06 Friends accepted the Secretary's report, presented by Vicki Carlie (outgoing Secretary) & Susan Wade (incoming Secretary)

SEC2019.07 The Executive Committee accepts the resignations of Nancy Corindia (Sarasota) as EC/IBM Clerk, and of Nancy Howell (Fort Myers) as YM and IBM Assistant Clerk. We thank them for their valuable service to SEYM.

- SEC2019.08** EC approves the nominations of Vicki Carlie (Orlando) as a member of the Gathering Committee, effective June 1; and of Jim Koopman (Ft. Myers) as a member of the SEYM Earthcare Committee.
- SEC2019.09** Friends accepted the Treasurer's report.
- SEC2019.10** The SEYM Executive committee is in unity with honoring, and not renegotiating at all, the contract, signed in 2018, between SEYM and Wendy Geiger regarding SEYM's publication of her book. We support the Publications Committee Clerk's plans for completing this project and fulfilling our obligations under the contract. We ask Bill Carlie, as acting clerk of EC, to write a letter to Wendy to relate the Sense of the Meeting.
- SEC2019.11** We ask the Treasurer and Trustees to further investigate whether there are other banks or other financial institutions that are more in keeping with our testimonies than those of our current bank, while also meeting the criteria and needs of SEYM financial operations.
- SEC2019.12** We wholeheartedly thank Tampa Friends for providing us a beautiful place to meet, and some very delicious food.

AFSC Representative's Report

Fall Interim Business Meeting 2019

Dear Friends,

The summer has been a busy time for the AFSC in Miami. Much of the focus has been on shutting down the detention center in Homestead for UACs (government parlance: Unaccompanied Alien Children). Due to pressure from the public (a national petition and letter writing campaign, Congressional visits and demonstrations), plus legal pressure, the children were removed. The final 300 were transported in buses, which departed after midnight!

We were told most were united with family and some were incarcerated in smaller facilities elsewhere. Despite official requests from Congresswoman Debbie Mucarsel-Powell for an accounting, the Office of Refugee Resettlement under the Health and Human Services Department will not provide that information. Witness/advocates across the country are researching this.

It is important to reiterate: The Homestead facility is not closed. Employees have been retained to keep it open for business for the next anticipated influx after the hurricane season has ended. For those of you who have visited, it would look just as busy as it was except there are no children.

Miami Friends are working closely with the AFSC Miami office in advocacy and material support. A few members have been led to hold Meeting for Worship on Sunday mornings down at Witness camp across from the center. There have been several press conferences and actions and Miami Friends has been part of inter-faith services, which were well attended by a growing diversity of faiths.

In early August, the General Secretary of the AFSC, Joyce Ajlouny, paid a visit to Miami and attended Meeting for Worship with us. The next day, Mariana Martinez and I had lunch with her after an AFSC called press conference announcing the departure of the children and the continued campaign to permanently shutdown the Homestead detention camp. The AFSC commitment to this campaign is solid. (See the AFSC website.)

We are happy to report that Morena Mendoza and her son Antonio are contentedly living in Texas, where Morena has been able to find work, unencumbered by her ankle monitor, which was inexplicably removed by ICE at her last appointment in April. Morena has a brother in Texas with whom she was in frequent contact while she lived in Bartram House on our Quaker grounds.

The AFSC Miami office will be moving into Bartram House after some renovations. Miami Friends are pleased to have them back again after many years in another location.

The main thrust of the AFSC work in South Florida will continue to be networking with grassroots groups to push for humanitarian reform of the U.S. immigration system, advocacy for immigrants, emphasizing self-advocacy and public education.

For more details, please read Lis-Marie Alvarado's memo and you can see where you might help!

From Lis-Marie Alvarado, Acting Director of AFSC Miami office: Currently we are working on the following:

- End Child Detention Campaign: There are currently no more children in Homestead. However, the detention center is preparing to bring new children in October. We cannot allow this. We are

releasing a report with our partner WeCount! about the toxic chemicals present at the center that are hazardous to humans and any living thing in the area. A report will be released very soon by the Miami Herald.

- [DefundHate National Campaign](#) aims to pressure Congress from funding ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) and CBP (Customs and Border Protection, aka Border Patrol). We are doing advocacy visits to our members of Congress asking them to prohibit DHS (Department of Homeland Security) from spending funds on detention and deportation above the agreed upon level for the fiscal year 2019. We are planning to do an action in Sept. in Marco Rubio's office. Defunding these agencies is the only concrete way we have to fight Trump's hate machine.
- [TPS Advocacy](#): AFSC Miami is the representative for FL for the National TPS (Temporary Protective Status) Alliance. We support and advocate locally for TPS recipients, particularly Haitians. We are doing presentations and recruiting TPS recipients in churches, encouraging self-advocacy.
- Preparation for the implementation of the [SB168 Anti-immigrant bill](#). In coalition with local pro-immigrant agencies, we are doing Know Your Rights presentations, outreaching to the community, taking calls in the hotline, raising funds for bonds to get people out of detention, documenting abuses and preparing for a catastrophic round-ups. AFSC staff member Paul MonDesir coordinates this important work for family unity and stability.
- Youth Leadership Development of unaccompanied children who are now living in Homestead and children of undocumented immigrants in Miami and Homestead. We do art, political education, healing activities, and take youth on outings.
- Support Work: We support individuals and families with issues related to immigration, discrimination and abuses at work or at home.
- Partners: Our main partners are WeCount! and FLIC (Florida Immigrants Coalition and FWA (Farm Workers Assoc.). We support their work and vice versa.
- Legal Work: Continue to support immigrants navigating our legal system with help of Marie Jean, our staff paralegal, Mariana Martinez and I are in training to be able to also provide more of this support to families and individuals.
- Sanctuary Everywhere: Committed to working the Miami Friends and doing outreach to Quakers in FL and engage them in supporting immigrants. Always, ready to support a person/family who needs Sanctuary.

Submitted by Kathy Hersh, Miami Monthly Meeting, SEYM rep to AFSC

SEYM Field Secretary for Earthcare (FSE) Report

Fall Interim Business Meeting 2019

Overview

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

This Fall Interim Business report marks nearly two years' field secretary activities. These activities have developed overtime into a process of "tacking back and forth" between local activities of SEYM Monthly Meetings, Worship Groups, and committees and the wider Quaker World and other organizations. I am deeply grateful for the ongoing support of Friends shown through emails, phone conversations, ideas, suggestions, and other sharing of resources.

Communication with the Anchoring Committee

The Anchoring Committee interactions continue through face-to-face and remote communication. I continue enriched by the relationships or partnerships I have developed with members of the Anchoring Committee. For example, Bonnie Zimmer and I have worked together with the Quaker Arts Center at Friends General Conference at the 2018 and 2019 Gatherings as part of a collaboration between the Fellowship of Quakers in the Arts and Quaker Earthcare Witness. These undertakings provide multilevel, deep opportunities for Earthcare work.

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, "Meetings can issue invitations to the [SEYM] administrative secretary, FSE, or the Anchor Committee [for FSE visits]. We will all conference over the invitation and subsequent planning" (Phoebe Andersen, 3 Tenth Month 2016).

Contact Information

- Email: fsEarthcare@seymquakers.org.
- Facebook: @fsearthcare
- A free conference calling number has been established, 1-712-770-8055. The conference code is 662814.
- Twitter: @fsearthcare.
- Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/7545638812>.
- Skype: phdant.
- Telephone number: 813.928.8823.
- Snail mail: 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.

Please note: if you do not have a specific topic for a visit, that is not a problem. Just let me know that you would like to visit. Some times, I just show up. I also have some ideas for Meetings or Worship Groups, as suggested below—some may be suitable for communitywide events:

- Underwater Homeowners Association;
- Climate Justice in Our Community (Location specific climate justice issues);
- Permaculture is Not Just Agriculture;

- Waterline Communities: Displacement and Gentrification and Why Quakers Should Care;
- Water: Sea Level Rise, Flooding, and Water Quality;
- Discerning Earthcare Leadings;
- Earthcare audits (baseline assessment of community activities and discernment);
- Kody Hersh also might let me tag along on some Youth events/visits.

Deland Worship Group, Various

Over the past year, I have visited the Deland Worship Group several times and participated in at least two “threshing” sessions. The first related to the direction of the Worship Group and the second related to exploring Friends Committee on National Legislation Advocacy Teams. (As discussed below, I have worked with FCNL on energy and environmental issues.)

We meet in the home of Ann Jerome and John Margerum on Blue Lake in Volusia County. (I have Ann Jerome and Bonnie Zimmer to thank for my new paper-piecing quilting passion.) Ann and John also are well acquainted with Pamela Boyce Simms our 2020 SEYM Gathering speaker. All shared space together at Pendle Hill for some time.

St. Petersburg Monthly Meeting, 8-10 Eleventh Month 2019

Mary Jo Klingel (Ft. Lauderdale Meeting and Clerk, Quaker Earthcare Witness) and I have been asked by St. Pete Meeting to facilitate “a talk, a workshop, an event of some kind.” The excitement for all of us involved in the planning is exponentially greater than the description. Mary Jo is the proclaimed Mother of the Field Secretary position and we have worked together intensely over the last few years in Quaker Earthcare Witness. If you are in the St. Pete area, please consider joining us. Past St. Pete visits have been open, at least in part, to the larger community.

On a sad note, Circus McGurkis 2019 has been cancelled. This has been a wonderful venue for Earthcare work and just good hangout time with other Friends. I look forward to exploring how to support future efforts.

Lake Wales, to be scheduled

Caroline Lanker wrote,

Lake Wales Worship Group is too small to take on any projects, but by paying rent to hold our meetings in the Ridge Audubon Center, we do a bit to support the center.

I personally have participated in the annual JayWatch (Florida scrub jay survey. Follow the Audubon link, <https://fl.audubon.org/get-involved/jay-watch>) again this year. I helped count scrub jays at [Allen David Broussard] Catfish Creek preserve (<https://www.floridastateparks.org/parks-and-trails/allen-david-broussard-catfish-creek-preserve-state-park>). Th[e] preserve is quite large and it takes several people several mornings to do the complete count there. The count has to be done in the morning because the jays are not as active in the afternoon heat and we don't work in the rain.

As I think you know, surveying scrub jays is necessary for protecting them and protecting scrub jays requires maintaining the scrub habitat they need. And many other species of animals as well as plants live in the scrub and benefit when the scrub is maintained.

Thank you, Caroline for what you do and sharing. I look forward to visiting Lake Wales and learning more.

St. Augustine, to be scheduled

I am looking forward to visiting the St. Augustine for a number of reasons, including visiting with Richelle Ogle and sharing information and work related to American Friends Service Committee. (Thank you,

Eduardo Diaz, LOL!) I am continuing to explore how our local experiences inform the wider Quaker World and global events and what better place to do this work than in St. Augustine?

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 Committee for Ministry on Racism (CMOR): With the events marking the 400th year of African-American enslavement in what became the United States, I have been working with the Committee to identify resources and discern our work. I also continue to look to information gained from the Truth and Healing Conference and am a member of the resulting steering committee of Decolonizing Quakers. (See below);
- Earthcare: I continue to work with the committee as a member and through Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW). Brad Stocker, committee co-chair and I share an appointment to FCNL through QEW. More details are provided below;
- Florida Council of Churches (FCC): The FCC will convene a gathering of clergy on clergy impacting legislative reform for Florida 12-13 Ninth Month; Carter Tabernacle CME Church and Florida Hotel and Conference Center, Orlando, <https://floridachurches.org/state-clergy-convening-2019/>. Please see also the Florida Council of Churches report;
- Peace and Social Concerns: I continue to remain in contact with members of SEYM Peace and Social Concerns Committee. I also have contact with some Monthly Meetings Peace and Social Concerns Committees as a source for Earthcare concerns.
- Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO), AFSC: I continue to work with Warren Hoskins, Eduardo Diaz, and QEW to build links. The results to date are detailed below under American Friends Service Committee;
- Right Sharing of World Resources: I continue to share information with Nilufer Wilkins to build links, including QEW United Nations Working Group and AFSC.
- Youth Committee: Kody Hersh, Youth Coordinator (!!!) and I have been keeping in contact around ideas that emerged from the SEYM 2019 Gathering. SEYM Youth are interested in focusing activities on climate change. In addition to visiting Meetings and other events as detailed above, we are working to develop programs at interim Business, Half Yearly, and Yearly Meeting. We welcome ideas, suggestions, and concerns as we develop programs. Thank you, in advance.

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), I continue to help coordinate and facilitate AVP workshops. I have not been able to return to Coleman Federal Correctional Facility to participate in workshops, however, I have provide other supports to this and other efforts. I recently

compiled the statewide report on AVP activities. During 2018, there were more than 20 AVP workshops held throughout Florida. More than one-half took place in prison/detention centers;

- American Friends Service Committee (AFSC): Thanks, again, to Clara and Eduardo Diaz, I have been appointed to the AFSC Quaker United Nations Committee (QUNC), which provides support to the AFSC Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO). This is my service work within the AFSC Corporation and complements both AFSC Third World Coalition Work and QEW United Nations Working Group efforts. For more information about QUNO, please visit <https://quno.org/>
- The Bridge of Tampa is being laid down. I continue to work with the board members and others through various regional activities, e.g., AVP, permaculture, the Sierra Club, the Transition Movement, etc.;
- Broward County Environmental Planning and Community, Environmental Stewardship and Community Resilience: I continue to remain in contact with the staff and others in this Broward County unit. Upcoming events include Sustainable Urban Agriculture Workshops, [Eventbrite.com/browardurbanag2019](http://eventbrite.com/browardurbanag2019), and the 11th Annual Southeast Florida Regional Climate Leadership Summit, 3-5 Twelfth Month 2019, <http://southeastfloridaclimatecompact.org/event/11th-annual-southeast-florida-regional-climate-leadership-summit/>;
- Decolonizing Quakers, <https://www.decolonizingquakers.org/>, as mentioned above, the continuing work of the Pendle Hill Truth and Healing conference, <https://pendlehill.org/truth-healing-spring-conference/>, a group of Friends have joined together “...to learn the truth of Quaker history with Indigenous peoples; support each other and offer information and resources as we work on this concern; acknowledge, honor, and respect Indigenous ways of knowing; and walk respectfully in ways that increase cultural integrity and justice for Indigenous governments, communities, and for the Earth.” I serve on the steering committee, lifting issues from SEYM CMOR, AFSC, FCNL, and QEW.
- First Unity, Saint Petersburg (FL): I continue to work with First Unity through the Interfaith Climate Action Network and other activities;
- Florida Interfaith Climate Actions Network (FL-iCAN): the FL-iCAN Steering Committee continues to work on the sixth assembly, tentatively scheduled for late Fourth Month 2020. Please also check out the website, <https://fl-ican.org>, and sign-up for legislative action alerts, <https://fl-ican.org/action-alerts/>
- Friends Committee on National Legislation: In addition to working with as a QEW representation with Brad Stocker to FCNL, I had the opportunity to co-facilitate an FCNL session at the 2019 FGC Gathering with Diane Randall, Executive Secretary. The workshop was structured around three questions posed by Christine Ashley, Quaker Field Secretary, which we responded to and then opened the session to discussion. (I will detail this session in later pieces.)

I also will be sharing more information about the monthly telephone Calls to Conscience on Climate Disruption facilitated by Emily Wirzba, FCNL Legislative Manager, Sustainable Energy and Environment. One exciting event discussed early this summer was the relaunch of the Climate Solutions Caucus, <https://www.fcnl.org/updates/climate-solutions-caucus-in-the-116th-congress-2174>. The Caucus is chaired by two Floridians, Rep. Ted Deutch (FL-22) and Rep. Francis Rooney (FL-19), who hosted their first members meeting 20 Sixth Month. I wrote letters to both representatives thanking them for their leadership and hope that others will join me. Perhaps visiting their offices? I also will write to the other Florida members of the conference (and copy the Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups):

- Rep. Matt Gaetz (FL-01),

- R Rep. Stephanie Murphy (FL-07),
 - Rep. Bill Posey (FL-08),
 - Rep. Charlie Crist (FL-13), and
 - Rep. Brian Mast (FL-18);
- Friends General Conference: Thank you for your support of the plenary talk on 1 Seventhday during the 2019 Gathering. The SEYM link to the video was greatly appreciated, also! The People of Color Center/FFAD was a great resource. I also got to participate in the Quaker Arts Center and the QEW Center as a member of the theatrical troupe Bohn Jeverly where we performed The Project Hope by Catherine Banks. The Project Hope is from the 2017 Climate Change Theatre Action, <http://www.climatechangetheatreaction.com/>. In addition to the FCNL discussion with Diane Randall, I also facilitated a discussion about displacement and climate gentrification in the QEW Center;
 - Friends Peace Teams (FPT): I continue to work with members of FPT, including linking FPT to QEW UN Working Group, see below;
 - Friends United Meeting: I continue to work with Geeta and Bob McGahey through the QEW Outreach Committee. I have to reach out to Eden Grace to identify how the QEW UN Working Group can be involved with Friends in Africa and the African Diaspora. One emerging opportunity is work with Geeta McGahey regarding communities who are recovering from the 2018 hurricanes;
 - Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC): I continue to work to link to FWCC through QEW and AFSC. I also participated in a video facilitated by FWCC on Quakers Coming Together to care for the Earth, <https://vimeo.com/336821797>. There are suggested guidelines for discussing the video, <http://fwcc.world/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Quakers-Coming-Together-to-Care-for-the-Earth-Video-Guidelines.pdf>;
 - The Initiative on Coastal Adaptation and Resilience (ICAR): I with ICAR through the Florida Council of Churches, Jan Booher, board member of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Boca Raton (UUFBR), and contacts from the University of South Florida;
 - National Academies of Sciences, Transportation Research Board (TRB), Environmental Justice Issues in Transportation and the Women's Issues in Transportation Committees. I am working with the Environmental Justice Committee to convene a transportation equity conference in 2021;
 - Organize NOW/F.I.R.E., Climate Justice Committee: I continue to assist the local committee in planning climate justice survey and related issues and recently helped the Tampa office to identify key issues;
 - The Pachamama Alliance: I continue to have contact with members through the FL-iCAN network and am working with Drawdown activities;
 - QEW: I continue focus on the International Decade for People of African Descent and co-clerking the Water Circle. We postponed our side event on water issues; one of our key partners, Nancy Abwalaba has been able to secure a U.S. visa. There has been no decision since her application in early spring 2019. We continue to research water issues and plan for the 2020 side event;

- Unitarian Universalist Fellowship: I continue to work with Jan Booher, Unitarian Universalist Justice Florida (UUJF) through FL-iCAN. I also am exploring opportunities to strengthen relations between the Unitarian Quaker Fellowship. Thank you, Mike Shell!;
- 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. I co-taught a course on research methods as part of the National Science Foundation Research Experience for Undergraduates Weather, Climate, and Science grant.

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 share “Field Notes”, short pieces on activities, with SEYM Monthly Meetings, Working Groups, the wider Quaker world and others. Please send suggestions for topics, research, etc.

Summary

I am looking forward to upcoming the QEW Steering Committee Meeting at Pendle Hill in Tenth Month. In addition to sharing this work, I hope to learn more about recovery efforts since the 2018 hurricane season and to collaborate on research. Kody Hersh and I will continue to work with other SEYM staff and conveners of Half Yearly Meeting. (Please share ideas!) Also, it is not too early to think about what you would like to do in a workshop at the SEYM 2020 Gathering. Pamela Boyce Simms will be our speaker. We have worked together on a number of initiatives including permaculture, medicinal herbs, transition, and...

May we all be safe.

May we all be healthy.

May we all know joy.

May we all know happiness.

May we all live lives of wellbeing.

Love and Peace,
Beverly Ward

Florida Council of Churches Report

Fall Interim Business Meeting 2019

During Fifth Month 2019, the Florida Council of Churches (FCC) convened a retreat “...to renew and restore prophetic voices.” The first day of the retreat included a session facilitated by Rev. Dr. Bernice Powell Jackson, First United Church of Tampa. Issues of concern included:

- The Death Penalty
- Public Education
- Arrests of children
- Affordable housing
- Amendment 4
- Healthcare
- Immigration
- Farmworkers
- Environment
- Shootings.

We were asked to reflect on the parable of the Good Samaritan and to think on what would have happened if the Samaritan didn't stop? What will happen if we don't speak up?

The second day included a conversation with Dr. Joel Hunter, Community Resources Network and Founder, Northland Church, Longwood (FL). While much of Dr. Hunter's work focuses on homelessness, he stated, “There is no siloed social problem.” The ensuing discussion broadened into the Network's activities and how the Council could support its efforts with the potential of expanding beyond central Florida.

Upcoming FCC Activities:

Faith Leaders Advancing Shared Hope, 12 through 13 Ninth Month 2019. FCC invites clergy to partner as a Publicly Engaged Church by learning the issues that deny opportunity to Floridians and by collaborating for improving public policy. This convening will address Public Education Reform, as well as Consumer Law Reform, Criminal Justice Reform, Environmental Law Reform, and Immigration Reform. For information and registration, link to <https://floridachurches.org/state-clergy-convening-2019/>.

Dreaming God's Dream Together: Faith Leaders Advancing Shared Hope, an overnight retreat with Alexia Salvatierra, co-author of Faith-Rooted Organizing: Mobilizing the Church in Service to the World, 13 through 14 Tenth Month 2019, at the Life Enrichment Center, Fruitland Park, FL. The Council is looking for two dozen pastors to participate in a founding conversation on establishing faith-rooted organizing in Florida. The retreat is ecumenical and open to pastors of all traditions. Register online at <https://floridachurches.org/dreaming-gods-dream-together/>.

The Sixth Annual Florida Interfaith Climate Actions Network (FL-iCAN!) Assembly, Late Fourth Month 2020, Callahan Neighborhood Center, 101 N Parramore Ave, Orlando, FL. Updates on these and other FCC activities and concerns to follow.

Submitted by Beverly Ward
SEYM Representative to Florida Council of Churches

Youth and Young Adult Coordinator's Report

Fall Interim Business Meeting 2019

Recent Work

Events:

In recent months, a major focus of my time as Youth and Young Adult Coordinator has been on event planning and facilitation. SEYM sponsored two retreats over the summer, one for young adults, and another for youth and families.

- **Young Adult Retreat:** This event was held at Sarasota Friends Meeting and had 13 young adults in attendance. A planning committee of Joshua Killingsworth, Sara Sheffer, and Chelcee Washington helped with retreat planning and facilitation. Activities included unprogrammed worship, workshops, interest group discussions, worship sharing, games, and a trip to the beach. Total cost to SEYM of running the retreat was \$420. There was no cost to participants to attend.
- **Youth and Families Retreat:** This end-of-summer event was held at Lake Louisa State Park, which has cabins available for rent. There were 24 participants. Retreat activities included swimming, canoeing and kayaking, watermelon carving, tag, baking, and board games, as well as worship sharing and semi-programmed family worship. Total cost to SEYM was \$2414. There was no cost to participants to attend.

Both of these retreats drew significant participation from people who had not previously attended SEYM events. They could be offered without cost to participants because no events for youth have been offered for several years, resulting in a budget surplus. We have now spent that surplus, so will need to look for other ways of making events financially welcoming and accessible.

Evaluations for both events were overwhelmingly positive. All respondents to the Family Retreat evaluation indicated that the retreat worked very well for their family, that they would be interested in attending a similar event in the future, and that attending the retreat made them more likely to participate in other SEYM events. One Young Adult Retreat participant commented, "I loved being able to connect with other Young Quakers and be able to just talk openly about things that have been on my mind and my heart in recent times."

In total, the two retreats served members and attenders from eight different monthly meetings across the region.

Religious Education:

In August, I had the opportunity to attend the annual conference of the Quaker Religious Education Collaborative, a group that brings together Quakers from around the world with an interest in religious education for youth and adults. While at the conference, I accepted an invitation to serve on the Collaborative's Steering Circle (leadership team). I am excited about how my ongoing involvement in QREC might bear fruit in the resources I am able to connect SEYM meetings with. In addition, I encourage all Friends, especially those involved in religious education for youth or adults, to explore the wealth of resources on QREC's website. Meetings can become more involved and support QREC's work by becoming QREC members.

Coming out of this year's SEYM Gathering, I was disappointed by how few religious education resources I could find to share with meetings on the theme of anti-racism. I began to have conversations

with other people involved in Quaker religious education and anti-racism work about creating a new curriculum for First Day Schools on racial justice. I am excited to report that this project is gathering momentum, and a really exciting team of collaborators is coming together from many different yearly meetings to work on it. Our vision is to create something that is extremely flexible in terms of the size and age make-up of the group; that is modular, rather than cumulative (sessions don't need to be done in a particular order, and you don't need the same people there from one to another), and that in addition to core content on the topic of racial justice, includes strategies for how to incorporate a racial justice lens into every other topic.

I continue to look for ways to better support Friends doing religious education work in SEYM meetings. Please reach out any time if I can help connect you with resources, talk through an issue, or visit your meeting for a more in-depth consultation!

Coming Up

This fall, I have visits scheduled with Ft Myers Meeting, to talk about youth inclusion in meeting life, Gainesville Meeting, where I'll lead a "Towards Right Relationship" workshop on the Doctrine of Discovery, and Miami Meeting, where I will facilitate an all-day meeting retreat. I am also in conversation with St Petersburg Meeting about arranging a visit.

In addition to that travel, I am looking forward to running a youth program and supporting more family participation at Fall Interim Business Meeting, planning the youth program for Half Yearly Meeting, participating in revision of the Child Abuse Prevention Program (CAPP) manual, supporting Jacksonville Meeting attender Emily Sebast in convening a virtual book group for SEYM young adults, and continuing to look for ways to connect SEYM monthly meetings with resources on religious education, outreach, and welcome for youth, young adults, and families.

With love and gratitude,

Kody Hersh
Youth and Young Adult Coordinator
YYACoord@SEYMQuakers.org
(407) 850-8457 (text & phone)

Archive Committee Report

Fall Interim Business Meeting 2019

(From our work during the week of August 12th at
University of Florida's Library in Gainesville)

Our thanks to Warren Hoskins for bringing two bankers boxes of Miami Monthly Meeting papers to us at last year's Fall Interim Business Meeting. Bill went through them at his home, removing duplicate copies, staples, and paperclips. He took them to the University of Florida in Gainesville for our work there during the week of August 12.

Neil and Phoebe Andersen brought two boxes of records from the former Augusta (Georgia) Monthly Meeting. The Augusta papers they received extended from its beginning in the early 1950's to its laying down in 2004. They sorted, condensed to remove duplicates, and prepared the records to be added to our Archives collection there. The Augusta material includes much rich history of one of SEYM's earliest Meetings.

In addition, the records of SEYM itself have been indexed for the years: 1990 thru 2015 for completeness and ease of access. The process will continue during future work-visits for both earlier and more recent years to keep our Archives current and complete.

-Archives Committee

Committee for Ministry on Racism Report

Fall Interim Business Meeting 2019

“As much as I hope white readers will read it and have their minds blown, I hope that black people will read it, and feel a sense of ownership over this country and a sense of pride in our resilience . . . I hope to reframe the way we see ourselves in America.” (Nikole Hannah-Jones, New York Times staff writer who came up with the idea for the 1619 Project, referring to the August 18, 2019, special issue of the New York Times Magazine dedicated “to examining the ways the legacy of slavery continues to shape our country. Its implications, particularly for a newspaper that continues to face criticism for its past and present coverage of black Americans, were huge.”)
Lovia Garkye, Times Insider, August 18, 2019

Greetings Friends,

The Committee for Ministry on Racism warmly invites you to join us as we worshipfully meet from 9:30 – 11:30 AM on Saturday, October 5.

We commend to Friends an initiative, which will be on our agenda, that Beverly Ward brought to our attention: The 1619 Project. The initiative grew from a special New York Times Magazine issue to include podcasts that are ongoing on Fridays and some Saturdays and curricula for schools. <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/08/14/magazine/1619-america-slavery.html>

The 1619 Project is a major initiative from the New York Times observing the 400th anniversary of the beginning of American slavery. It aims to reframe the country’s history, understanding 1619 as our true founding, and placing the consequences of slavery and the contributions of black Americans at the very center of the story we tell ourselves about who we are. Narrated by Nicole Hannah-Jones, The 1619 Project, (The New York Times Magazine, August 18, 2019)

We will also be considering action to bring forward following the July 24, 2019 letter from the Florida Council of Churches to Florida State Attorney, Brad King. The letter urgently asks him to establish a “No Call” List in Lake County, Florida: “a public list of officers whom your office will not call on or rely on to prosecute cases because of their violation of the public trust” through their racist or violent views. SEYM is a member of the Florida Council of Churches.

<https://floridachurches.org/establish-a-no-call-list-in-lake-county/>

“We are community organization members, faith leaders, and advocates for a fair criminal justice and law enforcement system in Lake County and across the state of Florida. We recently learned about the Plainview Project <https://www.plainviewproject.org> which exposed racist and violent social media posts of current and former Lake County sheriff’s deputies. The revelation is especially devastating in light of Lake County’s history of racism and brutality at the hands of those with power and authority....” (Florida Council of Churches. Excerpted from Letter to State Attorney, Brad King. July 24, 2019).

Our committee continues to carry a concern for the support of the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition (NNABSHC) and will discern further about this at our meeting. Jane Westberg will be speaking with Christine Diindiisi McCleave, M.A. (Turtle Mountain Anishinaabe), Executive Director of NNABSHC to help us with way forward on this. We are also researching what other monthly or yearly meetings have done. We continue to be inspired by Paula Palmer and her research on Quaker Indian Boarding Schools and her Towards Right Relationship ministry for informing us. We are grateful to be able to share this video about her work: <https://vimeo.com/192219802/376f2f1ddb>

Since the Committee for Ministry on Racism desires to maintain regular contact with other SEYM Friends, we will be discerning during our meeting on contributing a regular column (e.g. book, article or

podcast reviews) to the SEYM E-News. For instance, Kathy Hersh has recently read American Indian Movement leader Russell Means' autobiography, WHERE WHITE MEN FEAR TO TREAD, at the suggestion of Houston Cypress, her friend from the Miccosukee Tribe:

Means provides a front row seat to the formation of the American Indian Movement as the out-front and in-your-face group fighting, sometimes literally, for indigenous people's rights. With brutal honesty, he tells of his own formation as a man and a leader. It's a painful story but I have a real understanding of the history of exploitation and continuing degradation of First Peoples, the ongoing trauma handed down from of the forced assimilation of Indian children in boarding schools in the last century, and of the struggle to live as with dignity in a society which has ignored and shunned them for two centuries.

Means talks a lot about Indian spirituality and practices, referring to God not as an entity but "the Great Mystery," ever present at times of crisis and danger in his life.

Russell Means was controversial, as he intended to be, not willing to compromise his beliefs, which inevitably caused conflicts and often violence. Towards the end of his life he came to believe in nonviolence as the only path to real change.

Since the time our committee last met by Zoom conference call, there has been good news: Committee member, Beverly Ward, delivered a very well-received plenary address at the July Friends General Conference Gathering in Grinnell, Iowa: How I Get Over: My Journey Towards Peace and Justice in Care for the Earth. Kathy and Kody Hersh, along with other SEYM Friends, were part of the persistent, effective protest that shut down the largest detention center for migrant children in our country, Homestead, on August 3. We realize there is much more work, from worship, to be done in defending immigrant rights. The Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR) publicized online Kamou Waset Allen's (Together Colorado) report that on December 18, 2018 Colorado became the first state in the United States to abolish slavery in its constitution by removing the exception clause to slavery. Their constitution contained a clause similar to the 13th amendment of the U.S. Constitution: "There shall never be in this state either slavery or involuntary servitude EXCEPT as punishment for a crime, whereof the party shall have been duly convicted." Many states have similar statements in their constitutions. Florida is not one of them, though Florida's original constitution protected slavery. A June 21 ceremony in downtown Orlando unveiled a historical marker honoring July Perry, the voting-rights advocate who was lynched on Election Night 1920 during the Ocoee Massacre – one of the South's deadliest outbreaks of racial violence. The ceremony was sponsored by the Montgomery, Alabama-based Equal Justice Initiative, the Truth and Justice Project of Orange County, [and] Bridge the Gap Coalition, Orange County Government, the Orange County Public Library System, the Orange County Regional History Center, and the City of Orlando. Tallahassee Friends are part of a similar Community Remembrance project for the four documented men who were lynched in that area.

We look forward to being with you at Tampa Friends Meeting and sharing with one another ways in which our awareness has been raised about our own inadvertent participation in structural racism and what steps we are taking to change this. We envision living in ways that bring equity to all through truly honoring that of God in everyone.

Many blessings, in God's love,

Susan Taylor, Co-clerk (Tallahassee), for the Committee:

Wendy Clarissa Geiger, Co-Clerk (Jacksonville), Beverly Ward (Tampa), Minerva Glidden (Orlando), Kathy Hersh (Miami), Jane Westberg (Miami), Jean Larson (Gainesville), Cheryl Demers (Gainesville), Kody Hersh (Miami), SEYM Youth and Adult Young Friends Coordinator, meets with us.

Nominating Committee Report

Fall Interim Business Meeting 2019

The Nominating Committee has two concerns in the Fall: (1) To find able and willing Friends to serve in the vacant but critical positions which are central to the success of SEYM, our programs and the life of the Yearly Meeting; and (2) To contact members whose terms are expiring in 2020 regarding continuing as a committee member, officer, or representative as the Spirit leads.

Our current Yearly Meeting Clerk has taken on the responsibilities of two additional positions (items 1 and 2, below). Please reflect, discern, and share your gifts which will provide the shepherding for a successful Yearly Meeting. We also urge Friends to consider serving the Annual Gathering and Youth programs, which are central to the life of our Yearly Meeting. Please share this concern with others in your monthly meeting, too. We all are Friends in unity with the SEYM community.

We currently require and are seeking your gifts in the appointments of:

1. Interim Business Meeting (IBM) and Executive Committee (EC) Clerk - 1 position
2. Assistant Yearly Meeting & Interim Business Meeting Clerk - 1 position
3. Program Coordinator, 2020 YM Gathering
4. YM Gathering Registrar
5. Coordinator and Trainer(s) - Child Abuse Prevention Program (CAPP)
6. Member (1) of SEYM Trustees
7. Two members are (2) needed for the SEYM Nominating Committee. Contact Stephanie Preston-Hughes or Peter Schmidt of the Naming Committee.

There are gifted souls in our monthly meetings whom you may suggest. Some current committee member could come forward to serve in a clerking role. There are possibilities!

In the summer interim, Executive Committee approved two Nominating Committee minutes on 6/8/19. The Committee requests FIBM approval for those two minutes:

1. SEYM accepts with regret the resignations of
Nancy Corindia (Sarasota) as IBM Clerk and EC Clerk.
Nancy Howell (Fort Myers) as YM and IBM Assistant Clerk.
2. SEYM approves
Vicki Carlie as a member of the Gathering Committee, effective June 1, 2019;
Jim Koopman (Fort Myers) as a member of the SEYM Earthcare Committee.

Ed Lesnick, Clerk of the Nominating Committee

Half Yearly Meeting Committee Report

Fall Interim Business Meeting 2019

Dear Friends,

Every year SEYM Quakers gather over the long Thanksgiving weekend at Wekiwa Springs State Park (near Orlando) for Half Yearly Meeting.

Our biggest issue this year is that we don't have a food coordinator. I did it last year and was clerk and that was too much for me to handle--gracefully. I just got word that the person who volunteered for 2019 food coordinator position had to step down. Food coordinator gets a volunteer for each meal, helps with shopping and food list. Last year I was not able to accommodate people with extensive food allergies and that may happen again unless someone wants to coordinate special food needs.

The infirmary burned down so we have lost that heated/bathroom space. The committee members have been considering a slightly higher price for cabins with heat and bathrooms.

Jerry Knutson, Clerk

Youth Committee Report

Fall Interim Business Meeting 2019

Minutes:

- (1) FIBM Youth Program: Kody will plan a youth program at FIBM for the weekend of October 4-5, 2019. Families have the option of camping on the grounds of the Tampa Meeting. In the morning, youth might volunteer with a community garden about 15 minutes away called the Sustainable Living Project. Kody will seek youth input on the rest of the program, which may include a focus on climate change, the youth-chosen focus for this year.
- (2) Ad Hoc Committee to Review CAPP Manual: EC and Youth Committee have been tasked with creating an ad hoc committee to review and recommend updates to the CAPP Manual. We will need to include input from insurance companies, LEC and families. Kody will compile a list of concerns and suggested changes where possible. We would like the following to be represented on the committee if possible: YYA coordinator, someone who has been through process before, CAPP coordinator, parent, recent youth program participant, mental health worker, child care professional. Possible names were brought forward, and committee members will ask these individuals, and we'll report back to EC.
- (3) Family Retreat Report: Kody and Mira reported on the successful Family Retreat at Lake Louisa State Park, which brought families together in community. Kody mentioned that having an assistant was critical to the success, particularly for setup / shopping. Once everyone was gathered, people pitched in to help. We had some limitations with the location that couldn't have accommodated any additional people who may have been interested. Registration was closed a month before the retreat. Full report and surveys are available. Kody has identified Hugh Taylor Birch State Park in Ft. Lauderdale as a possible site for next year. It's about half the price, can accommodate more people and has group meeting facilities. In-person registration is required. Youth Committee approved that Kody could visit and place a deposit down for next summer's retreat. Since the location is not central, planning will include options for carpooling. The location could be rotated to different parts of the state in following years.
- (4) Quaker Religious Education Collaborative: Kody participated in the annual conference of the QREC at Powell House in upstate New York. Kody was asked—and accepted—to serve on the leadership team for QREC, to help stay connected to developments in religious education. A report on the gathering will go out in SEYM e-news.
- (5) Half Yearly Meeting: Some thoughts on half yearly meeting were to focus on climate change, to provide training on lobbying and a lobbying activity, to have a discussion about peacemaking and how to become a peacemaker, and to consider how much structure youth may want at Half-Yearly.
- (6) Youth Clerks: Youth nominated youth co-clerks and recording clerk at Yearly Meeting, but didn't formally approve the names that were brought forward. Kody will contact the three individuals whose names were brought forward and let them know that in the absence of a formal approval, they will be considered acting co-clerks/acting recording clerk until yearly meeting, when a business meeting can take place. They will be invited to youth committee meetings.
- (7) Regular Meeting Time: Please reserve the Fourth Sunday of the month at 7 PM starting September 22 for Youth Committee meetings.

Mira Tanna