

SEYM GATHERING 2020 WORKSHOPS

THURSDAY MORNING • APRIL 9th • 10:15 – 11:30 AM

Weaving a Wider Welcome: Practicing Anti-racism in your Meeting This workshop will draw from FGC's Welcoming Friend Project to explore how meetings can practice anti-racism by transforming into radically welcoming spaces. We will consider questions like: What does a meeting need in order to be ready to welcome anyone who walks in the door? How do assumptions and bias interfere with good welcoming? What would a meeting look like where all the parts of every person were not just tolerated, but joyfully welcomed – whether it is their way of expressing themselves, their culture, their unique experience of Spirit, their sexuality or gender, their body, their language, their voice? We will start from the premises that racism and White Supremacy culture create serious barriers to full participation in meetings, and that when we make transformative changes, we all benefit. Participants will engage with FGC's Institutional Assessment on Systemic Racism, share their personal reflections, and take away activities to bring back to their meetings. **Facilitator:** Olivia Pandolfi (they/them), Friends General Conference Ministry on Racism Program Fellow. **Room 1**

The Immokalee Fair Housing Crisis -- and a Solution We will discuss the housing crisis experienced by farm workers in Immokalee and the efforts of the Immokalee Fair Housing Alliance Inc. (IFHA) to address the issue. Currently, farmworker housing, as well as much of the vacant land in Immokalee, is owned by several families that artificially raise prices and resist making improvements. The IFHA's plan is to circumvent the power of these landowners by building 100 homes at affordable rent rates for farm workers and their families with 100% donated funds and grants. This low income housing community has been designed with ample input from farm workers and will include open space, a playground, a laundry room, and a multi-purpose space for community meetings, early learning, and computer-assisted after school learning. **Facilitator:** Alan Penick, *Sponsored by Ft. Myers Meeting* **Room 2**

Defund Hate: Dismantling the Deportation & Detention Machine For decades, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) have separated countless families, caused the deaths of people seeking refuge, and terrorized our communities. AFSC has partnered up with several nationwide organizations and faith groups in the #DefundHate coalition, which demands that Congress stop funding cruelty against immigrants. It's time to defund ICE and CBP and invest our tax dollars in education, health care, and other programs that strengthen – instead of tear apart – our communities. In this workshop we will learn how funds of the federal government are allocated, how ICE/CBP have found loopholes for more funding, and what we can do to stop this. **Facilitators:** Paul Mondesir & Mariana Martinez, staff of AFSC Miami/American Friends Immigration Service. **Room 3**

THURSDAY AFTERNOON • APRIL 9th • 2:45 – 4:00 PM

The No Way to Treat a Child Campaign. Co-sponsored by AFSC, this campaign advocates against the mistreatment of Palestinian children in Israeli military detention. One current goal of the campaign is to have 100 meetings take action on this issue in the next year. We will view a 50-minute film, "Imprisoning a Generation," and discuss how individual Friends and monthly meetings can take actions in solidarity with the campaign. **Facilitators:** Kody Hersh (Orlando; he/they), Cece Yocum (Tampa; she/hers), Joan Culver (Ft. Myers; she/hers) **Room 1**

Prophetic. Persistent. Powerful. ~ FCNL & SEYM Working Together Friends will gather to explore how our work and witness will unfold in the coming Congress. How will we focus our work for "The World We Seek"? How will we strengthen ourselves as advocates bringing spiritual values and Friends' testimonies to bear on public policy issues? How will we become faithful partners in support of the extraordinary Quaker presence on Capitol Hill offered by FCNL staff? **Facilitator:** Karen Putney (Tampa;) **Room 2**

Collaborative Conflict Resolution Strategies - from Interpersonal Situations to Earthcare. Conflicts are universal features of human interaction. After discussing definitions of conflict, we'll explore the various types and levels of conflict that we may experience or observe, then discuss when to use collaborative conflict resolution strategies. We'll consider some procedures for resolving conflicts, and analyze some conflict scenarios, including environmental conflicts. For each scenario, we'll identify some strategies that we would like to try, and work toward an outcome that satisfies all parties. **Facilitator:** Brian Humphrey (Ft. Lauderdale) *I have presented a number of conflict resolution workshops at Quaker conferences and interfaith conferences. As a pre-teen and a teen, I dealt with bullying and teasing. In 1992, I took part in a week-long workshop on peaceful strategies for conflict resolution. For years, I worked with people who stutter and their families. Kids and adults who stutter are often bullied, and I was glad that I could offer them strategies for bullying prevention and conflict resolution. Earthcare is a focus for me, and environmental conflicts are likely to increase as climate change continues.* **Room 3**

Listening in Tongues: Overcoming the Tower of Babel Sometimes, it seems Friends are reluctant to speak about spiritual experiences or beliefs for fear of offending or being misunderstood. Together we will explore our spiritual types, our meeting's spiritual type, and the different language Friends use to describe spiritual experience and ideas. We will discover the meanings others have for words we may find difficult. The goal is learning to listen deeply to the meaning behind the words being used. Learning to listen in tongues. Papunehang to John Woolman: "I love to feel where words come from." **Facilitator:** Joel Cook (Treasure Coast Worship Group; He/Him/His) **Room 4**

FRIDAY AFTERNOON • APRIL 10th • 2:30 – 3:45 PM

Eco-Destruction In Our Backyard: The EU Replaces Coal with Southeast Wood

How are Florida, Georgia, South Carolina hostage to Europe's efforts to meet its Paris Climate Accord goals? The answer lies in two converging factors – Europe subsidizes aging power plants to be converted for “biomass” burning coupled with profiteers selling off lowland forests of the southeast U.S. to crush into wood pellet fuel. Despite the laudable “green” goal, the perverse fact is that harvesting “non-productive” trees, some 1000 years old, destroys these fragile ecosystems and, ironically, transportation and production of wood pellets emits more carbon at the smokestack and spills out more particulate pollution to achieve less energy output than coal. In seven southern states, there are now 21 power plants in wood pellet production with another 13 proposed. The allure of wood biomass as a “green” solution is a uniformed choice. It's time to act. **Facilitator:** Hollyn Green (Savannah) **Room 1**

Quaker Worship Groups: Our History . . . Are They Also Our Future?

“The Lord showed me, so that I did see clearly, that he did not dwell in these temples which men had commanded and set up, but in people's hearts . . . his people were his temple, and he dwelt in them.” –George Fox. At a time when many lament the decline of Quakers in North America, when beautiful old Meetinghouses are sold because the few remaining members can no longer support them, are worship groups the answer? Is a reevaluation of the role Quaker worship groups can play in our meetings and in the broader community in order? Come for a conversation with several SEYM community members who have started Friends worship groups here in the Southeast and share your own experiences as well. We'll begin with each presenter giving a very brief overview of their experience launching a worship group, and general discussion. Then those gathered will come together to consider queries concerning the roles that worship groups may play. **Facilitators:** Joel Cook (Treasure Coast WG), Ann Jerome & John Margerum (Deland WG), Richelle Ogle (St. Augustine WG), Mike Shell (Jacksonville WG) **Room 3**

Uncovering Bias with Integrity & Love This intergenerational, interactive workshop will be a safe place to discover, explore, and learn about the unconscious, or implicit, biases we all have that keep us from embracing our differences and being fully and equitably in community together. The focus will be on uncovering implicit biases associated with the social construct of race, though biases also operate and intersect in many other areas of our lives, e.g. sexual orientation and gender identification, sex, age and ability. Video, story-telling, and interactive scenarios reflecting the Platinum Rule (treat others as they wish to be treated) will be integral to the uncovering process. Beverly Ward will share how she was radicalized through the Birmingham Children's Crusade in 1963 with the empowerment of youth activism, and illuminate how structures in our society can be changed to support equity for all. Structural racism and implicit bias are interwoven. We will have the joy of knowing each other and ourselves more deeply by the end of the workshop. Presented by the Committee for Ministry on Racism. **Facilitators:** Beverly Ward (Tampa), Kathy Hersh (Miami), Katie Green (Clearwater), Susan Taylor (Tallahassee) Pronouns for all facilitators: She, Her, Hers. **Room 3**

Art & the Life of the Spirit *this is a two-part workshop, from 2:45 – 5:30*

Are you an artist? Is doing art – whether visual, performance, writing, poetry, crafts, etc. – an important part of your life? This workshop will consider the interplay between the inner spirit-led life and the outer life of the artist through some or all of the following types of activities: Short readings, Queries, Worship sharing, Journaling. We will also collaborate on making a group art project using found objects and/or objects that participants bring to the workshop. Please bring one or two examples of your art to share and a few small objects to contribute to a collaborative project. These may include found objects, paper, fabric, or anything else that interests you as long as it is small. Limited to 20 participants. Teens are welcome! **Facilitator:** Bonnie Zimmer (Gainesville) **Room 4**

FRIDAY AFTERNOON • APRIL 10th • 4:00 – 5:15 PM

Grassroots Peace Work Of Activists In Central and South America How do we respond to the crises in Central and South America that are forcing thousands of families to flee their homes and causing violence and widespread desecration of indigenous land? We'll look at the peace work of activists making their countries safer through Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP), Trauma Healing/Resiliency workshops and other methods. Examples of methodologies will be explained and there will be short demonstrations of some of the exercises that have been helpful to those affected by violence. **Facilitator:** Cece Yocum (Tampa), member of Peacebuilding en las Americas Working Group of Friends Peace Teams. **Room 1**

Growing Transgender Allyship in SEYM Participants will be asked to identify their transgender ally goals and explore our their own barriers to engaging in trans ally work. We will discuss micro-aggressions that hurt trans people and educate on affirming language and behaviors. We will conclude with interactive role plays to help develop concrete trans ally skills and bystander intervention approaches. **Facilitators:** Stephanie Preston (Orlando)(she/her), Vincent Cosomano (Miami) , Sara Humphrey (Orlando; she/her) **Room 2**

Bowels of Mercies (Colossians 3,12 KJV): Earthy Spirituality for a Time of Disruption -- balancing vulnerable with gutsy, offloading blame or shame for the way we are put together, somehow, in God's image. Can we be real without getting gross, immune to shock and bullying, compassionate and fit to work together towards averting catastrophic climate change? **Facilitators:** Karen Putney (Tampa) and Bob Allenson (Tallahassee). **Room 2**

Art & the Life of the Spirit (*continued, see description above*) **Room 4**

SATURDAY AFTERNOON • APRIL 11th • 2:30 – 3:45 pm

Turning Toward the Light: A Journey of Faith & Practice *a two-part workshop, 2:45–5:30* Faith and Practice is an ongoing beacon of guidance and Light for modern Quakers. With this Yearly Meeting Gathering, the Worship and Ministry Committee begins a series of workshops specifically addressing our concerns and patterns of behavior, individually and corporately, as we grow in the Spirit. As so aptly stated in 1954, by Jane Palen Rushmore, “the teachings of our fore[bears] were intended to be landmarks, not campsites.” As we ever change in continuing revelation, a greater awareness of our landmarks will stand us in good stead. This workshop will explore the first two chapters of SEYM Faith and Practice, touching on a brief history of SEYM, seeking to make clearer our vision of The Light Within and the Meeting for Worship, and examining our own religious experiences as Friends. In this sharing, we will find that our journeys may run parallel, yet often cross paths. By being more cognizant of the spiritual paths of one another, we may deepen our own search and discovery. *A Worship and Ministry Sponsored Workshop. Facilitators:* Jan Dahm and Lisa Erasmus (Tampa MM) **Room 1**

Reversing Global Warming: Introduction to Drawdown for Quakers Project Drawdown is a scientifically based, comprehensive plan of the top 80 solutions to begin to reverse global warming by 2050. The book, by the same name, sets out the solutions, the math and the economics of how we can actually do this in an inspirational and accessible way. The workshop will include an introduction to Project Drawdown and the Pachamama Alliance (the organization that put together the program), an opportunity to reflect on how we relate to global warming as Friends, information and a video clip of Paul Hawken, the book editor, introducing and explaining the Project Drawdown plan, and group discussions on what we as a Yearly Meeting, Monthly Meetings/Worship Groups or individuals may want to engage. **Facilitators:** Beverly Ward (Tampa) & John Heimburg (Deland) **Room 2**

Growing Transgender Allyship in SEYM Participants will be asked to identify their transgender ally goals and explore our their own barriers to engaging in trans ally work. We will discuss micro-aggressions that hurt trans people and educate on affirming language and behaviors. We will conclude with interactive role plays to help develop concrete trans ally skills and bystander intervention approaches. **Facilitators:** Stephanie Preston (Orlando)(she/her), Vincent Cosomano (Miami) , Sarah Humphrey (Orlando) **Room 3**

Tending to Our Spiritual Resources & Practices In this workshop, we will look at how we can cultivate our spiritual resources and deepen our spiritual practices, and what sometimes holds us back. The session will include meditation, art, roleplay, journal writing and sharing in small groups. **Facilitators:** Cece Yocum (Tampa) & Marjorie Arnaldi (Tampa) **Room 4**

SATURDAY AFTERNOON • APRIL 11th • 4:00 – 5:15

Turning Toward the Light: A Journey of Faith and Practice

This is a two-part workshop, from 2:45 – 5:30. See description above. Room 1

Uncovering Bias with Integrity & Love This intergenerational, interactive workshop will be a safe place to discover, explore and learn about the unconscious, or implicit, biases we all have that keep us from embracing our differences and being fully and equitably in community together. The focus in this workshop will be on uncovering implicit biases associated with the social construct of race, though biases operate and intersect in many other areas of our lives as well, e.g. sexual orientation and gender identification, sex, age and ability. Video, story-telling, and interactive scenarios reflecting the Platinum Rule (treat others as they wish to be treated) will be integral to the uncovering process. Beverly Ward will share how she was radicalized through the Birmingham Children’s Crusade in 1963 with the empowerment of youth activism, and she will illuminate how structures within our society can be changed to support equity for all. Structural racism and implicit bias are interwoven. We will have the joy of knowing each other and ourselves more deeply by the end of the workshop. *Presented by the Committee for Ministry on Racism. Facilitators:* Beverly Ward (Tampa), Kathy Hersh (Miami), Katie Green (Clearwater), Susan Taylor (Tallahassee) **Pronouns for all facilitators:** She, Her, Hers **Room 2**

Building Multigenerational Spiritual Relationships Join Quaker Voluntary Service (QVS) Alum and Development Coordinator, Claire Hannapel, for a hands-on workshop exploring deepening relationships across generations. Participants will have the opportunity to reframe multigenerational spiritual mentoring relationships and practice skills to connect more deeply (all ages welcome, though best suited for age 18+). **Facilitator:** Claire Hannapel, QVS **Room 3**

How We Win: what we learned from George Lakey A round table discussion/interest group hosted by members of the Peace and Social Concerns Committee. Many meetings had a workshop with George Lakey on developing campaigns to win social action goals. This session will be open to all whether or not you were at one of the workshops. Where should we go from here with what we learned? Reading the book "How We Win" is recommended. **Facilitator:** Cece Yocum (Tampa; she/hers). *Sponsored by SEYM Peace & Social Concerns. Room 4*