

## Workshop & Retreat Descriptions • SEYM Gathering 2024

*Program Spaces are located in Kline Hall*

### Thursday, March 28, 10 – 11:30 am

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#### **Retreat #1: Truth and Telling Our Stories**

**Multi-Purpose Room**

Each of us has a Truth to tell about our relationship with the Divine and the path we are each (and collectively) on. We will joyfully explore, through worship, activities, and sharing, the way we tell our Truth. **Facilitator: Hilary Burgin**

### Thursday, March 28, 1:15 - 2:30pm

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#### **Affinity Group - White (European American) Friends Confronting Racism**

**Classroom A**

Our racial justice work is sustained in part by staying connected with others doing this work. Gather with other White (European American) Friends and attenders who are addressing racism and Whiteness in our lives and in our Quaker communities. **Facilitated by Susan Taylor and Cindy Kwalwasser.**

#### **Affinity Group – Only Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC)**

**Classroom B**

Come to meet and talk with other BIPOC Friends and attenders. We will create our own agenda, which may include sharing our experiences as Friends. Friends from the Committee for Ministry on Racism will serve as hosts.

### Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2:45 - 4:00 pm

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#### **You are called to feed the hungry but have YOU eaten lately?**

**Classroom A**

Cheryl Demers Holton will lead us in talking about the importance of taking care of ourselves first. She is gathering suggestions for ways to attend to our own spiritual journey as we navigate the work to be done.

#### **Know Your Rights & Updates on SB1718**

**Classroom B**

Know Your Rights (KYR) work is a key component of the AFSC Florida program. We reach out to immigrant communities in South Florida and inform them of immigration programs, initiatives, and laws. Florida's immigration-related legislation, SB 1718, which requires employers to use the E-Verify system and imposes criminal penalties on individuals transporting undocumented immigrants into Florida, took effect on July 1, 2023. **Facilitator: Guadalupe de la Cruz, AFSC-Miami.**

#### **Becoming Who We've Always Been: Spiritual Tools for Supporting Trans Life**

**Multi-Purpose Room**

As we confront and take action to honor trans lives in Florida and beyond, we must take care to remember the creative and spiritual tools we have to support ourselves. A more just world is becoming and we are in transition with it. This workshop is designed with trans and gender non-conforming Friends and those who love us and tend to us at its heart, and aims to give Friends a space to talk, share, and create with each other with attention to our gender diverse embodied, mental, and spiritual selves. We will use a variety of exercises including question cards, gentle movement, and improvisational singing to flow through the ways we notice and experience gender in this world— may we always be becoming who we've always been. **Led by Nova George, FGC Spiritual Deepening Associate.**

## Friday, March 29, 10 – 11:30 am

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### **Retreat 2: Living Loudly**

**Multi-Purpose Room**

What do Friends have to offer one another and the wider community today? How are we testifying to our faith in our everyday lives? Again through interactive and joyful conversation and activity, we'll explore the ways we are and want to be living into our spirituality every day. **Facilitator:**

**Hilary Burgin**

## Friday, March 29, 12:45 – 3:15 pm

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### **Extended Worship**

**Classroom A**

Early Friends often sat for hours at a time in worship. In limiting our worship time to an hour or less, has the power of the experience been diminished for today's Friends? What might we discover by sitting in worship for an extended period of time? Come and see!

**Facilitators: members of the Worship & Ministry Committee.**

## Friday, March 29, 2:00 – 3:15 pm

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### **Individual Spiritual Discernment**

**Classroom B**

This workshop will be based on Jerry Knutson's Pendle Hill Pamphlet #443, *Individual Spiritual Discernment*. Participants are requested to bring a question, issue or situation that they would like to discern so we can practice the Holistic Method of discernment in a guided meditation. The workshop will also cover why hard decisions are so hard, testing and implementing the guidance and spiritual disciplines. **Facilitator: Jerry Knutson**

### **The Power of Enough**

**Multi-Purpose Room**

What is essential? How much is enough? How is my use of time, energy, and "things" in right balance to free me to do God's work, and to contribute to right order in our world? Through personal reflection, discussion and worship sharing we will explore queries to discover our power of enough. Right Sharing of World Resources facilitates educational opportunities to learn about right sharing, and provides micro-enterprise grants in Guatemala, Sierra Leone, Kenya, and India to launch business ventures that empower women to provide basic needs for their families.

**Facilitator: Megan Fair, Associate Secretary of Advancement of Right Sharing of World Resources.**

## Saturday, March 30, 1:15 – 2:30 pm

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### Where Cultural Differences and Racism Intersect

Multi-Purpose Room

In this interactive intergenerational workshop, participants will share stories about their own experiences encountering differences between their cultural upbringing and others' upbringing and how these affect their biases and show up in micro-aggressions. **Facilitators: Kathy Hersh and Asma Roshi.**

### Personal Spiritual Narratives

Classroom A

In this workshop, a young adult, convinced Friend will relay his journey from atheist to Christocentric Friend. They will then share some queries and invite Friends to take time developing their own spiritual narratives. **Facilitator: Kasper Ronning**

### Friends Committee on National Legislation

Classroom B

The times are perilous, the headlines dramatic. What about the significant work of building justice and peace? Riley Robinson, FCNL staffer, will cover Friends Committee on National Legislation's congressional lobbying efforts. 135 FCNL Advocacy Teams are tackling military spending in 47 states. FCNL works on Ukraine and the Middle East, the environment and more. Hear about March's young adult Spring Lobby Weekend on Native American Schools. You can help develop FCNL's legislative priorities. Q & A, too. **Facilitator: Riley Robinson, FCNL Staff.**

## Saturday, March 30, 2:45 – 4:00 pm

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### A Friendly Guide to Perma[nent] Culture

Multi-Purpose Room

This workshop goes beyond the usual thinking about permaculture and agriculture. We will work with bringing permaculture into our lives through Friends' testimonies and advices and queries. Bring your favorite copy of Faith and Practice. *Youth are welcome to attend!*  
**Facilitator: Beverly Ward**

### Seeking Peace in Your Community

Classroom A

The Executive Director of Quaker House will suggest strategies that local meetings can use to advance the Peace Testimony through a variety of outreach projects that can be adapted for the leadings of the meeting, including changing the subject matter if that is the desire of the community. **Facilitator: Wayne Finegar, Executive Director of Quaker House, the 55-year-old peace project based in Fayetteville, NC.**

### The Friends We Are Becoming: Stories of Transformation

Classroom B

*"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."* Romans 12:2

Friends have always known the power of the Light to search, enlighten, and change us for better. Together, we will explore stories of spiritual transformation from Friends writings and the Bible. There will be opportunity to share how the Inward Light is transforming us in similar and different ways to the stories we look at. **Facilitator: Joel Cook**