

Workshop & Retreat Descriptions • SEYM Gathering 2025

Program Spaces are located in Kline Hall

Thursday, April 17th, 10 – 11:30 am

Retreat #1: Tapping Into Your Wellspring

Multi-Purpose Room

Come ready to drop deeply into your personal wellspring of emotions and connect to your inner light. Using a variety of worship tools and techniques, we will seek our own prophetic voice to strengthen our lights and to guide us closer to what is ours to illuminate. **Note:** *This workshop will include some writing, **please bring your favorite notebook, journal, or electronic device, and writing tools.** This workshop will include gentle movements with accommodations where needed.*

Facilitator: Daquanna Harrison

Thursday, April 17th, 1:15 - 2:30pm

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. **Hosted by Friends from the Committee for Ministry on Racism.**

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. **Hosted by Friends from the Committee for Ministry on Racism.**

Thursday, April 17th, 2:45 - 4:00 pm

Othering

Classroom A

The practice of labeling anyone or anything as different from oneself is the basis of Racism, Ablism, Sexism, etc. Storytellers Katie Green and Whittier will share stories from their experience as we move to become a more inclusive society. Telling our stories, while lovingly and tenderly owning our experiences, enables us to shed racist attitudes and move to become anti-racist. **Facilitated by Katie Green and Whittier Mikkelsen.**

Journeying from Fear & Anger Towards Fellowship and Love

Classroom B

What is ours to do to allow the Light to overcome the darkness? How can we consistently move beyond the 'hamster wheel' of surface chatter into deep connection? How do I belong? An interactive workshop. **Facilitated by Bob Allenson & Herman Holley**

How Are We Called to Care? Local Actions, Global Connections

Multi-Purpose Room

This interactive, intergenerational workshop invites Friends to discern and share their concerns and experiences with care for the Earth. Tools and other resources from American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL), Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW), Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO) and more will be shared. We will discuss preparations for climatic and other hazards, also. There will be opportunities for necessary trouble. **Led by Beverly Ward, SEYM Field Secretary for Earthcare**

Friday, April 18th, 10 – 11:30 am

Retreat #2: What Space Is Yours To Fill?

Multi-Purpose Room

The world, our nations, our communities, our meetings, our families and loved ones, and each of us need each of us to do what we are meant to do — if it is what you need to do in this moment, for the next 2 years, or your life's work — we need it! In this workshop, we will consider what space is yours to fill, and what courage do you already possess that will help you to fill that space. **Note:** *You are invited to consider your comfort during this session, sitting on the floor, a warm cup of tea, cozy socks or other comforts are welcome. This workshop will include some writing, please bring your favorite notebook, journal, or electronic device, and writing tools. This workshop will include gentle movements with accommodations where needed.* **Facilitator: Daquanna Harrison**

Friday, April 18th, 12:45 – 3:15 pm

Extended Worship & Sharing

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

The Optimistic Theology of Julian of Norwich

Classroom B

In these trying times, we will look at one of the world's most optimistic theologians, Julian of Norwich. Julian had "showings," similar to the "openings" of George Fox, starting in 1373, a time of plague, great poverty and famine where 1/3 of the people died. After reading some of her writings, we will worship share on: "What spoke to me the most deeply in these showings?"

Facilitator: Jerry Knutson

Advocacy in Tumultuous Times: Exploring Effective Advocacy

Multi-Purpose Room

We'll introduce you to the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL), covering who we are, the range of issues we work on, and our current priorities. We'll share examples of how we're responding to today's challenges and how you can be part of the solution. Then we'll dive into FCNL's Advocacy Teams program, an effective way to build relationships with elected officials and their staff that can lead to real change. Unlike traditional emails and phone calls, this program offers a community of support to help you engage directly with lawmakers and create lasting impact on public policy. **Facilitated by Tim Heishman, Senior Advocacy Teams Manager, Friends Committee on National Legislation.**

Saturday, April 19th, 1:15 – 2:30 pm

Becoming an Anti-Racist Yearly Meeting in Earnest

Multi-Purpose Room

In this plenary workshop, we'll look at what it means to be antiracist and hear stories about antiracist activities within SEYM. Since systemic and structural racism are the underlying causes of the many general health, maternal and infant mortality, education, wealth and other disparities between BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and other People of Color) and White people and the dynamic behind much of the Trump administration's immigration policies and the elimination of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) programs and curricula, we will brainstorm and role-play effective strategies to address systemic and structural racism. **Facilitator: Kathy Hersh, Committee on Ministry on Racism.**

Saturday, April 19th, 2:45 – 4:00 pm

Naming Your Gifts, Finding Your Ministry

Classroom A

“Don’t ask yourself what the world needs, ask yourself what makes you come alive. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive.” – Howard Washington Thurman

This year so many of us have a sense of urgency. We know there is much to do, and we want to be part of the change we seek. But what gift do I bring? Which ministry makes me come alive? We will re ways to identify our gifts. We will name ministries that align with those gifts. And we will discuss ways we can ask for and offer support for those ministries. There is much to do, we all have a place in the choir! **Facilitated by Cheryl Demers Holton**

The Florida Political Climate

Classroom B

This workshop will be a review of immigration policy at the federal level and how it will affect local communities. Learn what policy has been proposed in Florida and how to become an ally for immigrant and undocumented communities. **Facilitated by Guadalupe de la Cruz, AFSC Florida.**

The Living Waters — The Wellspring of Hope

Multi-Purpose Room

What is hope? What do you hope for? Where do you look to find hope? The Bible can be seen as mostly stories about hope. In this Bible study we will look at the stories in the New Testament of the Disciples and Early Church after Jesus. This was a time of great persecution both by the Jewish authorities and the Roman Empire. Where did the Early Church find hope? Can we find the same hope today? **Facilitated by Joel Cook.**

Saturday, April 19th, 7:00 pm

The Walton Lecture with Daquanna Harrison

Multi-Purpose Room

Simple, Brave, & Outlandish: What Challenge Can Your Meeting Meet?

In her closing lecture, Daquanna Harrison will have us consider ourselves and our time at the gathering as wellsprings for our Meetings. We will engage in meeting-centric groups discussing queries designed to help Meetings find simple, brave, and outlandish ways they can answer the calling for modern Quakers to uplift our Quaker Ancestors' call to be radical in our love of others and to be "Angelic Troublemakers" as Bayard Rustin asked of us.

Note: *This lecture will ask us to be in discussion groups with others from our Monthly Meetings. If you know you have people from your Meeting online and are able to bring a device to connect to them please do so to support this workshop. Those without others from their Meeting will be in smaller mixed support groups allowing for all to ideate in a group setting on what to take back to their Meetings.*