

## Winter Executive Committee Meeting

Friday, January 17, 2020, 7:00 p.m.

## Winter Interim Business Meeting

Saturday, January 18, 2020

## Youth Program at Winter Interim Business Meeting

Friday, January 17, through Sunday, January 19, 2020

(see page 2 for details!)

## 50th annual Michener Lecture

Sunday, January 19, 2020, 1:00 p.m.

presented by **Brian Corr**

*"From Fear & Scarcity to Hope & Abundance: Confronting and Transforming the Giant Triplets of Racism, Materialism, and Militarism"*

Michener Lecture details on page 3 and at <http://seymquakers.org/news-events/michener-lecture/>

*hosted by*

Orlando Friends Meeting, 316 E Marks St., Orlando, FL 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.

**Parking:** in the lot behind the Meetinghouse and Webster Cottage, and on Broadway Avenue.

**Hospitality:** for overnight hospitality in a Friend's home contact Ray Jenkins: [rayjenkins65@yahoo.com](mailto:rayjenkins65@yahoo.com) or phone (9am-5pm only) 407-803-2109. *We cannot guarantee space for everyone, so it is important to make full use of the hotel. Get together with other Friends and share the room rate. We want your*

*WIBM and Michener experience to be a good one and will do what we can to make it so.*

### Recommended Hotels:

- **Courtyard by Marriott**, 730 N Magnolia Ave, Orlando, FL 32803 within walking distance of the Meetinghouse. Orlando MM has obtained a group rate of \$149.00 + tax, parking included, for a double room with at least 2 Queen beds. Available dates are Jan. 17-19, 2020. **After December 27, 2019, standard rates apply.**
- **Best Western**, 2014 W Colonial Drive, Orlando, FL 32804.

**RV Camping:** There are several campgrounds in the Orlando area. We recommend Stage Stop [stagestopcampground.com](http://stagestopcampground.com).

**Childcare:** Contact Kody Hersh, [YYACordinator@SEYMQuakers.org](mailto:YYACordinator@SEYMQuakers.org) or 407-850-8457.

**Wi-Fi:** Orlando Meetinghouse has wi-fi. Password: meetinghouse

# Anti-War Teach-in and Action for Youth!

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day Weekend  
January 17 through 19, 2020

Orlando Friends Meetinghouse  
316 E Marks Street, Orlando FL 32803

In light of recent U.S. military action against Iran and the escalated possibility of war, now is a good time for the Youth Program to revisit the Quaker Peace Testimony and learn about anti-war activism.

**Friday evening from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.** we'll hang out, catch up with old friends, welcome new friends, and play games.

***Saturday morning from 9:00 a.m. to noon***, we'll have an anti-war teach in with discussions about:

- Understanding the current crisis
- What is war actually like? With guests Ray Jenkins (Vietnam war veteran) and Carl Hersh (former war correspondent) sharing their experience
- The Quaker Peace Testimony
- Conscientious objection to military service

**Saturday afternoon from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**, youth will plan an anti-war action (vigil, letter-writing, public art, whatever it is -- we'll decide and plan it, with adults for resource and support).

**Sunday morning from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**, we'll join Orlando Friends' Meeting for Worship and Young Friends group (First Day School/religious education), and **Sunday afternoon from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**, we'll take the action youth have planned!

***There is no cost***, and several meals will be provided by Orlando Meeting throughout the weekend. Housing maybe still be available with local Friends, if you're coming from a distance. If you have other logistical questions or challenges, **contact Kody Hersh at [YYACordinator@SEYMQuakers.org](mailto:YYACordinator@SEYMQuakers.org) or 407-850-8457!** He would love to problem-solve with you! *All you need to do to register is let Kody know you're coming.*

***Parents and Sponsors!*** January 17 to 19, 2020, (MLK Day weekend) is SEYM's [Winter Interim Business Meeting](#) and Michener Lecture. It's a great opportunity to learn more about the yearly meeting's work, sit in on a committee meeting, meet Friends of all ages from across the region, and [hear a great speaker!](#)

*"From Fear & Scarcity to Hope & Abundance: Confronting and Transforming the Giant Triplets of Racism, Materialism, and Militarism"*

presented by

**Brian Corr**

We are living in a unique and pivotal moment in history, where massive change is occurring and huge dangers loom: environmental, economic, and socio-political. Many nations, including ours, are enveloped by the politics of fear and scarcity, with increasing anger, despair, and isolation. How do we, as Friends and as people of faith and courage, understand and address the contradictions between the current narrative and reality in this nation and the promise of hope and abundant love that grounds us? This lecture will confront the "Giant Triplets of Racism, Materialism, and Militarism" that Dr. Martin Luther King described, while shining a light on "Tikkun Olam" – the work of healing, repairing, and transforming the world as we seek to be spiritually grounded, faithfully led, and active in the struggle for justice.



**Brian Corr** has spent the last three decades working on issues of peace and justice. He is a member of the Friends Meeting of Cambridge (MA) and has served in various capacities with AFSC, both nationally and in the New England region.

Currently, Brian serves on the Police Review & Advisory Board for the City of Cambridge, the city's Peace Commission, ACLU of Massachusetts, the Haiti Development Studies Center, José Mateo Ballet Theatre, and as President of the National Association for the Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement, to name just a few.

Brian graduated from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, with a BA in Russian Literature and Language, and completed the Program on Negotiation at Harvard Law School: Negotiation and Leadership Course.

### **Michener Lecture & Seminars**

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<b>Sunday, Jan. 19</b>	9:00 am:	Coffee, morning snacks, fellowship
	9:30 am:	<b>Worship</b> with Orlando Friends
	or 10:00 am:	<b>Worship</b> with Winter Park Friends: Winter Park Christian Church, 260 N Lakemont Ave., Winter Park FL 32792
	12 noon:	<b>Michener Luncheon</b> hosted by Orlando Meeting
	1:00 pm:	<b>Michener Lecture</b>
	2:30 pm:	<b>Michener Seminars</b> (runs until about 5:30 pm)

# WINTER INTERIM BUSINESS MEETING

## Schedule, Agenda, and Documents In Advance

### Friday, January 17th: Executive Committee Meeting *All are Welcome!*

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7:00 pm      Executive Committee Meeting

### Saturday, January 17th: Winter Interim Business Meeting

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8:00 am      Coffee & snacks  
 9:00 am      Opening Worship  
                  Nominating Committee preliminary report  
                  Announcements  
 9:30 am      Committee meetings: All are welcome to attend.  
 12:00 noon   Lunch served by Orlando Friends  
 1:00 pm      Meeting for Business  
                  Opening Worship  
                  Spiritual/Inspirational Reading:  
                  *“The Quaker meeting is meant to be a blessed community – a living testimony to God’s peace, justice, love, compassion, and joy, and is an example and invitation to a better way of life. Like our other testimonies, community can be a prophetic call to the rest of society.”*  
                  *SEYM Faith and Practice, pg. 76*  
                  Agenda Review and Correction  
                  Roll call of Meetings and Worship Groups  
                  Welcome of Visitors  
                  Announcements Executive Committee Report  
                  Treasurer’s Report  
                  Finance Committee Report  
                  Peace & Social Concerns Committee  
                  Worship & Ministry Committee

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5:00 p.m.      Fellowship, then Dinner at a local restaurant	

# Documents In Advance

“The Quaker meeting is meant to be a blessed community – a living testimony to God’s peace, justice, love, compassion, and joy, and is an example and invitation to a better way of life. Like our other testimonies, community can be a prophetic call to the rest of society.”

SEYM Faith and Practice, pg. 76

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## FEC 2019 Numbered Minutes

- 19FEC-01 Cece Yocum, Joel Cook, Susan Taylor, Ellie Caldwell, and Phoebe Andersen form a WCG Book Ad Hoc Committee to complete [the] publication [of Wendy Geiger’s book with requested corrections and changes].
- 19FEC-02 Executive Committee expresses its gratitude to Publications Committee and its clerk, Phoebe Andersen, for its work on Wendy Geiger’s book to date.

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## FIBM 2019 Numbered Minutes

- 19FIBM-01 Friends approve Bill Carlie to serve as acting Interim Business Meeting clerk, and thus as the supervisor of SEYM staff until Winter Interim Business Meeting.
- 19FIBM-02 SEYM Friends are grateful for the hospitality of Tampa Friends. The light-filled meeting house, the grounds on which to camp, the spaces inside and out for committees, the delicious lunch, and most of all the loving spiritual care given to us are deeply appreciated.
- 19FIBM-03 Fall interim business meeting of SEYM recommends that Monthly Meetings in Florida contact local chapters of the Florida Rights Restoration Coalition to learn how our meetings can support the reentry and restoration of voting rights of formerly incarcerated, returning citizens, and report back to the SEYM Peace and Social Concerns Committee about their findings.
- 19FIBM-04 Fall Interim Business meeting directs Peace and Social Concerns Committee to work with the Administrative Secretary to collect the information from meetings about contact with the Florida Rights Restoration Coalition and have a preliminary report by Winter Interim Business meeting.
- 19FIBM-05 With the goal of working together with other concerned individuals and groups in Florida to abolish the use of prison labor by governmental entities, the Fall Interim Business Meeting of SEYM encourages all monthly meetings to contact their respective county commissioners and, as a first step, request copies of all county contracts with the Florida Department of Corrections. Peace and Social Concerns Committee intends to present a report to the Winter Interim Business Meeting and requests that you forward copies of all documents obtained by November 30 to [ceceyocum@aol.com](mailto:ceceyocum@aol.com). Information and a resource

packet can be obtained from Peter Ackerman, 386-203-1512;  
[petequaker@gmail.com](mailto:petequaker@gmail.com).

19FIBM-06 SEYM Fall Interim Business Meeting approves Kody Hersh, Cece Yocum, Susan Wade, Vincent Cosomano, and Mira Tanna, as the committee to review the CAPP manual.

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# Jacksonville Friends Meeting

**Jacksonville Friends Meeting**  
**[www.jacksonvillefriends.org](http://www.jacksonvillefriends.org)**

**Clerk & Mailing Address**  
Mike Shell  
2798 Forbes Street  
Jacksonville, FL 32205



November 20, 2019

Dear Bill,

Since autumn of 2018, I have spoken and corresponded with you and others SEYM Friends about the transitional reality of Jacksonville Friends: there are too few Quakers able to attend regular weekly meetings for worship or to carry out the necessary business of a monthly meeting. Quaker integrity obliges us to acknowledge this truth, even though it saddens us.

On the other hand, way has now opened through Quaker simplicity for us to continue an active Quaker presence in Jacksonville as a worship group, without those monthly meeting responsibilities.

Recorded members: Gainesville Friends Meeting [www.quakercloud.org/cloud/gainesville-quakers](http://www.quakercloud.org/cloud/gainesville-quakers) has offered to receive into membership our seven recorded members, in order to give those Friends continuity with an established monthly meeting.

*I have invited those who wish to transfer their membership to Gainesville to write me, so that I can send Gainesville a letter of transfer.*

Monthly worship group gatherings: Heidi Lowey-Ball, a meeting member and former clerk, has already hosted two "Second Sunday" evening gatherings for worship and fellowship at her home in Neptune Beach (see inclosed flyer). These gatherings have included long-time Jacksonville Friends, Quakers who have recently moved here from other meetings, and Seekers who have attended Sunday morning meetings for worship and potlucks but cannot usually do so.

There is also the possibility for additional monthly gatherings on the west side of town, should Friends come forward who are able to organize and host such activities.

Finally, we have a sister Friends gathering nearby, St. Augustine Quaker Worship Group [www.staugustinequakers.org](http://www.staugustinequakers.org). They worship weekly on Wednesdays beginning at 7:00 pm at The United Church, 5880 U.S. 1 South, St. Augustine 32086.

Southeastern Yearly Meeting relationship: At its June business meeting, the Executive Committee noted that to lay down a Meeting all that is needed is for a letter to be written to SEYM. Friends minuted the following:

*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.*

I will attend the Winter Interim Business Meeting on January 17-18, 2020, in order to present our letter of intent to lay down Jacksonville Friends Meeting and to advise Friends how we are proceeding with that process.

Meeting financial responsibilities: If we can, we will find a way for the new worship group to retain access to the meeting's small fund (about \$2,500), perhaps under the care of Gainesville Friends.

The liability insurance coverage for our rental space at Florida Christian Center expires on January 31, 2020. Since we do not want to incur further expenses for Jacksonville Friends, the treasurer will allow the policy to lapse. We will also end our lease with Florida Christian Center on that date.

Other business responsibilities: We will discontinue our listings in *Friends Journal* and on the Friends General Conference *Quaker Finder* site [www.fgcquaker.org/connect/quaker-finder](http://www.fgcquaker.org/connect/quaker-finder). We will not renew the meeting's subscription to *Friends Journal*.

For the foreseeable future, we will maintain our website [www.jacksonvillefriends.org](http://www.jacksonvillefriends.org) as a way of letting people know about Quaker options in Northeast Florida. A local Friend hosts the site as a gift in kind to Jacksonville Friends, so this is not an ongoing expense.

Last weekly meeting for worship:

*The last Sunday 10:30-11:30 AM meeting for worship for Jacksonville Friends Meeting will be at Florida Christian Center on January 26, 2020.*

Thereafter, Jacksonville Friends will network with each other to find continuing opportunities for sharing life and worship. I will send local contact information to those who wish it.

As I wrote in January,

*In the Quaker way, a monthly meeting or worship group is not the people listed on the roles but the people who participate. This is because the Quaker way is not about an organization or a set of beliefs and practices. It is about the day to day sharing of the present moment by people who know each other and have a commitment to caring for and taking care of each other.*

This remains true for Jacksonville Friends as we continue in communion with one another. Way will open.

Love and grace to all SEYM Friends,  
Mike Shell, Meeting Clerk

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## Youth and Young Adult Coordinator

### Meeting Visits:

This fall and winter, I've had the opportunity to visit several SEYM meetings to lead retreats and workshops.

- September, Fort Myers: Facilitated a workshop on how the meeting can welcome families and offer religious education for young people given their community's unique assets and challenges.
- October, Gainesville: Led a "Towards Right Relationship with Native Peoples" workshop for the meeting and community, to honor Indigenous Peoples Day. The workshop engaged an intergenerational team of Friends from the meeting as readers and in other support roles.
- November, Miami: Facilitated a one-day meeting retreat focused on accepting and celebrating ourselves as individuals and in community.
- Upcoming: February 2nd in Gainesville, a community workshop hosted by the meeting, "Finding Your Role in the Movement for Peace and Justice."

Please don't hesitate to contact me if any of those workshops would be of interest to your meeting, or if you have something else in mind! I love getting invitations to meetings.

Visits to monthly meetings have presented opportunities for spending time connecting informally with youth, young adults, and families-- the funnest part of my job! In Miami, I experimented with offering a "Pop-Up Young Adult Gathering," a simple afternoon event of games and conversation at the home of local Friends. I reached out especially to young adults in the area who had not previously attended an SEYM event, or who had been absent from the yearly meeting for some time. We had a lovely group for the afternoon, and I hope to continue this practice in other places, as way opens.

### Events:

Fall Interim Business Meeting had one youth attend part-time: we had a great time hanging out with their parent and giggling over board games in the evenings! I hope that, as the practice of offering a youth program at Interim Business Meetings gets more established in people's minds, we will see higher attendance from families. Please help spread the word: we are excited to have youth attend Interim Business Meetings, and there will be fun, age-appropriate programming planned for them!

Half Yearly Meeting drew a bigger crowd of youth and young adults, with about half a dozen attenders in each category on our biggest day (Saturday). Youth threw an all-ages pizza party on Saturday night, with pizzas they prepared themselves that afternoon, and a spirited game of Apples to Apples. I won by a landslide, thus preserving my professional credibility.

I continue to work with the Half Yearly Meeting Committee on making Half Yearly Meeting more welcoming and accessible to families, including looking at financial accessibility, program offerings, building a critical mass of youth, and food accessibility issues.

Several Friends participated in the first SEYM Virtual Climate Strike in September, coinciding with the global climate strike. It was a real joy to work with Beverly, the Earthcare Field Secretary, to plan that online event.

Administrative:

The ad hoc committee appointed at Fall Interim Business meeting has begun work revising the SEYM Child Abuse Prevention Policy manual. I convened our first meeting; subsequent meetings will rotate clerking/convening responsibilities among the members, with administrative support from me and the SEYM Administrative Secretary.

Support and collaboration:

I continue to be grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with the SEYM Youth Committee, other SEYM staff members, monthly meetings, and individual Friends who have a concern for intergenerational inclusion. In addition, my support committee, which meets with me monthly by video conference, has been a tremendous source of grounding, encouragement, and accountability. In addition to my report, there is a letter of concern from them about my experiences of transantagonism (micro - and macro -aggressions toward transgender and gender-nonconforming people, including mispronouncing, deadnaming, and general negative or intrusive comments and questions) in the course of my work. I am grateful for their support and the seriousness with which they are treating my experience. I hope that Friends who support me and my work will listen with care and openness to their reflections and suggestions, and hold me in prayer as well.

With love and gratitude,

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

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## YYAC Support Committee Letter to EC

TO: Southeastern Yearly Meeting Executive Committee  
CC: Mira Tanna, SEYM Youth Committee Clerk  
FROM: SEYM YYAC Support Committee  
DATE: 20 December 2019  
RE: Request for Support in Growing Transgender Allyship in SEYM

We, Stephanie Preston-Hughes (member, Orlando Monthly Meeting), Vincent Cosomano (member, Miami Monthly Meeting) and Hannah Mayer (member, Maury River Friends Meeting, Baltimore Yearly Meeting) submit this letter to you as members of the Support Committee for Kody Hersh, SEYM's Youth and Young Adult Coordinator (YYAC). Since February 2019, we have held monthly video meetings to provide him with a safe listening and spiritually grounding space as he develops this new YYAC position during its first year. We value his ministry and take our responsibility for his care seriously.

Kody has endured many painful experiences while serving SEYM Friends in the YYAC role during the past few months, specifically around his identity as a transgender person. These experiences include incorrect pronouns being used despite repeated corrections, overhearing others talk about him from another room, a former "dead name" being used in public storytelling, and the failure of observers to offer supportive intervention during such situations or even check in with him after the fact.

The aforementioned behaviors are microaggressions. The cumulative effect of experiencing multiple microaggressions over time is burnout. We are concerned for how this burnout makes it difficult, if not impossible, for Kody to perform the responsibilities of the YYAC role in ministry for youth, young adults, and families in SEYM. We are equally concerned about the unwelcoming environment this creates for *all* transgender people. Being called the wrong name, not being treated as who one is, having one's requests dismissed, and not having one's pain noticed by others has a deeply negative impact on wellbeing and therefore the ability to participate in beloved community. It dims our Quaker light. These occurrences are indicative of broader issues we need to address as a yearly meeting if we strive to be truly welcoming.

A common theme heard in response to these concerns is how difficult it is to adapt to using inclusive language and uncertainty about the best ways to support our transgender people. As a support committee of cisgender individuals, we understand firsthand that this can be challenging. This must not, however, be an excuse to not make an effort. Failures to be inclusive are harmful, and we know we can all do better. We envision SEYM as a religious society of radical acceptance where we *actively* affirm all members of our LGBTQ+ Quaker family not only with our words, but also our behaviors.

The following are actions that we, the members of the SEYM YYAC Support Committee, are requesting from Executive Committee, and in some cases, additional individuals or groups:

- For Kody to have paid time off from his YYAC position to recover from burnout. (The Youth Committee clerk has granted this and time off was taken in December).
- For a structure to be made available to the SEYM Representative to FLGBTQC in order to share educational resources within monthly meetings in SEYM on how to cultivate an

affirming environment for transgender members and attenders. (We have been in touch with the SEYM Representative to FLGBTQC and she is enthusiastic).

- For a workshop to be offered at the 2020 SEYM Annual Gathering Sessions to actively build ally skills that support transgender and gender non-conforming people. (We are currently planning potential content).
- For SEYM Executive Committee to discern additional ways for SEYM to become a more actively affirming community for transgender and gender non-conforming people, by building relevant knowledge and skills among Friends.
- For there to be a spirit of loving accountability that moves SEYM and its monthly meetings to follow through on these action items.

We request that any follow-up questions regarding this letter and our stated concerns be directed to us as the YYAC Support Committee and not to Kody as an individual. We would be glad to offer further guidance on how each of these matters may move forward and to stay in touch with the Executive Committee.

We are, trusting the process,

Stephanie Preston-Hughes (sprestonhughes@gmail.com)  
Vincent Cosomano (vdcosomano@gmail.com)  
Hannah Mayer (hannahkmayer@gmail.com)

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## Committee for Ministry on Racism

Winter Interim Business Meeting (WIBM)  
January 18, 2020

Mark 12:31 RSV: "... ' you shall love your neighbor as yourself.'"

John 13: 34 RSV: "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; even as I have loved you, that you also love one another."

*Freedom and equality-regardless of religion or social class-were radical new ideas when the United States was formed. At the same time, the US economy was based on the abduction and enslavement of African people, the displacement and genocide of Indigenous people, and the annexation of Mexican lands... The tension between the noble ideology of equality and the cruel reality of genocide, enslavement, and colonization had to be reconciled...The idea of racial inferiority was created to justify unequal treatment [and exploitation]...Paraphrasing Ibram Kendi in **Stamped from the Beginning**: if we truly believe that all humans are equal, then disparity in condition can only be the result of systemic discrimination. (Robin DiAngelo. **WHITE FRAGILITY WHY IT'S SO HARD FOR WHITE PEOPLE TO TALK ABOUT RACISM**, pp. 16-17, 2018.)*

Greetings Friends!

Please join the Committee for Ministry on Racism during the committee meeting sessions at WIBM from 9:30 – 11:30 AM on Saturday, January 18, to share your questions, ideas, concerns and experiences regarding ways to support SEYM as we seek to transform into an actively anti-racist yearly meeting faith community. Committee Co-clerk, Susan Taylor, who is also one of SEYM's representatives to the Friends General Conference Governing Board, Central Committee, was inspired by her October attendance at the Central Committee annual meeting, where the conscious intent of all committee and FGC activity is now to have this query before them: "How does this decision support FGC in its goal to transform into an actively anti-racist Faith Community?" (FGC Institutional Assessment Implementation Committee, fgquaker.org).

We eagerly look forward to the Michener Lecture and Seminars on First Day, with deeply experienced Brian Corr who has worked widely and in a variety of ways on peace and justice issues. He will begin to lead us "**From Fear and Scarcity to Hope and Abundance: Confronting and Transforming the Giant Triplets of Racism, Materialism and Militarism.**" Please spread the word among Friends.

With gratitude to Susan Wade, SEYM's Administrative Secretary, the Committee met by ZOOM teleconference on December 4<sup>th</sup>. We happily welcomed Friend, Katie Green (Clearwater), as a visitor and always extend an invitation to other SEYM Friends who would like to join us. We acknowledged the Indigenous Peoples whose land we were each zooming in from, then gave priority to the initial work on the intergenerational, experiential workshops that we'll offer at the SEYM Gathering in April. The workshops will cover peeling back personal layers of bias and aspire to be safe places for exploration. Though everyone is welcome to attend, the emphasis will be on white Friends, since most of SEYM identifies as white. Our desire is to provide the same-themed workshop twice, each on a different day, in order to maximize the ability of more Friends to

attend. Discerning a title for the workshops and more content will be among the agenda items, yet to be finalized, for our WIBM meeting.

We acknowledged that racism is the root of the varieties of horrific immigrant abuse by the United States as we heard Kathy Hersh report on a meeting of Miami interfaith leaders she attended in Miami with the Acting Director of the Office Of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) of the Department of Health and Human Services and several community outreach officials with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), directly involved in the operation of the Homestead migrant children's prison.. The meeting was convened at their request under the auspices of United Way. ORR and DHS felt they got a "bad press" and came to defend their policies. They encountered a group of well-informed witnesses and immigrant advocates who took the opportunity to speak truth to power. ORR and DHS saw that their actions were being scrutinized by a resourceful, empowered group of advocate activists with legal expertise and moral authority who insisted on transparency in the future and direct communication. The AFSC and WeCount, a local migrant advocacy group, presented their report on the toxicity of the soil and ground water of Homestead Air Force base area where the prison is located, Kathy Hersh stated that the entire policy of childhood separation is "morally reprehensible," done by no other country with a refugee influx.

The officials asked for another meeting in the near future. Meanwhile, the Homestead influx detention center remains on standby in the event of another influx of refugees.

The Committee continues our strong interest in supporting, learning more about, and sharing with Friends, The National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition (<https://boardingschoolhealing.org>) actions and requests for varying kinds of support. We have learned from Paula Palmer (Boulder, CO Friends Meeting), and would like to have her as a Walton Lecturer in order to include SEYM Friends in the healing that is necessary following Native Americans' attendance at Quaker Indian Boarding Schools. Paula's ministry, "Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples, (TRR)" is now under the care of Friends Peace Teams ([friendspeaceteams.org](http://friendspeaceteams.org)). See her Quaker Indian Boarding Schools video on the latter website; a video we'd like to show at our SEYM's April Gathering. We would like SEYM to continue to donate to this vital organization and will discern further on this as another agenda item for our WIBM committee meeting.

We revisited Decolonizing Quakers, <https://www.decolonizingquakers.org>, as an important resource for learning more about colonization and its relationship to racism. Some Friends have expressed the need to have a greater understanding of this. Thank you, Beverly Ward! Houston Cypress spoke about decolonization at Half Yearly Meeting.

The Committee applauds and supports Kody Hersh, Youth and Young Adult Friends Coordinator, in his efforts with many Friends from other yearly meetings to create a new curriculum for First Day Schools on racial justice. Please pass your ideas and experience on this concern along to him, as well as our Committee.

We will continue to explore the possibility of publishing a variety of book, article, podcast, movie, etc. reviews on aspects of racism in the SEYM E-newsletter. We warmly invite Friends outside the committee to submit to us your reviews of material that has helped you.

We hold all of our work in prayer, from which action springs.

Loving Blessings,

Susan Taylor, Co-clerk

For the Committee: Wendy Clarissa Geiger, Co-clerk (Jacksonville), Minerva Glidden (Orlando), Beverly Ward (Tampa), Kathy Hersh (Miami), Jane Westberg (Miami), Jean Larson (Gainesville), Cheryl Demers (Gainesville)

Kody Hersh (SEYM Youth and Young Adult Friends Coordinator) sometimes attends and we consult with him.

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## Half Yearly Meeting Report

HYM Clerk's report for Thanksgiving 2019

We had a great time at HYM. Since SEYM doesn't have a camping program this is the closest we get. We have almost everything that children's camps provide: hiking, bunk house camping, canoeing, programming, camaraderie and even a youth coordinator. We just need more youth and adults. Attendance has been dropping -- last year we had 58 attendees for some or all of the long weekend over Thanksgiving and this year we only had 43.

Despite the low attendance, HYM was a success. Kody Hersh, Youth and Young Adult Coordinator, had plenty of activities planned. Beverly Ward brought a great variety of ecology-themed books, games, and maps for all ages. She also spearheaded the online Climate Strike in which Katie Green, Kody, and several others participated. Beverly and John Heimburg also brought in plants to use as teaching tools and to be taken home by anyone who wanted one. The highlight of the weekend was the guest speaker, Houston Cypress, a member of the Miccosukee tribe, two-spirit artist and activist, and board member of the Love the Everglades movement. The Love the Everglades movement seeks the restoration of the Everglades, known to the Miccosukee as "Kahayatlé," the shimmering waters.

In addition to good fellowship, fun, and relaxation, we ended the weekend with \$329.14 over expenses.

Since HYM has always set their own prices, we are making some drastic changes to encourage attendance: 1) All youth under age 18 will be free, 2) all lodging in bunkhouses will be free (we only used 6 of the available 120 spots!), and 3) we will use a "pay as lead" model that many yearly meetings have started to use for their gatherings.

We will tell people when they register 1) their fair share of the cost whether they choose the modern cabins or choose a bunkhouse (free!), 2) that we really need and appreciate their donations to help youth and those who need financial support to attend HYM, and 3) if you can't financially contribute to HYM that is fine – participants and SEYM will cover your costs – WE WILL BE DELIGHTED TO HAVE YOU JOIN US! This is a one-year trial and we hope to come close to covering our expenses – as usual.

Last, but definitely not least, we have added a named position of food coordinator to our HYM committee of clerk and registrar. I was both Clerk and Food Coordinator last year and I barely survived – so I knew I couldn't do it this year! At the last minute Caroline Kaufmann stepped up and we were able to have HYM. We ask that nominating committee add the following to their list with termination dates being after rise of HYM on the listed year.

Jerry Knutson, Clerk 2020  
Brian Olson, Registrar 2020  
Caroline Kaufmann, Food Coordinator 2021

Love Light and thanks,  
Jerry Knutson, Clerk HYM

\* \* \* \* \*

## Half Yearly Meeting Food Coordinator

December 18, 2019

Report on Food Program for HYM 2019

We were fed with the bread of the Spirit at HYM 2019. Thanks to all who brought food and worked in the kitchen. The Thanksgiving meal was served on time and with many, many sides designed to accommodate all dietary preferences and limitations. The pies were fantastic! The turkeys were well cooked, and we had lots of (vegan) mash potatoes, gravy, vegetables, and cranberry sauce. The leftovers made a hearty soup. Salads and vegan/vegetarian dishes were tasty.

We are working to improve on accommodating special dietary needs. We marked dishes by three categories: omnivore, vegetarian, and vegan. There remains a sincere concern about children and adults who are very sensitive to some foods. I ask that anyone with serious food allergies contact me directly next year – well in advance of the registration deadline (please) – and let me know how to accommodate them.

I volunteer to be the Food Coordinator next year.

We served an estimated total of 12 meals and snacks to about 40 people over the course of 4 days. A total of \$854.26 was expended for food and supplies for HYM. On average, the expense per meal was between \$2 and \$3 per person.

Submitted in the Light.

Caroline Kaufmann

Clearwater Friends Meeting

\* \* \* \* \*

# Nominating Committee Report

12/15/2019

The end of all knowledge should be service to others.

- Cesar Chavez

The Nominating Committee had a conference call meeting on December 12. We welcome Friend Brian Olson to the committee. He was selected by the Naming committee this summer. He joins Ed Lesnick, Beverly Ward, and Shawna Doran on Nominating. The committee will meet next at WIBM in Orlando.

We have challenging tasks: (1) Find Friends who have a leading to serve in the now vacant but essential positions, which are central to the success of SEYM and its programs. (2) Contact members whose terms are expiring at YM 2020 regarding continuing as a committee member, officer, or representative. (3) Identifying and encouraging more members to partake in the operation of SEYM. We are currently addressing these needs. We need your help!

*We request you to consider the following listing and also encourage Friends at your monthly meeting to become active and spiritually enriched by serving Friends in the Southeastern Yearly Meeting.*

We need Friends who have gifts in primary leadership roles:

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, 2021 YM Gathering
4. Registrar, 2021 Yearly Meeting Gathering
5. Coordinator and Trainer(s) - Child Abuse Prevention Program (CAPP)
6. 2 seasoned Friends as SEYM Trustees

There are many other positions of Officers, Committee members, and representatives that expire with YM 2020 and are unfilled as of December 15. We welcome new contributors and those who will continue in service to the Yearly Meeting:

1. Archives Committee - 2 Vacancies
2. Faith and Practice - Under long term discernment
3. Peace and Social Concerns - Additional members sought
4. Ministry and Racism - 1-2 Additional members
5. Worship and Ministry - 2 terms end at YM 2020 We are contemplating to extend these terms but seek more members for the W&M Committee.
6. Youth Committee - Additional members are being considered. The committee seeks input regarding a new Committee Clerk.
7. Friends Committee on National Legislation - Under discernment
8. Representative to Friends General Conference Central Committee to complete Minerva Glidden's term
9. Representative(s) to Palmetto Friends Annual Gathering

To learn about a role link go to:

“Job Descriptions” of Officers, Committee clerks, Committee Members, and Representatives are available in the [SEYM Operational Handbook, Procedures, and Job Descriptions](#) on the SEYM Home Page.

Ed Lesnick, Clerk

On Behalf of the Nominating Committee edlesnick@earthlink.net

## Nominating Committee Report - SEYM Personnel

Slate of Officers, Committees, Representatives, & Appointees  
as of December 15, 2019

### OFFICERS

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Yearly Meeting Clerk.....	Bill Carlie.....	St. Petersburg .....	2020
<i>Interim Business Meeting (IBM)</i>			
& Executive Committee (EC) Clerk..... OPEN			
YM & IBM Assistant Clerk..... OPEN			
YM Recording Clerk.....	Richard Frechette.....	Ft. Myers .....	2021
Recording Clerk, IBM/EC.....	Liz Dykes.....	Gainesville.....	2022
Assistant Recording Clerk(s).....			
Treasurer.....	Joel Cook.....	Palm Beach.....	2020
Membership Recorder.....	Ed Lesnick.....	Orlando.....	2020

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### TRUSTEES

Jack Bradin, Clerk.....	Palm Beach .....	2021
Neil Anderson.....	Tallahassee .....	2020
Mike Flanery.....	Clearwater .....	2020
Chris Laning.....	Orlando .....	2022
OPEN.....		

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### CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION PROGRAM (CAPP)

Ellie Caldwell, Trainer.....	Palm Beach.....	2020
Coordinator/Trainer (Open).....		2022
Trainer (Open) .....		2021

**YOUNG ADULT FRIENDS CONTACT**     Kody Hersh

### COMMITTEES

#### Archives

Bill Rapp, Clerk.....	Lake Wales .....	2021
Phoebe Andersen.....	Tallahassee.....	2020
Neil Andersen.....	Tallahassee .....	2021

#### Earthcare

Brad Stocker, Co-Clerk.....	Miami .....	2020
Bill Carlie, Co-Clerk.....	St. Petersburg.....	2021
Jack Bradin.....	Palm Beach.....	2020
Mike Flanery.....	Clearwater .....	2020

	Beverly Ward.....	Tampa .....	2022
	Catherine Price.....	Lake Wales .....	2022
	Bonnie Zimmer.....	Gainesville .....	2022
	Jim Koopman .....	Ft. Myers .....	2023
<b>Faith &amp; Practice</b> (Committee on sabbatical)	Phoebe Andersen, Clerk.....	Tallahassee .....	2022
<b>Facebook Page</b>	Mike Flannery.....	Clearwater .....	2021
<b>Finance</b>	Peter Schmidt, Clerk.....	Tampa .....	2022
	Shawna Doran.....	Gainesville .....	2021
	Steve Donachie.....	Miami .....	2021
	Carl Hersh.....	Miami .....	2021
	Jack Bradin, Clerk of Trustees (ex officio) .....	Palm Beach.....	2021
	Asst. YM Clerk (ex officio) .....		
	Joel Cook, Treasurer (ex officio) .....	Treasure Coast.....	2020
	Vicki Carlie, YM Secretary (ex officio) .....	Orlando.....	6/2019
	Susan Wade, YM Secretary (ex officio) .....	St. Petersburg ...	Current
<b>Half-Yearly Meeting</b>	Jerry Knutson, Clerk.....	Orlando.....	2021
	Brian Olson, Registrar .....	Miami .....	2021
<b>Ministry on Racism</b>	Susan Taylor, Co-Clerk.....	Tallahassee.....	2020
	Wendy Clarissa Geiger, Co-Clerk.....	Jacksonville .....	2020
	Cheryl Demers-Holton.....	Gainesville .....	2020
	Beverly Ward.....	Tampa .....	2021
	Kathy Hersh.....	Miami.....	2021
	Jane Westberg.....	Miami .....	2021
	Vincent Cobb.....	Tampa .....	2022
	Jean Larson.....	Gainesville.....	2022
<b>Peace &amp; Social Concerns</b>	Cece Yocum, Clerk.....	Tampa .....	2022
	Willie Hager.....	Jacksonville .....	2022
	Warren Hoskins.....	Miami.....	2022
	Mercedes Soca.....	Miami .....	2022
	Peter Harrell.....	Gainesville .....	2021
	Eileen Zingaro .....	Clearwater .....	2021
	Phil Stone.....	Clearwater .....	2020
	Caroline Kaufman.....	Clearwater.....	2020
	Peter Ackerman.....	Gainesville.....	2020
	John Heimburg.....	Orlando .....	2022
	Helen Fox.....	Ft. Myers.....	2022
<b>Publications</b>	Phoebe Andersen, Clerk.....	Tallahassee.....	2021
	Mercedes Soca.....	Miami .....	2020
<b>Worship &amp; Ministry</b>	Clara Diaz, Co-Clerk.....	Miami.....	2020
	Nancy Triscritti, Co-Clerk.....	Tampa.....	2021
	Eduardo Diaz.....	Miami .....	2020
	Nancy Fennell.....	Ft. Myers .....	2021

	Nancyrose Logan.....	Sarasota .....	2022
	Richelle Ogle.....	Orlando/SAWG .....	2022
<b>YM Gathering</b>	Andrea Hoskins <i>Clerk</i> .....	Miami .....	2022
	<i>Registrar OPEN</i>		
	Caroline Kaufman, <i>Bookstore</i> .....	Clearwater .....	2021
	Vincent Cobb.....	Tampa .....	2022
	Joshua Killingsworth.....	Gainesville.....	2021
	Stephanie Preston-Hughes.....	Orlando .....	2022
	Vicki Carlie, <i>Program Coordinator (2020)</i> .....	St. Petersburg .....	2020
<b>Youth Committee</b>	Mira Tanna, <i>Clerk</i> .....	Orlando .....	2020
	Aurelio Anderson.....	Tallahassee.....	2021
	Jennifer Mendoza.....	Sarasota .....	2021
	Cecelia Yocum.....	Tampa.....	2021

## REPRESENTATIVES TO ORGANIZATIONS

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### American Friends Service Committee Corporation, AFSC/Philadelphia

Kathy Hersh.....	Miami .....	2022
Beverly Ward.....	Tampa .....	2022

### Friends Committee on National Legislation, FCNL/William Penn House

Nancy Corindia.....	Sarasota .....	2020
Lou Putney .....	Tampa .....	2020
Aurelio Anderson.....	Tallahassee.....	2020
Sandra Schwartz.....	Clearwater .....	2020
Catharine Price.....	Lake Wales .....	2020
Karen Putney.....	Tampa .....	2021

### Friends General Conference, FGC Central Committee

Minerva Glidden.....	Orlando .....	2021
Susan Taylor.....	Tallahassee .....	2022
Susan Wade.....	St. Petersburg .....	2022

### Friends World Committee for Consultation – FWCC

Clara Diaz .....	Miami .....	2022
Eduardo Diaz.....	Miami .....	2021
Nancyrose Logan.....	Sarasota .....	2020
Phoebe Andersen.....	Tallahassee.....	2022

**Friends Peace Teams**..... Cecilia Yocum..... Tampa..... 2021

**Florida Council of Churches**... Beverly Ward..... Tampa..... 2021

### Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender & Queer

**Concerns – FLGBQ**..... Sara Humphrey..... Orlando .....

**Palmetto Friends Gathering**... Phoebe Andersen..... Tallahassee .....

Neil Andersen..... Tallahassee .....

**Quaker Earthcare Witness**..... Jack Bradin .....

Brad Stocker..... Miami .....

**Quaker House**..... Elaine Martin..... Jacksonville.....

Quaker United Nations.....Warren Hoskins.....Miami ..... 2022  
Office (QUNO)

**APPOINTED OBSERVERS TO ORGANIZATIONS**

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FUM General Board Observer. Eduardo Diaz.....Miami ..... 2021  
Ellie Caldwell, *Alternate*.....Palm Beach..... 2021

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

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Ed Lesnick, *Clerk*.....Orlando ..... 2021  
Beverly Ward.....Tampa ..... 2022  
Shawna Doran.....Gainesville..... 2022  
Brian Olson.....Miami..... 2023

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# Field Secretary for Earthcare (FSE) Report

Winter Interim Business Meeting 2020

## Overview

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

In this report, I review activities undertaken since the submission of the 2019 Fall Interim Business report. Although a short period of time has passed, it was a busy period. We recognized two global climate strikes, convened our Half Yearly Meeting Gathering, visited within SEYM and beyond. This report also outlines planned activities for the near future.

## Communication with the Anchoring Committee

The Anchoring Committee interactions continue through face-to-face and remote communication. Mary Jo Klingel and I had the opportunity to visit with Bill Carlie in St. Petersburg as discussed below and in the SEYM e-newsletter, <https://seymquakers.org/blog/2019/11/12/quaker-earthcare-witness-workshop/>.

## 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](mailto: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.
- Snailmail: 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. Sometimes, 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 and I'm happy to join Kody on events/visits.

***St. Petersburg Monthly Meeting, 9-10 Eleventh Month 2019***

As mentioned above, Mary Jo Klingel (Ft. Lauderdale Meeting and Clerk, Quaker Earthcare Witness) and I facilitated an Earthcare retreat at St. Petersburg Meeting. Thank you, Bill and Vicki Carlie, for the article on the retreat, <https://seymquakers.org/blog/2019/11/12/quaker-earthcare-witness-workshop/>. The retreat began before and carried over beyond the actual hours thanks to Susan Hefté's hospitality and organizing. One outcome was a resource list provided to participants and is attached as an addendum to this report (See Addendum A).

***Miami Monthly Meeting/FWCC Section of the Americas Southeast Regional Gathering, 6-9 Second Month 2020***

Miami MM will host Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) Southeast Regional Gathering. The theme of the Gathering, "Sharing historic QUAKER values today!", includes the Simplicity, Peace, Integrity, Community, Equality and Sustainability (SPICES) testimonies. I will co-facilitate two sessions with Eduardo Diaz and Brad Stocker, respectively. Follow this link for more information and registration, <https://seymquakers.org/blog/2019/11/16/fwcc-section-americas-southeast-regional-gathering-miami-feb-6-9-2020/>.

***Lake Wales Worship Group, to be scheduled***

During Half Yearly Meeting, Caroline Lanker and I (along with others) got to visit while preparing a meal. (It's becoming a tradition!) We had the chance to share our culinary skills and catch up on the world.

Catherine Price has been working with others in opposition to the proposed roadway construction included in the Multi-use Corridors of Regional Economic Significance Program (M-CORES). The program enacted by law earlier this year, authorizes three new tolled road corridors:

- Suncoast Connector extending from Jefferson County to Citrus County;
- Northern Turnpike Connector extending from the Suncoast Connector south to the Florida Turnpike northwest; and
- Southwest-Central Florida Connector extending from Polk County to Collier County (A previous roadway planned for the route was called the Heartland Parkway.).

The problems with these roadways are myriad. A *National Geographic* article, "Planned roads could imperil Florida's panthers—and last remaining wilderness", <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/2019/08/florida-toll-road-threatens-wildlife-panthers/>, reads

Roads foster development of suburban sprawl... Studies project that 5 million acres and most missing links in the Florida wildlife corridor will be paved over by 2070 unless major investments in land conservation steer development closer to existing urban cores.

Full disclosure: I relocated to Florida in 1991 to work in a transportation research center and have researched the impacts of roadway investments. Most recently, I worked with local communities to identify the potential impacts of the proposed Tampa Bay Express cum Tampa Bay Next, another proposed toll road project. During the next several months, I will share with Catherine Price my findings from the Tampa Bay Express work and look forward to identifying the social and other environmental impacts of M-CORES toll roads. For additional information, visit the M-CORES webpage of 1,000 Friends of Florida, <https://www.1000friendsofflorida.org/mcores/>.

### ***St. Augustine, to be scheduled***

### **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): work with CMOR includes seeking to lift up racial justice in care for the Earth. During Tenth Month, John Heimborg and I visited Two Mississippi Museums. The Museum of Mississippi History chronicles 15,000 years of history. The Mississippi Civil Rights Museum provides extensive coverage of the struggle of African Americans from enslavement to the present;
- Earthcare: much of the Earthcare Committee work has focused on sharing the 2019 Testimony to Earthcare, [https://seymquakers.org/ybm2019\\_earthcare-testimony/](https://seymquakers.org/ybm2019_earthcare-testimony/) and not just among Meetings within SEYM;
- Florida Council of Churches (FCC): In addition to attending the gathering of clergy 12-13 Ninth Month, I also continue to work with FCC and the Florida Interfaith Climate Actions Network to plan the sixth annual assembly. Save the dates: 13-14 Third Month 2020! (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.
- Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO), AFSC: Kathy Hersh and I share an SEYM appointment to AFSC. More information about QUNO and AFSC is detailed below;
- 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 continue to look for opportunities to collaborate. On 27 Ninth Month, we convened a virtual climate strike using video conferencing and streaming technology. We continue to 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. We are looking to provide training for AVP facilitators in 2020. This will be in addition to offering basic and advanced workshops;
- American Friends Service Committee (AFSC): I continue to serve as a corporate member of AFSC and as part of that work am a member of the Quaker United Nations Committee (QUNC). I also am part of AFSC's Third World Coalition.
- 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;
- Decolonizing Quakers, <https://www.decolonizingquakers.org/>, has posted a "Save the date" for a second conference calling Quakers to a concern for Truth and Healing with Indigenous Peoples, 30 Fourth Month to 3 Fifth Month 2020 at Pendle Hill;
- Florida Interfaith Climate Actions Network (FL-iCAN): as mentioned above, the FL-iCAN! Sixth Assembly is scheduled for 13-14 Third Month 2020. This year's theme, "Blue Green Neighborhoods: Restorative, Regenerative, and Resilient." We will return to the Callahan Neighborhood Center, 101 North Parramore Avenue, Orlando. Please also check out the website, <https://fl-ican.org>. Don't forget to sign-up for legislative action alerts, <https://fl-ican.org/action-alerts/>, while you're there.
- Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL): Brad Stocker and I continue to share a slot as representatives to FCNL for QEW. Emily Wirzba, FCNL Legislative Manager, Sustainable Energy and Environment, also participated in the SEYM Climate Strike;
- Friends General Conference: I hope to participate in the 2020 Gathering assisting Cece Yocum with a workshop;
- 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: The work with Geeta and Bob McGahey through the QEW Outreach Committee is ongoing. Geeta McGahey also will participate in the Miami/FWCC workshop;
- Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC): I continue to work to strengthen links to FWCC through QEW and AFSC. See also Quaker World Relations Committee (QWRC) below.
- 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, Climate Justice Committee: I continue to assist the local committee;
- The Pachamama Alliance: I continue to work with members through the FL-iCAN network;
- QEW: I continue focus on the International Decade for People of African Descent and co-clerking the Water Circle, researching water issues, and planning for the 2020 side event through the UN Working Group. During the Steering Committee meeting at Pendle Hill, Barb Adams, Hayley Hathaway, Shelley Tannebaum and I also appeared in a QuakerSpeaks video, The Work of Quaker Earthcare Witness, <https://quakerspeak.com/the-work-of-quaker-earthcare/>. Many thanks to Jon Watts.

- Quaker World Relations Committee (QWRC): I have been working with members of QWRC to participate in the 2020 Forum, remotely. The Forum will be held 8 Second Month during the FWCC SOA Gathering in Miami. (This will really bring Friends together!)
- Unitarian Universalist Fellowship: Jan Booher, Unitarian Universalist Justice Florida (UUJF), and I continue to collaborate through FL-iCAN. As part of the sixth assembly, we will add a focus on the arts;
- 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. The Institute will convene a mini-conference on Decolonization in Theory and Practice: Europe and the Americas Otherwise, 25 Second Month, in Tampa.

### **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**

We have begun to look forward to the SEYM Gathering. In divvying up workshops, I plan to offer a session from Project Drawdown, “Reversing Global Warming: Introduction to Drawdown.” If you’re unable to attend the Yearly Meeting Gathering, consider having the workshop in your community. I also plan to offer it online after Yearly Meeting. Until then...

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

### Appendix A

**From the St. Petersburg (FL) Religious Society of Friends Retreat, 2019-11-09-10**  
***Quaker Gifts, Light, and Perspectives for the Climate Crisis***  
**Compiled by Mary Jo Klingel, Beverly G. Ward, and Retreat Attendees**

#### **Books**

- Barber, Rev. Dr. William J. II and Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove  
 2016 The Third Reconstruction: How a Moral Movement Is Overcoming the Politics of Division and Fear.
- Baum, L. Frank  
 1958 The Wizard of Oz.
- Bigelow, Bill, Tim Swinehart, et al.  
 2015 A People’s Curriculum for the Earth: Teaching About the Environmental Crisis.
- Eisenstein, Charles

- 2018 Climate: A New Story.  
 2013 The More Beautiful World Our Hearts Know is Possible.  
 2011 Sacred Economics: Money, Gift, and Society in the Age of Transition.
- Gloss, Molly  
 2019 The Dazzle of Day.
- Hansen, James  
 2010 Storms of My Grandchildren: The Truth About the Coming Climate Catastrophe and Our Last Chance to Save Humanity.
- Hartmann, Thom  
 2004 The Last Hours of Ancient Sunlight: Revised and Updated Third Edition: The Fate of the World and What We Can Do Before It's Too Late.
- Hawken, Paul and Tom Steyer  
 2017 Drawdown: The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming.
- Kiehl, Jeffrey T.  
 2016 Facing Climate Change: An Integrated Path to the Future.
- Kimmerer, Robin Wall  
 2015 Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants.
- Klein, Naomi  
 2019 On Fire: The (Burning) Case for a Green New Deal.
- Mckibben, Bill  
 2019 Falter: Has the Human Game Begun to Play Itself Out?
- Ratcliffe, Jennie M.  
 2019 Nothing Lowly in the Universe: An An Integral Approach to the Ecological Crisis.
- Slonczewski, Joan  
 1986 A Door into Ocean.
- Steingraber, Sandra  
 2011 Raising Elijah: Protecting Children in an Age of Environmental Crisis.  
 2010 Living Downstream: An Ecologist's Personal Investigation of Cancer and the Environment.  
 2003 Having Faith: An Ecologist's Journey to Motherhood.
- Wheatley, Margaret J.  
 2012 So Far from Home: Lost and Found in Our Brave New World.
- Zukav, Gary  
 1989 Seat of the Soul.

### **Pendle Hill Pamphlets**

- Haines, Pamela  
 2017 Money and Soul (Pendle Hill Pamphlet No. 450).

### **Online**

- BeFriending Creation*, <https://www.quakerearthcare.org/befriending-creation>. The news journal of Quaker Earthcare Witness.
- Climate Change Theatre Action, <http://www.climatechangetheatreaction.com/join-us/>. Follow this link to learn more about Climate Change Theatre Action, including access to the plays. The theatre troupe, Bohn Jeverly, performed *Failed Experiment* on 10 Eleventh Month.

Climate Solutions Caucus, <https://teddeutch.house.gov/climate/>. The Senate also formed a climate solutions caucus during Tenth Month 2019, <https://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/467009-new-bipartisan-senate-climate-caucus-aims-to-take-politics-out-of>.

Decolonizing Quakers, <https://www.decolonizingquakers.org/>.

Greta Thunberg, Full speech to world leaders at UN Climate Action Summit, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KAJsdgTPJpU>.

The Kabarak Call for Peace and Ecojustice, <http://www.fwcc.world/call.pdf>.

Rock Me Goddess in the Gentle Arms of Eden, Dave Carter and Tracy Grammer, <https://genius.com/Dave-carter-and-tracy-grammer-gentle-arms-of-eden-lyrics>.

Quaker Earthcare Witness, <https://www.quakerearthcare.org/>. "... [A] network of North American Friends (Quakers) and other like-minded people who are taking spirit-led action to address the ecological and social crises of the world, emphasizing Quaker process and testimonies.

Quakers and Climate Change Worldwide, <https://quakersandclimatechange.com/>. "...[A] resource portal for Quakers to share their actions and to inspire each others."

Sandra Steingraber, <http://steingraber.com/>.

Sea Level Rise Toolbox, Sea Level Rise App, <http://citizeneyes.org/app/>.

SEYM Faith Statement on Earthcare, [https://seymquakers.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/YBM2019\\_Earthcare-Testimony.pdf](https://seymquakers.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/YBM2019_Earthcare-Testimony.pdf).

SEYM Queries and Advices, 11. Care of the Natural World, <https://seymquakers.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/SEYM-Queries-Advices.pdf>.

Think Global Green, <https://thinkglobalgreen.org/>. International news about climate change.

The Years Project, <https://theyearsproject.com/>. Short videos about climate.



Quaker Earthcare Witness



The Great Red Oak Coelho

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## Florida Council of Churches Report

The Council convened the Faith Leaders Advancing Shared Hope, 12th through 13<sup>th</sup>, Ninth Month (September), 2019. Clergy and others were invited to partner as a Publicly Engaged Church by learning of the issues that deny opportunity to Floridians and by collaborating to improve public policy. The convening addressed reforms related to public education, consumer law, criminal justice, environmental law, and immigration.

The FCC is a partner in the Florida Real Talk Coalition, <https://realtalkfl.org>, a grassroots organization with the goals of improving the outcomes for Florida students by increasing participation of affected communities in the decision making process. (Russell Meyer, FCC Executive Director, is the Coalition's Communications Chair.)

Two representatives from the Sierra Club gave updates on environmental concerns, especially water and climate degradation.

An immigration attorney provided some insight on the impacts of recent State legislation on immigration and sanctuary.

Overall, attendees were asked to prepare for the 2020 State legislative session. Friends can sign up for legislative alerts through the FL-iCAN website, <https://fl-ican.org/action-alerts/>.

### Upcoming FCC Activities

**Sixth Annual Florida Interfaith Climate Actions Network (FL-iCAN!) Assembly**, 13th – 14th, Third (March) Month, 2020, Callahan Neighborhood Center, 101 North Parramore Avenue, Orlando, Florida. The theme for the upcoming assembly is “Blue Green Neighborhoods: Restorative, Regenerative, and Resilient.”

Submitted by Beverly Ward  
SEYM Representative to Florida Council of Churches

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## Friends World Committee for Consultation Section of the Americas Report

FWCC Section of the Americas (SOA) Southeast Regional  
Gathering February 6-9, 2020, Miami, Florida

# Sharing historic **QUAKER** values today!\*

*\*Simplicity, Peace, Integrity, Community, Equality and Sustainability*

This is a Gathering for FWCC Representatives from Yearly Meetings in the Southeastern U.S. and Jamaica, plus Friends from anywhere interested in participating.

### **Meeting Locations:**

Diaz Family Residence: 13625 SW 82 CT, Palmetto Bay, FL 33158  
Miami Friends Meeting: 1185 Sunset Drive, Coral Gables, FL 33143  
Iglesia de Los Amigos: 4900 SW 118 Avenue, Miami, FL 33175

**Note:** There is no registration fee!

Please come prepared to offer donations to help cover food expenses.

### **Schedule:**

#### **Thursday, February 6: Travel day**

6:00pm to 9:00pm: Informal simple dinner, orientation and fellowship at Diaz Family Residence. Facilitated by Clara and Eduardo Diaz.

#### **Friday, February 7: Two program sessions and evening pot luck dinner at Iglesia de Los Amigos.**

8:30am: Breakfast with local host or on your own, then travel to Iglesia de Los Amigos.

10:00am to 12:30pm: **Program Session 1. Traveling Ministry Corps.** Facilitated by Geeta Jyothi McGahey (SAYMA) and Robin Mohr, Executive Secretary, Friends World Committee for Consultation, Section of the Americas (FWCC-SoA).

12:30pm to 2:00pm: Picnic lunch at Iglesia de Los Amigos.

2:00pm to 4:30pm: **Program Session 2. FWCC and Southeastern Yearly Meeting (SEYM) Earth Care Actions.** Facilitated by Beverly Ward (SEYM Earthcare Field Secretary) and Brad Stocker, Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW) Steering Committee member.

4:30pm to 7:00pm: Free time, or rest and relaxation.

7:00pm to 9:00pm: Evening meal and fellowship program at Iglesia de Los Amigos.

#### **Saturday, February 8: Two program sessions and evening dinner and fellowship at Miami Friends Meeting.**

8:30am: Breakfast with local host or on your own, then travel to Miami Friends Meeting.

- 10:00am to 12:30pm: **Program Session 3. Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO) application of Quaker Values.** Facilitated by Eduardo Diaz, Former Quaker United Nations Committee (QUNC) Clerk and Beverly Ward (Current QUNC-New York Member).
- 12:30pm to 2:00pm: Picnic Lunch at Bartram House or Activity Room of Miami Friends Meeting.
- 2:00pm to 4:30pm: **Program Session 4. What unifies us as Quakers.** Facilitated by Christine Ashley, Friends Committee for National Legislation (FCNL) Quaker Field Secretary and FWCC Representative from Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting/Fellowship.
- 4:30pm to 7:00pm: Free time, or rest and relaxation.
- 7:00pm to 9:00pm: Pot-luck dinner and fellowship at Miami Friends Meeting.

**Sunday, February 9:** **Worship at Programmed (Spanish) or Unprogrammed Meeting (English)** and travel home or stay an extra night to take the optional Everglades National Park excursion.

**Note:** It is possible to attend both unprogrammed worship and pastoral service if one moves rapidly from one site to the other and is willing to miss somethings.

- 9:30am to 10:15am: Meeting for Learning at Miami Friends Meeting.
- 10:30am to 11:45am: Meeting for Worship at Miami Friends Meeting
- 11:30am to 12:30pm: Escuela Dominical at Iglesia de Los Amigos.
- 12:30pm to 1:30pm: Culto de Adoración Pastoral at Iglesia de Los Amigos.
- 1:30pm to 2:30pm: Fellowship Lunch at Iglesia de Los Amigos.
- 2:00pm to 7:00pm: Optional half day excursion to Everglades National Park. (Details to be determined)

### Planning Committee:

Beth Myers, Regional Representative Clerk  
 Rausie Hobson, Convocation Committee Clerk  
 Marcos González Longoria, Iglesia de Los Amigos  
 Eduardo and Clara Diaz, Miami Friends Meeting and SEYM Representatives to FWCC

### Confirmed Facilitators



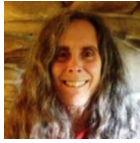
Christine Ashley, Quaker Field Secretary, Friends Committee for National Legislation (FCNL), member of Friends Committee on North Carolina Legislation (FCNCL) and FWCC Representative from Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting/Fellowship



Clara L. Diaz, Southeastern Yearly Meeting (SEYM) FWCC Representative and Worship and Ministry Committee Clerk



Eduardo I. Diaz, SEYM Representative to FWCC and former Quaker United Nations Committee (QUNC) Clerk



Geeta Jyothi McGahey, FWCC Traveling Minister and Representative from Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association, (SAYMA)



Robin Mohr, Executive Secretary, Friends World Committee for Consultation Section of the Americas (FWCC-SoA)



Brad Stocker, Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW) and Earth Literacy Workshop Facilitator



Beverly Ward, SEYM Earthcare Field Secretary and current Quaker United Nations Committee (QUNC) Member

**Registration:** Please carefully read the following and respond to Eduardo Diaz, Local Housing and Transportation Coordinator, via email to [avpmiami@aol.com](mailto:avpmiami@aol.com)

### AIRPORTS

- The nearest airport is Miami International Airport. It is about 11 miles from Clara and Eduardo's home but with easy access to public transportation - via a MetroRail train that ends where the busway begins.
- The next nearest airport is Ft. Lauderdale/Hollywood Airport, about 40 miles north. Flights might be cheaper, but the cost of local travel is much more expensive. (We may be able to arrange a pick up at MIA, if we are available, but not from Ft. Lauderdale)

### ACCOMMODATIONS

- Clara and Eduardo are willing to allow guests to stay at their home from February 5-10 to facilitate best airfare choices. Their address is 13625 S.W. 82<sup>nd</sup> Court, Palmetto Bay, Florida 33158-1010. Home Telephone: 786-429-1049, Eduardo's Cell: 786-239-2252.
- Clara and Eduardo live south of the city in a suburb called Palmetto Bay, within 5 blocks from a public transportation stop on the busway, about an hour from the entrance to Everglades National Park. This will be "home base" for all travelers in need of assistance.
- There will be 3 free bedrooms and a total of 4 beds (One king, 2 queen and 1 full) available at the Diaz Family Residence, if you are able to accept accommodations in a house that includes 3 rabbits. Couples are welcomed. Several air mattresses are available for those willing to have a living room dormitory experience.

- Other local Friends have offered home hospitality as well. The Iglesia will also provide cots and kitchen access at their location for those who choose to bring sleeping bags and prefer the simplest accommodations.

**HOTEL RECOMMENDATION**

- For those who would like to stay at a hotel, The Quality Inn Miami South is a 2-star hotel that is 1.2 miles away from the Diaz Family Residence, across the street from the busway.
- ***Transportation will be greatly facilitated if some registrants are willing to rent a car to help transport others between meeting sites.***

Please complete the following, as best you can, and email it to Eduardo Diaz at [avpmiami@aol.com](mailto:avpmiami@aol.com):

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Other Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Detailed Travel Info: **(Please include arrival and departure dates, times and airline and flight numbers)** Via Car: \_\_\_\_\_ Via Air: \_\_\_\_\_ Via Train: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you willing to rent a car? (Circle One): Yes No

Are you requesting home hospitality? (Circle One): Yes No

Are you able to use the simplest accommodations if needed? (Circle One): Yes No

Are you making your own accommodation arrangements? (Circle One): Yes No

Are you going to participate in the optional half day excursion to Everglades National Park, guided by Brad Stocker, from Sunday afternoon up to early evening? (Circle One): Yes No

Please indicate any special needs or dietary restrictions: \_\_\_\_\_

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