

# SEYM Yearly Business Meeting 2011

## **Agenda & Documents-in-Advance (YBM-DIA)**

at the Florida United Methodist Life Enrichment Center, Fruitland Park, FL

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### EC AGENDA

4/20/2011

1. Secretary's report.
  2. Address confusion regarding the Minute from EC,  
"11EC02 EC appoints an ad-hoc committee to revise and rewrite our Child Abuse Prevention Procedures and the Youth Program Worker Training Manual in an effort to rid them of inconsistencies and to make them documents we can use. The ad-hoc committee will include Lyn Cope, Cece Yocum, Herb Haigh, Josh Rumschlag, Chuck Deneen, and Steve Kinney. This committee will also update and clarify how SEYM youth activities are supervised and implemented."  
The confusion is with regard to the distinction made between Policy, Procedures Manual, Guidelines or Rules.
  3. Youth Committee:
    - Has a clerk been named?
    - Check progress on Teen Guidelines and plan for bringing to plenary for approval.
    - Proposal for 1-year Youth Coordinator position
  4. F & P Committee: Check on progress on the section regarding trustees and their YM role.
  5. Personnel Policy—antidiscrimination clause.
  6. Committee reports
  7. Envisioning our YM
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## SEYM Yearly Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business

### Agenda

April 21- 24, 2011

*"The life of a religious society consists in something more than the body of principles it professes and the outer garments of organization which it wears. These things have their own importance: they embody the society to the world, and protect it from the chance and change of circumstance; but the springs of life lie deeper, and often escape recognition. They are to be found in the vital union of the members of the society with God and with one another, a union which allows the free flowing through the society of the spiritual life which is its strength."*

—William Charles Braithwaite, 1905

*Christian Faith and Practice in the Experience of the Society of Friends,*  
London Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, 1972

### **Agenda, First Plenary Session**

**Thursday, April 21, 4:00- 5:15 pm.**

**Presiding clerk,** Susan Taylor

**Assistant clerk,** Gary Arthur

**Recording clerk,** Ed Lesnick

Open, centering worship.

Welcome

Roll call of Meetings and Worship Groups-milestones

Introduction of visitors

General announcements- (Please bring announcements forward to the clerk prior to session when possible.)

Agenda review with corrections as necessary

Reading from a Yearly Meeting epistle

Committee for SEYM Epistle

Nominating Committee preliminary report, Mary Jo Klingel, Clerk

Overview of "Envisioning Our Yearly Meeting": notebooks available for Friends' visions throughout the week. Worshipful threshing session Saturday afternoon.

Open Worship

### **Agenda, Second Plenary Session Friday, April 22, 10:00-11:45 a.m.**

Open, centering worship

Welcome and roll call of Meetings and Worship Groups- milestones

Introductions of visitors

General announcements

Reading from a Yearly Meeting epistle

Worship and Ministry Committee Report, including Michener Lecture- Nancy Triscritti, clerk

SEYM Executive Committee (E.C.) – Gary Arthur, acting Interim Business Meeting clerk

Approval of Interim Business Meeting minutes – Ed Lesnick, recording clerk

Detailed ProNica Report, Davida Johns, stateside coordinator; Lillian Hall, Coordinator Nicaragua

Trustee's report- Herb Haigh, clerk

Treasurer's report -Neil Andersen

Finance Committee report/first presentation of 2011-2012 budget (D.I.A.)- Nil Wilkins, Clerk

Mercedes Soco- Havana, Cuba, unprogrammed worship group.

Review of Minutes for approval

Open worship

### **Saturday, April 23, 10:00-11:45 a.m. Agenda, Third Plenary Session**

Open, centering worship

Welcome and introductions of Friends and visitors

General announcements

Faith and Practice—Phoebe Andersen, clerk

Detailed report from SEYM Friends Peace Teams representative- Cecelia Yocum and Lisa Stewart

Report on FUM activities within SEYM- Lisa Stewart

Detailed report from Committee for Earthcare / FCNL

SEYM Standing Committee brief reports of information not in DIA:

    Youth Committee – committee member reporting

    Committee for Ministry on Racism—Ellie Caldwell, clerk

    Peace and Social Concerns – Warren Hoskins, clerk

    Half Yearly Meeting- Andrea Walsh, clerk

    Archives – Peter Day, clerk

Review of minutes for approval

Open worship

## **Agenda, Fourth Plenary Session Saturday, April 23, 1:00-2:15 p.m.**

Open, centering worship

Welcome and introductions of Friends and visitor

Finance committee—approval of budget, 2010-2011- Nil Wilkins, clerk

### **Envisioning our Yearly Meeting:**

Worshipful threshing session. No decisions to be made.: What is God, the Source, Christ within saying to us as a body and individually? In what new ways might we focus to “serve as an instrument of God’s grace” (Nancy Fennell, Ft. Myers MM) more deeply within SEYM and the world? What changes might be made to make more inviting or possible serving on committees or filling various clerk positions? What might a Yearly Meeting look like that would call to more, and a wider variety of people to eagerly attend and contribute to in a variety of ways, including financially? Friends may speak to any of these queries, or others of their own creation.

Brief updates, if any, not in DIA from SEYM representatives to organizations and representatives from Quaker Organizations. Please refer to DIA for reports and talk to representatives to organizations, in order to allow more time for Envisioning Our Yearly Meeting.

    AFSC Corporation-- American Friends Service Committee- Sandy Branum or Harold Branum

    AFSC-SERO- American Friends Service Committee, Southeast Regional Office

        -Andrew Jason or Jim Cain

    AFSC-SERO, EMAP- Emergency Materials and Preparation-Mary Jo Klingel

    Florida Council of Churches- Dustin Lemke

    FCNL- Friends Committee on National Legislation-Karen Putney

    FGC- Friends General Conference-Liz Perch, Dustin Lemke or Herb Haigh

    FLGBTQC— Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Concerns-Kody Hersh

    FWCC- Friends World Committee for Consultation-Petra Doan or Liz Kamphausen

QEW- Quaker Earthcare Witness-Jack Braden or Mary Jo Klingel  
 QUNO- Quaker United Nations Office- Laura or James Winefordner

Review of minutes for approval  
 Open worship

**Agenda, Fifth Plenary Session**  
**Easter Sunday, April 24, 2010, 9:00-10:45 a.m.**

Open, centering worship  
 Reading  
 General announcements  
 Epistles- Wee Friends, Young Friends, Teen Friends (This will occur whenever these Friends arrive in the auditorium)  
 Nominating Committee report- Mary Jo Klingel, clerk  
 Gathering Committee report- Ellie Caldwell, clerk  
 Minutes of appreciation  
 SEYM Epistle reading and approval  
 Review of minutes for approval  
 Open worship

Our Gathering will close with meeting for worship at 11:00 a.m.

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**A Reminder to assist Recording Clerk(s):**

My effort is to insure the records of our Yearly Meeting's business sessions are accurate. Minutes will consist of what Friends approve with a brief explanation (numbered minutes), written or electronic committee and representative reports, milestones, and other items directed by the clerk or Friends in attendance.

Remember that the purpose of the minutes is to record actions taken by the meeting. It is not necessary, nor desirable, to record what everyone said. The minutes simply lay out the question under consideration. Touch on major points of agreement or disagreement, and record what action was taken.

Friends who propose formal minutes should present such before the meeting or for placement on the agenda. Committee clerks, representatives, and those who report on MM activities are requested to provide a digital file version of their reports.

If Friends have an extended minute of concern that will be presented for consideration, please e-mail me prior to the business meeting or before your time on the agenda. This would be of great help to those seated at the clerk's desk.

Do enjoy the peace and fellowship.

—ed Lesnick, SEYM Recording Clerk  
 edlesnick@earthlink.net

Please Note: The recorded attendance list for annual gathering and business sessions is determined by registration.

## **Locating IBM- and YBM-Minutes; IBM- and YBM-DIAs:**

**F**or your convenience SEYM Minutes and DIAs are posted on the SEYM website <seym.org>. See Archived Library Folder, the SEYM's file drawer!

## **Minutes Approved by Fall and Winter Interim Business Meetings**

### **Executive Committee Meeting Southeastern Yearly Meeting**

**01/14/2011**

Held at the Orlando Friends Meeting House, Orlando, FL

### **Numbered Minutes**

**11EC01 EC** recommends SEYM replace the use of fingerprinting for background checks with the Safe Church Shepherd's Watch background check procedure. Funding will come from the 8500 Contingency Fund for this current fiscal year.

**11EC02 EC** appoints an ad-hoc committee to revise and rewrite our Child Abuse Prevention Procedures and the Youth Program Worker Training Manual in an effort to rid them of inconsistencies and to make them documents we can use. The ad-hoc committee will include Lyn Cope, Cece Yocum, Herb Haigh, Josh Rumschlag, Chuck Dineen, and Steve Kenney. This committee will also update and clarify how SEYM youth activities are supervised and implemented.

### **Southeastern Yearly Meeting Minutes of the Fall Interim Business Meeting**

**October 2, 2010**

**10IBM05** SEYM affirms that for any and all SEYM sponsored events, which include a formal youth program, the SEYM Child Abuse Prevention Procedures will be administered uniformly by those implementing the program, with regards to registration, security, behavior policies and enforcement thereof. If any Yearly Meeting event does not have a formal youth program, all attendees will be under the care of their family unit or appointed guardian in accordance with same SEYM Policies, which will be spelled out in the registration process.

**10IBM06** Yearly Meeting supports and approves the recommendation from the Gathering Committee, for the re-emergence of our Young Adult Quakers (YAQ) program at the 2011 Yearly Gathering. Elizabeth Croce and Daniel Doan will clerk the program, under the care of the Gathering Committee. Gathering Committee will promote and distribute information about the YAQ program to the monthly meetings and worship groups.

Minute of appreciation for Dan Vaughen

Southeastern Yearly Meeting expresses deep gratitude to Dan Vaughen for the careful work he did to correct

the Yearly Meeting's non-profit status. The Yearly Meeting is now considered by the IRS to be an association of churches as specified in USC section 170(b)(1)(A)(i), and as a result, SEYM is not required to file an IRS 990 form. Thank you, Dan.

### **Minute of Appreciation to Palm Beach Meeting**

It is our Yearly Meeting's pleasure to return to the familiar and welcoming space of Palm Beach Meeting for our Fall Interim Business Meeting. We acknowledge with gratitude all that Palm Beach Friends have done to provide us with hospitality, good food and great comfort. Thanks to all from Palm Beach Meeting who welcomed us.

### **Numbered Minutes from WIBM for YBM-DIA**

11IBM01 Southeastern Yearly Meeting supports our Worship & Ministry committee in their work to discern a way forward in healing for the yearly meeting.

11IBM02 SEYM will replace the use of fingerprinting for background checks with the Safe Church Shepherd's Watch background check procedure. Funding will come from the 8500 Contingency Fund for this current fiscal year.

EC appoints an ad-hoc committee to revise and rewrite our Child Abuse Prevention Procedures and the Youth Program Worker Training Manual in an effort to rid them of inconsistencies and to make them a document we can use. The ad-hoc committee will include Lyn Cope, Cece Yocum, Herb Haigh, Josh Rumschlag, Chuck Deneen, Caroline Lanker, and Steve Kinney. This committee will also update and clarify how SEYM youth activities are supervised and implemented.



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## STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

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### Archives Committee:

### Committee for Earthcare:

#### Winter Interim Business Meeting Committee for Earthcare Report

SEYM Earthcare Committee

January 15, 2011

The meeting opened with a period of silent worship.

1. Minutes from YM were read, corrected, and accepted. There was no meeting held during FIBM.
2. The committee will continue its work on the FCNL supported Cantwell/Collins Clear Act to tax carbon. Committee members will bring it to the attention of their MMs. We encourage friends here to go to the FCNL website for details and bring it to the attention of their MMs, too. There are five important points to the bill:
  - a. It places a price on the carbon in fossil fuels to reflect their real environmental costs.
  - b. It protects middle and lower income families from energy price increases.
  - c. It treats everyone fairly.
  - d. It steadily reduces carbon emissions.
  - e. It provides predictable carbon prices and lets the marketplace chose the best technologies.
3. The Earthcare Committee (EC) thanks Kate Sundberg with the deepest gratitude for her work on setting up a webpage for our committee. Kate accomplished much of this during our meeting. We are delighted for her help. The next step will be to get it on the SEYM website. The goal is to keep F/friends updated on the committee meeting minutes, agendas, links, and to be able to contact us. We can have wider conversations with MMs as a result.
4. The EC would like to let F/friends know that there is a way forward with an environmental focus to help with the Haitian earthquake recovery. An example, for those who are interested, is on the website for Food for the Poor which is [foodforthe poor.org](http://foodforthe poor.org). They are a four star rated charity with a commitment rate of 97%. You can make donations for items such as a water pumps, solar powered lights, or fruit trees. They have many other items you can donate beside environmentally-focused ones. Also, you can make a donation to AFSC in Haiti.
5. A co-clerk for the committee is still needed.
6. A committee member is in touch with Marsha Cleveland of FCNL's Green Team with hope that she will be able to attend and participate in YM.
7. EC has volunteered to do a workshop with the children. The Youth Committee has been contacted and the offer accepted. The age-group will be at the discretion of the Youth Committee.
8. EC would like to remind F/friends about the Quaker Earthcare Witnesses' Mini Grant program. This is a \$250 matching grant for MMs to use to green their Meeting Houses. Details can be found on the QEW website or in the publication "Befriending Creation". We urge all of you to bring this to the attention of your meetings.

The meeting ended in silent worship.

Respectfully submitted in peace with the earth,

Barbara Letsch, clerk  
Earthcare Committee

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## Committee on Ministry for Racism

*“The depth of my wisdom is, also, the depth of my ignorance.  
The depth of my love is, also, the depth of my indifference.”*

—Wendy Clarissa Geiger, Jacksonville Friends Meeting

Dear Southeastern Yearly Meeting Friends,

Please, consider participating in SEYM Gathering, April 20th-24th, 2011, in Fruitland Park, Florida, at the United Methodist Church’s Life Enrichment Center, a beautiful and comfortable facility in which to worship, work, play, contemplate, inspire, challenge and invigorate.

We will address racism—in U.S. society and in the Religious Society of Friends—during our time at Yearly Meeting Gathering, where most of the 150-200 participants are Caucasian. Bring your creativity, your longings for racial healing, your questions, your forgiveness, your understanding, your greatness of heart, your worry you might be more racist—and more deeply hurt by racism—than you think you are. We will try to be gentle with ourselves and each other. And, we will try to be honest with same. May we be tender with our own and one another’s confusions, frustrations, bafflements, ignorance, and wisdom.

The Southeastern Yearly Meeting Committee for Ministry on Racism will meet Thursday, April 21st, in the early afternoon during committee meetings’ meeting time. See the Committee’s display in the auditorium with hand-outs and these quotes:

“If White people have inflicted the wound of racism on Black people, the cost is that we would receive the mirror image of that wound into ourselves. I want to know, as fully and exactly as I can, what the wound is and how much I am suffering from it. And I want to be cured...”

—from THE HIDDEN WOUND, by Wendell Berry,  
Caucasian poet, essayist, professor and farmer

“The Jewish Holocaust profoundly affected the Jewish psyche. How has the Black Holocaust—lasting hundreds of years—affected the African American psyche?...and the European American psyche?”

—WCG

We will have an enriching and healing time together, exploring what we Quakers have to say and do regarding racism, continuing the work of John Woolman and Lucretia Mott.

In the Struggle,

Wendy Clarissa Geiger for the SEYM Committee for Ministry on Racism  
(Ellie Caldwell, Clerk)

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## **Faith and Practice Committee**

### **Finance Committee**

#### Finance Committee Report Third Month, 2011

The main item on Finance Committee's agenda to be considered at the Yearly Business Meeting is the approval of a budget for the next fiscal year, FY 2011-2012, which will begin on 6/1/2011. The budget proposed by the Finance Committee is shown on the following pages. To aid in its discernment on this issue, Finance Committee asked for and received input from numerous SEYM Friends, for which the committee is most grateful.

While a few Friends requested increases in select line items in the budget, given the economic realities facing individual Friends and their respective monthly meetings, a majority of Friends expressed a desire to either maintain or reduce the budget. Friends place much value in SEYM and its efforts for Yearly Meeting Friends and they have a desire for a vital YM. However, the majority shared that increases in the budget as have occurred over the last few years and as subsequently reflected in the monthly meeting apportionments, are a cause of real stress and are no longer sustainable for many.

At WIBM, there was much time spent on the subject of our youth and youth programs, with the concern being to provide a safe, educational and enjoyable experience for children and youth at our Gatherings and conferences. Having enough Friends to work with the youth has been an ongoing challenge, one reason being the cost of the required background checks, which the volunteers were responsible for. To encourage more volunteers to work with the youth, it was proposed that the YM cover the cost of these background checks.

Finance Committee recommendations:

Regarding background checks for the youth workers

- a. Add a new line item to the budget: 3107 – Youth worker certification program - projection \$2000.
- b. To avoid an increase in meeting apportionments from this new expense: decrease the Duplication line item (3080) by \$1,000; incorporate a small increase in the registration fees for YM Gatherings, i.e. YBM, HYM and Michener (NOTE: Finance committee has a concern to not have the fees for these events increase too much so as not to discourage attendance.); have the remaining balance come out of the General Fund, either from individual donations or the contingency line item if needed. Finance committee asks Friends to consider making/increasing individual donations to SEYM to help with this needed expense.
- c. Ask that Friends continue their discernment on the budget for line items that might be reduced and contact Finance Committee with any suggestions.
- d. Reactivate the ad hoc committee for discernment on the monthly meeting apportionment process. Finance Committee recognizes this process as an important issue needing committee discernment.

Regarding the disposition of the FUM donation line item (5067)

- a. In the past, SEYM has minuted this line item amount be divided equally between Kaimosi Hospital and Ramallah Friends School, programs of particular concern to SEYM Friends. This year Finance committee recommends this line item amount be used to support SEYM Friend Lisa Stewart's leading to continue to work among Kenyan Friends as FUM volunteer Field Staff (see her report in DIAs). Finance does not make this recommendation as a sign of lack of support for these important FUM projects, but rather in an effort to provide needed support while avoiding an increase in meeting apportionments. Finance encourages those Friends who are so led to offer financial support to these programs to do so individually. In addition, perhaps Friends would consider a minute to show that SEYM still endorses support for FUM programs in need of funds and that SEYM Friends have a concern for.

With Love and Light to all,  
Nil Wilkins  
Clerk of Finance Committee

**Southeastern Yearly Meeting General Fund Budget - draft 2011-2012**

Categories	Proposed Budget 2009-2010	Actual Budget 2009-2010	Proposed Budget 2010-2011	Proposed Budget 2010-2011-2012	% change from 2010-2011
<b>Income</b>					
Real Income to General Fund					
2002 Individual Donations	\$3,300	\$3,300	\$3,550	\$4,050	14%
2711 Individual donations with Gathering registration	\$0			500	N/A
2203 Savings account interest	\$150	\$150	\$150	\$150	0%
2003 Meeting & Worship groups	\$65,514	\$65,514	\$69,809	\$69,809	0%
Subtotal	\$68,964	\$68,964	\$73,509	\$74,509	1%
Transfers from other accounts					
2820 Secretary's Fund (from Trustees)	\$4,900	\$4,900	\$4,786	\$4,786	0%
2815 Outreach Travel (from Trustees)	\$2,350	\$2,350	\$2,058	\$2,058	0%
2712 From Michener Lecture for admin	\$110	\$110	\$110	\$110	0%
2732 From Gathering for admin	\$770	\$770	\$770	\$770	0%
2752 From HYM for admin	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400	0%
2750 Surplus from HYM					
Subtotal	\$8,530	\$8,530	\$8,124	\$8,124	0%
Total Income	\$77,494	\$77,494	\$81,633	\$82,633	1%

Categories	Proposed Budget 2009-2010	Actual Budget 2009-2010	Proposed Budget 2010-2011	Proposed Budget 2010-2011-2012	% change from 2010-2011
<b>Expenditures</b>					
Administration					
3001 Bank Charges	\$20	\$20	\$20	\$20	0%
3002 Credit Card Processing Fees	\$10	\$10	\$10	\$10	0%
3080 Duplication	\$5,700	\$5,700	\$5,700	\$4,700	-18%
3106 Liability Insurance	\$1,400	\$1,400	\$1,400	\$1,400	0%
3107 Youth worker certification program	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$2,000	N/A
3146 Fee for Non-Profit Corp	\$61	\$61	\$61	\$61	0%
3200 Office Supplies	\$530	\$530	\$580	\$580	0%
3270 Payroll expenses - Salary	\$39,800	\$39,800	\$40,994	\$40,994	0%
3270 Payroll expenses - Employer Taxes	\$3,045	\$3,045	\$3,136	\$3,136	0%
3271 Employee Insurance	\$3,600	\$3,600	\$5,000	\$5,000	0%
3380 Postage	\$1,600	\$1,600	\$1,600	\$1,600	0%
3381 Post Office Box Rental	\$58	\$58	\$62	\$62	0%
3400 Office Equipment	\$400	\$400	\$450	\$450	0%
3500 Professional Svcs	\$400	\$400	\$150	\$150	0%
3640 Office Rent/ Rental Unit	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200	0%
3700 Repairs	\$350	\$350	\$350	\$350	0%
3816 Software	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	0%
3840 Telephone/Internet	\$1,300	\$1,300	\$1,700	\$1,700	0%
3860 Secretary Travel/Travel Administrative	\$1,400	\$1,400	\$1,600	\$1,600	0%

3900 Website (note 4)	\$400	\$400	\$300	\$300	0%
8500 Contingency	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	0%
Miscellaneous (note 3)		\$63,074	\$66,113	\$67,113	2%
<b>Subtotal</b>					

	Proposed Budget 2009-2010		Proposed Budget 2010-2011		Proposed Budget 2011-2012
	Budget 2009-2010	Actual Budget 2009-2010	Budget 2010-2011	Proposed Budget 2010-2011	
<b>Committees</b>					
4309 Archives	\$550	\$550	\$550	\$550	0%
4329 EC and IBM	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	0%
4339 Faith & Practice	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	0%
4349 Finance	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	0%
4359 Nominating	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	0%
4369 Peace & Social Concerns	\$150	\$150	\$150	\$150	0%
4389 Youth Committee	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	0%
4399 Worship & Ministry	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	0%
4429 Earthcare	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	0%
4469 Racism, Ministry on	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	0%
<b>Subtotal</b>	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,300	\$1,300	0%

	Proposed Budget 2009-2010		Proposed Budget 2010-2011		Proposed Budget 2011-2012
	Budget 2009-2010	Actual Budget 2009-2010	Budget 2010-2011	Proposed Budget 2010-2011	
<b>Donations to Organizations</b>					
5007 AFSC	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	0%
5008 AFSC-SERO	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	0%
5018 Earlham School of Religion	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	0%
5027 FCNL	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	0%
5028 QEW	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200	0%
5037 FGC	\$60	\$60	\$60	\$60	0%
5038 FL Coalition for P & J	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	0%
5047 FL Council of Churches	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	0%
5048 Florida Impact	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	0%
5057 Friends Journal	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$250	0%
5058 Friends Peace Teams	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	0%
5067 FUM (note 2)					
FUM carry-over from 06-07					
5068 FWCC	\$1,450	\$1,450	\$1,450	\$1,450	0%
5077 Pendle Hill	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	0%
5078 ProNica	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	0%
5087 Quaker Life	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	0%
QUIP (Quakers United in Publishing)	\$60	\$60	\$60	\$60	0%
5089 QUNO	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	0%
5097 William Penn House	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	0%
<b>Subtotal</b>	\$9,320	\$9,320	\$9,320	\$9,320	0%

Categories	Proposed	Proposed	Proposed	Proposed	Proposed
	Budget 2009-2010	Actual Budget 2009-2010	Budget 2010-2011	Budget 2010-2011	Budget 2011-2012
Representative Travel					
8160 Annual	\$2,400	\$2,400	\$2,400	\$2,400	\$2,400
Subtotal	\$2,400	\$2,400	\$2,400	\$2,400	\$2,400
Subtotal actual expenses	\$75,994	\$75,994	\$79,133	\$80,133	\$80,133
Transfer out to other classes					
9005 Youth at YM Gathering	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
9060 for Triennial travel reserves	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
9230 to Walton Lecture/Gathering (cover shortfall)					
9450 to HYM					
Subtotal	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500
<b>Total Income</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total Expenses</b>	\$77,494	\$77,494	\$81,633	\$82,633	\$82,633
Net Income	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-
<b>TRIENNIAL TRAVEL RESERVE</b>					
Categories	Expected 2009-2010	Expected 2009 - 2010	Expected 2010-2011	Expected 2010-2011	Expected 2011-2012
Carryover from Previous Years	\$4,850	\$4,850	\$5,350	\$5,350	\$5,850
Income					
2801 Transfer from General Fund	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
Total available for year	\$5,350	\$5,350	\$5,850	\$5,850	\$6,350
Expenses					
8260 Triennial Travel (note 1)	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-
8360 Other Travel	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-
Total Expenses	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-
Net Income	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
Carryover to Next Year	\$5,350	\$5,350	\$5,850	\$5,850	\$6,350

Notes:

- (1) The FWCC will have a world conference in Kenya in 2012.
- (2) Since 2006, the FUM donation has been allocated by YBM minute. In 09-10 it was allocated 1/2 Kaimosi hospital, 1/2 Ramallah Friends School per YBM 2009 minute.
- (3) Miscellaneous expenses were: overpayment of secretary's salary - repaid in kind but repayment not recorded as such - \$210 and purchase of tabletop easels - \$156.
- (4) Website expenses include account 3641 for off-site (online) storage of electronic data

## Half Yearly Meeting

**2011 Half Yearly Meeting (HYM)**, November 24 – 28, 2011  
to be at **Wekiwa Springs State Park 1800 Wekiwa Circle Apopka, FL 32712**

<http://www.floridastateparks.org/wekiwasprings/default.cfm>

**Come join us this Thanksgiving through First Day  
as we gather with Friends and family for fun and community activities.**

### **We will be back at Wekiwa Springs State Park!**

We will have a Thanksgiving dinner starting at 6:00 PM. Turkey and potatoes will be prepared by the committee. Please bring your favorite foods to share for this potluck meal! All other meals will be prepared by volunteers for each meal and all foods will be furnished. There will be nature walks and canoe trips as well as music, evening campfires and a continuing discussion on our how we can live a more sustainable lifestyle.

Last year Friends sat in a circle in the evening after Thanksgiving Dinner, to share our daily practices in living gently on the earth. Much of the discussion was very practical. For example, we heard “how-to” advice on recycling our bath and dish water for irrigating our gardens and how to reduce junk mail, and we discussed whether it’s greener to use rags for cleaning versus paper towels from recycled paper, which don’t have to be washed. But we also raised some fundamental questions like the efficacy of the car culture. Should we be striving to eliminate the need to even own a car or have a grass lawn which has to be mowed?

The next evening we were having a planning session for this coming 2011 Thanksgiving retreat when a Friend rose to his feet to speak. In our discussion of the previous evening, the Friend felt we had not emphasized enough the spiritual foundation of our green practices, especially as it relates to the Quaker testimony of peace and removing the causes of war, which not only kills human beings but also destroys the environment. We acknowledged that message with a moment of silence. It came to mind that working to remove the causes of war, by a right sharing of the world’s resources, is at the very essence of living sustainably and growing green consciousness.

Our practices are outward signs of our inward beliefs – living simply with integrity, creating the peaceable kingdom on earth for everyone. Be ye examples!

Please join us this Thanksgiving as we continue this discussion, celebrate our community and find joy in the beauty of natural Florida.

Registration will be available on line at the SEYM website in November.

Andrea  
813 787-0956

## **Nominating Committee**

### **Peace and Social Concerns**

### **Worship and Ministry, Religious Education, Michener Committee**

“John Greenleaf Whittier passed his early years working on the farm at Haverhill, Massachusetts, where he was born, earning the money for school fees by making slippers. Taking up work as a newspaper editor, he had thoughts of entering political life, but felt the call to devote himself to the cause of the abolition of slavery, though his strenuous advocacy of it involved unpopularity and sometimes great personal risk. In later life, when giving counsel to a fifteen-year-old lad, he said: ‘My lad, if thou wouldst win success, join thyself to some unpopular but noble cause.’ His deep love of humanity found expression in his poems. The strength of his appeal to the religious instinct of people, far beyond the boundaries of his own religious Society, is shown by the place which is held by his poetry in modern hymn-books.”

—Linda Hill Renfer, pg. 154, 6th Month 3, from her self-edited book,  
*Daily Readings From Quaker Writings Ancient and Modern*

“Any great change must expect opposition because it shakes the very foundation of privilege.”

—Lucretia Coffin Mott, 1793-1880, minister, women’s rights leader, abolitionist,  
peace activist, humanitarian from a 1993 bicentennial year poster

Saturday, March 12, 2011 9:19 PM

Dear SEYM Friends,

The SEYM Worship & Ministry Committee received positive feedback from numerous meetings regarding the queries W&M Com. offered meetings and worship groups in our efforts to compose Spiritual State of the Meeting Reports. For some meetings, instead of one person writing the Report at the last minute, this year it became a group and Spirit-led responsibility that was a deeply meaningful process. If you would like a copy of the 18 or so queries, please, contact Wendy.

Lloyd Lee Wilson’s Michener Lecture was well-received and is available as an audio recording and will soon be available as a pamphlet. Several Friends reported Lloyd Lee spoke to our condition and that Lloyd Lee was genuine, that an openness-to-truth was felt in his voice as he spoke on “Evolving Quakerism” in an insightful and simple way. One European American Friend noted this Michener Lecture was “top of the list of Michener Lectures” that “really resonated with this Friend and others.” She reported there was standing room only, with the largest attendance she’s experienced at a Michener Lecture.

Patty Levering, a European American woman from North Carolina and a core teacher in the School of the Spirit, has accepted the W&M Com.’s invitation to deliver the January 2012 Michener Lecture on “Listening.”

SEYM Friends are welcome (please!) to suggest names of Quakers who will be considered by the Com. to give future Michener Lectures, remembering that this lecture is for the spiritual nurturing of SEYM Friends.

Contact Lyn Cope (or, come to Yearly Business Meeting Gathering!) to purchase past Michener Lecture pamphlets in print.

The SEYM W&M Committee and several other SEYM Friends—along with several Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association (SAYMA) Friends—coordinated a “Gifts and Ministry Retreat” for about ten invited SAYMA and SEYM Friends. The enriching weekend retreat was held at Tallahassee Meeting House in November 2010. SAYMA is the Yearly Meeting to the immediate north and northwest of SEYM.

The SEYM Pendle Hill Scholarship for 2010-2011 was used last Autumn by Ed Hotchkiss of St. Petersburg Meeting. The 2011-2012 Scholarship application deadline is, once again, August 31st, giving Friends an opportunity to peruse

the Fall 2011 - Spring 2012 Pendle Hill catalogue of short course/workshop offerings. One Friend noted that in every PH catalogue, there are offerings that speak to her soul's yearning. And, Friends may wish to sojourn at Pendle Hill without taking a workshop or short course. So, please, discern whether these Pendle Hill opportunities may lead you to apply for the Scholarship. Members in good standing in SEYM meetings and worship groups who are involved in SEYM IBMs, YBM Gatherings and/or HYM, and/or SEYM Committees are eligible to apply for the SEYM Pendle Hill Scholarship, offered each PH (school) year. Recipients are expected to somehow report back to their meeting and to SEYM - by a written report in the SEYM Newsletter or offering a workshop/interest group at YBM Gathering.

Friends, please consider participating in the SEYM Worship & Ministry Committee meeting at Yearly Business Meeting Gathering on Thursday afternoon, April 21st, 2011, at the Life Enrichment Center. You are welcome to sit in the meeting for the entire time or some portion thereof—checking out the different Committee meetings as you wish to see which might spark your interest. Especially, if you are a member of your meeting's Worship & Ministry Committee - or, have an interest in such matters—you are welcome and encouraged to visit the W&M Com. meeting.

The following items are on the agenda for the Com. meeting. Jerry Knutson, European American released Friend from Pittsburgh Meeting sojourning at Orlando Meeting and a student at Earlham School of Religion, is offering to travel in the ministry by facilitating workshops (on aspects of meditation and on deepening our experience in meeting for worship) with SEYM meetings and worship groups from November 2011 through March 2012. Pastoral care is available at YBM Gathering with several members of W&M Com. by contacting a co-clerk, Wendy or Nancy. The Inter-visitation Project, details of Patty Levering's Michener Lecture, bringing forth names—especially, those of men—of possible future Michener Lecturers, and any details regarding the meetings for healing and worship sharing sessions happening during our time together are, also, on the agenda.

SEYM W&M Com., also, holds in Tenderness & Wholeness Yearly Business Meeting Gathering proceedings and Friends at the clerks' table. Please, all gathered need to consult our clerking consciousness during meetings for worship with attention to business plenaries. Please, see the SEYM Operational Handbook for further information about the W&M Com.

For Friends not traveling to the UMC Life Enrichment Center, Fruitland Park, FL, for Yearly Business Meeting Gathering, please, center where you are and support those gathered in Fruitland Park by holding those Friends and proceedings in Tenderness & Wholeness. In other words, send those Friends gathered good vibes, that we may be open to enriching and clearer ways of being Quakers in the world by our time spent together in Fruitland Park.

Gentle blessings and safe journeys,

Wendy Clarissa Geiger & Nancy Triscritti, co-clerks,  
SEYM Worship & Ministry Committee

WCG: (904)764-1722 -- NT: (813)929-4355

**YBM Gathering Committee:**

**Youth Committee:**



## OFFICER AND STAFF REPORTS

**Clerk of Southeastern Yearly Meeting** (Please see 4-page info for Welcome Letter)

**Clerk of Interim Business Meeting and Executive Committee** (position vacant)

**Assistant Clerk**

**Membership Recorder/Database**

**Treasurer's Report**

**Trustee's Report:**

### Southeastern Yearly Meeting Trustees' Funds — FY to date June 2010 through February 2011

	Jun '10 - Feb '11
<b>Income</b>	
2000 — Income	
2001 — Donations	
2004 — Individual to Annual GathY...	27.00
2105 — Gathering Youth, to Trustees	200.00
2110 — Michener, to Trustees	150.00
	377.00
<b>Total 2001 — Donations</b>	<b>377.00</b>
2200 — Investment Earnings	
2205 — Dividends FFC Gathering Y...	2,570.90
2206 — Capital Gain(Loss) Gath. Y...	-385.51
2210 — Dividends FFC Michener F...	826.40
2211 — Capital Gain(Loss) Michener	-124.19
2215 — Dividends FFC Bertsche O...	2,013.69
2216 — Capital Gain(Loss) Bertsch...	-302.75
2220 — Dividends-FFC Sec. Salary ...	4,680.03
2221 — Capital Gain(Loss) Sec.'sS...	-703.55
2225 — Dividends FFC Unrestricted	944.50
2226 — Capital Gain(Loss) Unrestri...	726.29
2230 — Dividends FFC Walton Fund	1,784.20
2231 — Capital Gain(Loss) Walton	-268.24
2250 — Interest FGC Meetinghouse...	900.00
2255 — Dividends, Domini Fund	11.62
2256 — Capital Gain(Loss) Domini	1,930.92
	14,604.31
<b>Total 2000 — Investment Earnings</b>	<b>14,604.31</b>
<b>Total 2000 — Income</b>	<b>14,981.31</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>14,981.31</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>14,981.31</b>
<b>Expense</b>	
➔ 9000 — Transfer OUT TO other classes	
9005 — for Gathering Youth	2,570.90
9210 — for Michener Lecture	826.40
9215 — for BertscheOutreachTravel	2,013.69
9220 — for Sec.'s Salary	4,680.04
9230 — for Walton Lecture/Gathering	1,784.20
	11,875.23
<b>Total 9000 — Transfer OUT TO other cl...</b>	<b>11,875.23</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>11,875.23</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>3,106.08</b>

**Secretary's Note:** The operative figure here is that Expense line item #9000 which shows how your previous donations provide ongoing financial benefits to the General Fund, lectures, and youth program. The Youth Fund dividends subsidize youth meals and program costs. Trustees encourage donations knowing that we all greatly appreciate their good management.

03/17/11

# Southeastern Yearly Meeting Balance Sheet FY to date

As of March 1, 2011

	Mar 1, '11
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
501 — Checking Account BOA	
511 — Checking - Gen'l Fund - General	8,611.43
560 — Checking-GF-Triennial Travel	5,349.80
566 — Checking-GF-Sufferings	170.00
610 — Checking-SA-Michener	880.98
630 — Checking-SA-YM Gathering	-9,134.90
650 — Checking-SA-HYM	558.55
680 — Checking-SA-Publications	13,584.98
700 — Checking-Trustees	
750 — Checking -FGC Meetinghouse ...	2,762.62
700 — Checking-Trustees - Other	3,106.20
Total 700 — Checking-Trustees	5,868.82
Total 501 — Checking Account BOA	25,889.66
903 — Savings BOA	20,660.28
Total Checking/Savings	46,549.94
Accounts Receivable	
1100 — Accounts Receivable	73.71
Total Accounts Receivable	73.71
Other Current Assets	
1120 — Inventory Asset	86.43
1180 — FFC SEYM Publications Investm...	10,811.30
1200 — Trustee Investments	
1205 — FFC Gathering Youth Fund	47,032.81
1210 — FFC Michener	14,537.73
1215 — FFC BertscheOutreachTravel F...	36,359.16
1220 — FFC Secretary's Salary Fund	84,503.22
1225 — FFC Unrestricted	33,417.47
1230 — FFC Walton Fund	32,215.39
1250 — FGC Meetinghouse Fund	22,500.00
1255 — Domini Fund	22,731.74
Total 1200 — Trustee Investments	293,297.52
Total Other Current Assets	304,195.25
Total Current Assets	350,818.90
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>350,818.90</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
1370 — Payroll Liabilities	922.66
Total Other Current Liabilities	922.66
Total Current Liabilities	922.66
Total Liabilities	922.66
Equity	
1400 — Trustees Funds Equity	224,581.86
1500 — Operational Equity/ Net Assets	
1511 — General Fund Net Assets	23,910.21
1560 — Triennial Travel Net Assets	4,849.80
1580 — Publications Net Assets	10,032.03

03/17/11

**Southeastern Yearly Meeting  
Balance Sheet FY to date**  
As of March 1, 2011

	Mar 1, '11
Total 1500 — Operational Equity/ Net Ass...	38,792.04
1700 — Retained Earnings	81,950.32
Net Income	4,572.02
Total Equity	349,896.24
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>350,818.90</b>

**Secretary's Note:** The operative figure here is, of course, the bottom line. Friends may note, however, that nearly \$237,150 is held in restricted investments for the Michener and Walton Lectures, Gathering Youth, Representative Travel, the Secretary's Salary Funds, and to eventually publish *Faith and Practice*.

### Administrative Secretary's Report:



**News Flash:** SEYM has compiled a new manual for youthworkers, chaperones, and for Friendly Adult Presences: the **SOUTHEASTERN YEARLY MEETING CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION TRAINING MANUAL & PROCEDURES** and a new 2-hour Training Program.

Managing this required a juggling act: reviewing all our materials, FDLE and insurance requirements, buying new safes, learning new skill-sets, creating a new FileMaker database, and working with some exceptional people. I find myself appreciating the talents within our community daily, and the extensive help of Cecelia, Caroline, Nancyrose, Ann S., and Richard F.

In the manner of Friends, a committee was named to review and combine the existing materials into an easy-to-use manual. As described in the 2005 materials, each applicant submits an application and reference list. The new procedure includes submitting applications to NexisLexis via our insurance company Guide One's program: Safe Church-Shepherd's Watch to process background checks instead of relying on the Florida Department of Law Enforcement for fingerprinting which was more cumbersome and at greater expense. The applicant reads the Manual, affirms that s/he has read the manual, and participates in a live 2-hour Training session either in person, online, or via teleconferencing. Following submission of the applicant's and Trainer's affirmation of completion, the SEYM Review Committee, a subset of the SEYM Personnel Committee, affirms Registration of applicant as a SEYM Youth Worker who joins a pool of potential volunteers for any number of tasks. Designated youth workers, chaperones, Friendly Adult Presences, evening sitters, and First Day School leaders come from this pool. Quaker organizations representatives who wish to work with the youth are eligible to be volunteers once they have completed the process.

The whole process is described in greater detail in the manual with all material being available for downloading from the seym.org website. **SEYM Friends Meetings may avail themselves of this new service at no additional cost.**

So, I look forward to resuming a normal schedule following YBM-Gathering hopefully getting us back on track with regular office work, QuickBooks Pro data entry, bookkeeping, website updating, publishing, and continuing to oversee the database of registered workers increase in numbers so that most of us are cleared and ready to help at the drop of a hat, even though, perhaps, working with youth is not the reader's passion. But then, I will venture, that you may not have participated in the field trip to the horse farm and learned about Quaker attitudes toward all of God's critters and why it is that John Woolman refused to ride in carriages in GB.

I would be remiss if I did not describe with great appreciation the trip that Clerk of Trustees Herb Haigh led last September for ten of us to George Fox Country. His article, *Rolling Through Fox Country* with several of my photographs was published the Dec. issue of *Friends Journal*.

—Lyn Cope, Administrative Secretary



## **SEYM REPRESENTATIVES TO ORGANIZATION REPORTS**

### **American Friends Service Corporation (AFSC):**

Report on American Friends Service Committee Annual Meeting  
March 4-7, 2011, Philadelphia, PA

The 2011 AFSC annual meeting centered around governance changes. The meeting date itself had been moved up from November to March, with no annual meeting in 2010. The 2011 meeting was presided over by a new clerk, Arlene Kelly, and a new general secretary, Shan Cretin. The main agenda items for the corporation's sessions March 4-5, which as SEYM's corporation representatives Sandy and I attended, were changes to the board of directors and options for corporation changes (the corporation, 160-190 Quakers representing yearly meetings and Quakers at large, helps select the board, advises, and consents to the board's management of AFSC's operations and funds).

The governance changes were motivated by finances and by efforts to simplify structures and to achieve better communications. The economy's 2007-2008 financial meltdown drastically reduced AFSC's funding in 2008 and 2009, requiring AFSC to cut programs and staff by almost half, though a tentative budget stability was achieved in 2010 (future pension obligations still loom large). AFSC changed the date of the annual meeting to come after the fiscal year, thus better monitoring finances, and downsizing of the board and corporation will contribute to savings.

The proposal to downsize the governing board from 48 to 25 members seemed relatively simple, but extended sessions on the proposal resembled a Harold Pinter play, with recursive themes, irrelevant remarks, silences, and possibly some unspoken agendas. Some people were concerned that the board would be too small or that U.S. regional executive committees would not be adequately represented. But in the end, as in the Shaker hymn, the approved proposal came down pretty much where it began: The board was reduced to no more than 25 members, with three serving ex officio (the clerk, general secretary, and treasurer) and 22 at large. The at-large members will include at least one clerk of the U.S. regional executive committees, the clerk of the international program executive committee, and no more than three members who are not members of the corporation.

In another session, three options for changing the corporation were presented for seasoning: (1) lay down the corporation, which some see as having become merely pro forma, and let the board govern; (2) downsize the corporation and improve its two-way communication between yearly meetings and AFSC, or (3) charge the corporation to solicit and distill grassroots input from individuals, monthly meetings, and yearly meetings that would guide AFSC. In twelve small-group discussions, only one group opted for option 1, while most liked some version of option 2. Please let us know your thinking about these options.

Both of the corporation's main items of business stressed improving communication within AFSC, with the wider Quaker community, and with the world. A number of steps have been taken or proposed:

- Developing a handbook on Quaker testimonies for AFSC staff;
- Hiring "a Friends Liaison who will coordinate AFSC in reaching out and involving Friends in the life of AFSC" (the application deadline is March 21, 2011);
- Evaluating AFSC committees for overlap and effectiveness;
- Getting feedback on AFSC meetings with evaluation forms and a designated evaluator;
- Improving communication among U.S. regions and between U.S. regional programs and international programs;
- Working with like-minded organizations on issues and programs;
- Getting more of AFSC's messages out to the world's media.

Cutting down on Quakerese, with its verbosity, initialism, and vague or imprecise diction, might also be mentioned here: For example, the 2011 annual meeting adopted wording into the by-laws that "no more than three at-large Board members who are not members of the Corporation" can serve at any one time—which is both a euphemism (for "non-Quakers") and weak logic (a distribution fallacy, since "not members of the Corporation" also includes all other

Quakers).

The corporation sessions ended with a series of videos highlighting AFSC's youth programs (including internships: see <http://afsc.org/program/youth-programs>) and with a reception celebrating AFSC's history. These sessions emphasized the continuity of AFSC's past, present, and future. An internship handout stated, "Young people have been at the forefront of the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) since its founding during World War I," and Shan Cretin noted that AFSC's current focuses on peace, immigration, the criminal justice system, and economic justice carry over from AFSC's early history. For the future, she concluded, we need to "build on our history, values, and connection to Friends."

Downsized or not, AFSC, its work, and its witness to the world go on, which was neatly symbolized by the prop that a young AFSC worker in Haiti used during her brief speech: a solar-powered light made from a soda can.

—Harold Branam

### BEYOND PRO FORMA: A PERSONAL VIEW

It seems pointless to attend the AFSC if you may only observe. But this is not true if you take your appointment seriously. Taking AMTRAK, Harold and I had 14 hours to read and discuss AFSC Corporation document after document and we knew we were in for a lot of nuts and bolts issues. However, we were luckily afforded many chances to get to know people who were passionate about the programs of AFSC. They helped us realize how important the AFSC programs for forwarding peace, justice, and human dignity really are today.

When you are new, you are assigned a buddy for the meeting. I was luckily assigned to Harold D. Weaver, Jr., editor of much of the new book *Black Fire: African American Quakers on Spirituality and Human Rights*, a book published by FGC Press this year.

"Hal" is a gentle, "weighty Quaker" and an approachable scholar, whose experiences, scholarship, and writings could take up my whole report. I hope to have many future chances to get to know Hal as an inspiration and a friend.

Anthony Nocella, who is working on his PhD in conflict studies and critical pedagogy, is currently teaching at the Hillbrook Youth Detention Facility in Syracuse, NY. He is in his early twenties and said his students complained to him that he was getting too old for his work as he did not know who the latest hip-hop musicians were. These were the people who understood where they were coming from. Anthony's message at AFSC got me to thinking about how important it is to encourage youth to become actively involved in Quaker experiences. They are our future.

We saw videos of youths from Palestine and African countries working with youths from AFSC to develop leadership skills to promote peace and understanding among former enemies. They are our future.

We heard about AFSC hard at work in Haiti helping to rebuild schools, and Christa Brelsford's father told us that losing her leg in the Haitian earthquake only slowed her down for a short time. She is now back in Haiti and hard at work. Youth like Christa are our future.

One of the simple but valuable foldout pamphlets that I found was *Thoughts on Getting Out*. This pamphlet looks at getting out of prison from the prisoner's point of view and that of loved ones. It gives both the things to do and things not to do. This pamphlet may be copied and it is available from AFSC Criminal Justice Program, 1414 Hill St., Ann Arbor, MI 48104.

*Final Exposure: Portraits from Death Row*, photographs and interviews by Lou Jones and interviews by Lorie Savel Borges, is a difficult book to absorb. For me some of the stories are so horrific that I have a hard time in maintaining that "...every person has value in the eyes of God and that (all) human life is sacred." This book is thought-provoking and pushes the envelope on our deepest ideas of humanity and justice.

The people, thoughts, books, and pamphlets I have noted are just a few of the reasons I have come to understand attending the annual meeting at AFSC as a Yearly Meeting appointee is important in my commitment to SEYM and to my Quaker values and beliefs.

—Sandy Branam

## **American Friends Service Committee Southeastern Region (AFSC/SERO):**

### **Report to Southeast Yearly Meeting**

Andrew Jason, SEYM Representative to AFSC SERO  
(American Friends Service Committee, Southeast Regional Office)

March 10, 2011

There is a new General Secretary of AFSC, Shan Cretin, a Quaker from Pacific Yearly Meeting.

The SERO office has relocated to 60 Walton Street in Atlanta, Georgia. This 4 story building was built in 1900 and needed considerable improvements which were done. They had an inaugural party on October 1<sup>st</sup> where there was music, poetry, art, and speakers. There was also a representative from the Mayor's office to welcome AFSC SERO. They are actively searching for a tenant for one of the floors. There is also a Caribbean restaurant on the ground floor of the building, now a tenant of SERO.

SERO lost staff due to cuts last year and is operating with a smaller budget. Still, they are very active in the following areas:

Miami: AFIS (American Friends Immigrant Services) helping immigrants and workers in many areas. They also are involved in helping Haitian's get Temporary Protective Status in the USA and humanitarian relief in Haiti. They were one of the organizations that helped get a "Wage Theft Ordinance" passed in Miami-Dade County which helps insure that workers get paid. There is a big problem with employers taking advantage of undocumented workers.

North Carolina: Immigrants rights, and humanitarian aid to Haiti and North Carolina.

Atlanta: Anti militarism, counter recruitment, peace building, conflict resolution, youth.

New Orleans: Non violence education in schools, peace education, conflict resolution, humanitarian aid, farmers market project, community center project, help to the elderly.

The above is just a summary.

I do enjoy being SEYM's representative to SERO. I hope I am representing you all well. You are all in my thoughts while I attend the meetings. I am honored to be a part of the decision making of this organization. I am also learning a lot and getting to know some wonderful people. I think of it as participating in the business end of waging peace.

## **FCNL/Wm Penn House (Friends Committee on National Legislation)**

Report to SEYM and Orlando MM

FCNL Annual Meeting 2010: Building on a Firm Foundation

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world.

Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

—Margaret Mead

This often-quoted bit of lobbying wisdom reflects the spirit of the Friends who gathered for the 2010 FCNL (Friends Committee on National Legislation) Annual Meeting, which was held at the Washington Plaza Hotel from November 11-14. While several important goals and landmarks were achieved and celebrated, the everyday work of FCNL staffers and General Committee members also shone through—working across party lines to affect government policies for the better through peaceful and respectful conversation and relationship building with members of Congress.

Despite the recent, discouraging midterm election results, FCNL staffers and now-former Executive Secretary Joe Volk remained positive. David Culp, legislative representative for FCNL's Quaker Nuclear Disarmament Program, spoke in the first plenary session about hopes for the new Congress, which will include 97 new members. While the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress will also contain far more conservative Republican and more liberal Democratic caucuses than in previous years, indicating further polarization, the Republican Party itself has become deeply divided through the influence of the Tea Party.

This influence in Congress may actually help FCNL; for example, Tea Party Senator Rand Paul supports cutting Pentagon spending as part of a larger government-spending cut. FCNL has been working to cut military spending for decades, and has produced a campaign called Our Nation's Checkbook, which aims to "build support for budget committee hearings on how the federal budget could shift money from the Pentagon to diplomacy, green jobs, and human needs" (please visit <http://www.fcnl.org/budget/checkbook/> for more information). Tea Party support may add extra weight to the argument for less expensive and more peaceful means of maintaining national security.

Other programs that FCNL staffers are currently and continuously working on include building bipartisan support for the New START treaty (the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty—see [http://www.fcnl.org/issues/item.php?item\\_id=3860&issue\\_id=2](http://www.fcnl.org/issues/item.php?item_id=3860&issue_id=2) for more information), the Genocide Prevention Resolution (see <http://capwiz.com/fcnl/issues/bills/?bill=15852521>), and the CLEAR Act (the Carbon Limits and Energy for America's Renewal Act—see <http://www.fcnl.org/energy/>). Joe Volk, former Executive Secretary, emphasized again and again throughout the Annual Meeting weekend that FCNL members and the larger Quaker community should view the induction of the new Congress as an opportunity to build new and bipartisan relationships with Congress members. Especially with new members, who are less likely to have established their legislative agendas and more likely to be willing to listen to Friends' concerns. Indeed, Joe Volk and several other staffers often reaffirmed that FCNL may be more influential in the next two years than in the last, especially if Friends remember that "labels don't fit"; that is, newer, conservative members of Congress must not be immediately dismissed, but rather viewed as possible bipartisan allies in the struggle to pass the above mentioned acts and resolutions.

An important piece of business at the 2010 Annual Meeting was the approval of FCNL's list of priorities that will guide the work of FCNL employees and members for the next two years. After much deliberation and "wordsmithing" in committees and in worship sharing groups, the new list of priorities was approved. The newest priority on the list recommends "supporting legislation to curb the undue influence of money and corporate power in our political system." More information on this and the other priorities set out at the annual meeting will soon be online at [www.fcnl.org](http://www.fcnl.org) (see [http://www.fcnl.org/priorities/priority\\_111th.htm](http://www.fcnl.org/priorities/priority_111th.htm) for the previous list of priorities).

Another extremely important piece of business was the appointing of a new Executive Secretary. Joe Volk, after serving FCNL for 20 years, has decided to retire, and Diane Randall, from Hartford MM in Connecticut, has been appointed as his successor. Members of the General Committee had nothing but positive things to say about Diane, who joined the annual meeting on Saturday evening for dinner and gave a short address on Sunday morning. Visit <http://www.fcnl.org/audio/am2010/Diane-Randall111410.mp3> to listen to Diane's greeting to the Annual Meeting.

Joe Volk delivered a powerful and hopeful farewell speech to the General Committee, in which he emphasized that "people aren't the problem," policies are, and people can change them. Friends can influence policy by getting out the vote for the next general election (midterm election voter turnout was tellingly low among younger, poorer voters), by contacting their members of Congress when an issue is coming up for a vote, and by "moving up the ladder of engagement." That is, actively seeking to increase communication and build stronger relationships with their Congress members. Friends can identify and contact their Congress members with the help of FCNL's online Congressional Directory (<http://capwiz.com/fcnl/directory/congdir.tt>), and can find tips and strategies on how best to lobby Congress at <http://www.fcnl.org/action/toolkit.htm>. The FCNL website is an invaluable tool for staying involved and up-to-date with what's going on in Washington and how Friends can make a positive influence there.

I would like to thank Orlando Monthly Meeting, SEYM, and several caring Friends for suggesting, supporting, and funding my attendance at the 2010 FCNL annual meeting. I hope many more Orlando and Southeastern Friends will be able to become involved in FCNL activities and annual meetings in the future.

Anne Schmalstig, Orlando Monthly Meeting  
SEYM Youth Rep. to FCNL

## **FGC Central Committee (Friends General Conference):**

**Secretary's Note:** This report from Bruce Birchard, General Secretary of Friends General Conference, is included because the FGC Winter Executive Committee meeting was hosted by Sarasota Friends Meeting. SEYM Representatives Herb Haigh and Dustin Lemke attended.

“We are sending you the minutes of the Winter Executive Committee meeting held First Month 28 to 30 in Sarasota, Florida. The attachments referred to in the minutes can be found on the Central Committee website by following this link <http://www.fgcquaker.org/centralcommittee/doc/2011-winter-executive-committee-minutes>. The username and password for the site is “cc”. That’s two lower case letter c’s.

This was a very important and productive meeting, marked by Spirit-guided consideration of many important items. These included:

- Approval of Barry Crossno as the next General Secretary of FGC.
- Supportive consideration of next steps on re-designing FGC websites.
- Reports from the Treasurer, the Finance Committee and the Development Committee on FGC’s short- and long-term financial situation.
- An epistle from the Transforming Subcommittee of the Committee for Nurturing Ministries.
- The continuing work of the Committee for Discernment, Planning and Priorities.
- Proposal for a major, North American-wide action-research study of Friends meetings/churches, outreach to seekers, and FGC’s existing programs and services.
- Important policy-related recommendations from the Personnel Committee.
- And more.

We commend these minutes, and the many attachments, for your review.

Bruce Birchard  
Nicole Rayborn, Administrative Associate  
Friends General Conference, 1216 Arch St. #2B, Philadelphia, Pa 19107  
(215) 561-1700 x3008; nicoler@fgcquaker.org; www.fgcquaker.org

## **Quaker Earthcare Witness: For Southeastern yearly Meeting**

April 2011

Your SEYM reps, Jack Bradin and Mary Jo Klingel, have both attended two QEW Steering Committee meetings since last SEYM. Our most recent Meeting was in Houston, where the theme of the Gathering was Water with three speakers who challenged us to understand the complexities of water conservation and protection. We also welcomed a new General Secretary, Anne Mitchell, and celebrated the retirement of our long time and hard working Secretary, Ruah Swennerfelt. Mary Jo was able to attend an FWCC cluster at the Live Oak Friend’s Meeting and see their beautiful retracting ceiling. The experience of the worship sharing about global change while literally sitting under the clouds was profound and beautiful.

We are grateful for the deepening of care for the Earth that we feel within SEYM and especially for Kathy Hersh’s initiating a threshing session at HYM on practical ways to care for our planet and her creatures. At SEYM’s Winter Interim Business Meeting, the Earthcare Committee to begin to launch our committee web site.

In the most recent issue of the QEW newsletter, BeFriending Creation, Louis Cox wrote, “The GREAT TURNING is not just the sum of the efforts of millions of people in grassroots organizations around the world who are engaged in many kinds of restorative efforts. It is a synergy that underlies and unifies those scattered movements.”

I am sending information about Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW). Quaker Earthcare Witness is a network of Friends (Quakers) in North America and other like-minded people who are taking spirit-led action to address the ecological and social crises of the world from a spiritual perspective, emphasizing Quaker process and testimonies. While QEW supports reforms in laws, technology, education, and institutions, its primary calling is to facilitate transformation of humans' attitudes, values, identity, and worldview that underlie much of the environmental destruction going on in the world today.

You can be part of QEW's work by giving of your time, talents, and financial support, becoming a QEW contact for your Meeting, starting an Earthcare group in your meeting, reading and sharing BeFriending Creation and other QEW literature, and leading Earthcare activities in your Meeting.

If they would like to get QEW discussion guides such as Earthcare for Friends, (for First Day school) Earthcare for Children, Seeds of Violence Seeds of Peace (available online for download). You can also join online discussions at [qewdiscussions@yahoo.com](mailto:qewdiscussions@yahoo.com), [QEWnet.ning.com](http://QEWnet.ning.com). Your meeting or children's or school projects may qualify for a QEW mini-grant. We fund environmental projects up to \$500 for Quaker meetings, churches, and groups. For more information, visit: <http://quakerearthcare.org/AboutQEW/QEWProjects/QEWMiniGrants/GrantOverview.html>

You may browse the QEW website to see the booklets, pamphlets, media library of DVDs and to get information on the topics below:

## FWCC

The Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) is a Quaker organization that works to communicate between all parts of Quakerism. FWCC's world headquarters is based in London. It has Consultative Non Governmental Organizational status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. FWCC shares responsibility for the Quaker UN Office in Geneva and New York with the American Friends Service Committee<sup>1</sup> and Britain Yearly Meeting

FWCC was set up at the 1937 Second World Conference of Friends in Swarthmore, Pennsylvania. The mission of FWCC is "to act in a consultative capacity to promote better understanding among Friends the world over, particularly by the encouragement of joint conferences and intervisitation, the collection and circulation of information about Quaker literature and other activities directed towards that end."

1. Friends World Committee on Consultation (FWCC) has launched a consultation on Global Change -- interconnected changes: environmental, economic, social, spiritual -- to hear from Friends worldwide.
2. Full details and sample video clips can be seen on the website [fwccglobalchange.org](http://fwccglobalchange.org).
3. If you have more questions, ask [info@fwccglobalchange.org](mailto:info@fwccglobalchange.org). You may also contact Canadian YM's David Millar 514 937-4441 [fdmillar@gmail.com](mailto:fdmillar@gmail.com) or Ken Comfort, pastor of Reedwood Friends Church, Portland OR 503 652-2921 [ken@reedwood.org](mailto:ken@reedwood.org).
4. Any local or regional group of Friends may form a cluster to respond worshipfully to the six queries (see box below).
5. Clusters may submit written notes, audio, or even videos of their meetings to [info@fwccglobalchange.org](mailto:info@fwccglobalchange.org) for posting on the website. Volunteer listening committees" will translate, compile and post all testimonies from around the world under the relevant query. Young Friends may volunteer to help with recording, editing and posting of media (see facilitator's guide).
6. In late 2011 a face-to-face meeting with reps from all over the world will be held, to examine testimonies, discern Quaker voice(s), and report to the World Conference in Nairobi 2012.
7. We look forward not only to the formal Global Change report, but to spiritual transformation, life-style changes and active work to protect all life on earth.
8. The World Council of Churches calls this JPIC: Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation. There is a simpler

word: ecojustice. And a Quaker phrase, common to both universalist and evangelical Friends: “right sharing of the world’s resources”. A number of meetings have already begun to discuss these concerns, using the Quaker book *Right Relationship and One-Book* study guide by Philadelphia YM.

9. Think about whether you or your meeting could organize a cluster anytime in the next year at which you could hold worship-sharing around one or more, or all, of these queries. It is good to have a recorder note the response to the queries. This response can be sent to [Ruth@ArtsCanHeal.com](mailto:Ruth@ArtsCanHeal.com) and I will direct it for posting on the FWCC website.

Please contact me by email at [Ruth@ArtsCanHeal.com](mailto:Ruth@ArtsCanHeal.com) if you have further questions.

Blessings,  
Ruth Hamilton, Chapel Hill Friends Meeting  
QEW Representative, Outreach Committee

### FWCC QUERIES ON GLOBAL CHANGE

1. How has global change affected our communities and ourselves?
2. What actions have we taken in response to global change as experienced in our area, to express our responsibilities toward all creation? In what ways have my own activities or those of my community contributed to positive or adverse local and global change?
3. How do changes around us affect our relationship with God? How does my relationship with God affect my responses to the changes around us? What role does my faith have in my life and in the life of my community? In what ways do I and my Friends Church or Meeting community bear witness to our testimonies in our daily lives?
4. What stories or experiences from past times of catastrophic happenings – perhaps from scripture, perhaps from the record of local or regional events – might inspire us to respond to the changes the world is facing today?
5. How can we bear witness to the abundance God offers us and testify to the world about ways in which justice, compassion, and peace may address significant disruptions, stress, and tensions.
6. How can we support one another in rekindling our love and respect for God’s creation in such a way that we are messengers of the transforming power of love and hope?

Our part in that growing awareness, we both thank you, Friends.

—Jack Bradin and Mary Jo Klingel

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## **SEYM APPOINTED OBSERVERS TO ORGANIZATION REPORTS**

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### **Friends United Meeting General Board Observer**

#### **THERE IS A PEOPLE TO BE GATHERED**

—ELISA STEWART <[beachplumlisa@bellsouth.net](mailto:beachplumlisa@bellsouth.net)>  
Friends United Meeting General Board Observer

In some ways I feel like I’m living out this line from the Prayer of St. Francis: “*Let me be an instrument of thy peace.*” In the past 12 months my leading to be a bridge between programmed and unprogrammed Friends has led me to amazing places, just by letting go and following as way opens. Having had an anchoring committee to meet with over the past three years has been such a blessing. They not only nurture and support me in this ministry but also hold me accountable.

Briefly, for the third time I spent almost 4 months last spring and summer in Kenya as FUM volunteer Field Staff. In this capacity I assisted Eden Grace and John Muhanji in whatever way possible. I did a lot of hosting travelers,

bookkeeping (yes, me with money!), banking, transporting, administrative busy work, bringing my 5 gear diesel truck in for repair, etc, etc, etc. —something different every day. I was able to experience emergency hospital care for those with money when I gouged a piece of flesh out of my leg jumping out of the truck. And the young man who adopted me four years ago as his “Mum” named his baby after me. I feel at home in the villages, have come to know so many people in the villages and am slowly becoming adjusted to programmed worship. It clearly is the path that works for many. I can easily honor and respect that but am always very happy to get home to worshipful silence.

The longest lasting and most complex undertaking was coordinating travel in Kenya for 85 Americans. We first had to get them to Mombasa on the coast of the Indian Ocean to attend the two Triennials, Quaker Men and the United Society for Friends Women International. Those conferences were also attended by about 100 plus Kenyans. The work being done by USFWI was impressive. These women raise thousands of dollars annually to support FUM’s Global Ministries in Belize, Jamaica, Cuba, Ramallah and Kenya. I also met several Americans who long ago spent many many years living and working in Kenya as teachers, nurses and pastors. They volunteered in the 40s and 50s when all of Kenya was undeveloped and life was so much more primitive. They traveled there by boat and lived an isolated life. I am continuously impressed by the trust they place in God and how significant a role God plays in their daily lives. After Mombasa we purchased all the tickets on one of the flights to Nairobi and then Kisumu in order to bring all those remaining to the General Board meetings in the western part of Kenya. Eden and I were virtual tour guides tracking lost luggage and juggling personalities.

After the Board meetings, we took a few to the FUM project in the Turkana desert of northern Kenya. No matter how often I go there, I still marvel at the exotic Turkana Quaker men in their shukas (plaid wraps) and the bare breasted women who wear dozens of rows of beads around their necks. One night Eden and I were so organized that we got everyone off the plane in Kisumu, fed and settled in their hotel rooms by 11:30 PM and then looked at each other with blank faces. We had totally forgotten how we were getting ourselves home!! The manager finally roused a cab driver out of bed to drive us to Eden’s house.

Two other highlight that would interest you are my having been able to accept invitations to give presentations about unprogrammed worship and about doing business in the manner of Friends. First, right after I arrived I found that the silent worship group I began the year before was still meeting biweekly except during harvesting or planting time. About 15 of the original 25 welcomed me with enthusiastic affection and continued commitment to including open worship as a part of their spiritual lives. I felt that they had grown comfortable with this practice and that it has become so meaningful to them that they are hoping to start other worship groups. They were thrilled with the books, “Friends for 350 Years” by Howard Brinton, paid for with my \$500 financial aid from SEYM. I’m hoping to bring more copies of that as well as some Pendle Hill and/or FGC pamphlets when I return this summer.

The other highlight was in August when the principal of Friends Theological Seminary, Anne Riggs (Baltimore YM) asked me to do a workshop on clerking for Kenyan new and experienced pastors. I did this with another Friend from BYM who had come for USFWI and the Board meetings. I expected 10 to 20 but 97 showed up! Thankfully, Arthur Larrabee had allowed me to use the materials he distributed when he did his workshop at PBMM. The fact that so many attended and that they avidly soaked up everything we could possibly offer, is an indication of how little they know about early Friends and open worship and how hungry they are for this knowledge. One pastor said at the ending ceremony that he had been asking for years to get this workshop.

My current plans are to work at the 2011 FUM Triennial in Wilmington Ohio and then return to Kenya. At the triennial I’ll cover the desk for our foreign visitors and conduct a workshop about my experiences answering the call to speak about Quakerism and establishing silent worship in Kenya.

In conclusion, I have two recommendations. One, I suggest any Friend who has a leading for a project ask for a clearness committee and, if it is approved by their meeting, continue with an ongoing anchoring committee. This experience has helped me maintain a spiritual focus and has helped my entire meeting to learn what it means to be supportive of a Friend’s leading. I also strongly urge other Friends to consider volunteering to work in one of the many FUM Global Ministries Partner Projects.

Friends, there is a people to be gathered!

Blessings and Light, Lisa Stewart

## STATE OF THE MEETING REPORTS

### Charleston MM...

### Clearwater MM...

State of the Meeting Report – December 2010

*Clearwater Friends considered the collection of queries prepared by the SEYM Worship and Ministry Committee in two sessions, each after rise of meeting. A summary of the views expressed in these discussions was prepared and is our report.*

Clearwater Monthly Meeting is a small meeting and our members and attenders know each other well. We appreciate and learn from our diversity. The spiritual and emotional support we give each other makes our community vital and sustaining. We do not seek nor do we expect to find a corporate revelation of God's truth beyond what we learn from listening to each other. We are fortunate in finding a sense of our meeting without struggle.

In the wider community we continue to help Religious Community Services and the Shepherd Center financially and we regularly prepare and serve meals at the Shepherd Center soup kitchen in Tarpon Springs. Many of us are active outside the meeting providing help and support for community organizations, families and individuals. The meeting is our base of support

Outside responsibilities have focused the meeting on caring for others. A concern for the members of a neighboring Unitarian Church, troubled by internal dissent, has contributed to our spiritual growth. Some Unitarians worship with us and we value our time together.

Some members have suggested we should meet with members of other faiths particularly the Muslim community.

We are refreshed by the power of the silence we share in meeting for worship. At times some of us may be reluctant to come to meeting but then we go home feeling recharged and ready to face adversity.

Our hope comes from knowing that our problems are not unique but are shared by others. For us God's presence is experienced in each visit we share.

We would like to be more active in outreach. If we were larger we might do more. We need to explain ourselves better to others but since we each have different concepts of what it means to be a Friend this is difficult.

Saddened by the passing of dear ones, and the problems and hurts of others and those dear to us, we feel comforted by our worship together. We share joys and troubles together and so gain strength and courage from the bond of loving ship and caring.

The spirit of worship extends through our welcoming visitors from other meetings, and from other faiths and backgrounds than our own. Some are attracted to the area by the beauty of the beaches and parks. They find us on the internet, come with other Friends or are referred by other Quaker Meetings. Some even see our "Friendly" sandwich board from the roadside. The different spiritual journeys within our meeting enrich meeting for worship and enliven our discussions.

Family obligations, sickness, fatigue, the pressure of other concerns, and particularly the distance to travel, with some members living nearly 60 miles away, may make it difficult to attend meeting. We miss meeting when we do not, or are unable to, come.

We have spent time in searching for a meeting house of our own, but have concluded that we cannot afford to take this step yet. We are self-supporting and able to meet our obligations to YM. We have resources that could be used for greater benefit to others in the community or for our own growth. We continue to discuss how best to balance these competing needs.

To be more welcoming we tried having music before meeting to help attendance but it is ignored by Friends anxious to talk to each other at that time. Hosting Quarterly Meeting in 2009 gave us a sense of purpose and accomplishment and we would like to take our turn to do this every year. Our newsletter, started during the year, provides a means of contact and communication that we are still exploring. A summer picnic at a member's home was also rewarding. In past summers we held meeting for worship only twice a month. We now believe we should meet every week in the summer except July and August, when we will meet only on the first and third First Days.

**Ft.Lauderdale MM...**

FORT LAUDERDALE FRIENDS MEETING  
STATE OF THE MEETING REPORT

2010

We continue to meet at Second Presbyterian Church, where we share the campus with American Presbyterian and Korean Presbyterian congregations. Many first days we hear the singing of the Korean children as we sit in worship and we feel the presence of the Light in their sweet voices.

For Fort Lauderdale Friends, this has been a year of joys, sorrows and growth in our meeting. We strive to offer support, guidance and encouragement to each other and to be present to one another as we seek to walk in the Light.

The joys of our meeting affirm its health. We continue to receive visitors from afar, including Nicaragua and British Columbia, Canada. We have welcomed two new members this year: one Friend reached clearness to join us, and one seasoned Friend transferred membership. Both enrich our meeting with their presence and their personal gifts. Welcoming new members has helped us realize that, in the delicate process of growing as Friends, we are called to help one another to be “in the world but not of the world.”

The sorrows have been wrenching. Two of us grieve close friends who died unexpectedly in the prime of life. We grieve for those who suffer or die in the many wars and conflicts around the world. We feel ongoing grief and frustration about continuing environmental damage to the Earth.

We are mindful of trials and struggles within our Meeting community. We are also mindful that “thinking globally and acting locally” includes work toward peaceful resolutions to conflicts we each encounter.

We are encouraged by evidence of our connection with Quakers beyond Florida. We were delighted when one of our Friends attended a meeting in Northern Illinois and, through Quaker Earthcare Witness connections, he was warmly welcomed by Friends who knew Friends in our meeting.

As a meeting we open together to the experience of seeking the Light and of feeling the depth of the presence of the Light as a community.

**Ft Myers MM...**

**Fort Myers Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends**  
The Spiritual State of the Meeting – at the end of 2010

We at Fort Myers Monthly Meeting are blessed to be able to worship in a plain, peaceful room of Iona House in the Calusa Nature Center. Iona House’s only adornments are large windows that look out over native, wild landscapes filled with butterflies and birds. The peace and serenity around us leads us gracefully into the silence and stillness to the core of Quaker meeting--waiting worship. Both the ministry shared during worship and the afterthoughts expressed immediately at rise of meeting are rich and appreciated. Our “deep listening” exercises and worship sharing sessions, both encouraged by our Education Committee, have been a contributing factor in deepening our worship experiences.

In evaluating ourselves during the preparation for the Spiritual State of the Meeting report, we recognized that our Meeting is often described as warm and friendly. We questioned what is happening, what we are doing, that leads people to make such comments. Some of the things mentioned are that we always introduce and welcome visitors or newcomers after worship, wear name tags, provide newcomers with an introductory packet, engage newcomers and visitors in conversation at rise of meeting for worship, provide simple snacks, and are generally very pleased to take the opportunity to meet anyone whose path led to our door. Post-worship potlucks are held monthly, and community potlucks are the glue for other events.

On the other hand we remember that last year we learned that some of the things said in our Meeting were hurtful or offensive to others. We have tried to be much more careful about off-hand, political, or critical comments since this shortcoming was brought to our attention. We feel blessed that the Spirit led to the closing of a rift that has troubled our Meeting for several years. The return to worship of several members and attenders encourages our hearts when we “see what love can do”.

For several years the women of the Meeting have organized an annual women’s retreat. Most have found this to be very worthwhile, an opportunity to grow both spiritually and socially. The men of the Meeting initiated a retreat this year as well, led by a Quaker from the larger circle of Friends. We look forward to the continued development of our retreats.

We recognize that the Peace Testimony defines Friends’ role in the wider community. In the fall, our Meeting held a “Quaker Search for Peace,” a worship-sharing day focusing on personal peace, peace in community and peace on the larger plane. A number of Friends in our community are committed to various peace and social concerns. Several participated in the 2010 Winter gathering of the historic peace Churches in Orlando, some have worked closely with the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW), the Environmental and Peace Education Center (EPEC) and Educational Concerns for Hunger Organizations (ECHO). We have not had a Peace and Social Concerns committee for several years, but we will have one in the new year.

Our membership remains stable. We welcomed three new members: one transferred from another Meeting/region; one was a long-time attender who decided to make the commitment to membership; one had been raised as a child in the Meeting and reached the age to make such a commitment.

Our place of worship – the Iona House at the Calusa Nature Center – continues to be the right place for us. In both a spiritual sense and a practical ecological sense, it seems right to be sharing space with others, and to be playing a key role in support of the Nature Center. While we worry about what impact managerial and economic instability at the Nature Center might have on our “home,” we are committed to taking actions to insure that the Iona House remains for them as well as for us an asset.

We hope to remain faithful to that “still small voice” that urges us to take part in God’s work, both as individuals and as a community of faith.

## **Gainesville MM...**

### SPIRITUAL STATE OF GAINESVILLE MONTHLY MEETING

2010

When one looks at the demographics of Gainesville Monthly Meeting for the Year 2010, one finds little change in numbers and attenders and not real differences in the kinds of

Quaker activities. It is in looking at our spiritual strengths where one can feel the changes. Our Meeting is more rooted in love and in the sense of the Divine Presence.

Where before there were embers of spiritual light, we now feel the glowing warmth of

Spiritual energy. There is greater engagement in inclusive fellowship at our pot-lucks, work days, crafting and charity

activities and Quaker Dinners. The Spirit is palpable in

our intensity of seeking during Bible Study, Quaker Studies, Friendly Reading Groups and forums. It is in these activities where our Quaker Testimonies are brought forward and shepherded by seasoned members.

We have had challenging issues to deal with this past year and have met them with prayerful consideration. As often occurs in these matters, the Meeting has benefited, in that we've learned useful ways to be more forthright in dealing with differences among us. We've been encouraged to know each other better. It feels as if the Spirit is leading us to be more tender toward each other's struggles and to attempt to understand and be more faithful to the Light within. Even in social activities, various members are actively including members who previously have not participated. Bible discussions have sometimes progressed into worship sharing about how God is revealed to previously skeptical participants.

The Spirit was notably at work even in our efforts to prepare this report. Prompted by the list of queries regarding the Spiritual State of the Meeting which we received from SEYM, the Clerk called a meeting for hearing responses to them. In the manner of worship sharing, Friends were asked to respond to the queries. Those present spoke prayerfully from the silence, offering a sensitive exchange of views. The messages shared there centered mostly around how members and attenders felt discouraged from attending meeting for Worship with a concern for business.

The sense of that meeting pointed to some misunderstanding of Quaker process for decision making and to our need to embrace the importance of committee work involved in the process of building consensus and seasoning of minutes before bringing them to business meeting. A shared desire for opportunities to better understand and practice this process has led us to ask our Ministry and Nurture Committee to consider scheduling a retreat or series of forums on Quaker Practice.

The Meeting has a renewed opportunity to appreciate the special beauty of our surrounding woods and wetlands, as through a generous donation, we've been released from mortgage payments. With the donor's proviso that current pledges to the building fund be put into a contingency fund, Meeting can once again begin to envision the right use of both property and resources.

More than any information to be given is that Gainesville Monthly Meeting has moved in the direction of maintaining a balance between our social witness and our Spiritual life as we are led by the Inner Spirit.

**Golden Isle WG...**

**Hilton Head WG...**

**Halifax...**

### **State of the Meeting Reports**

**February 8, 2011 9:39 AM**

Halifax Worship Group

Our small group continues to meet on the second and fourth Sunday and for months with five Sundays the fifth Sunday as well. Meetings on the second and fourth Sunday are at Tacy's Moore home 87 Bosarvey in Ormond Beach. Fifth Sunday meetings are hosted by various members. This year we have reactivated our financial support for SEYM after withholding it for several years because of their relationship with FUM. We also continue to support locally our adopted charity Caring Through Sharing which provides food for low income families in Volusia County. Our worship meetings which remain the central focus of our group are followed by a potluck.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jim Geary, Recording Clerk

**Jacksonville MM...****Spiritual State of the Jacksonville Monthly Meeting 2010**

On a chilly First Day evening, Jacksonville Friends Meeting held a worship sharing session to the sounds of a crackling fire at the Geiger farmhouse to reflect on the spiritual state of the meeting for the 2010 year. Present were the incoming clerk, the outgoing clerk, seven regular attenders and members, Cody-the-wonder-dog, and Bess, the resident good dog. The quiet but notable presence of both beloved pets attested to the peacefulness and joy which pervaded our worship sharing.

There's a blessing in the midst of meeting. Our spiritual strength is palpable. We have grown in our spiritual conversation because of our monthly Friday night meetings for learning, which have included Quakerism 101, worship sharing around queries, a book, and pamphlets, and studying Quaker principles and spirituality. We hear how we talk about our spiritual practices and we hear each other; we can better translate each other's language of belief and experience. We are learning how to recognize what we share spiritually.

We have experienced a maturing of being attentive to one another. We have gone through more-than-usual challenges with health, family, deaths, and other crises, and we have been there for each other. As our meeting has become more cohesive, we have been better able to be supportive of each other. There's a lot more interacting outside of meeting for worship and supporting each other day to day which is just as important as spiritual stuff. That is what it's about: spirituality is how you live and what you do, not just what you profess.

The silence of our meeting is usually rich and fulfilling. That is one of our gifts to the community at large. There is a deep human need for silence—it is a precious commodity. We bring quietness. Just that one thing alone is of great value to community—to the Quaker community and the larger community. Our meeting for worship offers an antidote to the constant bombardment of noise and distractions.

We meet at a private-school library—away from traffic noise, amidst trees and chirping birds—where cats, raccoons, and an occasional fox wander by. The number of Friends attending meeting for worship regularly is between 9 and 15. We have welcomed a new member and a handful of regular and regularly irregular new attenders. JMM's long time clerk has resigned, and we have a new clerk who is also new to clerking. A fledgling children's First Day School regularly brings to meeting 3 children—age 4 and a couple of teens—with a teen guiding them. We feel their presence as a great blessing;

and at the same time, we are unsure how to fully support and develop such an endeavor. In this area, we need to grow.

We want to find ways—individually and collectively—to explore spoken ministry and the traditional approach to meeting for business as a “meeting for worship with a concern for business”. Meetings for business for many years have rarely centered in worship and the search for God’s truth. They have tended to focus on the nuts and bolts of a small meeting without the burden (and graces) of a meetinghouse to contend with and to be pragmatic and often time-constrained: discussion of issues has been as in a secular business meeting, rather than “after the manner of Friends”. (At times, when there has been a bolt or nut with wings, we have found the gift of centered worship to discern our direction in dealing with a concern raised by another meeting or SEYM.)

We have been stumbling over the term ‘business’—which often means OFFICIAL stuff—and over how we worship on the well-being and concerns and business of meeting. Business meetings have not been centered on the search as much as getting through the agenda before everyone must scatter to the wind. We affirm our desire to have divinely guided meetings for worship with a concern for business, in which we make the meeting itself our business, holding it in love and tenderness, and opening ourselves to minister to anything which the meeting as a united body might need for its own nurture, or for its role of witness to the larger community.

Conventional religious witness means: go out and tell people about your religion. Friends’ witness means: go out and BE friends with people, with an attentiveness to others’ needs. We have yet to discern what our witness to the world is, what we can do as a meeting. We have been supportive of one another in individual ways—including individuals’ participation in the social and peace fabric of the Jacksonville and surrounding communities—but we have not yet found common concerns for collective witness. Even so, we have experienced inward-directed witness to our Quaker family/community this year, seeking better understanding of each other and better support for each other in meeting challenges of illness, death and other family crises. In this way we are preparing ourselves to witness to the wider world.

Jacksonville Monthly Meeting

**Key West WG...**

**Lake Wales WG...**

**Managua WG...**

**Miami MM...****Miami Friends State of the Meeting Report, Second Month, 2011**

The heart of Miami Friends Meeting, the meeting for worship, continues to be strong. Participants observe gathered meetings, and new attenders have been impressed that the hour of worship is deeply spiritual and inspirational. This feeling prevails even with our continuing concern about late arrivals, which are disturbing to some.

Our concern about diminishing numbers appears to be addressed by the appearance of a number of new attenders, including two University of Miami students, who have been visiting us regularly. As part of our welcoming and outreach to new attenders, and as a way of helping to integrate them into the Meeting, we have begun a series of workshops on Quaker practice. During these sessions all are welcome to ask and answer questions, with the emphasis being on personal experience rather than historical or organizational details. These workshops have been enjoyed by attenders and members alike, and we all look forward to continuing them.

No mention of new attenders would be complete without mentioning our newest “wee friends,” Leo Pino, Song Nguyen Ly, and Aaron Olson, whose presence has enlivened our meetings and gladdened our hearts. Our children are having children.

Another aspect of welcoming visitors has been revitalized by our Hospitality committee in providing a wealth of snacks and beverages to be enjoyed during socializing after the meeting for worship. This has helped make the time after meeting a warm and engaging experience while encouraging all to share more together rather than rushing off.

Other accomplishments of the past year include:

Buildings and Grounds completed repainting the meeting house, which was the final step in our roof repairs. They made needed improvements to the electrical system and lighting, and successfully got the meeting house through its county-required recertification for its 50th year. The grounds were improved through extensive trimming and the addition of new flower beds.

The Library committee engaged in some needed pruning of our book collection, and will be welcoming some new members for the coming year.

**Ocala...**  
**Orange City WG****Orange City Worship Group**

Correspondent; Eleanor Wetherill  
386-774.4529  
1 A Nasturtium Court, Orange City, FL 32763

The four regular attenders, Vivian Bird, Cathy Gaskill, John Wetherill, and Eleanor Wetherill are joined when possible by Beeg Camarata. All these are former members of DeLand Preparative Meeting. Other visitors come from time to time. Once a year, Orange City hosts a regional worship and Potluck Lunch.

Active participation in Quaker concerns is very much limited by the challenges of age and other responsibilities. We find that our inspirational reading is very helpful as we settle into our quiet worship.

**Orlando MM...****Orlando Monthly Meeting State of the Meeting Report 2010**

This has been a year of corporate and spiritual growth for Orlando Friends. Our fellowship has been enlivened by new activity and many new Friends. Attendance at Meeting for Worship and Meeting for Worship with attention to business has easily doubled over the last two years. Vocal ministry at Worship has both deepened and broadened with the addition of new voices among us. It is now not uncommon to have more than 40 in attendance at Meeting for Worship and rare for there to be less than 30 Friends in attendance.

Meeting for Worship with attention to business is in good order and consistently amicable as each seeks to listen to the Spirit that guides us and to one another. Our focus has been on building and maintaining a sense of spirit led community among us and we are pleased to report a measure of success.

Many activities have contributed to this growing sense of community. Our "Conversation to Explore" invites deeper sharing among Friends on a variety of topics to include Friends Testimonies. Leadership of this conversation is rotated among Friends to assure a diversity of topics and approach. Duties with announcements at Rise of Meeting are also rotated among us to also allow this diversity to come forward. Periodically we have short presentations by Friends at Rise of Meeting termed "4 minutes with" that allow Friends to introduce themselves and their activities away from Meeting. At the end of First Day activities, Friends as led gather for "lunch bunch" to patronize a local restaurant and socialize.

We are pleased to have re-initiated publication of our newsletter and find it well supported with many Friends contributing articles and matters of interest. The sense of Friends has called for the initiation of Quaker Bible Study before Meeting for Worship twice a month and will start activities for Friends of all ages. Children of several families continue to grow in care of the Meeting and of members who faithfully lead First Day School. We continue our support for those in need with food drives for a local pantry as well as cooking and serving meals monthly at the Christian Service Center's Fries Start shelter as we have now for over 10 years.

We joyfully welcomed Michael Luke as anew member of the Religious Society of Friends, and welcome the many new Friends who join us in attendance each First Day. We look forward to celebrating the Marriage of Friends April Hunt and Tammy Foley under the are of our meeting Fifth Month 2011.

There is a new sense of community, growth and liveliness among us; we look forward to a promising year.

Bill Carlie, Clerk

Orlando Friends Meeting

**Palm Beach MM...**

## Spiritual State of the Meeting

2010

The following queries were considered at two called meetings for the annual review of the spiritual state of Palm Beach Monthly Meeting:

- How is God's presence being experienced in our Meeting?
- Are there places where the Meeting isn't reaching fully for the light?
- How well do our Meetings for Worship with a Concern for Business lead to a corporate search for and revelation of God's truth?
- Do you have other reflections on the current condition of the Meeting—places where you see new life emerging, loss or sadness, that you want to share?
- Where do you find hope in the meeting and in our spiritual life?

Friends were in unity that God's presence is felt as we sit in the silence of Meeting for Worship, both in the quality of that silence and as we speak out of the silence. God's presence is also expressed in our interactions with each other on First Day and throughout the week. Meeting is seen as an oasis of peace where we are strengthened and refreshed before continuing on our daily journey. We feel God's presence in our corporate life as we strive to better understand and follow the Quaker process in making decisions, taking care that everyone is included in the decision-making process. While we know we can't prove the existence of God, we find evidence of Spirit in our desire to go deeper and deeper into worship and in our understanding of how God leads us to make decisions. We arrive at process by discerning God's will for us so that we are led by Spirit. Spirit's presence within is evidenced by our outward behavior and actions.

Friends recognize the need, both as individuals and as a Meeting, to continue reaching for the light. We realize that all of us fall short at times and have need for forgiveness. We can all be opinionated and in times of conflict we can sometimes be shrill. It is important to use a soft, gentle approach—sprinkled with humor—in dealing with one another, remembering that none of us has “truth in a bottle.” It is encouraging to note that when the Meeting has recognized we have fallen short, we have acted as a Meeting to reach out for help, bringing respected Elders such as Nancy Fennell, Phoebe Anderson, Michael Wajda and Alison Levie to assist us.

Friends were reminded that it is also important to remember those who quietly serve--sometimes, they are overlooked. Another Friend observed that while Friends individually reach out into the community to serve, we also need to reach out more beyond the Meeting as a corporate body. In particular, concern was expressed about strengthening the Peace and Social Concerns Committee within the Meeting. A seasoned Friend pointed out that the Meeting has had a long history of being in the forefront of the peace and civil rights movement. Now, these movements are supported by many groups. It is difficult for our entire Meeting to join in the support of any one cause because so many of us are already deeply involved in a wide variety of the peace and social issues of our times -- animal rights, environmental protections, draft counseling, immigration, the homeless, literacy, peace, interfaith harmony and racism. It is important to realize that each of us must be free to follow the leadings of Spirit. We recognize that each of us strives to be faithful to these leadings in our lives, whether we are led inward to the task of deepening our relationship with Spirit, or outward to witness God's love in the wider community.

Friends expressed a sense that we are evolving in our Meetings for Business as we search for revelation of God's truth. One observed that it takes a lot of willingness to be open to revelation of God's truth. We do a fairly good job of being patient to give time to decide on an action. We strive to work toward solutions in a spirit of unity. Better use has been made of the committee process with lots of work being done in committees, so that Meeting for Business does not have to confront concerns as a “Committee of the Whole.” There is an increased willingness to bring forth ideas and then let them go without personal involvement. We need to continue to clarify the Quaker terminology we use. It is sometimes confusing both for newcomers as well as for seasoned Friends. Receiving agendas in advance has been helpful, especially when they contain brief summaries of committee reports, allowing Friends to come better prepared to Meeting for

Business. People need to stay around long enough to learn Quaker Process; members have found it to be invaluable in their lives outside of Meeting.

Friends mourn the loss of our number who have died or moved away and recognize the need to reach out to other seekers who may be searching for a spiritual home. One seasoned Friend observed that if the experience of worship in our Meeting has a strong presence of the living spirit, seekers will want to be part of the Meeting. Another pointed out that being a Quaker is hard work; it's not for everybody. The importance of allowing time to visit with one another after Meeting for Worship was stressed. This time provides the opportunity for newcomers to learn more about us as individuals and as Friends. We also need to let people know we're here; often, people are surprised to find there is a Quaker Meeting in Florida. We need to be more visible. People do want to know more about Quakerism. There is a continuing need for education about Quakerism, to introduce newcomers to Quaker history and Testimonies and to refresh the understanding of seasoned Friends. There is such a yearning for connection. We feel the need for "intimate association", to quote a Bahai phrase. We have moved in that direction but still have a distance to go. There is also a need to reach out to persons who disappear after attending Worship for four or five Sundays to express our appreciation for the time they shared with the Meeting and our wishes for their wellbeing. There is a concern for those in our Quaker community who sometimes don't feel a commitment to participate regularly in First Day Meeting for Worship and other First Day activities.

There are several reasons for hope for the Meeting. One is that the Meeting has a very strong committed core of members and attenders. There is hope in the fact that new people are coming to our Meeting all the time, often just as we need them. We have not had any catastrophic losses of members through death in 2010. Every time there is a situation that needs to be dealt with, we come through; things get done without fanfare; ordinary people often do extraordinary things! Hope is shown as individuals and as a Meeting reach out to heal differences. One example is the series of Meetings for Worship for Forgiveness and Healing held throughout the year. Meetings for Learning continue to be a basis for hope in the Meeting, both in the number of participants and in the depth of the learning matter.

The Meeting provides a Quaker model of responsibility for participating in the life of the wider Lake Worth community. Both through the Meeting and as individuals we have witnessed in many ways during the past year. Examples include our support of gardens at a nearby elementary school and a proposal for a Community Land Trust project in Lake Worth, as well as our continuing support for the Wellington Cares Clearinghouse, the Lake Worth Resource Center and the Maya Center. The Meeting has taken part in the Annual Gay Pride festival and parade, and has participated in the Interfaith Network, providing our Meetinghouse for their annual Thanksgiving Service of Gratitude. We have opened our Meeting house to groups such as the Progressive Roundtable and the Palm Beach County Environmental Coalition. We are often invited to open the Lake Worth Commission Meetings with worship. Friends serve on and participate in the Martin Luther King Day Committee and events. Many groups request to use our meeting space and worship room, affirming that its simplicity makes it a safe place for participants of all faiths to gather.

Gratitude was expressed for the continuing care of our Meetinghouse, both to the Meeting community for providing the funds necessary to maintain it as a welcoming space, and to all the individuals who work to care for it. We are grateful for the Friends who came before us who created the gift of the Meetinghouse to our community of Friends. We are also grateful for all the Friends, past and present, who continue to be good and faithful stewards of our resources—physical as well as spiritual.

A new, young attender reflects the spirit of hope for the Meeting: "I am grateful for the community. I am grateful for the Quaker voice and understanding, which speak to my experience. I am grateful for this community of elders, for this close community."

Ann Kelley, Clerk

Palm Beach Monthly Meeting

**Sarasota MM...****Spiritual State of the Meeting Report, 2010****Sarasota Monthly Meeting**

As a new sojourner recently stated, "This is a very healthy meeting." Like other meetings with whom she has sojourned, she said, the question arises, "How can we focus our energy and attention on issues dealing with the needs of our own Meeting and also address problems that exist in the wider community?" Some members of this Meeting feel that we need to increase our interaction with concerns outside our Meeting. This is a desirable goal. However, we also have to take into consideration limitations in our time and energy.

Each winter Sarasota Monthly Meeting gets an energy boost from an influx of vital Friends from the North, who swell attendance at Meeting for Worship to 50 or 60, enhance our First Day activities, and give us the feeling that our Meeting is growing. But this feeling is not borne out by year-round commitment that would help us accomplish all that we would like to see the Meeting do. Sometimes individual members feel overburdened and visions are unfulfilled. On the other hand, in December we had a vibrant called Meeting for Stewardship, which opened many eyes and resulted in increased donations. We have wonderful, hard-working committees; however, some committees still need help.

When we look back over the past year, we do see that we have been a steady source of support for two food banks and shelters in the Sarasota-Bradenton area. After a presentation by Interfaith Action of Southwest Florida on behalf of the Council of Immokalee Workers, we wrote a letter to Publix Super Markets urging them to pay an additional penny per pound for tomatoes so that workers can earn a living wage. In addition, a substantial financial donation was sent to Haiti from our Meeting, and ecumenical interaction has been positive. In January, Gita Larsen and Chris Pifer, FGC Facilitators, led an introductory Quaker Quest workshop, a positive experience for those who participated. An Art Fair was held at the Meeting House in March. It proved to be a good way to build our own community and also reach out to our immediate neighborhood. The Meeting has been sending a representative to the neighborhood association meetings.

Maintaining our Meeting House has been an important recipient of our time and money, insuring that it continues to offer a haven for members and visitors and provide the welcoming center within which our spiritual growth can thrive. Newcomers say they have been received warmly and feel a sense of peace and comfort in our midst. In our worship we are "practicing the presence of God, connected to one another," to quote one member. A powerful sense of community, common decency and acceptance prevail, and many feel that our vocal ministry has improved over the years. Spiritual growth within the Meeting has been nurtured further by the formation of two worship/fellowship groups, one in Bradenton and one in Venice. A group of men from Meeting have been getting together for lunch and fellowship with some regularity.

"Hurt feelings" and "discord" were mentioned in last year's report. We were aware that not everything had been resolved. However, ongoing efforts were made to address discord. A conflict resolution workshop was held in April. Michele Young and Steve McGruder facilitated a mini-AVP workshop focused on communication. Later in the year the Pastoral Care and Worship and Ministry Committees met together to address lingering hurts. The committees came to unity and steps have been taken to implement that unity. Healing is ongoing.

For the first time First Day School was able to divide into two groups to meet the needs of our youth. As usual we found a First Day School teacher, Alexis Cartland, from New College. She has worked with our youngest Friends. Even though Tacy Salen, member of Palm Beach Monthly Meeting and former First Day School teacher, graduated from New College and is currently working, she agreed to work with our teen and tween Friends. She has shared some of the curriculum from her home meeting including theater activities. Busy this year baking pizzas and treats for potlucks and work days, the Quaker Bakers were the result of a partnership with adult Friends, which built strong intergenerational relationships within our meeting.

During the year we transferred out two members: Miriam (Mickey) Holloway to Sandy Springs Monthly Meeting in Sandy Springs, MD, and Steve Rosenbluth to Orange Grove Monthly Meeting in Pasadena, CA. We received two members by transfer: Nancyrose Logan and David Rakyta from Hanover Monthly Meeting in Hanover, NH.

**Savannah MM...****SAVANNAH MONTHLY MEETING STATE OF THE MEETING REPORT, JANUARY 2011**

Savannah Friends continue to meet on the third floor of Trinity United Methodist Church, Telfair Square, and we enjoy our relationship with that church and its members. While our number of full members remains at six, our worship and business meetings are enriched by nine regular attenders who participate fully in the life of the meeting. Our meetings for worship during the past year were also enriched by visits from traveling Friends, tourists, and students from local colleges. We were particularly blessed with the presence of some soldiers from nearby bases who were struggling with their roles in the military. We hope we have provided the support these people needed to continue their spiritual journeys. Our sojourning member Don Bender and his wife Judy returned to Atlanta, and we miss them.

We are building community through our bimonthly meeting newsletter and our monthly religious education program. Everyone is invited to contribute news items, book reviews, announcements, recipes, and other items to the newsletter that reflect the diversity within the meeting. The first First Day of each month we have a religious education experience that is facilitated by a member or attender on a subject of their choice. Topics have included "Using Essential Oils to Deepen Meditation," "Holding in the Light as Practice in Prayer," a cello performance of Bach's "Allemande from the G Major Suite," and discussions of metaphysics and Christianity. These spirited discussions and newsletter contributions involve individuals hesitant about speaking in meeting for worship.

Last year as a meeting we contributed financial support to a student in Uganda, the Penn Center on St. Helena Island in South Carolina, the Union Mission in Savannah, PRONICA, and AFSC Haiti earthquake relief. We have also been inspired by individual members' participation in various peace and social justice actions, such as the NAACP protest of Charleston's "Secession Gala."

Other members and attenders expanded their understanding of Quakerism through travel. Janie Brodhead, Joe Guy, Russell Wells, and Amy Wells attended the Atlanta Friends retreat on "Quakerism 201: Finding Our Way Once We've Discovered the Path." Joe Guy also visited Palmetto Friends Meeting in South Carolina and attended SEYM's workshop on ministry held in Tallahassee.

On weeks when we have no business meeting, we continue our fellowship over meals at local restaurants after meeting for worship. We have found this to improve our connections between members, attenders, and visitors. Frank and Liz Perch and Peter and Janie Brodhead have also been generous hosts of several potlucks.

**Space Coast MM...**

**State of the Meeting Report**  
**Space Coast Monthly Meeting Religious Society of Friends**  
**January 23, 2011**

We gather spiritual comfort at our meetings to get out and "be the change we want to see in the world." For each of us this is a different path, involving stewardship of the earth, caring for children, peace and other service. Meetings for Worship are also times to reflect and challenge ourselves.

Outside of Meeting, we bring rich relationships with each other that include potlucks and book discussions, though not as often as we would like. In November we began meeting on the property of the Unitarian Universalist Friendship Fellowship, which has energized and revitalized our Meeting, which we consider an ongoing experiment. We are hoping this will make our Meeting more accessible to others in our community. With that goal in mind, we are scheduled to make presentations about George Fox at the Unitarian Universalist Friendship Fellowship, and at the Elderhostel of Brevard Community College in April.

We remain a community welcoming a diversity of people.

## **St. Petersburg MM...**

Process: Our Clerk asked Worship & Ministry Committee to prepare the 2010 Spiritual State of the Meeting. To accomplish that, W&M, drawing on queries from SEYM's W&M, distributed the following six queries to all members/attenders of the meeting, and asked them to speak to these queries or queries of their own.

- How well do our meetings for worship with a concern for business lead to a corporate search for and revelation of God's truth?
- What was our meeting's witness in the wider community in the last year?
- Do we feel a sense of our individual spirits fusing into an undivided group as we worship? Do we leave our meetings filled with a sense of love and peace and courage to meet the challenge of Spirit filled living?
- How has the Spirit been moving among us this past year?
- Especially in this time of economic uncertainty, are we taking stock of the meeting's financial health and planning for ways to help those in need?
- Do you have other reflections on the current condition of the meeting—places where you see new life emerging, loss or sadness that you want to share?

Twelve persons responded, some to one query, some to all. The responses were read by W&M members who then met and discerned the following report.

St. Petersburg Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends has been blessed with a number of new attenders in the last few years. These good folk seek to learn more about Quaker practice, become involved with programs, initiate programs, and are little hindered by the "old ways" of the Meeting. They bring us fresh air and new vision. A self-described "newbie" provided the following, apt summary:

In addition to feeling immediately welcomed, the tender concern the members have, not only for each other but for the world outside of Meeting, is very apparent. I realize that some are concerned about "popcorn" messages at times, and yes, it's a legitimate concern to raise an awareness about this, but I do believe the Meeting as a whole transcends this in a united way in the Light. The meeting is challenged by diverse opinions, spiritual and religious experience and expression, and backgrounds. While a 'united' group may not easily be felt, the very fact that we continue to come together to try again is very important and says a great deal about the overall health of the Meeting.

Friends strongly felt Spirit moving among us this last year.

Our First Day Meeting for Learning has doubled in size and the participants feel stimulated by the discussion and better prepared to center in Worship. Over the last year, a remarkable First Day School program has evolved for children and youth.

Our witness to the wider community is deep and growing. Our meeting hosts the offices of ProNica, Quaker outreach to Nicaragua, and provides many board and committee members. Outreach to the homeless not only provides food and clothing for them, but spreads further into the community, inspiring other churches to take part. That a few people in our meeting can put on Circus McGurkis, a Peace Education outreach and outdoor fair, year after year since 1971, for thousands in the community, shows this movement. Alternative to Violence Project (AVP) provides workshops locally and at Coleman Federal Correctional Complex, and uses these skills with the homeless. Peace Vigils have occurred weekly for eight years. Friends take part in the Gay Pride Parade and the Martin Luther King, Jr., Parade. A new 3rd-Saturday potluck dinner and film series brings in the community to explore ecological dangers in our world.

And even our welcoming of new attenders: sometimes you have to get in line to meet them!

Friends gave conflicting understandings of the state of Meeting for Worship with many lamenting a lack of gathering. However, a number felt this does happen from time to time, often enough to deepen their belief in the possibility of a Gathered Meeting. We seek to open our hearts, deepen our spiritual awareness, to invite and welcome this possibility.

In Meetings for Worship with Concern for Business, we often struggle in the nets of "business" and lose track of Truth. But even in our failings, no one questions that those gathered seek the best for the Meeting.

Our Meeting provides a safe, caring place to gather and get to know each other. Our fellowship was described as "outstanding." New attenders are greeted warmly. People gather and talk for a long time after Meeting. Many friends stated they leave our meetings with an increasing sense of love, peace, and courage to meet the challenges of Spirit-filled living. Deep connections with Friends come not only from Meeting for Worship, but from our Meeting for Learning (Adult First Day School), from our committee work, the Women's Group, even from knowing that a few Friends will visit a Friend confined to a nursing home each week for worship.

About our financial state, our Treasurer stated: "I probably should be more worried than most, but I'm not. I have seen time and again that we will always be financially ok, no matter what happens. We are so lucky to have such a beautiful space to worship in and to own it outright, to have missed every hurricane that's come by for the last 70 years, to have investments and enough to operate on, and to have generous people among us who faithfully give. I think we need to address those who don't give, not directly of course, but find a way to make it feel like a commitment to everyone that walks in the door, every time they walk in the door - but how to do that without passing the hat, I don't know.

While we have some great success and growth, we feel the loss of older Friends who have died, moved away, or are unable to attend. We look forward to more children and youth finding their way to the great programs that await them.

A growing number sense the work to be done and feel led to do it.

## **Tallahassee MM...**

### **Tallahassee Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends 2010 Report of the Spiritual State of the Meeting**

Tallahassee Friends Meeting started the year with a Quaker Quest (QQ) full-day exploration workshop facilitated by two Friends from the FGC QQ program. The two presentations made by members of our own meeting as part of the workshop were so valued that the meeting since then has been holding a series of Second Hour Quaker Quest-inspired inreach sessions; during each session, two Friends in two 5-minute presentations each, speak from their spiritual experience on topics such as "Simplicity and My Spiritual Experience," "The Bible and My Spiritual Experience," "Integrity and..." "Worship and..." "Environmental Stewardship and..." One Friend described these sessions as "a friendly, loving place to explore and grow in our faith." Friends, both new to Quakerism and experienced, reported that these have led to a deeper worship experience in meetings for worship, as well as a greater openness to learning from each other, and more meaningful relationships between individuals in the meeting community. Friends show they are willing to learn and not impose dogma – the expectation is stated and restated that each person has something to share and is expected to minister to others.

Young children spend a variable amount of time in our meetings for worship, and both liven and deepen our worship experience; new attenders reported seeing the children sitting quietly (as they do sometimes) as an inspiration for what is possible. Older children have their First Day School during the first half hour and join in worship during the second half, a schedule initiated this year which has worked well for us. Parents have expressed gratitude that their children, even little ones, get to have the experience of communal silence. All find worship supportive of opening the heart and going deeper into the spirit. We frequently have individuals or families enter meeting after the appointed hour, but this does not seem to diminish the gathered-ness of our worship. Friends and attenders offer spoken ministry regularly, and occasionally we have deep worship where not a word is spoken. Typically, 25 to 40 people (fewer in the summer and on holiday weekends) join in worship.

There have been no momentous decisions to make in our meetings for worship with a concern for business this year. Even so, Friends experience these meetings as a time of accountability, a foundational piece of what we do. One Friend said that this worship “opens me to see things I need to attend to.” Another said, “This is where we practice the theory of Quakerism, I want to try to participate more – the process is challenging.” We did receive into membership a father and daughter from South Central Yearly Meeting.

Some of our committees thrived this year and others have struggled. We strive always to help Friends new and old to shoulder the tasks of the meeting and to clear the path for service. Thereby, members and attenders contribute to the work of the meeting with dedication and good cheer.

It is easy to find a compassionate Friend in our meeting. Clearness committees and informal support happen regularly. Every Sunday worshippers have the opportunity to hold others (or themselves) in the Light at the rise of meeting before we welcome visitors and share announcements. Conscientious mentoring by a group of adults has helped our adolescents feel profoundly accepted by meeting. And active participation by grandparents, parents, and other loving adults has helped us welcome and nurture our younger members.

Newcomers (and everyone else) find it easy to get involved in witnessing our faith to the wider community through serving meals to homeless people, serving on issue-focused committees with a local ecumenical social justice organization, fundraising through CROP Walk, holding vigils at the time of Death Row Prisoner executions, and providing support for an area group home for mentally ill individuals (of whom one resident is an attender).

We acknowledge with awe and sorrow the calamitous and tragic events that have befallen the wider world in this year of 2010: The earthquake in Haiti, the oil discharge in the Gulf, the Floods in Pakistan, the fires in Russia, and the floods in Australia are some of the crises that make us mindful of the fragility of human society and the perpetual need for loving charity.

We hold quarterly work days for sprucing up the meetinghouse and gardens (both vegetable and flowering shrubs), make the meetinghouse available for Sacred Harp singing, held a potluck for Pastors for Peace, and hosted the “Gifts and Ministry” retreat for Southeastern Yearly Meeting (SEYM) and Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association (SAYMA). Shared snacks after meeting, a monthly potluck lunch, a couple of Second Hour programs most months, several “Movie Nights” during the year, occasional Saturday or Sunday afternoon hikes, and our October meeting retreat all provided time for deepening our knowledge of and friendship with each other. We have been made aware of and have spiritually supported many Friends who have shared something of their personal callings and leadings. Prisoners at the Federal Correctional Institution in Marianna, Florida started a worship group a couple of years ago, and several Tallahassee Friends have supported them by attending their worship, writing letters, and obtaining Quaker literature for their library.

In the Second Hour sharing where much of the material for this report was gathered, a deeply spiritual long-time Tallahassee resident who has attended meeting for about ten years shared “Quaker meeting has become the best community I have.” Despite our flaws and idiosyncrasies, we seem to let the Christ Spirit be known in our midst.

In the Light,  
Jim Meade, Clerk

The questions we used to guide the Second hour sharing were:

- 1) How has Meeting for Worship nurtured my spiritual growth?
- 2) How has Meeting for Business and other meeting activities both nurtured and challenged my spiritual growth?
- 3) How have we supported each other over the past year as members of this beloved community?
- 4) What was our Meeting’s witness to the wider community in the last year?

**Treasure Coast WG...**

**Winter Park MM...**

**Friends Meeting of Ocala...**

**Tampa MM...****TAMPA MONTHLY MEETING  
SPIRITUAL STATE OF THE MEETING REPORT 2010**

Tampa Friends gathered on two separate First Days to reflect upon the spiritual state of our Meeting. We were guided by queries that asked us to consider our support of each other as members of a beloved community, our witness in the wider community, and our meetings for worship with a concern for business as a corporate search for truth. The quotations included in this report are statements made by Friends at those sessions. Once again, Tampa Monthly Meeting found that the practice of being called upon to report back to our Yearly Meeting on the state of our Meeting offered us an invaluable opportunity to consider not only where we have been but who we are and who we would like to be.

“Lots of support for each other within our community comes about simply because that’s who we are.” Friends affirmed this statement of a strength of our Meeting that arises almost automatically out of a natural concern for one another. We seek to recognize opportunities to be supportive, and we respond as a healthy extended family acting from a sense of commitment and obligation. Mid-week Worship Sharing contributes to our relationship building by offering a space for deeper sharing of our spiritual journeys. Adult First Day School has opened similar doors. Often the opportunity to support another’s concerns or leadings has led to the surprise and joy of finding that all involved in the process feel a strong sense of being supported. Our worship feels solidly grounded in this beloved community and for that we are grateful.

We are thankful to our Ministry and Counsel committee for the careful and loving way with which it seeks to offer our Meeting pastoral care; this is a gift, involving deep listening, looking for needs, and intentional thought and action. Ministry and Counsel has also facilitated clearness committees, a process that gives genuine support as those involved come to know each other better and feel a deeper level of relationship. We hope to encourage more use of the clearness process in the coming year.

Whether blessed with silence or with vocal ministry, Tampa Friends find our worship meeting our needs. Most often Friends cite how worship has fed and strengthened us in difficult times. We recognize the responsibility to come to worship prepared and open to where spirit might lead.

“In the past ten-years, the Meeting has grown up.”

A positive sign of our growth is our moving away from relying too much on the same few Friends. Even in a small Friends meeting, there is plenty of work and responsibility to go around. We are finding that more Friends are coming forward to help share in that part of the life of our community. With this growth has also come increasing movement to undertake action as a body, an understanding most visible in the work of the Peace and Social Concerns committee.

“Some see individual progress in steps in their personal life, others are addressing larger issues.” The call to work and witness in the wider community is a vital part of the life of Tampa Monthly Meeting. Many Friends do - and have done for years - serve our wider Tampa community as they have been spirit-led. We very much feel a part of that witness and gratefully offer our support as needed. Tampa Friends also serve our wider Quaker community by working on committees of Southeaster Yearly Meeting, Friends General Conference, Friends Peace Teams, and Friends Committee on National Legislation. We also seek to support our wider Quaker community by hosting Friends such as the Executive Committee of SEYM.

## WEDNESDAY

**Executive Committee Meeting:** 2:30-5:30 PM

Room 2 off Auditorium; all are welcome to attend

**Registratrion desk** Auditorium; registration, information, DIAs, schedules, youth permissions, etc.

THEME:

Continuing the work of  
**John Woolman & Lucretia Mott:**  
**Healing, Racism, & Testimonies**

WALTON LECTURERS:

**Donna McDaniel & Vanessa Julye**

**Welcome Address/1st Workshop:** 7:00-8:30

What Do We Know About Early Southern Friends?

## THURSDAY AM

**2nd Workshop:** 10:00-11:45 NOON

Engaging In Conversation On Racism

## THURSDAY-SATURDAY

**YBM plenary sessions**

**Youth Programs**

Gathering Workshops, interest groups,  
activities, recreation

## SATURDAY Evening

**Walton Lecture** 7:00-8:30 PM:

**Fit For Freedom, Not for Friendship**

Quakers, African Americans, and the Myth of Racial Justice

**Vanessa Julye & Donna McDaniel**

## SUNDAY

**Final Yearly Business Meeting** session with  
presentation of **youth epistles**, Meeting for  
Worship, camp clean-up.

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