

SEYM Annual Gathering 2006

General Information Packet: Walton Lecture, Clerk's Welcome

• Youth Information • Registration/Lodging/Food Information •



SEYM invites you to attend the Walton Lecture Workshops/Retreat

Wednesday night: *Restrospective of Our Values*

Thursday morning: *Addressing Racism*

Walton Lecture: *Here I Am Lord*

Ernie and Vince Buscemi

On 4th day evening and 5th day morning, Ernie and Vince will prayerfully facilitate two workshops. The first, *Retrospective of our Values: Introducing the Theme*, will be a threshing session to explore our diverse understanding of Friends' testimonies. It will also introduce the Gathering's theme of "*Here I am, Lord*". The Buscemis write, 'Here I am, Lord' has been a lifetime prayer and God has responded clearly that we are to work toward eradicating racism as we seek the meaning of equality".

On Thursday morning, the Buscemis will lead an interactive workshop, *Addressing Racism*, based on inclusivity with Divine love at its center. Their goal is to enhance racial and ethnic diversity and work toward eradicating racism in yearly and monthly meetings. We will truthfully talk about racism, as we explore our responsibility and move forward to change.

As Quakers, what speaks to our hearts is that God is love and to love God means to love our neighbor as ourselves. We have delved deeply within our own souls through worship, workshops, lectures and meetings, looking to be faithful to our testimony of equality. Our leading as been among Friends as we remember Jesus' admonition to remove the log from our own eye before seeking to remove a speck from our brother's or sister's eye.

Here I Am, Lord

The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord where the ark of God was. Then the Lord called Samuel. Samuel answered, "Here I am".

—1 Samuel, 3: 3&4

Here I am, Lord, is a prayer in which Quakers can reach out to God, asking for our purpose in life and in the world. In worship we are continuously listening for the word of God so that we may respond through outward actions. The fulfillment of God's will is indeed the purpose of our lives. Through the prayer "Here I am, Lord" we are saying that we stand ready and anxious to strip away all superfluous actions so that we can serve the one and only reality, God.

The Walton Lecture will include biblical references through the study of the Prophets and the Disciples. It will cover some Quaker historical background, move to contemporary Friends while delving deeply into how we respond today. Are you ready to explore your own readiness to respond to the call of God?

Biographies

Ernie Buscemi is a member of Morningside Monthly Meeting. She is currently the Assistant Clerk of New York Yearly Meeting and a participant in the School of the Spirit program. She completed four years as Clerk of the Quaker United Nations Committee as well as serving ten years as the Friends World Committee for Consultation delegate to the United Nations, following discrimination and HIV/AIDS as women and children issues. She was a delegate to the World Conference on Racism held in South Africa in September 2001. Ernie is also active in FGC work having served on the Ministry and Nurture Committee and the Committee for Ministry on Racism.

Vince Buscemi is a member of Morningside Monthly Meeting. He began facilitating Reality of Racism workshops in 2001 at New England Yearly Meeting, and has continued through 2005 in New York Yearly Meeting, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, and Baltimore Yearly Meeting. He also is active in FGC presently serving on the Discernment on long Term Planning Committee, and the FWCC delegate to the United Nations following issues relating to sustainable development and the last four years worked on the Millennium Development Goals.



Gathering Committee:

Clerk: Barbara Wolfe
Registrar: Becky Steele
Nancy Fennell, Registrar Assistant
Andrea Walsh, Assistant Registrar
Simple Meals Coordinator:
Ellie Caldwell
Transportation Coordinator:
Carrie Driscoll
Volunteer Coordinators:
Eileen Zingaro
Judy Schmalstig
Committee Members:
Gary Arthur
Jack Bradin
Warren Hoskins

Youth Workers:

Kathy Hersh, Coordinator
Wee Friends (preschool-K)
Connie Guenther
Amy Kimball-Murley
Young Friends (Grades 1-5):
Kathy Hersh
Javier del sol
JYM/ Middle/Teen Friends:
Bill Flanery
Annie Schmalstig

Junior Yearly Meeting Clerks:

Alan Schmalstig
Annie Schmalstig
Elizabeth Croce
Daniel Doan, Rec. Clerk

SEYM Yearly Business Meeting:

Susan Taylor, Clerk
Sybil Brennan, Assist. Clerk
Ed Lesnick, Recording Clerk
Nancy Fennell, Interim Bus. Mtg Clk.
Neil Andersen, Treasurer
Herb Haigh, Clerk of Trustees
Bill Rapp, Archives
Phoebe Andersen, Faith & Practice
Caroline Lanker, Finance Clerk
Mike Wilson, Half Yearly Mtg. Clerk
Phoebe Andersen, Membership
Dan Vaughen, Nominating Clerk
Cecilia Yocum, Peace & Social
Concerns
Al Webber, ProNica Board

Administrative Secretary:

Lyn Cope

Dear Friends,


Welcome to the **44th annual Southeastern Yearly Meeting Gathering!** Please do not stay away because of cost. Application forms for financial assistance have been sent to all meeting clerks. The guidelines on the forms are simply guidelines. Everyone is urged to attend. Bring a friend. If you can afford to pay more, please consider making a donation to help cover costs.

“Here I am Lord”, the theme of the two Walton Lecture workshops and Lecture to be given by Ernie and Vince Buscemi, is a welcome reminder of what we’re all about as Quakers. Please come, be here, and experience that Southeastern Yearly Meeting is everyone in the monthly meetings, preparative meeting, worship groups and non-affiliated meetings opening to God’s call together and individually. With the foundation of worship and Divine love, explore being faithful to our testimony of equality as we seek to eradicate racism. From that same center, be a part of the discernment on the relationship of Southeastern Yearly Meeting to Friends United Meeting. What is our response to the war in Iraq? Wee Friends will be emphasizing the Quaker values of “honesty and creating a loving, thoughtful and kind community.” Young Friends will be peacemaking with Help Increase the Peace (HIP) activities and Teen and Middle Friends will be exploring “The History and Structure of Quakerism”, learning more about famous Quakers, the testimonies and meeting for worship with attention to business. Young Friends have asked to spend time with older Friends, and vice versa. Volunteer and make that and other things happen. There will be opportunities for stillness, prayer, play and learning, questioning, sharing meals, playing music, singing, swimming, all-of-us-as-one family dancing, walking, sleeping, reading, welcoming our differences, nonviolently resolving conflicts, coming to unity, remembering Friends who are no longer with us and much more. We will share a time of listening. Here we are Lord!

Unfortunately, there are members of Southeastern Yearly Meeting who will not be able to attend because of illness or other reasons. I ask that we hold them tenderly in God’s love.

Travel safely. I look forward to being with you.

In peace,


Susan Taylor
Clerk

JUNIOR YEARLY MEETING

This page is for parents and children

Parents and Sponsors

Junior Yearly Meeting is a structured program of learning, fun and friendship; a time to build Friendly camaraderie with peers and Quaker leaders. Since the program is sequential, your child/children will benefit most by attending the *entire* Gathering, if at all possible.

The structured children's and youth programs are scheduled daily at specific times during the mornings and after supper. Teens have scheduled sessions on Thursday and Friday afternoons, including the **Teen Fishbowl** on Friday, which adults are encouraged to attend with them. At other times, children and youth are invited to participate in activities with the adults if they desire. A variety of inter-generational activities are planned during the afternoons and some evenings. All children and youth are welcome to attend meetings for worship and worship sharing.

The children and youth make their reports and read their epistles in the final YM Meeting for Business on Sunday morning, and there will be First Day School for children during Meeting for Worship on Sunday morning. Youth may attend activities on the adult program, including the Walton lecture, the retreat sessions with the Walton lecturer, committee meetings, special sessions and activities and interest sessions.

The parents and sponsors of young Friends under age 19 are responsible for their whereabouts when they are not in the scheduled youth sessions. In particular, the parents and sponsors of younger children are asked to meet them or pick them up promptly at the end of scheduled sessions, so that the youth leaders can also participate in other activities.

Parent/Child Meeting—Wee and Young Friends. 1-1:30 pm, Thursday, in child's classroom.

Note: Parents/sponsors should not bring or send children to the Gathering who are not interested in participating in our planned activities. Also, **no video or electronic games are allowed in youth program sessions.**

Every child under age 19 **must** have a parent or adult sponsor who:

- 1) is responsible for the child during his/her stay at Gathering.
- 2) Is named on the registration form.
- 3) Sponsor provides a **signed** medical release letter from parent(s)

NOTE: Medical release letter must include:

- Child's name
- Age
- Address
- Phone number
- Sponsor's name (if applicable)
- Allergies
- Current medications
- Family doctor's name and phone number
- Permission to treat at the camp and hospital
- Parent's signature and date.

Wee Friends Birth to Kindergarten. Blue Room.**Times of Program: 8:45am-12:05pm and 6:45pm-8:35pm.****Coordinators:** Connie Guenther, Jacksonville, (904.277.3045) and Amy Kimball-Murley, Miami, (305.854.5793)**Children must be picked up PROMPTLY from their program.**

Play, naps, and story time. ***Parents are expected to volunteer for one session.*** The camp has NO equipment for this program; please bring toys, pillows and blankets. Friends who would like to share a song, story, or show and tell, please so indicate on the Share the Work form.

Young Friends Grades 1-5. Green Room.**Youth Program Coordinator :** Kathy Hersh, Miami, (305.667.6779) with Louise Ritchie, Tallahassee**Times of Program: 8:45am-12:05pm and 6:45pm-8:35pm.****Children must be picked up PROMPTLY from their program.*****Parents are expected to volunteer for one session.*****Teen Friends and Middle Friends** Gold Room.*Grades 9-12* *Grades 6-8***Advisor:** Bill Flanery, St. Petersburg, (cell: 727.804.580) with Annie Schmalstig, Orlando (407.673.7438)**Teens and Middles are expected to participate in all sessions listed in their schedule.**

Please come on Wednesday and don't miss out on anything! Teen Friends will explore their theme of *Organizing for Change*. We will hear from adult Friends, ask questions, interview, brainstorm, play games, share and have some fun. As always, a certain amount of our time will be put into creating an "interesting" presentation for the First Day Plenary Report.

FUN! The real theme underlying anything we do at Yearly Meeting will be fun. Check out the activities to choose from in the afternoon free time. **NOTE:** Free time is also the time to check in with family and enjoy hanging out.

Swimming. Children 6th grade and under **must be accompanied by a supervising adult.** No more than four children per adult. Swimming at posted time ONLY—see activity schedule.

Junior Yearly Meeting Plenary Sessions conduct the business of the Middle and Teen Friends. This includes:

- Reports from each group concerning this year's program.
- Committee meetings for epistle writing.
- Choosing clerks
- Choosing theme for Gathering 2006
- Planning for Half-Yearly Meeting (HYM)
- Planning for activities during the year.

Closing plenary will hear reports, Minute any decisions, review and complete our Epistle and prepare our report for the **Yearly Meeting Plenary Session.**

School Excuse. SEYM sessions are considered a religious holiday. Letters are included in the registration packet, and are available, if needed, from SEYM office via email (admin@seym.org), snail-mail, or may be downloaded from our web site, www.seym.org.

Scholarship application information is available from your Meeting Clerk.

Registration/Lodging/Food Information

What to Bring/What NOT to Bring

Registration

The SEYM Gathering Committee is pleased to welcome all 'Old Timers' and 'First Timers' to the 2006 Yearly Meeting Gathering. We hope your stay is pleasant, interesting, and meaningful. Please note that new attenders are identified by a blue dot on their meeting badges. When you come across a blue dot, please take a few moments to say "Hello" and "Welcome."

Please register early, either by **snail-mail** or **on-line** at <www.seym.org>. This helps us plan better for your stay, to have a sufficient number of rooms cleaned, to order appropriate amounts of food, youth materials, and to plan activities.

PAY now, or at check-in; mail form by 03/20/2006; SAVE \$40.00 late fee!

A **Day-use charge** of \$3.00/person is charged for Friends not spending the night.

Check-in at the Life Enrichment Center ASAP after you arrive.

Registration/check-in is open:

Wednesday 4:00-5:30 P.M. and 8:30-9:30P.M.,
Thursday-Saturday 4:00-5:30 P.M.

Remember to **park in designated areas only**.

Lodging Choices

Life Enrichment Center: Rooms have twin beds/private bath. A 3rd person in room on floor is free. A cot is \$10/night (reserve in advance). Bedding & towels provided. Priced as single or double or half-double if sharing.

Sharing Rooms: All efforts will be made to arrange shares as requested. Individuals wishing to share will be placed based on first requests, days staying and other special needs as noted on your registration form (first floor, handicapped accessible bathroom, etc.) For any nights a match cannot be made, single rates are charged unless a roommate is found. The Lodge may be used as an alternative based on availability.

Lodges are located across the street from the Life Enrichment Center. There are 4-6 bunks/room. Families are placed together. You must bring bedding & towels. Per person price/night.

Tent camping is located near the pavilion. Per person price/night.

RV Camping is located near the pavilion. Per person price/night.

Food Choices

Meals are available in the camp cafeteria. Simple meals (breakfast and lunch Thurs., Fri., Sat.) are available in the camping area pavilion. You must register for either of these options. (See Registration form.) Friends may prepare their own meals in the kitchen facilities in the Lodges and the Camp Ground pavilion for a minimal daily Kitchen-Use charge. Bring your own utensils. (Note: The youth area is reserved for youth.)

LEC Meals include vegetarian choices on a first come, first served basis. There are always abundant salad choices.

Simple Meals are prepared by all of us who partake. Cost is kept to a minimum. Breakfast includes instant hot oatmeal, granola, cold cereals, fruit, fruit juices, breads, margarine, jam, skim and 2% milk, tea, coffee. Lunches include Vegetarian noodle soup on Thurs., Vegetarian chutney stew on Friday, and Onion potato soup on Saturday. Lunches include salads with assorted dressings and/or fruit salad and American and swiss cheese, peanut butter, jam, white and wheat bread, apples, grapes, cookies and milk, tea, coffee, lemonade.

Everyone eating simple meals will be asked to sign up to help, children as well as adults—for set up, meal help, and clean up. There will be no sugar cereals for breakfast and no donuts (there is enough energy among the young). But of course, a big cookie for lunch. If campers want to bring their own utensils & plastic -ware, that would be great.

It is imperative that you register for meals on the registration form in order to keep costs low, and not be wasteful. We must know how much food to purchase and prepare, or have prepared.

Walton Lecture

Walton Lecture and meal fee per person for guests coming to attend Walton Lecture only. **Note: Walton Lecture is included in Registration fee for all others.**

LEC Rules

- Park in designated areas only.
- Quiet time from 11:00 P.M. to 7:00 A.M.
- No skate boards, in-line skates, or scooters are permitted on campus.
- Alcoholic beverages and recreational drugs are prohibited.
- Pets are allowed in the camping area, on a leash.
- Cleanup— we're responsible for our own cleanup.

SEYM Rules

- Sponsors—all children 0-18 must attend with a parent or a designated adult sponsor the entire time at the camp.
- All youth need a parent/guardian signed Medical Release form.
- Swimming is available Friday and Saturday from 1:00 to 3:00 PM. You may swim only during this time when the pool is reserved for SEYM use.
- Alligators are in the lake. No swimming in the lake! Furthermore, lake is polluted—not safe.
- Display/table space is limited and reserved for SEYM Representatives for their Quaker and other Organizations. It is the responsibility of the Representative to bring and tend materials.*

What to bring

- Those staying in Lodges bring:
 - Linens for single beds, pillow, blankets, towels.
- Toys for toddlers, children's supplies (throw pillows, toys to share, soccer balls, etc.) puzzles and games for all ages.
- Rise Up Singing** hymnals, musical instruments, craft supplies, books to trade and share.
- Musical Instruments: Quaker Family Band musicians needed. Questions? Contact Mac Cowden: 305.661.6002
- Books for Book Swap located on one table just inside Auditorium door to left.
- Your books-to-buy list. The FGC Bookstore is in the entrance to the Auditorium. (*The LEC Methodist Bookstore is in building west auditorium.*)
- SEYM Representatives to Organizations bring Displays and literature.
- Walking shoes so that you can take a nature walks: check out the Path of Silence.
- Bring a friend/Friend new to your Meeting. Let them see first hand how wonderful it is to be involved in **the** mini-SE Quaker Gathering: SEYM's YM Gathering.

What NOT to bring

- Alcoholic beverages and recreational drugs
- Skate boards, in-line skates, or scooters

*Please Save trees:
Bring these programs to the Gathering*

Directions

Florida United Methodist Life Enrichment Center 352-787-0313

1-75 to Hwy 27:

- On I-75 go to Wildwood Exit 66 at State Road 44.
- Go east on State Road 44 (right if coming from south; left if coming from north). (State Road 44 is 14th Street in Leesburg).
- Go approximately 12 miles to Hwy 27.
- Go north or left onto Hwy 27 through center of town.

Turnpike to Hwy 27:

- On the Turnpike go to Leesburg/Ocala Exit 285.
- Go north on Hwy 27 through center of town.

Everyone — Hwy 27 to the Camp:

- Turn "East" on county Road 466A, Picciola Road, between the ABC Liquor store on the right and Walgreen on the left.
- Go 3 miles. The Life Enrichment Center is on the right.