

Documents in Advance (DIA)

Fall Executive Committee Meeting, October 5, 2007

Fall Interim Business Meeting (FIBM), Saturday, October 6, 2007

to be held at the Palm Beach Meeting House
823 North A Street, Lake Worth, FL 33460; 561.585.8060

Clerk's Welcome

Dear SEYM Friends,

Welcome to Fall Interim Business Meeting. As I was thinking what I might say in a letter of invitation to SEYM members, I kept hearing voices from the recent past. For the past several years, I have heard Friends saying, "Think what we could do if we weren't focusing on the FUM problems." Well, Friends, we have a hiatus, a time in which we will not be focusing intently on our affiliation with FUM. So, what is it we think we can do? To what is Spirit calling us?

In July of this year, Quakers in Norway held their annual yearly meeting sessions. The theme was "Finding the Prophetic Voice—words and action in our own time." After worship, discernment, and discussion, Norwegian Friends wrote their epistle. I want to share a few lines from that epistle:

A prerequisite for prophetic communication is to be quiet before God in order that we may hear the voice of God and act accordingly. And we need to be aware that anyone may prophesy and transmit the divine message, through word and action. At times we may not be aware of our own prophetic communication. The prophetic impulse brings positive energy....By listening to God in the silence of worship, and also when we listen to the religious experiences of other people, we open ourselves to the prophetic impulse both within ourselves and others. And in these matters we must not be too careful; we must speak clearly and say what needs to be said! When prophecy fills us and comes through us, we have to share it with others.

I invite all of us to reflect and "think what we (SEYM) can do," to consider in the silence our corporate leadings, to listen for the guidance of Spirit, and to share our understandings with each other. If we speak clearly and allow that prophecy, that message, that positive energy, to fill us and come through us, then, indeed, think what we can do!

Please join us in Palm Beach Meeting as SEYM Friends gather in worship, business, fellowship, and, perhaps, prophetic voice.

Blessings and safe journey

Nancy Fennell

Clerk, Interim Business Meeting

Directions to Meetinghouse:

From Interstate-95

Take Exit #64, 10th Avenue North; go east

Turn RIGHT (south) onto North A Street approximately 0.1 mile

Arrive at 823 North A ST, LAKE WORTH on right

INTERIM BUSINESS MEETING HOSPITALITY

Those Friends who would like to stay with someone from Palm Beach meeting should contact Lisa Stewart and she will match you up with what is available. If anyone needs transportation to and from the railroad, bus or airport, they too should contact Lisa. Her tel. no. at home is 561-540-8913, her cell is 561-758-8674 and her email address is: beachplumlisa@bellsouth.net.

One motel we recommend is: New Sun Gate, 901 South Federal Highway, about 4 miles from the Meetinghouse, 1-800-315-9050. It is recommended by AAA and was listed in Fodor's at one time as "best for less". The rooms are clean and pleasant, it is secure and the pool is an added amenity. The rates are \$65 for a regular room and \$79 per night for a small efficiency with a 10% discount for churches. Check out their web site at www.new-sungate.com. We suggest you ask for a room on the second floor because we noticed a couple of rooms on the ground floor may have had a smoker recently.

There are also three chain motels on Hypoluxo, just east of I-95 and about 4 miles from the Meetinghouse. They are The Best Western (561-588-0546) that is rather elegant for \$101.96 + tax; the Comfort Inn (800-424-6423 or 561-582-7878) which offers a full breakfast for \$90 + tax; and the Super 8 Motel (1-800-800-8000) which offer a continental breakfast for \$66.00 + tax.

Those Friends who would like to splurge for something more elegant may check out two highly recommended bed and breakfast inns about a mile and a half from the Meetinghouse: The Mango Inn, 128 Lakeside Drive (561-533-6900) for \$130 a night has a pool, continental breakfast, snacks and complimentary wine and soda. The Sabal Palm House, 109 North Golfview Road (561-582-1090) for \$145 a night has a full breakfast, afternoon tea and faces the Intracoastal. Both have been given very high ratings in the paper.

NOTE: We ask that all persons planning to attend Interim Business Meeting let Lisa know as soon as they make the decision so the Hospitality Committee may know for how many they should prepare. [Ed's note: also please let Lisa know if you have any special food requirements.]

Child care may be coordinated by parents/caretakers as need arises.

FALL INTERIM BUSINESS MEETING SCHEDULE

October 5-6, 2007

FRIDAY, October 5, 2007, 7:00 PM Executive Committee Meeting, Palm Beach Meeting House (All welcome.)

Opening Worship

1. Additions to agenda
2. Secretary's report/concerns
4. Follow-up: Reports of projects currently underway
5. New Business
6. Other
7. Review of minutes.

Closing worship.

FIBM Agenda
October 6, 2007

- 8:15 Fellowship, coffee
- 9:00 Opening worship
- 9:30 Introduction of YM Clerk and Clerk's table
- Preliminary Nominating Committee report
- Announcements
- Committee Meetings
- 12:00 Lunch
- 1:00 Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business
 - 1. Roll Call of Meetings and Worship Groups
 - 2. Visitors
 - 3. Announcements
 - 4. Changes to agenda
 - 5. Executive Committee Report
 - 6. Worship and Ministry Report
 - 7. Faith and Practice Report
 - 8. Treasurer's Report
 - 9. Finance Committee Report
 - 10. Trustees Report
 - 11. Gathering Committee Report
 - 12. Youth Committee Report
 - 13. Peace and Social Concerns Report
 - 14. ProNica Report
 - 15. Half Yearly Meeting Committee Report
 - 16. Reports of Representatives to Organizations
 - 17. Nominating Committee Report
 - 18. Other business to come before the Meeting
 - 19. Review of minutes
 - 20. Closing worship

INDIVIDUAL COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDAS

Please presume that if you are on a SEYM Committee that your committee will be meeting Saturday morning 9:30 to lunch.

If you are a first time attender at FIBM, please know that your presence at any committee meeting is welcomed.

If you are exploring what committee might light your fire, please feel free to pop in and out, and to chat with a Nominating Committee member at an appropriate time.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Archives Committee Report

Dear Lyn, The Archives Committee is alive and functioning. All meetings are reminded to put all their minutes and other important materials on ACID FREE PAPER in acid free folders and boxes. No paper clips or staples. Please send Kay Lesnick a list of all the meeting and WG meeting recorders. She is the main e mail person since I am so inept. Love Etc. Cathy

Half Yearly Meeting Committee Report [from the office: Emails from the HYM Committee members are busily flying around as the committee prepares another fabulous Thanksgiving Gathering with its emphasis on camaraderie, good times, good food, and encouraging us all to bring skills/crafts to share.

Worship and Ministry Committee Report:

“How vividly I remember the first time I attended a Quaker First Day Meeting about thirty-five years ago. When I entered the meetinghouse, I was given a typewritten sheet, which stated, ‘Do not speak unless God prompts you to speak. Be sure to speak if God prompts you.’” - from the September 2001 “Friends Bulletin” article (pg. 7) “Vocal Ministry” by W. Norman Cooper, Ojai (CA) Meeting

Dear Friends,

Please, consider participating in the Fall Interim Business Meeting hosted by Palm Beach Meeting on Saturday afternoon, October 6th, 2007, preceded by committee meetings in the morning. Especially if you are a member of your meeting's worship and ministry committee - or have an interest in such matters - you are welcome to participate in the SEYM Worship & Ministry Committee meeting that morning.

These items are on the agenda: tending to the planning needs of the January 2008 Michener Lecture; bringing names forward for the 2009 Michener Lecture; discerning Quaker process in the Committee's meetings; discerning changing the name of the Committee to be more reflective of what the Committee does; discerning adding a pastoral care description to The Committee's section of the SEYM Operational Handbook; and, sharing what is happening in our meetings and in our lives. SEYM Worship & Ministry Committee, also, holds in Tenderness and Wholeness Fall Interim Business Meeting and Friends at the clerks' table. Please, see the SEYM Operational Handbook for further information about the SEYM Worship & Ministry Committee.

For Friends not traveling to Palm Beach Meetinghouse for FIBM and committee meetings, on Saturday, October 6th, please, center where you are and support those gathered at FIBM and committee meetings by holding those Friends and proceedings in Tenderness and Wholeness. Thank you.

Lovingkindness,

SEYM Worship & Ministry Committee co-clerks,

Wendy Clarissa Geiger, (of Jacksonville MM), (904)768-3648, julalf@juno.com,

and, Barb French, (of Ft. Myers MM), (239)543-9556, bfrench2@comcast.net,

and, SEYM W&M Com.assistant clerk, Tom Dudley Fennell, (of Ft. Myers MM), (863)699-1276, dudley@strato.net

Youth Committee Report (This committee currently has no clerk and no members)

REPRESENTATIVES TO QUAKER/OTHER ORGANIZATIONS' REPORTS

SEYM Representatives to a Quaker Organizations: When you participate in a Friendly activity on behalf of SEYM or on behalf of your organization, you re requested to submit a Report for publication either in the newsletter or in a DIA (FIBM; WIBM; YBM) so that the wider community of Friends may learn of your activities on our behalf.

- ▶ Please plan to give a short report Saturday afternoon; remember to provide Recording Clerk Ed Lesnick with copy.

FWCC

Triennial Overview from Sybil

Dear Lyn, This report is an overview of the experience that I had at the Triennial. I will be further reporting on my personal experiences as well as reporting on the minutes that were approved and are available on line, and especially on the outreach working group in which I participated. On September 15 through 17 is the celebration of the 70th birthday of FWCC at Swarthmore and Haverford; there may be a number of SEYM Friends attending (I will not be able to be there) ...

The Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) 2007 Triennial was a highly scheduled conference filled with:

- ◆ brainstorming ideas involving the approval of the World Gathering to be held in 2012, consisting of 1000 Friends in Nairobi, Kenya
- ◆ working groups which met several times and were devoted to studying the following concerns:
 - HIV/AIDS and other medical concerns
 - Young Friends
 - VIOLENCE including “Torture in the World” and “Living in War” Environmental sustainability
 - Human Rights—immigration/civil liberties/ death penalty/ war on terror
 - Outreach—Missions/ “Intervisitations”/ Far away Friends / becoming known in the world
- ◆ interest sessions of which there were more than the original 25
- ◆ worship/worship sharing in designed circles with facilitators
- ◆ conversations over meals; occasionally tables were designated with subjects suggested for discussion
- ◆ queues that began with registration, picking up towels, getting lost in a school complex having a series of wings and corridors in which everyone repeatedly got confused and ended in our shuffling to tea and breakfast awaiting travel advise and the line of Friends with numerous farewells ...” may the wind be always at your back....” (from an Irish prayer)

I would not have known I was in Ireland except for different bedding, potatoes at almost every meal, tasty whole grain bread or scones with marmalade and butter and unique bathroom plumbing - until all conference participants, just over 300 from 45 countries, went on a mid-week bus trip and saw some of the post card views of sheep on green hillsides, bogs of peat, pre-historic monoliths, stone houses with thatched roofs, steep hillsides covered in purple heather and Dublin’s double decker buses, second story flower boxes with hanging blooms and pubs with outdoor cafes and live concertina music.

Later in the week we danced a simple Irish gig and learned some singing rounds. The optional tour was an additional Quaker experience of fine camaraderie, Ffriendly worship and play with Cork and Waterford’s Monthly Meetings. Our Irish hosts were totally welcoming and helpfully filled with good humor throughout the FWCC Triennial.

QUNO

REPORT OF VISIT TO QUNO Quaker United Nations Organization

May 2007

The QUNO office is in an office building across the street from the United Nations. We were warmly greeted by the new director, Rob Callard. He invited us into his office and spoke of the work QUNO continues to do. The scope of QUNO interests and activities ranges widely; an amazing amount of work is done by the small dedicated staff of interns in a cramped space.

Then Rob, a long-time Friend, took us for a walk to Quaker House. The three story house abuts the street, looking very ordinary, but as we entered the house, peace seemed to envelop us. The living room where small groups of UN delegates and others come to work out problems is on the second floor, a room of light and simplicity. The large courtyard garden, shared by several houses built around it, is beautiful and inviting. When people gather in a private home they can come to feel congenial and cooperative. On the third floor are 4 very small bedrooms, in the past, probably the servants' quarters, which now serve as space to be used by interns and visitors.

We urge everyone to go to www.quno.org/newyork to get the latest wealth of information on QUNO's interests, directions, accomplishments, and many works in progress. QUNO represents us in the world, to the world.

Laura and Jim Winefordner

SEYM representative to QUNO