

Documents in Advance (DIA)

Fall Executive Committee Meeting, September 30, 2011
Fall Interim Business Meeting (FIBM), Saturday, October 1, 2011
to be held at the Sarasota Meeting House
3139 57th Street, Sarasota, FL 34243 (wheelchair access)



DIRECTIONS TO MEETINGHOUSE:

From I-75 take **Exit 213** toward Sarasota (west);
Merge onto **University Parkway**—go about 3.3 miles;
Turn Left (south) onto **Lockwood Ridge Road**—3 blocks.
Turn Right onto **57th Street**.

Meetinghouse is immediately on the right (corner of Lockwood Ridge & 57th).

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

Accommodations/hospitality:

Please contact: Mimi McAdoo, 941.355.2592, for lodging information (homes and motel info). Clerk of Sarasota Meeting: Dave Hilsheimer, 941.794.0584, <smmclerk@hotmail.com>

Lunch: Pot luck provided by Sarasota Meeting members and attendees.

Please, for those requiring vegan/special diets, please bring own.

—Thanks

CLERK OF EC / IBM'S LETTER OF WELCOME:

Dear Friends,

I am honored and excited to begin serving our Yearly Meeting as clerk of Interim Business Meeting and Executive Committee. I ask for your prayers, patience, and wisdom as I learn and grow.

The Yearly Meeting's three new clerks—Phoebe Anderson, YM clerk; Joel Cook, Assistant YM and FIBM clerk; and I—met in the spring to begin discernment and visioning together. We celebrated joy and gratitude for the legacy of those whose large shoes we've been called to fill. As new clerks, we feel blessed to begin our service on the crest of the wave, buoyed by the work of our predecessor clerks and the Yearly Meeting as a whole.

As a Yearly Meeting, we have worked through deep and difficult concerns in recent years, and the Yearly Meeting is stronger due to the faithful way in which Friends among us rose to the task. We have gifts to cherish now: our better understanding and wider embrace of the diversity among us, its theological as well as social dimensions; our deepened capacity to perceive and accept the Love and tenderness among us; our re-invigorated youth programs; our opportunity to move forward creatively in freedom and clarity.

As we gather this fall in S/spirit and in body, let us hold each other in the Light and prepare to attend to our next tasks with loving care.

In the Light,



Ann Jerome
SEYM Interim Business Meeting and
Executive Committee Clerk

EC at FIBM Agenda

October 1, 2011

6:30 Fellowship with your brown-bag snacks

7:00 Worship followed by EC Meeting

Questions, Answers, and Brainstorming with Secretary.

Everything you wanted to ask about day-to-day operations and more.

What do meetings want/need from SEYM (us)? from EC (you)? from office (me)?

Discussion: YM, MMs, and WGs: apportionment, communications, and other relationship concerns

Other concerns

FIBM Agenda

October 1, 2011

8:15 Fellowship/coffee/fruit

9:00 Worship

9:30 Introduction of Clerks: YM, Phoebe Anderson; YM/IBM Assistant, Joel Cook;

Recording, Ed Lesnick

Announcements from Sarasota Meeting

Committee Meetings

Noon Lunch

1:00-3:00:

1. Worship followed by FIBM
2. Roll call of meetings and worship groups; welcome visitors
3. Announcements:
 - Half Yearly Meeting—Andrea Walsh
 - Youth Programing at HYM—Ann Sundberg
 - YBM-Gathering Committee—Ellie Caldwell
4. Changes to agenda
5. Executive Committee Report—Ann Jerome
6. Affiliated organization Reports: ProNica—Melissa Ajabshir <mhpronica@hotmail.com>
7. Nominating Committee Report—Susan Taylor
8. Finance Committee Report FY 2011-2012—Nilufer Wilkins
9. Annual Financial Statement FY 2010-2011; Treasurer's Report FY 2011-2012—Neil Anderson
10. Other business to come before the Meeting
11. Minute of appreciation
12. Review of minutes

3:00-3:30 break

3:30-4:30 Choice of sessions:

- 1) Interest groups, or
- 2) Youth Committee Child Abuse Prevention Training (minimum of 10)

4:30-5:00 Closing worship

Gathered meal at local restaurant:

JASON'S DELI, 5231 University Pkwy, University Park, FL; (941) 351-5999

SATURDAY MORNING 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.

SEYM OFFICER'S REPORTS

A REMINDER TO ASSIST RECORDING CLERK:

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.

Friends who propose formal minutes should present such before the meeting or placement on the agenda. Committee clerks, representatives, and those who report on MM activities have regularly provided written or electronic versions of their reports. To them I am most grateful.

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.

From William Watson's *Before Business Begins*:

... an elderly Friend came up and said, "It's such a pleasure to have you read those minutes, now I can hear everything that goes on."

Do enjoy the peace and fellowship, Thank you for your cooperation,

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

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

SEYM Archives

No Report submitted

SEYM Committee on Earthcare

Friday, September 2, 2011 5:57 PM

Barbara <bletsch@bellsouth.net>, Clerk

Note: Jack & Barbara may not be back from their trip to be able to attend FIBM.

In attendance were Rod Zwirner, Jack Bradin, Mary Jo Klingel, Al Gieger, and Barb Letsch

The meeting opened with a period of silent worship.

1. Minutes from Winter Interim Business Meeting were read and accepted.
2. We are very pleased to have Marcia Cleveland from FCNL's green team here with us to participate in Yearly Meeting programs. We look forward to learning what is happening in Washington D.C. on environmental matters and thank her for coming to share her time, energy, and spirit with us.

3. The update on the Collins/Cantwell Clear Act to tax carbon is that it has not been brought forward into this Congress. We will follow its status on the FCNL website, and with FCNL rep. Marcia Cleveland.
4. Way very slowly forward continues on getting a link from the SEYM website to the Earthcare Committee website.
5. The Committee continues to remind F/friends of the need to support recovery in Haiti from the earthquake. Donations can be made to foodforthe poor.org, AFSC, or other organizations working there.
6. The Committee would like to continue its educational project on carbon offsets. The trifold has been updated. F/friends can find the new carbon footprint worksheet from QEW that will be used at the FGC Gathering this year. The carbon offset expense from your Meeting to Yearly Meeting is posted along with information on Native Energy, where F/friends can make a donation for the offset.
7. The QEW mini grant program has increased from a \$250 matching grant to \$500. It has also expanded from "greening" Meeting Houses to projects "that are consistent with the QEW Vision and Witness statement". Please spread the word to your Meetings. You can go to QEW's website for information and an application.
8. The Committee approved seeking out Kathy Hersh and other F/friends that were with her at Half Yearly Meeting to see if an Interest Group on their threshing session on Green Living can be facilitated.
9. The Committee approved a revised version of QEW's Minute on Nuclear Fission, in Response to the Disaster in Japan. We bring this forward to Yearly Meeting for its consideration as a proposed Minute from SEYM. See attached.

The meeting ended in a period of silent worship.

Prayerfully submitted, Barbara Letsch. Clerk, Earthcare Committee

Proposed SEYM Minute on Nuclear Fission

We are horrified and saddened by the staggering physical, human, and environmental damage that has been suffered by Japan following the recent major earthquakes and tsunami. We are deeply concerned about the potentially severe global impact of ongoing radioactive releases from the six heavily damaged nuclear fission reactors.

The disaster has exposed the vulnerability of many similar older plants to disruption of vital cooling systems and breaching of containment structures as happened in Japan's Fukushima Daiichi nuclear complex. We join others in calling for the orderly shutdown of all nuclear plants, including those in the United States, starting with those that, due to design flaws, careless site selection, and inadequate means for preventing and responding to such emergencies, pose unacceptable risks to the public, to the non-human environment, and to future generations.

Fission-powered electricity emerges from a narrow, human-centered technological worldview rather than an understanding of ecological principles. These business models favor large-scale, centrally controlled systems. These enterprises tend to concentrate power and wealth at the expense of democratic values, community-well-being, economic justice, ecological balance, and personal freedom.

Proponents of nuclear fission and other advanced technological systems typically cite pressures to keep up with ever-expanding consumption and population growth. They do not acknowledge that on a finite planet, growth as we know it inevitably comes to an end, often tragically, and that the current economic model is based on endless growth. These same proponents tend to underestimate human fallibility, the limitations inherent in the laws of physics, and unintended consequences.

We urge all concerned citizens, including Friends around the world, to reduce their personal consumption of electricity and to work individually and collectively with legislators and lobbying groups to encourage the development of appropriately scaled renewable energy systems. We implore all Nations to eliminate subsidies for nuclear fission and other industries that are environmentally disruptive and ecologically unsustainable.

We also respond to the nuclear crisis in Japan in terms of the values that we find to be essential to a peaceful, just, and sustainable world. We prayerfully endeavor to leave our children, grandchildren, and future generations a flourishing planet.

We are grateful to Quaker Earthcare Witness for the original language of this Minute.

SEYM Earthcare Committee

SEYM Faith & Practice

No Report submitted

SEYM Finance

No Report submitted

SEYM Gathering

Thursday, September 15, 2011 10:53 AM

Ellie Caldwell, Gathering Committee Clerk <quakerellie@gmail.com>

Start practicing now and you'll be ready by for the musical SEYM annual Gathering April 4-8, 2012 at the beautiful Life Enrichment Center in Leesburg, Florida. Our guest musician/Walton Lecturer is Tom Neilson, a Quaker activist from Mt. Toby Mtg in Massachusetts. Workshops will focus on the music theme and there'll be lots of chances for music under the oak trees with Friends. Begin talking up the YMtG Gathering in your meeting now and especially encourage children to attend. Our goal this year is to completely cover the cost of all children to attend--help with this would be greatly appreciated. Hope to see you there--for conversation, singing, cool evenings, and much feeding of the spirit.

SEYM HYM

Thursday, September 15, 2011 3:29 PM

Andrea Walsh. Half Yearly Meeting Gathering Clerk and Registrar <andreagwalsh@yahoo.com>; (813) 787-0956

I would like to kick off this years registration by reminding Friends that we are back at Wekiva Springs State Park for our Half Yearly Thanksgiving Gathering. We are in need of a few volunteers to help welcome new comers, coordinate activities and to help with meal preparation and clean up. I will have a sign up sheet for volunteers for kitchen help. Please contact me for more information.

See *The SEYM Journal* Sept., Oct., Nov. issue for Youth Activities, Information and mail-in Registration Form.

SEYM Nominating

Dear Friends,

The thing is this: that if you had (once a year) a Yearly Meeting ... for Friends to see one another, and know how the affairs of truth prosper, and how Friends do grow in the truth of God, to the comfort and joy of one another in it ... all things (by the truth and power of God) may be kept in peace and love, all dwelling in the wisdom of God. **George Fox, 1681 (SEYM Faith and Practice)**

The Southeastern Yearly Meeting Nominating Committee will be meeting during Fall Interim Business Meeting weekend, continuing our on-going process of discerning gifts of Friends that match vacancies or soon-to-be-ended terms of committee members, clerks and representatives to organizations. In order to help with our discernment, the Committee asks Friends to please contact us if you know of Friends whose gifts might serve all of us, who are SEYM, in some capacity. Perhaps you feel called to the joy of sharing your gifts in this way as well.

Right now, we are seeking Friends who might be led to fill two positions for the Gathering Committee- the committee that plans and follows through with what needs to happen in order that SEYM's annual Gathering is spiritually nourishing. First,

Ellie Caldwell, Palm Beach Meeting, and current clerk of the Gathering Committee, would like someone to assist her this year in preparation for filling her position. Over many years, a great deal of work has been done to provide a solid foundation and structure for all that is involved with the Gathering, so that with Ellie's mentorship, stepping into being the clerk of that committee at the end of Ellie's term following the 2012 Gathering should be smooth.

Secondly, Ann Jerome, present clerk of Interim Business Meeting and Executive Committee, is stepping down from her position as program coordinator for the Gathering Committee. The person who coordinates the programs for the Gathering works very closely with the clerk of the Gathering Committee and has the opportunity to communicate with Friends who are called to be a part of the Gathering offerings. As Ann says, **"It's a joyful work to connect all the talents within our YM and I'll be happy to show someone the ropes."**

In addition, enjoy looking in the front of the vibrantly covered SEYM Directory for committees and their members and representatives to various organizations. Check out the expiration dates of terms of office and let us know of possibilities for filling those positions.

Members of the Nominating Committee are: Susan Taylor, clerk, Tallahassee MM; Gary Arthur, Gainesville MM; Dustin Lemke, Tampa, MM and Martha Morris, Winter Park MM.

Thank you, Friends. It will be wonderful to see you at Fall Interim Business Meeting.

Susan Taylor

Clerk, SEYM Nominating Committee

SEYM Peace & Social Concerns

No Report submitted

See *The SEYM Journal*, June, July, Aug issue, page 18 for Report on 2011 Historic Peace Churches Meeting

SEYM Committee for Ministry on Racism

See *The SEYM Journal*, June, July, Aug issue

Wednesday, September 14, 2011 8:32 PM

Wendy Clarissa Geiger <julalf@juno.com>

Dear SEYM Friends,

A few members of the SEYM Committee for Ministry on Racism met at Yearly Meeting Gathering. Much of

what the Committee does during the year is:

send relevant e-mail almost monthly to a contact person for each SEYM meeting and worship group, hoping that information spreads; suggest and collect information on resources for meeting/worship group/individual use

(see the back cover of the Summer issue of "SEYM Journal" for web sites); and, encourage meetings/worship groups/individuals in racism awareness development.

Friends attending Yearly Meeting Gathering eagerly engaged Donna McDaniel and Vanessa Julye throughout our time together with them as retreat leaders and Walton Lecturers. They were ever available and personable, thought-provoking and supportive - not at all into chastising us for what we have not done. We hope Friends returned home with encouragement and confidence in making our meetings and worship groups more aware of racism and what can be done about it.

The SEYM Committee for Ministry on Racism is present so that Friends will hold racism awareness as a priority in our lives and not think: now we've done the race issue, let's go on to something else. We welcome participation on the Committee and additions to the e-mail list (not a list serv). We, also, welcome suggestions, ideas, plans, what you -meetings/worship groups/individuals - are doing and/or thinking regarding racism, your own or that of Friends or others.

Lovingkindness,

Wendy Clarissa Geiger (904)764-1722 (of Jacksonville MM) and
Ellie Caldwell (561)790-5499 (of Palm Beach MM)

SEYM Worship & Ministry

See *The SEYM Journal*, June, July, Aug issue for informaion on Pendle Hill Scholarship.

Tuesday, September 13, 2011 8:38 PM

Wendy Clarissa Geiger <julalf@juno.com>

SEYM Worship & Ministry Com. Invitation & Agenda

Dear SEYM Friends,

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 Fall Interim Business Meeting!) to purchase past Michener Lecture pamphlets in print.

Friends, please consider participating in the SEYM Worship & Ministry Committee meeting the morning of Fall Interim Business Meeting—on Saturday morning, October 1st, 2011, at the Sarasota Friends Meeting House. 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. The Inter-visitation Project, details of Patty Levering's Michener Lecture (Jan. 15th, 2012), bringing forth names—especially, those of men - of possible future Michener Lecturers, deepening the meeting for worship experience, supporting W&M Com.'s of SEYM meetings and individuals needing a tender

ear, and the SEYM Pendle Hill Scholarship.

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

For Friends not traveling to Sarasota for FIBM, please, center where you are and support those gathered in Sarasota 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 Sarasota.

Gentle blessings and safe journeys,
Wendy Clarissa Geiger & Nancy Triscritti, co-clerks, SEYM Worship & Ministry Committee
WCG: (904)764-1722; NT: (813)929-4355

SEYM Young Adult Quakers

See *The SEYM Journal*, June, July, Aug issue.

SEYM Youth Committee

See *The SEYM Journal*, June, July, Aug and Sept., Oct., Nov. issues.

Over Labor Day weekend (September 2-4, 2011), the SEYM junior high and high school youth canoed on the St. Mark's River outside of Tallahassee. During the weekend, nine young people joined in festivities along with at least fifteen adults. Five different monthly meetings were represented. Folks began arriving on Thursday night and all day Friday with lively games of Bannagrams going until nearly midnight. Some had not seen each other for a couple of months and some were new to the group. It was tough that first night to turn out the lights since everyone was excited to see each other. Saturday we started with our traditional opening circle, imagining what fun and games the day would hold along with thinking about the deeper spiritual meaning of the day. Canoeing and Kayaking on the river, we saw river otters (two different times!) and a manatee that swam by and stuck his snout up for air.

A big thanks to the Tallahassee meeting for significant involvement for this canoe event. Tallahassee Friends provided breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks; they gave us homes and their meeting house to sleep in; rustled up canoes; paid rental fees for other canoes; scouted out the river; and provided several adult chaperones for the day. What a help they were! A big thanks also to Sandy Lyon, Gainesville Meeting, for bringing canoes, kayaks, life jackets, sleeping pads and lots of wilderness expertise.

Saturday evening ended with swimming in the magical sinkhole at Vicki Mariner and Jim Meade's home. They even let us all prepare a large meal of grilled chicken and vegetable kabobs; the youth pitched in and made it feel like a true intergenerational event. On Sunday morning, many of us were able to join Tallahassee meeting for worship.

Please join in the upcoming SEYM youth events: Half Yearly Meeting at Wekiwa Springs, Nov 25-27, all ages (elementary friends through teens) are welcome to join in environmental activities

Winter Interim Business Meeting in Orlando, January 14, 2012, a day-long youth retreat for middle and high school students.

Yearly Meeting in Leesburg, April 4-8, all ages (wee friends through teens) are welcome to join in music themed activities

The youth committee is also interested in planning a day long service project for middle schoolers and teens over the Christmas break. If your meeting would like to host a service project, please contact Ann Sundberg, Clerk of the Youth Committee. 941-358-9851 or annsundberg@verizon.net

REPRESENTATIVES TO QUAKER/OTHER ORGANIZATIONS' REPORTS

SEYM Representatives to AFSC

No Report submitted

SEYM Representatives to AFSC SE Region

No Report submitted

SEYM Representatives to FL Council of Churches

No Report submitted

SEYM Representatives to Earth Care Witness

See *The SEYM Journal*, Sept., Oct., Nov. issue, pages 4-5

Documents in Advance For Fall Interim Business Meeting
 Quaker Earthcare Witness
 October 1, 2011

Our spring meeting of Quaker Earthcare Witness took place in Chicago in early April, 2010. Both SEYM representatives, Jack Bradin and Mary Jo Klingel, attended the meeting, as did Barbara Letsch. Like many in the world, at QEW we were deeply troubled by the earthquake and tsunami in Japan. We seasoned and approved a minute on Nuclear Fission - please see Appendix 1 below for the full text of the message.

Barbara, Jack and Mary Jo brought the QEW nuclear minute and a revised minute for SEYM to our plenaries in April, 2011. The minute for SEYM were seasoned with sincerity and integrity, but SEYM as a body was unable to come to unity on a statement about nuclear power. Our SEYM Earthcare committee will season further work on this issue.

Fort Lauderdale MM also seasoned and approved a minute on nuclear energy - see their DIA for that minute. Many QEW Friends protested the next tarsands pipeline from Canada to the US. set for approval - or not - by President Obama in December. At least one, and perhaps more, Quakers were arrested in peaceful civil disobedience in front of the White House.

QEW is planning for our fall meeting, October 20-23, where the topic will be Food and BioDiversity. We will welcome as one of our plenary speakers Marcia Cleveland from FCNL as well as two other speakers. We welcome any SEYM Friends who might be interested in coming to QEW - all Friends are welcome. Check the web site for more information - www.quakerearthcare.org.

We recognize the increasing urgency and need for consciousness about climate and care for the Earth. We deeply appreciate the increasing consciousness within SEYM. It sustains us in this on-going work. Thank you, Friends.

Mary Jo Klingel

Jack Bradin

Appendix # 1

Revised Minute on Nuclear Fission in Light of the Disaster in Japan in 2011

The Cenacle Retreat & Conference Center, Chicago, Ill., April 8, 2011

We are horrified and saddened by the staggering physical, human, and environmental damage that has been suffered by Japan following recent major earthquakes and major tsunamis. We are deeply concerned about ongoing radioactive

releases—with potentially severe global impact—from several disabled nuclear fission reactors, and we pray that authorities will spare no effort in containing the leaks, providing humanitarian relief, and restoring disrupted communities and ecosystems.

Looking beyond immediate safety concerns raised by the crisis in Japan, we affirm our opposition to all use of nuclear fission to generate electricity because we find this technology to be incompatible with our vision of a just and ecologically sustainable world. Along with industrial agriculture and genetic engineering, nuclear-fission engineering emerges from a narrow, human-centered technological worldview that does not recognize the ecological principles that govern all life on Earth. It is a relic of Cold War-era thinking, which is biased toward large-scale, centrally controlled systems, even though most electrical power uses are relatively small-scale and widely dispersed. As part of a powerful military-industrial complex, nuclear fission tends to further concentrate power and wealth at the expense of democratic values, community-well-being, economic justice, ecological balance, and personal freedom.

Proponents of nuclear fission and other advanced technological systems typically cite pressures to keep up with ever-expanding consumption and population growth. They do not acknowledge that on a finite planet, growth inevitably comes to an end, often tragically, and that the current economic model is based on endless growth. They tend to underestimate human fallibility and the limitations inherent in the laws of nature, including the law of unintended consequences.

The disaster in Japan has exposed the vulnerability of many older plants to disruption of vital reactor cooling systems and breaching of containment structures. We join others in calling for the orderly shutdown of all nuclear plants of any age that, due to design flaws, careless site selection, and inadequate means for preventing and responding to such emergencies, pose unacceptable risks to the public, to the non-human environment, and to future generations. We also oppose relicensing of facilities that are nearing the end of the period for which they were designed to operate safely.

We oppose as well the construction of new nuclear power plants, both in Japan and around the globe, for a host of practical and economic reasons that are commonly brought up in debates about fission-powered generation and the nuclear waste-disposal dilemma and which have been well documented in independent publications and websites.

We call attention to a number of scientific studies that dispute the claim that fission-powered plants are “carbon free” and therefore can play a significant role in controlling climate change, as well as the claim that radioactive releases during routine activities of the nuclear industry do not pose significant health or environmental risks.

We encourage governments and nonprofit organizations to give priority to public education about the greenhouse gas emissions and radiation hazards associated with the entire nuclear fuel cycle.

We urge all concerned citizens, including Friends around the world, to work individually and collectively with legislators and lobbying groups to encourage the development of appropriately scaled renewable energy systems and to eliminate subsidies for nuclear fission, coal, oil, natural gas, and other industries that are environmentally disruptive and ecologically unsustainable.

We urge Friends to reduce their personal consumption of electricity that comes from nuclear fission and fossil fuels and to obtain the electricity that they do use from truly renewable sources as much as possible.

info@quakerearthcare.org

FROM:

Fort Lauderdale Friends Meeting

Documents In Advance

Fall Interim Business Meeting

October 1, 2011

During this past summer, Fort Lauderdale Friends Meeting has grown in community and spiritual depth. We have welcomed a new member in a transfer of membership from Washington DC. We hosted an FWCC Cluster on Global Change and were happy to have Friends from Miami and Palm Beach join us. We have begun a monthly movie night with a variety of movies and good snacks and time together for fellowship and movie talk.

We seasoned and approved a nuclear minute. The process was a very tender one as we recognized that we do not, individually or as a body, have the scientific expertise for a debate, but instead followed our hearts and

arrived at unity. We are deeply appreciative that this minute/statement has been published in BeFriending Creation, the newsletter for Quaker Earthcare Witness. (go to quakerearthcare.org—then go to Publications and Readings to open the newsletter). We also understand that the fall issue of the exciting new SEYM Journal will be focused on the environment and it will be published there. It is enormously touching to receive such support from our communities.

SEYM Representatives to FCNL/Penn House

No Report submitted

SEYM Representatives to FGC Central Committee

No Report submitted

SEYM Representatives to FLGBTQC

No Report submitted

See *The SEYM Journal*, June, July, Aug issue.

SEYM Representatives to Friends Peace Team

No Report submitted

SEYM Representatives to FWCC

No Report submitted

SEYM Representatives to Palmetto Friends Gathering

No Report submitted

SEYM Representative to QUNO

Monday, September 5, 2011 7:27 AM

Laura & James Winefordner <laura34@bellsouth.net>

During the March visit of Getry Agizah, Coordinator for FCPT (Friends Church Peace Teams) Quaker House hosted a series of informal conversations with UN staff and representatives of NGO's (non-government organizations). FCPT intends to focus on community-level work to prevent violence in preparation for the next Kenyan election in 2012.

For more information on the comprehensive work of QUNO please contact www.quno.org <<http://www.quno.org>> .

AFFILIATED WITH SEYM ORGANIZATIONS: PRONICA REPORT

Davida Johns retired from the position of ProNica Executive Director on September 1st in order to spend more time with her one-year-old grandson and aging family members. She is remaining with ProNica in the part-time position of Stateside Assistant. Melissa Ajabshir began as a volunteer in the ProNica stateside office over two years ago, She then worked as Davida's assistant, and as of September 1st was promoted to Executive Director. She will be traveling to Nicaragua on October 6th.

The board structure remains the same, with the exception of Doug McCown (one of two directors not named by SEYM). He has nobly served ProNica for two consecutive three-year terms and must step off the board in 2012 in accordance with our bylaws. We are searching for someone to replace him. The board held its quarterly meeting in Gainesville in September which included very successful strategic planning. The meeting was followed by a fundraising event sponsored by Gainesville Meeting. Delicious food and wonderful live Nicaraguan music made for a great night and raised money for our projects.

While ProNica had 8 delegations and Friends Witness tours to Nicaragua in 2010, we only had 3 in 2011. As delegations are significant sources of income, the drop made a financial impact. As a result, the ProNica board of directors is forming a working group to focus on securing more delegations for 2112 and beyond. Additionally our Eckerd College intern is researching ideal avenues of outreach to colleges.

ProNica would have had a \$30,000 deficit in fiscal year 2010-2011 if it had not been for the final installment of the Sheridan Crumlish bequest. Like many non-profits, we are feeling the squeeze of the great recession, but fortunately Sheridan's generosity kept us out of the red this year.

Many new ProNica contacts were made when Davida attended FGC this year. Additionally Lillian Hall (ProNica Nicaragua Coordinator) went on a month-long speaking tour through the northeast to fundraise. Lillian and Tim Fogarty (ProNica board member and UF professor) were keynote speakers the Friends Association for Higher Education conference at Bryn Mawr, where many new delegation contacts were made.

ProNica lost two dear Friends this year. Peg Rigg, long time member of St. Petersburg Meeting and regular attendee of SEYM gatherings passed away in July. A gifted artist and calligrapher, she designed the catchy ProNica logo, went on 8 Friends Witness Tours to Nicaragua over a period of two decades, and offered both financial and directional support to ProNica from the 1980s on. Jeanne Nash, member of the Fort Collins, Colorado Meeting passed away in June. An artist and librarian, she first went on a ProNica Friends Witness tour in the 1990s and enthusiastically returned several more times. Her steady and generous donations to ProNica supplied thousands of books for libraries located in Nicaraguan slums and poor rural areas. Both of these members of the ProNica family will be dearly missed.

ProNica is always looking for interested and dedicated individuals to join the ProNica committee. Please consider being part of this amazing work. Talk to members of the board or staff if you'd like to learn more.

In Peace,
Melissa Ajabshir, Executive Director

Wednesday, September 14, 2011 6:56 PM

ProNica seeks Delegations

Hi All,

In 2010 ProNica netted almost \$60,000 from delegations, our best year ever! (See attachment)

While 2011 may have been slow, after the strategic planning in Gainesville, I am confident that we will go well beyond the 2010 numbers in the near future.

At the quarterly meeting, the board decided to form a working group to focus on delegation development. A lot of excellent ideas have already been generated. Doug and Tim have expressed interest in being part of the working group. We would need Carmen and/or Lillian to be a part of it as well. Kaye Edwards has been mentioned as a possible person to invite.

I guess the next step is to form the group. Who else would like to join or recommend someone to invite?

In Peace,
Melissa Ajabshir, Executive Director
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APPOINTED OBSERVERS TO ORGANIZATIONS: FUM

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From: ELISA STEWART <beachplumlisa@bellsouth.net>

AUGUST 4, 2011 Indiana Yearly Meeting, 175 years old, was so interesting, partly because I was there strictly as an observer and was not expected to express my opinions at all. The gathering was held at a lakeside Quaker camp that is owned and operated jointly by Indiana YM and Western YM. Many Quaker families have a history with this camp over several generations. Some families even own vacation cabins on sites adjacent to the camp and around the lake. Eden, myself and 5 other women slept on bunk beds in a cabin—all lower births! The format of the business sessions closely resembled ours in Southeastern. They were skillfully led, in the manner of Friends, by their clerk, Greg Hinshaw, a rather young school superintendent. I was impressed by their huge budget and the numbers of programs they sponsor or support. Among the events I observed were the recording of a minister (Rebecca Clause), the acceptance of a new monthly meeting, and the many ways the yearly meeting visits and supports its monthly meetings. They laid down the Ft. Wayne meeting and accepted into membership two monthly meetings that had left Western YM. The State of the Society was a compilation of what the monthly meetings sent in and certificates of recognition were awarded to Friends who were recommended by their monthly meetings. One source of income, besides member contributions, is a strip mall that they own and rent out. I was truly impressed with the tender and respectful manner in which Friends addressed the gathering. With one exception, Friends were gentle in their approach and chose their words carefully. I left with the impression that these Friends are generally enthusiastic about their spiritual lives. The “hot item” on their agenda was how to handle the possibility of an upcoming split. These are the facts as I can best recall. In 1982 Indiana YM approved a minute that says their belief is that “homosexual practices are contrary to God’s intent”. Again in 1994 a similar minute was approved reflecting a variety of opinions. Also, an earlier court case set legal precedent granting the YM authority over the monthly meetings. Knowing this, West Richmond Monthly Meeting recently approved a minute welcoming and affirming gays and lesbians into membership and leadership. After multiple protestations from throughout the yearly meeting, a task force was appointed to deal with and attempt to resolve the tensions this created. Their progress report was delivered by Tom Hamm. Apparently, the committee kept their deliberations confidential because nobody knew what to expect, not even West Richmond Friends. Before reporting on what they were proposing he explained that throughout IYM there are significant differences in how to interpret Scripture, different views about whether IYM is an affiliation or an authority, diametrically opposed views about whether or not one can yield their position and still be faithful to God, and different views that are often expressed in a way that is offensive to others. Tom then went on to detail four possible solutions: 1. agree to disagree, 2. consistent application of their Faith and Practice, 3. some sort of disciplinary action 4. division

and possible realignment. After explaining the downsides of all four options, Tom Hamm reported that the Task Force recommends model no. 4—division and possible realignment. The report recommended the monthly meetings that are in unity with West Richmond might consider forming a separate organization. The report stated that this option has value because it is proactive, limits continuing dissatisfaction that has been brewing for years, they would still part as friends and Friends, it will lessen chronic tensions and they could still find ways to connect. The downside to this option, Tom explained, is that meetings might find it difficult to choose, there might be two groups where neither was large enough to be effective, there are assets to divide and it leaves them with a sense of failure having created yet one more Quaker schism. It was interesting to hear someone say that the stereotype is that liberals think they are smarter and conservatives think they are holier. At first it looked like the body would approve this recommendation until one person asked to stand aside. Slowly more and more stood to also stand aside—13 in all I think. Clearly there was no unity. After the clerk asked for a lengthy period of silence it was suggested and approved that a called meeting of their Representative Council will be held in October to consider option number 4 and/or something else—to take more time to study and look at possible restructuring. Noting that “Quakers don’t vote”, a straw poll counted 3 supporting West Richmond. 4 neutral, 20 no position and many not being counted at all. The session ended with a lengthy period of open worship and a hymn. Let us hold these Friends in prayer as they seek way forward while attempting to remain faithful, each according to his or her own measure of the Light. IDEA: To avoid having to pay for more meals than had been paid for, someone was posted with a check off list of all the names of those who had paid for that particular meal. As we entered the buffet we signed next to our names. Love and Light, Lisa

AUGUST 14, 2011

FRIENDS UNITED MEETING TRIENIAL WILMINGTON OHIO JULY 27 - 31

During the Roll Call, I noted 11 from Baltimore YM, 2 Canadian YM, 3 Jamaica, 5 New York YM and 12 New England. One of the announcements was an appeal to local Friends to lend fans —some dorm rooms were not air-conditioned and OH was in the midst of a heat wave.

The first business session (Plenary 1) was on my birthday, July 28. In Sylvia Graves Administrative Report she said that SEYM had laid down its membership and she was “sad about that”. She said, “We did not have a chance to participate....we did not labor with them... let us have a conversation with Canadian” who apparently are still struggling with their concern about the personnel policy. Sylvia proposed a minute in response to the SEYM letter of warm greetings written by Clerk Phoebe Anderson that I delivered earlier to Kelly Kellum, FUM Gen Board Clerk.

James Mugalavai gave the General Board report for the Africa Section and Cliff Loesch for the Americas. Some highlights: African meetings are sending in support for the developing peace Curriculum. 1. A contract with Kaimosi Hospital was finally signed making official FUM’s responsibility and authority for managing the hospital. 2. The Board is still addressing, “Is there common ground for FUM to continue” and a committee is still working on a possible restructuring. They are still divided. 3. N. Carolina YM took on care of Jamaica YM as their project.

In the last part of his report Cliff said, “SEYM laid down its membership in FUM after long discernment . . . we received their letter with sadness” and acknowledged SEYM’s desire to remain in loving relationship. He said that a minute approving a letter to SEYM would be “in right order”. A member from NYYM asked that the letter say that they all felt SEYM’s “faithfulness” and “honor their integrity”. A Baltimore YM Friend asked that the letter includes language acknowledging that many yearly meetings are struggling, say that FUM holds SEYM tenderly. Another asked that the letter mention that the possibility of rejoining always exists. Two Friends asked that the letter thank SEYM for supporting Lisa Stewart’s ministry. Friends approved sending the letter and approved Kelly Kellum writing it.

The Finance Committee reported that the recession has seriously affected FUM’s finances and by asking fewer

staff to do more work. Also, Field Staff accounts are in deficit. (All Field staff i.e. "missionary" need to fund raise for their own salaries.)

Tongaren Yearly Meeting was officially welcomed into FUM membership after having been preparative for some years.

The Triennium approved the following: 1. "Recommended Trail Changes to Organization and Procedure" was approved for a trial run for the following Triennium. 2. There will now be 2 Presiding Clerks, one in the Americas and one in Africa. 3. The next Triennial in 3014 will be held under the care of Indiana Yearly Meeting.

That evening the program opened with greetings from the Mayor of Wilmington, greetings from the Vice Chancellor of the college and some wonderful spirited singing from Kenyan Friends. In his address, Kelley quoted Rufus Jones, "We recognize with profound sadness that there is a great rift", 1922. He said every yearly meeting contains the same range in faith and practice as there is in FUM, just in different proportions. about all parts of FUM's mission - communications, evangelism, global partnerships and leadership. Donations from yearly meetings vary from \$1.16 per member to \$99.60. He reported that, if every member paid only \$35.00 a year they could meet their budget but, at the present rate, they cannot keep up their currant pace.

I led on of about 20 different Worship Sharing Groups that met every morning over three days. There were 8 of us, including 2 Kenyans, that participated.

