

## SEYM Interim Business Meeting

First Month 17, 2009

The 2009 Winter Interim Business meeting met in the Orlando meetinghouse. The morning began with a period of silent worship. After worship, announcements were made and the nominating committee gave its initial report.

Committee meetings were held during the remainder of the morning.

In the afternoon, the Interim Business Meeting met and began with a period of silent worship.

Interim Business Meeting Clerk Nancy Fennell clerked the meeting, with assistant clerk Gary Arthur and acting recording clerk Caroline Lanker. Davida Johns took notes for the minutes during their time when Caroline Lanker gave the Finance Committee report.

The following minute of appreciation for Orlando and Winter Park Monthly Meetings was approved.

**09IBM01:** Friend **John** Punshon writes that traditions are the threads that hold a group together and the lifeblood of religion. How fortunate we are that one of our traditions is to meet annually in Orlando Meetinghouse for Winter Interim Business Meeting and the Michener Lecture. SEYM is deeply grateful to the Friends of Orlando and Winter Park Meetings, who are faithful keepers of this tradition and caring stewards of this wonderful thread that binds us together in Spirit and love.

The clerk called the roll of meetings and worship groups. The list of attendees is found in Attachment 1. The following meetings reported milestones and special events.

Ft. Lauderdale MM has been renting space from the 2nd Presbyterian Church in Fort Lauderdale and has recently been joined by another tenant, the Korean Presbyterian Church of Miami.

Gainesville MM reported several milestones:

Four deaths – Marylynn Hall age 31, a few days after giving birth to her second child, in May 2008; George Newkirk, age 89, in July; Philip Klein, attender; William Howard, former member of Gainesville and member of Swarthmore MM, PA, in November.

Births to members and attenders: Sebastien to Tracy Jeshow and Skip Skidmore, in January; Audrey to Marylynn Hall in May; Brendan to Megan Barolet-Fogarty and Ampofo Darko, in August; Adelaide and Malakai to Paul Gagnon and Heather Passmore, member of Baton Rouge MM, in December. New grandchildren: Ella Atkinson, granddaughter of Nancy Atkinson, in February; Seamus Patrick Moran, grandson of Catherine Puckett, in February.

Four new members, Cecilia Haecker, a child member at her own request, daughter of member Catherine Puckett, in June; Cherly Demers-Holton, now in DeLand, in July; Sandy Lyon and Brian Blockmore, both in December. Memberships laid down: Elaine Lyons and Emily Rossiter Vey by

request; Tiffany Bargeron, Tanya Lawrence, and three other adults plus their children due to loss of contact. One transfer of membership out: Jeannie Bargeron (Lawrence) to Northhampton MM, New Hampshire, in January.

Palm Beach MM reported that Joan Carney and Chad Nelson married this year. Three new members joined the meeting: John Palozzi, Jack Balch, and Joe Locke. Chad Nelson transferred his membership into Palm Beach MM from New Haven, CT and Sabrina Tuttle transferred out.

Warren Hoskins of Miami MM reported two new grandchildren of members. Rustin Levenson's son Moss Levenson and his wife Rachael have a new, first daughter, Hero Levenson, living in New York City. Eduardo and Clara Diaz' daughter Sara Diaz and her husband Joe Bruce have a new, first daughter, Caelo Bruce, living in St. Augustine.

Mimi McAdoo reported that Sarasota has some new members.

In Tallahassee, three youth members had asked to become adult members: Hope Bastian, Jessica Swihart, and Jessamyn Doan.

Carol and Richard McCleery of Halifax are the grandparents of a new granddaughter, Sophia.

There were no visitors.

**Announcements** Mary Jo Klingel announced that Sarasota MM would be holding the Symposium, *Awakening the Dreamer, Changing the Dream*, on Feb. 21, 2009. Davida Johns announced that there would be a meeting about Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) at St. Petersburg MM the following First Day. Connie Ray announced that Gainesville MM has 15 chairs appropriate for a meeting house (but not needed in Gainesville) left by George Newkirk.

**Worship and Ministry** Nancy Triscritti reported for the Worship and Ministry Committee that they have invited a couple from Atlanta, Maia Carter Hallward and Stoph Hallward, to give the 2010 Michener lecture. They are on the FGC Youth Ministry Committee and would speak on balancing life and spiritual leadings. The committee is also looking for names for the 2011 Michener Lecture. They invite Friends to bring forward names to the committee members: Nancy Triscritti, Tom Fennell, Rebecca Miles, Joan (Carney) Nelson and Mimi McAdoo.

The committee is working to set up an intervisitation program among the meetings and worship groups of SEYM. They had a letter near completion to go out to meeting clerks and clerks of worship and ministry committees. At the YM gathering a representative of FGC will be giving a workshop on Quaker Quest.

### **Executive Committee Report**

The EC brought forward a minute from their meeting the previous evening. The minute was approved by the WIBM, as follows:

**Minute 09IBM02** WIBM approves giving permission to Quaker Universalist Fellowship to make out-of-print Michener and Walton lectures available to download from their website without charge. The administrative secretary shall discern which pamphlets are submitted.

**Faith and Practice Committee** Phoebe Andersen reported that the committee has draft 4 of the section on the Yearly Meeting about ready to be sent out. At the YM Gathering, they will have threshing session on the section on YM history. They will have a something for each meeting or worship group to take home and fill in their history. They expect that in 2010 the complete revised Faith and Practice will be ready to start production

Phoebe also reported as **Membership Recorder** that updates for the directory were needed by March 1 in order to be in time for the draft directory to be available at the YM Gathering.

Secretary Lyn Cope said that the deadline for state of the meeting reports was January 30 in order for them to be published in the Documents in Advance for the YBM.

**Treasurer** Neil Andersen reported that as of the day before, the YM General Fund had \$779 in net income for the fiscal year. He said that several MMs have been keeping up with their apportionments, but several MMs have not contributed. Of the budgeted meeting contributions for the fiscal year, 45 % have been contributed, as compared to 2/3 of the fiscal year completed. He asked Friends to ask their meeting treasurers about the status of their apportionment contributions.

**Finance Committee** Caroline Lanker reported for Finance Committee. She explained that the General Fund had reserves of about \$25,000 at the start of the year [correction – it was about \$20,000] but the YM also had upcoming budgeted donations to other organizations plus the requirement to pay a deposit of about \$10,000 to the Life Enrichment Center, which would use up most of the reserves if no contributions were received soon. She asked the meetings to look at the timing of their contributions and make regular monthly or quarterly contributions.

The committee had prepared the proposed FY 09-10 budget, which was presented to the YM for the first time. Caroline explained that the YM Trustees' funds were low due to the current financial markets; of those funds, the Secretary's Salary Fund and Outreach Travel Fund provide income to the General Fund. The reduction in the value of those funds would not impact the dividends paid out too greatly because Friends Fiduciary Corporation uses the average of the preceding three years' values to determine the upcoming dividend. However, this means that the dividends will be affect by the current low markets for the next three years.

Caroline reported that the liability insurance bill will go down significantly for the next year. Part of this savings will affect the General Fund budget, and part will be passed along to the events (the Gathering, Half Yearly Meeting, and Michener Lecture), which reimburse the General Fund for much of the cost of the insurance.

ProNica is planning to organize a trip to Nicaragua for SEYM teens in June 2009. The teens are asking the YM for financial support. Their idea was to raise 1/3 themselves, ask their meetings for 1/3 and ask the yearly meeting for 1/3. Caroline estimated that adding 1/3 of the money the teens needed to the SEYM budget would raise meeting apportionments by 5%. This request was not included in the proposed budget prepared by the Finance Committee. It was noted that by the time of the YBM, when the budget would have to be finalized, ProNica and the teens would have raised some money and more would be known about what their remaining needs would be. Contributions for the teen trip should be sent directly to ProNica, with a notation for "SEYM youth trip".

Printed copies of the proposed budget were distributed. There were some corrections needed, as the budget as printed did not include an increase in the Employer taxes line (second line numbered 3270) to match the proposed 3% cost of living increase in the secretary's salary. [The updated proposed budget is included in the DIA for the YBM.] The committee had done their best hold the bottom line on the proposed budget for next year as close to the current year's budget as possible. A few changes from the current budget were included in the proposed budget. Committee budgets of \$50 each were proposed for the two new standing committees approved at last year's YBM: Earthcare and Ministry on Racism. A donation of \$60 to a new organization, Quakers United in Publishing (QUIP) was proposed. That would include a membership in QUIP. In the FUM donation line, the committee proposed to keep the \$500 amount. The YM would need to decide how to allocate or earmark that item. The committee recommends that line 9060 Triennial Travel Reserves be reduced from \$1100 this year to \$500 next year. The triennial travel reserve was set up to fund travel to the FUM and FWCC triennials. Since SEYM suspended its affiliation with FUM, the triennial travel money has not been used for the FUM triennial, and FWCC will not have a triennial – their next worldwide gathering will not be until 2012, in Africa. This was the first presentation of the proposed budget, so no action on it was required. Friends were encouraged to contact the Finance Committee with feedback.

There was a question of how 3% was calculated for the secretary's salary cost of living increase. 3% has been used for several years, as it was considered to be an average amount over time.

Worship and Ministry Committee clerk Nancy Triscritti announced that the recommended donation for the **Michener Lecture** the next day was \$20-21 for anyone staying for the two workshops or less for the lecture only.

She also asked Friends to remind their meetings that there is a Pendle Hill Scholarship available for SEYM Friends. The deadline for application is one month prior to YBM and should be made to the W&M Committee.

**Trustees** Carl Hersh reported that the returns from the Trustees investments had decreased, but only about 7%, despite the general economic downturn. The Trustees had received \$152 in new donations. Earnings of \$13,500 had been generated to support SEYM operations.

**Gathering Committee** Steve Kinney reported that the planning for the 2009 YM Gathering was on track. The Walton lecturer will be Mary Ellen McNish of American Friends Service Committee (AFSC). Budgeting is a concern, as costs are rising. The committee is trying to cut costs, but they will have to raise the registration fee. He asked monthly meetings to encourage people to come and reminded Friends that scholarships are available. The deadline for registration was March 20. They need more youth workers, especially those willing to be fingerprinted and registered.

Ellie Caldwell reported that a coordinator is needed for snacks as well as for wee friends. The teens will take over the organization of the Seventh Day night "coffee house", after the Walton Lecture. The teens will be asking for donations to support the planned trip to Nicaragua with ProNica.

David asked that the teen fishbowl and ProNica be scheduled at different times at the YM Gathering, since the teens need to be in both of them.

**Peace and Social Concerns Committee** Warren Hoskins reported that he had attended the a program, *Heeding God's Call*, at the Arch St. Meetinghouse in Philadelphia. (He reported later in the meeting that he had seen Friend Ruth Paine there.)

In many MMs, a rising concern is homelessness. At the YM Gathering, the committee would like to hear what the different meetings are thinking about. They would like permission for an observer to come to the YM Gathering from an outside group to talk about homelessness. He noted that the Southwest Florida quarter/regional meeting had had a session on homelessness.

Another particular concern is about weapons made of depleted uranium.

An Interest Group with John Arnaldi and Warren Hoskins is scheduled on Seventh Day at the YM Gathering.

**Earthcare** Barbara Letsch reported for the Earthcare Working Group Committee. It had been reported to the committee that some Friends were concerned about the committee asking for donations to offset the carbon footprint of coming to the YM Gathering. The committee is sensitive to those Friends' concerns. They noted that the national Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW) organization includes the funds for carbon offset in the registration for their meetings. The discussion included the following points. One felt that there is too much paper wasted at our business meetings, while another Friend felt that having written material to take home and read later was useful. Someone explained that it is difficult to know what carbon offset projects are really effective; for example, trees may be planted and then die soon afterward. Barbara said that the committee was looking into the most effective ways to offset our carbon footprint. Some Friends expressed the thought that the committee needs to start with raising awareness and providing information, such as a way for Friends to calculate their carbon footprint, and expand their activities over the long run. Barb explained that the committee does have a lot of information to share. Last year a tree was planted at the LEC as an offset to our carbon footprint and that will be repeated this year.

A minute was requested to allocate funds by the YM to offset our carbon footprint. There was some feeling that that would not be an effective way to raise awareness of the problem. This request was not approved. Instead, it was suggested that the committee make information available at the YM Gathering.

Barbara also reported that QEW has a mini-grant program, in which it will provide ten matching grants of \$250 to help "green" meetinghouses (i.e. make them more environmentally friendly.) See the QEW website, [www.quakerearthcare.org](http://www.quakerearthcare.org), for more information.

Jack Bradin reported that he is working with environmental groups One Sky, 350.org and Greenpeace. There was more discussion about how to reduce carbon emissions, especially by using less energy.

**Committee for Ministry on Racism** Ellie Caldwell reported that this committee had sent material to the meetings. There were different kinds of responses from different meetings.

**Archives Committee** Peter Day reported that some of the committee have been working with the archives at the University of Florida library, primarily taking out metal fasteners and sorting material.

They are creating a document to be circulated to the meetings explaining how to safeguard and store their records. The committee wants to get meeting records from all the meetings.

The committee requested an increased amount for the committee budget for next year. They would like \$500 to employ someone to work at the library to do the painstaking work of going through the archives, cleaning out metal fasteners and doing other work to stabilize the material, which is contained in 15 boxes. This would be a step toward cataloguing the material.

It was noted that all of the documents in the archives belong to the meetings that submitted them.

David Johns reported for **ProNica**, giving a summary of the written report, which is in Attachment 2.

The several teens who were there talked about the trip that they want to make to Nicaragua with ProNica. They briefly described the plan for a two week trip for 8 – 12 teens, with Carl and Kathy Hersh, the Managua coordinator Lillian Hall, her son Trevor and three Nicaraguan teens. The itinerary will include educational and recreational activities and a service project. Teens who are in International Baccalaureate programs in their schools will be given credit for community service work. They will be making presentations to their meetings afterward. At least two of the teens, including Trevor, will make a presentation about the trip at the FGC Gathering. Carl Hersh will make a video of the trip. There was a suggestion that they could put a page on Facebook about the trip.

There was a question about how the idea for the teen trip arose. It came out of discussions at Half Yearly Meeting. A number of teens attended and Davida met with them there.

### **Representatives to Organizations**

Cecilia Yocum, representative for **Friends Peace Teams (FPT)**, went to Colombia during the summer of 2008. She is expecting to go back this summer, to train facilitators for trauma healing workshops. Val Liveoak also traveled to Nicaragua and Guatemala for FPT. Another FPT location works in is Indonesia, where Nadine Hoover is working. Nadine would like to tour Friends meetings in US in the fall to talk about her work. The FPT Africa section is working in Burundi, Rwanda, Kenya, Uganda, and Congo. They want to do more in Kenya and Congo.

Susan Vaughn, representative to **American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) Corporation**, reported that she and Martha Morris had attended the corporation meeting in Philadelphia in November 2008 along with Quakers from all over the country. AFSC is visiting meetings to talk about the *Roadmap for Peace*, a set of five core principles for changing our national policies plus a supporting document. It is led by AFSC by involves people of all religions. [See [www.roadmapforpeace.org](http://www.roadmapforpeace.org) to read the five core principles, download the supporting document, and see the list of 30 endorsing organizations.] The concept has been brought to the Obama administration transition team and will be presented to the new congress and senate.

Susan also reported that Andrew Jason, representative to **AFSC Southeast Regional Office (SERO)** would visit Ft. Myers MM the following Seventh Day.

**Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC):** Sybil Brennan reported on FWCC. She and Ellie Caldwell are the representatives to FWCC and a third representative position is open. Sybil is expecting to attend the FWCC Section of the Americas meeting in Portland, OR in March 2009.

Phoebe Andersen reported for the **Friends United Meeting (FUM) Discernment Committee** (ad hoc), which will meet in Gainesville before the YM Gathering. In recent meetings, the committee has engaged in an “adventure” in extended worship, meeting in worship as the early Friends did, for hours at a time. They have also included some worship sharing. They are trying to set egos aside and open their hearts to the Light.

Jack Bradin, representative to **Friends Committee on National Legislation** (FCNL), reported that the Obama administration transition team had met with FCNL, visiting the FCNL offices five times on three subjects: nuclear, Gaza, and Earthcare.

Mary Jo Klingel gave the **Nominating Committee** final report. Andrea Walsh is willing to extend her term as Gathering registrar for one more year, but asks that someone be brought on to understudy. Finance Committee also needs to bring someone on to prepare for the Clerk’s position in 2010. Two new people will be nominated for the ProNica board: Lyn Cope and Kathy Hersh.

### **Other business**

Ellie Caldwell informed Friends of the need for a state law exempting donated food from grocery stores from stringent rules.

Numbered minutes were reread and given final approval by Friends present.

The meeting closed with a period of silent worship.

## **Attachment 1. Attendees**

### Clearwater

Peter Day

Sue Day

### DeLand

Susan Vaughen

### Ft. Lauderdale

Mary Jo Klingel

### Ft. Myers

Nancy Fennell

Tom Fennell

### Gainesville

Betty Odum

Sybil Brennan

Gary Arthur

Connie Ray

Karen Arrington

### Halifax

Carol McCleery

Richard McCleery

### Lake Wales Worship Group

Caroline Lanker

Bill Rapp (present for  
committee meeting)

### Miami

Carl Hersh

Warren Hoskins

Marshall Price

David Hersh

Kathy Hersh

### Orlando

Judy Schmalstig

Liz Jenkins

Jerry Knutson

Bill Carlie

Vicki Carlie

### Palm Beach

Jack Bradin

Barbara Letsch

Mary Wickes

Ellie Caldwell

Chad Nelson

Joan Nelson

Serrin Anderson

### Sarasota

Mimi McAdoo

Space Coast

Lyn Cope

### St. Petersburg

Dauida Johns

Teopolo Dameron

### Tallahassee

Susan Taylor

Jack Sisson

Rebecca Miles

Neil Andersen

Phoebe Andersen

### Tampa

Nancy Triscritti

Cecilia Yocum

Andrea Walsh

Steve Kinney

### Winter Park

Martha Morris