

# Yearly Business Meeting and Gathering, April 8-12, 2009

## General Information

• Walton Lecture • Clerk's Welcome • Youth Information •

• Registration/Lodging/Food Information • What to Bring • What NOT to Bring •

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## SEYM invites you to attend Walton Workshops and Lecture *with Mary Ellen McNish*

**M**ary Ellen McNish is General Secretary of the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC). In this position she administers a staff of 500 overseeing programs in 22 countries around the world and 46 cities in the US. AFSC is a co-recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1947 for its work in post World War II Germany on behalf of Quakers.

Today, AFSC'S work for peace and justice has enabled Mary Ellen to speak out on behalf of human rights, economic justice and conflict transformation. She has represented Quakers on peace delegations to North Korea, Iran, and Israel/Palestine. She has also represented AFSC at Nobel Peace Laureate Summit Meetings and participated in panel presentations with the Dalai Lama, Mohammed Yunus, Kim Dae-jung and Mikhail Gorbachev.

Mary Ellen has 35 years of progressive management experience in non-profit business settings. She has a B.S. in Education from East Stroudsburg University and a M.S. in Business from Johns Hopkins University.

**April 8, 2009, Wednesday night, 7:00 PM:**

### WORKSHOP ONE:

- a. AFSC's efforts to build dialogue and diplomacy with Iran
- b. AFSC's roadmap for a new foreign policy

**April 9, 2009, Thursday morning, 10:00 AM:**

### WORKSHOP TWO:

Change at AFSC and impact of future work

**April 11, 2009, Saturday evening, 7:00 PM:**

## Walton Lecture

# Hope and Struggle

*And the work of generosity shall be peace; and the effect of generosity will be quietness and security forever.*  
—Isaiah 32:17

**H**ow do we as Friends stay in that place of generosity? How does a Quaker organization working for peace, justice and human rights stay in that place of generosity? In a world that seems to have gone mad, with hopes often dashed, with struggle upon struggle making us weary and hurt and angry, where do we find refuge and hope? Where does the courage come from to say each day upon awakening, "It's a new day"? How do we find peace in our hearts? What can we do—alone and together—to find refreshment, hope, opportunity and inspiration?

Mary Ellen McNish will talk about her own spiritual journey and the journey she walks as the General Secretary of the American Friends Service Committee.





**Gathering Committee:**

Clerk: Steve Kinney  
Registrar: Andrea Walsh  
Program Coordinator: Ellie Caldwell  
Volunteer Coordinator: Lisa Stewart  
Travel Arrangements: Judy Schmalstig  
Committee Members:  
Jack Bradin 2010  
Kathy Hersh 2010  
Connie Hotchkiss 2011  
Eileen Zingaro 2011

**Youth Workers:**

Youth Program Coordinator:  
Catherine Puckett  
Wee Friends (preschool-K):  
Young Friends (Grades 1-6):  
Karen Porter  
JYM/ Middle/Teen Friends:  
Kathy Hersh

**Junior Yearly Meeting Clerks:**

Amy Carlie  
Alan Schmalstig  
Nicole Domingues  
David Hersh, Rec. Clerk

**SEYM Yearly Business Meeting:**

Susan Taylor, Clerk  
Nancy Fennell, EC Clerk  
Becky Steele, Clk Interim Bus. Mtg.  
Gary Arthur, Assist. Clerk  
Ed Lesnick, Recording Clerk  
Neil Andersen, Treasurer  
Herb Haigh, Clerk of Trustees  
Caroline Lanker, Finance Clerk  
Warren Hoskins,  
Peace&Social Concerns  
Mary Jo Klingel, Nominating Clerk  
Nancy Triscritti, Wendy Clarissa  
Geiger, Worship & Ministry Co-clerks  
Phoebe Andersen, Faith & Practice  
Peter Day, Bill Rapp,  
Archives Co-clerks  
Karyn Begin, Half Yearly Mtg. Clerk  
Phoebe Andersen, Membership Clerk  
Steve Kinney, YM Gathering Clerk  
Ed Hotchkiss, ProNica Board  
Kathy Hersh, ProNica Board  
Lyn Cope, ProNica Board

**Administrative Secretary:**

Lyn Cope

Dear Friends,

As I write this letter, Marcelle Martin's recent Michener Lecture, *Deeply Rooted, Alive in the Spirit* continues to bring me home to the blessing of trusting the movement of the Spirit in directly guiding our lives individually and as a body of Friends. In her Pendle Hill Pamphlet, *Invitation to a Deeper Communion*, Marcelle writes of early traveling minister, Friend Joan Vokins, who described meetings in which "God's Eternal Heart-tendering Power was over all." It's with the anticipation of our experiencing this same Presence, that I open-heartedly welcome all of you to the 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Gathering of Southeastern Yearly Meeting (SEYM). Please do not allow lack of funds to keep you away. Information on availability of financial assistance from SEYM has been sent to Meeting clerks.

We will explore myriad dimensions of God's love, the Christ Spirit, the Source through worship taken with us to other experiences: Friend Mary Ellen McNish, General Secretary of the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), will share a journey of peace in her Walton Lecture, *Hope and Struggle*, following her workshops held during our retreat. Thursday afternoon, our entire meeting community will gather for worship for our opening plenary session, the first of five business sessions. During our Saturday afternoon plenary session, we will worshipfully hear the report of the ad hoc committee that has been meeting in worship and prayer to help discern way forward on SEYM's relationship with FUM. All Friends were invited to their meetings. We will continue our discernment following the report. Please see the *Addendum Re: FUM Membership* to the YBM-Documents in Advance for spirit-led statements since our 2008 Yearly Meeting sessions. A delegation of SEYM middle school and teen youth are thrilled to be planning a trip to Nicaragua this summer with ProNica and are eager to tell us more. Two representatives from SEYM attended the ecumenical "*Heeding God's Call-A Gathering on Peace*" in Philadelphia and have news to share. The revision of *Faith and Practice* on the *Yearly Meeting* section will be brought forward for approval. **Help Increase the Peace Program** (HIPP) activities will highlight the teen program and other fun, spiritually nourishing programs are planned for younger Friends. Opportunities abound for intergenerational joy—including volunteering in the youth program! Many workshops, interest groups and simply being with one another await us—along with singing, walking, worship-shearing haircuts, sitting in the swings, watching aningas, blue herons, sunrises.

*"Our life is love, and peace, and tenderness; and bearing one with another, and forgiving one another, and not laying accusations one against another; but praying one for another, and helping one another up with a tender hand."*

—Isaac Penington.

Holding you all in the Light,

*Susan E. Taylor*  
Susan E. Taylor, clerk

SOUTHEASTERN YEARLY MEETING OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS  
P.O. Box 510795, Melbourne Beach, FL 32951-0795  
Phone: 321.729.0078; E-mail: admin@seym.org; www.seym.org

02/01/2009

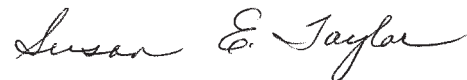
Dear Principal or Employer,

On behalf of Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quaker) serving the southeastern United States, we wish to acquaint you with our tradition of holding annual sessions for worship and business. These 5-day sessions are held each year in either the Third Month (March) or the Fourth Month (April) to worship together and to build and strengthen our faith community. Please recognize this as a religious holiday for Friends in your school or place of work and allow them to be excused without penalty or revoking of privileges as guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution, Amendment 1.

The student or employee should bring to you a flyer that shows the exact dates and program for our annual gathering, so that you are clear on the dates since Easter dates shift each year. This year's sessions are being held April 8-12, 2009.

We are grateful for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan E. Taylor".

Susan E. Taylor  
Clerk, SEYM

## These two pages are for parents and children ←

### SEYM Youth: Wee, Young Friends, Teens/Junior Yearly Meeting

#### Parents and Sponsors

**Junior Yearly Meeting (JYM)** is a structured program of learning, fun and friendship held each morning and sometimes in the evening so that parents may attend the Yearly Business Meeting sessions. JYM is 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. Teens have scheduled sessions on Thursday and Friday afternoons, as well, including the **Teen Fishbowl** on Friday, which adults are encouraged to attend with them.

At other times, children and youth are under the care of their parents (or afternoon Parent Co-op as planned by parents) and all are invited to participate in afternoon activities and interest groups. A variety of inter-generational activities are planned during the afternoons and some evenings, including the Friday night Intergenerational contra dance. All children and youth are welcome to attend meetings for worship and worship-sharing and 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 children and youth make their reports and read their epistles in the final YBM Meeting session Sunday morning to be followed by First Day School during Meeting for Worship.

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. Parents are welcome to form cooperative child care in the afternoons.

**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.

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, and
- 3) 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.

## → **These two pages are for parents and children**

### Wee Friends/Preschool: *Birth to Kindergarten.* Blue Room.

**Times of Program: 8:45am-12:05pm and 6:45pm-8:35pm.**

**Wee Friends Program depends on volunteers.**

**Children must be picked up PROMPTLY from their program.**

Play, naps, and story time. *Parents are expected to volunteer for one hour.* 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/Elementary grades 1-5. Green Room.

**Times of Program: 8:45am-12:05pm and 6:45pm-8:35pm: *Peace and stewardship in our world.***

**Youth Program Leader, Karen Porter**

**Children must be picked up PROMPTLY from their program.**

*Parent is expected to volunteer for one hour.*

### Junior Yearly Meeting and Teen Friends Gold Room.

*Grades 6-8 and Grades 9-12*

**Advisor: Kathy Hersh (305.667.6779)**

**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 **Help Increase the Peace Project (HIPP)**, a highly interactive workshop designed for youth which uses games, exercises, and guided discussions to teach experientially the skills necessary to spread peace and promote justice. 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 is fun. Check out the activities to choose from in the afternoon free time. **NOTE:** Free Time is also FAMILY time, as well as enjoying hanging out time. An adult **MUST** be present with youth at all times. A parent/guardian co-op will be offered during afternoon activities. Sign up if interested.

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

**Junior Yearly Business 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 2010
- 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. A letter on page 3 is included for your use, or may be downloaded from SEYM's web site, [www.seym.org](http://www.seym.org).

**All Youth Cafeteria Meals** are subsidized 50% by Trustees' Gathering Youth Fund dividends. Please see Registration form for prices.

**Scholarship** application information is available from your Meeting Clerk.

## Registration/Lodging/Food Information

### What to Bring/What NOT to Bring

#### Registration

**DEADLINE for LEC lodging, camping, and meals is March 20** to allow the Life Enrichment Center to have the correct number of rooms cleaned and quantity of food ordered.

The SEYM Gathering Committee is pleased to welcome all 'Old Timers' and 'First Timers' to the SEYM YBM-Gathering. We hope your stay is pleasant, interesting, and meaningful.

Please register ASAP, either by snail-mail or on-line at <www.seym.org>. This helps in planning.

**Send check now or pay at check-in.**

**Paying NOW** helps the Registrar and allows registration lines to move more quickly.

Please make checks payable to SEYM and send to:

Andrea Walsh, Registrar  
305 Glen Burnie Ave.  
Temple Terrace, FL 33617

**Check-in** at the **SEYM Registration Desk** in Auditorium lobby when you arrive to get room key and name badges.

A **Day-use charge** of \$6.00/person is charged for Friends staying off-site.

**ONE-Event registration** fee is \$20 and includes site day-charge.

**Registration/check-in is open:**

- Wednesday: 4:00-5:30, 6:15-6:55; and 8:30-9:15 PM
- Thursday: 1:00-5:30, 8:30-9:15 PM
- Friday: 1:00-4:00, 6:15-7:00 PM
- Saturday: 8:30-8:55 AM; 1:00-2:00 PM

**If you plan to arrive late**, PLEASE have a friend get your room key and lodge # and wait up for you to show you to your room.

**If registration desk is closed**, please return later. If necessary, have someone on Gathering Committee (arm band) call Registration Staff: **813.787.0956**.

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

#### Lodging Choices

**Life Enrichment Center:** Rooms have twin beds/private bath (a few queen sized beds are sometimes available) w/bedding & towels provided.

A 3rd person in room on floor is free. A cot is \$12/night (reserve in advance).

*Note: Floor and/or cot sleepers must buy meal-packages separately if they wish to have meals in cafeteria.*

**Sharing Rooms:** Room-sharers **MUST register on the same form**. SEYM no longer acts as a matching-up agent.

**Tent camping** is located in the woods north of the pavilion; charges are per camp site/per family unit—honor system.

**RV Camping** is located west of the pavilion in the more open area. Price/RV/night. Full or partial electrical hook-ups are available (see Registration Form).

**Tent camping and RV** reservations must be received by Registration deadline.

#### Food Choices

**DEADLINE to register for LEC meals: March 20.**

The Life Enrichment Center combines **Lodging and Meals into packages**. Campers may purchase 4-, 3-, 2-, or 1-day dining-room passes. (See Registration form.)

**LEC dining room meals** may include **pre-reserved** requests for vegan/vegetarian, diabetic, gluten-free, and other meal choices as available. LEC will provide diet-specific cards to assist the kitchen staff in serving what you have ordered. The chef advises those on strict restricted diets that every meal may not comply. He added, "if you have a medical food issue...please...provide your own food in case we can't provide it at all times." There are always abundant salad choices, but due to awareness of cutting down on waste, the LEC entree portions are being appropriately consumer-sized.

For those of you wishing to purchase food in town, there are abundant fast food restaurants about 3-5 miles from the camp.

**Pavilion Use:** Friends who are camping may choose to use this facility to prepare their meals. This is a covered, screened room with several large picnic tables and benches. There are ample electrical outlets for appliances. Bring your own stove, pots, pans, utensils, and coolers.

The SEYM Gathering Committee plans to provide a coffee pot and toaster in the Pavilion.

*Note: The Gold Room youth-area kitchen is reserved for youth and evening snacks only. It is not available to individuals for meal preparation.*

## Movies

Movies will be shown Thursday night, 9:00PM:

*USA vs. Al-Arian.*

## 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.

Children are not allowed in the outdoor chapel or labyrinth unless attended by adults—these are sacred memorial places.

Alcoholic beverages and recreational drugs are prohibited.

Pets are allowed in the camping area, on a leash.

Cleanup— we are 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 [insurance requirement].

Swimming is available Friday and Saturday from 2:00-4:00 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 and for Committee Clerks who wish to display their materials. It is the responsibility of the Representative and/or Clerk to bring, tend, and pack up materials.

Organization Representatives are requested to be at their tables Thursday 3:00-4:00 PM to answer questions and hand out materials. (*Note: Reps bring, set up, and break down displays.*)

## What to bring

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: **Faith and No Practice** musicians needed. Questions? Contact Steve Kinney <steve10k@yahoo.com>

Books for Book Swap table in auditorium-lobby-hall near women's restroom.

Your books-to-buy list. The FGC Bookstore is in Auditorium Lobby. (*The LEC Methodist Bookstore is in building west auditorium.*)

SEYM Representatives to Organizations bring displays and literature.

Bring walking shoes so that you can take 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 **Southeastern Yearly Meeting's** Yearly Business Meeting Gathering.

PLEASE remember that it takes time to build old friendships and many old-timers ONLY see each other at YM-functions. Old timers were once newcomers—perhaps last year or 2 years ago! Please be aware of the needs of others and let the Gathering Committee know your needs and interests!

## What NOT to bring

Alcoholic beverages and recreational drugs

Skate boards, in-line skates, or scooters

No video or electronic games are allowed in youth program sessions.

*Please Help us GREEN Yearly Meeting:*

- ✓ *Minimize use of paper goods.*
- ✓ *Keep AC units in lodges on low cool, and turn down or off when you will be out.*
- ✓ *Turn off Pavilion & campsite lights after 10 P.M.*
- ✓ *Enjoy the Fair Trade coffee in Pavilion and during meals in dining room.*
- ✓ *Diners: support right-use-of-world resources, take only what you will eat.*
- ✓ *Recycle your books at the swap table.*



# 10 Things You Need to Know Before Arriving at YBM '09:

1. You will be well informed and have no surprises if you read this entire packet of materials. But just in case, you'll survive by reading the next nine points.
2. To eat meals in the dining room, you must have already paid in advance. There are no exceptions. The cooks don't make extra food. This is done to prevent waste and reduce costs. If you haven't paid, there are groceries and eateries aplenty in Leesburg.
3. Our registration desk is open at regularly scheduled times. Times are posted at the registration desk.
4. For your children's safety, all youth program workers have been cleared by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. Except during our scheduled youth program times, children are to be accompanied by their parents. After lunch until 4, children are the responsibility of their parents. The Life Enrichment Center (LEC) requests that no children run around unsupervised by an adult. The labyrinth and chapel are for contemplation and are off limits to unsupervised children. (LEC rules).
5. There are alligators in the lake, making #4 especially relevant to parents with small children.
6. We have a schedule of programs but your schedule is of your own making. In other words, relax, bask in the beauty and the loving spirit. Take advantage of the free time in the afternoon to be FREE. The time is yours; don't try to do everything!
7. Some people—big and little—are asleep early. Please be aware of the needs of others at all times of the day.
8. SEYM has a reputation for being really friendly. If you see somebody you don't know, seek that of God in them by saying hello and introducing yourself.
9. Volunteering is the engine of YM. People who ask "How can I help?" are especially cherished. We've got a lot of little jobs that need helpers of all ages.
10. The afternoons are your chance to rest or play and discover what fantastic children we have in SEYM. Please bring toys, sports equipment, games, books, and poems to share with the children and be sure to take them back home with you since we do not have a lost and found department.

## QUESTIONS?

**Registration:** call Andrea Walsh: (m) 813.787.0956; email: <[AndreaGWalsh@yahoo.com](mailto:AndreaGWalsh@yahoo.com)>

**Program:** call Ellie Caldwell: (h) 561.790.5499; (m) 561.685.9272

**Clerk:** Steve Kinney: (m) 813.507.7051

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

## Driving 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 14<sup>th</sup> 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 (LEC) is on the right. Registration in the Auditorium.**

*If you plan to arrive late, PLEASE have a friend get your room key or lodge # and wait up for you to show you to your room—thanks.*