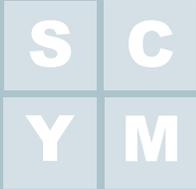




Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) SOUTH CENTRAL Yearly Meeting News

Friends in Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma & Texas



March 2017
for
Yearly Meeting
2017

April 13-16, 2017

Pre YM Issue
Volume 55
Number 1

Climate Change, Environmental Racism, Friends' Faith & Practice--What's the Connection?

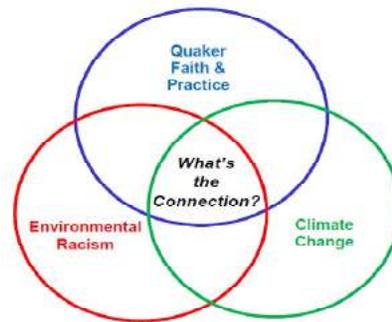
by Gretchen Haynes, Friends Meeting of San Antonio

This year, Yearly Meeting will tackle two of the major concerns of our time, climate change and environmental racism, and ask "What are the connections to Friends' faith and practice?" The sessions from **April 13-16** will hear from keynote speakers **Shelley Tanenbaum**, General Secretary of Quaker Earthcare Witness, and **Gerald Jimmy, Jr** (Dallas Monthly Meeting), science educator actively engaged in Native American Indian community organizations. As Friends deeply involved in direct action, they will bring together the three parts of our Yearly Meeting theme. Other workshop leaders will broaden our perspectives on these intertwined topics. Shelley and Gerald will also meet with the high school and the younger participants and moderate a panel of Friends who have spent time at the Standing Rock encampment.

Several workshops on Friday and Saturday will focus on issues raised by the theme while others will be more general. Each day there will be one workshop for parents and children. We invite F/friends to suggest topics and offer to lead workshops. [See "Call for Workshops," page 3; there may still be space for your workshop.] The home groups will have queries related to environmental and racial concerns, as well as those that are spirit focused.

Other scheduled activities will keep the children and youth active and engaged, including boating on the lake and swimming in the pool. These activities are not just for young Friends.

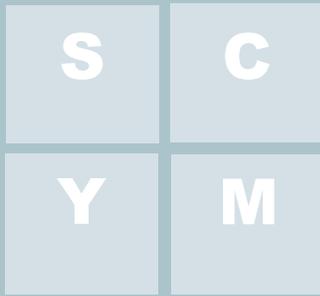
Make plans for the Quaker Variety Hour on Saturday evening. A time for feedback to reflect and share is scheduled following the Variety Hour. Night Owl Worship will cap each day. The Bookstore will be open from Thursday afternoon through Saturday night.



We are fortunate to have as our guest, **Frank Barch**, clerk of Friends General Conference. He will meet with Friends Thursday evening for a dialog and present a workshop on programs and progress of FGC. **Jean-Marie Barch** of FGC's Committee on Nurturing Ministries will also

share some of these programs, including the new Spiritual Deepening.

Yearly Meeting's extensive program can be daunting for first timers, so there will be ample opportunity for orientation and people to answer questions. The Yearly Meeting, in conjunction with Monthly Meetings, offers scholarships. Friends can contact Ministry and Care Committee or their local meeting or worship group for more information. Participation by everyone interested is important and finances should not be a barrier. Registration is available online at <http://www.scym.org> where you will find links to the schedule of events, costs, youth program permission forms, and links to the Greene Family Camp website. **Early registration** is important especially for the youth so that the coordinators can plan their program. **Plus, you must register early to make sure you get your food order in!** (See Jane's page 5 message!)



Yearly Meeting News is currently published twice per year--a Pre-YM issue and an electronically-distributed Post-YM issue for those attending the monthly meetings of the Religious Society of Friends, South Central Yearly Meeting, which has meetings and worship groups in Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas.

Clerk: Howard Hawhee
512.659.3728
1611 Serenity Drive
Pflugerville, TX 78660

Assoc. Clerk: Liz Yeats
512.719.4283
904 E Meadowmere Ln
Austin, TX 78758

Treasurer: Bill Wilkinson
210.561.9360
9835 Greentree St
San Antonio, TX 78230

Editor: Beverly Randolph
361.549.2863
1319 N. Chaparral St
Corpus Christi, TX 78401

Email:
<http://www.scym.org/yearlymeeting/contacts>

Inquiries concerning the Yearly Meeting News should be directed to the Editor at the yearly meeting contact address above. Electronic submissions are encouraged.

Our SCYM Facebook Page:
www.facebook.com/scymquakers

South Central Yearly Meeting 2016 State of the Meeting Reports for YM 2017

from Shelly Angel, Ministry & Care Committee

Dear Friends,

For 2015 we asked SCYM meetings to respond to the theme: *Living Water from the Well: Renewal in Quaker Community; In-Dwelling and Out-Pouring, Sustainability and Sustenance.*

This year our Yearly Meeting theme has three parts: **Climate Change, Environmental Racism, Friends' Faith and Practice—What's the Connection?**

Your meeting is asked to respond to the Yearly Meeting 2017 theme as it pertains to your experience in 2016 **OR** you may wish to use the queries from the past (check the website) rather than the chosen theme; you are free to define the terms used as they best fit your meeting.

Yearly Meeting 2017 will be April 13-16. Please have your SOM reports to Shelly Angel (see YM email contact address on the website) by the **first of April**, earlier if possible. If you are not able to meet that date, please send a note about when we will have your report.

On behalf of the members of SCYM Ministry and Care:
Jan Michael, clerk; Shelly Angel; Marianne Lockard; Liz Yeats; Jen Osborne; and Karen Takamoto

MEMORIAL MINUTES and MINUTES OF CELEBRATION

Please also send copies of these minutes to Shelly Angel (see YM email contacts address on website) no later than March 15, and indicate who will read the special minute(s) from your meeting. Be sure your memorial minute states the monthly meeting in SCYM the individual was involved in—at times the person may have moved out of the area. Each meeting is invited to create Minutes of Celebration for weddings and other celebrations, such as births and adoptions (and let us know the child's name, birth and/or adoption date, parents' names, grandparents if desired, something about the child's life, spirit or personality, etc.).

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

In years before 2015 we asked you for membership changes and statistics. This is no longer the function of M&C. Please get in touch with Cathy Guttentag, Directory Coordinator, to submit changes to your meeting and members.



Workshops ... We Have Workshops for You!

If you have an idea you haven't yet submitted, you must contact Gretchen Haynes to assure your slot. Ed.

The accompanying list is tentative and we ask for other suggestions of topics and leaders. We encourage topics related to the theme – *Climate Change, Environmental Racism, Friends' Faith & Practice – What's the Connection?* Other more general topics are equally welcome. TBA means that the topic is of interest, but we do not have a leader at press time. Anyone interested in leading these topics should let us know immediately.

Content for these and new topics should be outlined in under 150 words. All topics that need audio/visual assistance should be noted now so that these can be supplied. We often receive more suggestions than we can fit into the 6 or 7 workshops each day, so don't be disappointed if your idea is not included this time. Please send your ideas to Gretchen at the YM email contact list.

Confirmed

- Standing Rock, a panel of participants w/ *Shelley Tanenbaum*
- Climate Change w/ *Bill Sweet*
- Quakers and Sustainability w/ *Walter Long*
- Biofuels Why & How w/ *Emma Britain Caraway*
- Free Will & Mindfulness w/ *Dale Bordelon*

Proposed, Need a Presenter

- Environmental Racism **TBA**
- Survival Strategies for the next 4 Years

TBA

- Looking for That of God ... **TBA**
- Reading with Children "Lorax" w/parents

TBA

- Egg Dying w/ parents w/ *Jasmine Zowniriw*
- Report of MM efforts for Climate Change [from YM '15] **TBA**



Creating Connections with Young Stewards

from Jasmine Zowniriw, Live Oak Friends Meeting, Youth Program Coordinator

I'm so excited to be organizing this year's SCYM Youth Program. As in years past, we will provide supervised activities for each day, permitting parents the time and space to become involved in the business, programs, worship and workshops of SCYM.

This year we are pleased to be able to mirror our programming to that of the adults. Children will spend their time participating in projects and activities that focus on being Stewards as it relates to climate change and protecting Earth's resources. We hope to be able to give the children some tools to make positive changes in the world.

I look forward to seeing adults who can dig down (some not as far as others) to find their inner child and participate in some of our many intergenerational events. New this year is a Family Home Group for those who want to connect further with their children during Yearly Meeting. I imagine this could

lead to some wonderful conversations on the car ride home. There will also be boating on the lake, a camp fire and perhaps an organized sport. It is important that we build connections between the Youth and Adults so as to foster community among all participants of SCYM.

We are still looking for teachers and volunteers within the Youth Program. If you aren't excited about being a full time teacher, consider spending an hour sharing your passion and light in some way. Perhaps you would like to teach the Littlest Friends a song or take a hike with the Junior Young Friends. Maybe you would like to read a story or lead a craft. Any opportunity for connection is an opportunity for growth and I welcome all ideas. To contact the Youth Program Coordinator, please use the form located on the SCYM website:

<http://scym.org/yearlymeeting/kidprogram>

Food for Thought—Register Early

Jane E. Houser, clerk YM Planning Committee

The Yearly Meeting Planning Committee understands that Friends care about food both to satisfy individual needs and as a reflection of values and testimonies. The 2016 evaluation forms spoke to both those concerns. Of the 49 forms returned, 39 mentioned something about food quality or menu, food quantities, food specifics or other issues related to food service. The Planning Committee hears you.

For many years, Greene Family Camp had two sisters who both managed the food service and were the lead cooks. They had a binder on SCYM that included menus used over the years, along with vegetarian recipes that seemed to be well received. They both retired during 2015 and we were introduced to the new director at the time of representatives meeting. He had our binder and seemed to understand the needs, especially the need for adult-type diets and a wide variety of special needs. Then just the week before Yearly Meeting, he left and Kristy took his place. She knew none of the history and thought that SCYM was primarily a youth group. In addition, the camp has always asked for a list of special needs and a vegetarian/vegan count **three weeks before we arrive**. Last year, registrations

were really slow in coming and three weeks out, we had only three registrations for vegans.

Now fast forward to 2016/17, Kristy is still there and seems to have settled in, including building a stable staff and a collection of vegetarian cookbooks. Before representatives' meeting, Kristy and the clerk of YM Planning exchanged e-mails and phone calls and I described some of the issues. She seemed very open to dialogue and altered the menu with vegan and vegetarian alternatives. During the representatives' week-end, the camp provided main dishes for vegetarians and vegans that were well received. At this point, I am confident that Greene Family Camp can meet our needs, **if we can get registrations in with enough time to provide an accurate meal count** and explanations of special needs. In addition, Friends are always free to supplement the meals provided. There are full kitchens in the old staff lounge (young friends' space) and the fireplace room, as well as a refrigerator and microwave in the health house. Special needs/requests should be sent to the Registrar or attached to your registration form, including as much detail as possible.

Worship Oversight Needs You!!

Wesley Miller, Ft. Worth Monthly Meeting, Clerk Worship Oversight

From the very start of Yearly Meeting workers are needed to perform simple but essential tasks. Space must be set up for first Worship Session and for first Business Meeting. These tasks can be good for newcomers or "shy" persons. I have learned "oh yeah... I did that five years ago. It was great. I'm gonna do it again." The rewards were doubled. Other simple tasks are the posting of signage. "*shhh...Friends Worshipping*," "**RESERVED FOR YOUNG FRIENDS**" and a sign that reserves seating for very special individuals.

During Meetings For Worship With Attention to Business, we need volunteers to pray for the meeting and hold it in the Light. Our confidence and Unity are so very enhanced.

Also needed are people to watch the group and when someone stands to share, to take them a microphone. Sounds like you? Do it.

Other spaces that also need constant preparation throughout Yearly Meeting are Home Group worship sharing homes, Night Owl and Earlybird Worship, and others. These all need a Friend or two to faithfully be there for the others.

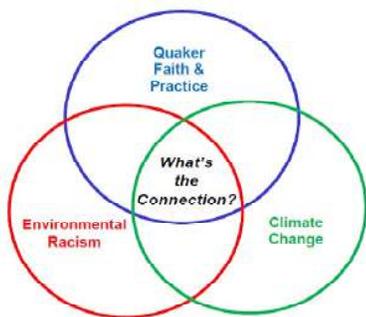
Keep this list handy and review it often so that the enthusiasm that you are now enjoying will still guide you at registration for SCYM 2017.

Ask me or another Worship Oversight Committee member to help designate the task for you.

South Central Yearly Meeting
9835 Greentree Street
San Antonio, TX 78230-4001
www.sycm.org

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 1
Austin, Texas

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



A Message from the Yearly Meeting Planning Committee--Welcome!

Yearly Meeting Sessions are more than the Adult program, including business meetings and scheduled activities for children and youth. There are a few changes in the schedule from 2016 and other recent years. For instance, the keynote address will be on Saturday morning with a question and answer period that evening. For specifics you can check the abbreviated schedule on line or see the complete schedule available at Greene Family Camp at registration.

If you have questions about the site, programs or anything else, you can stop at the "Information" table in the dining hall near the registration tables or--new this year--people who ought to know stuff will be wearing buttons saying, "Ask Me." Please ask instead of wondering about something.

Chris Drexler from Live Oak Friends Meeting is the site coordinator. Let him know if you want to reserve meeting time and space for a committee meeting or will have an exhibit. Email: www.sycm.org/yearlymeeting/contacts. For general concerns or questions, contact Jane Houser, YM Planning Committee Clerk at the same location for email. Don't forget--everyone is welcome to bring arts and crafts to yearly meeting, to display and/or offer for sale on the

Creativity table in the dining hall.

One other change was recommended by the Youth Program Support Committee. So, activities that were labeled as "family-friendly" will now be called "community" to help clarify that those activities are for everyone, not just families with children. Some of those activities include boating on Friday afternoon and swimming in the pool on Saturday. And as a reminder, no one should enter the pond or pool areas except when opened and supervised by camp staff. Friday night there will be a campfire with singing and star-gazing with Edwin Campbell. Saturday evening will bring The Quaker Variety Hour. (Not just for families.)

Over the past two years, construction on I-35 disrupted our usual path to Greene Family Camp. As of November 2016, the main lanes appear to be complete, but eliminate a northbound exit for Bruceville. Go one more exit to Lorena and cross over the freeway and use the southbound frontage road. If the frontage road still ends, just turn right and go up the hill to the camp. GFC maintains video instructions on their web site, so check that link before you leave home. Google Greene Family Camp and then click on "directions" to find their map and videos.