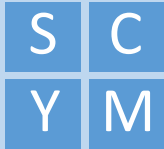




# Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) SOUTH CENTRAL

## Yearly Meeting News

*Friends in Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma & Texas*



**March 2019**  
for  
**Yearly Meeting**  
**2019**  
April 18—21

**Pre-YM Issue**  
**Volume 57**  
**Number 1**

### Join in for SCYM 2019 Theme “Knowing, Being, Doing”

by Rich Corl, Live Oak Friends Meeting

In the fall of 2018, as Bayou Quarterly meeting reflected on the 2018 Yearly Meeting and started planning the 2019 Yearly Meeting theme, we hoped that others felt a replenishment of the “Well” that we filled with the wonderful singing, concert and various art-related inspirations that made up the weekend. It is time to turn our attention back to our roots in activism from a balanced perspective, by using Quaker Methods and Worship to discern leadings and act on those leadings.

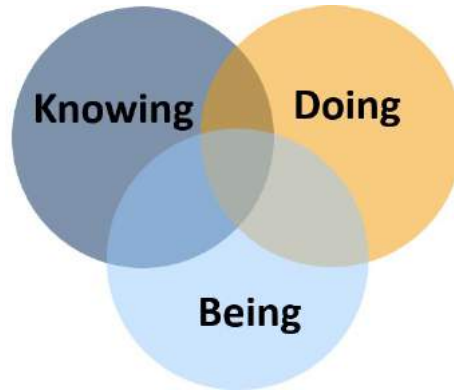
Please plan to attend this year’s SCYM to build on last year’s theme “Lift Hearts and Spirits to the Light”. Join us in learning what we need to know and what is going on at the local, national and global levels and how you might participate in any way that you are able.

This year’s theme is “Knowing, Being, Doing.” Workshops will focus on Knowing and Doing while the overarching theme will be about Being (turning inward to the Light), from the queries in the Home Groups, Epistles that are read, Worship Sharing as well as much attention to Worship in general.

We invite you to offer a workshop on Knowing (something you are passionate about) or Doing (an activity that you are doing or

aware of) that inspires your life. Contact Rich Corl (<https://scym.org/MailForm?box=WKSHOPS>, 832-257-8425).

**Workshop Deadline:** If you would like to offer a workshop, please submit a written description of your topic and include your space and equipment needs. Please send your information to [workshops@scym.org](mailto:workshops@scym.org). **We must have your submission NO LATER THAN MARCH 15<sup>th</sup>** for consideration.



### **Please plan to attend as we have a great Keynote Speaker: Joyce Ajlouny, AFSC General Secretary—Rich Corl**

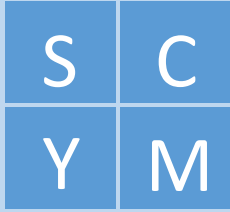
For those of you who do not know Joyce, a brief bio follows.

Joyce Ajlouny has served AFSC since September 2017, where she is responsible for the organization’s worldwide peace and social justice programs and advocacy. Before this appointment, Joyce served for 13 years as the Director of the Ramallah Friends School in Ramallah, Palestine. For 14 years prior to that, Joyce worked in international development and relief as a United Nations consultant, as a Country Director for the Palestinian



territories and Israel for Oxfam GB, and as a program officer and manager at various UN agencies. A lifelong Quaker, Joyce grew up in Palestine and attended the Ramallah Friends School herself for her elementary and secondary education. She is a member of Ramallah Monthly Meeting and attends several monthly meetings in the U.S.

We are very excited about this year’s theme “Knowing, Being, Doing” and Joyce Ajlouny as our keynote speaker. We hope you will be able to attend.



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.

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**Our SCYMFaacebook Page:**



[www.facebook.com/scymquakers](https://www.facebook.com/scymquakers)

## Report on RM 2018 in Gilmer, Texas

*From Liz Yeats, Friends Meeting of Austin*

About 20 Friends gathered for worship and fellowship at Camp Gilmont in Gilmer, Texas on Friday, the 16<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month of 2018. The printed and bound proceedings produced were distributed.

Friends from Bayou Quarterly presented the theme of the adult program for 2019 SCYM Sessions, "Knowing, Being, Doing." They have invited Joyce Ajlouny, General Secretary of AFSC, to present the keynote. Friends approved and thanked Bayou Quarterly's Committee.

Faith and Practice Committee reported about their work and encouraged Friends to look at documents presently on the web at <http://scym.org/faith.practice.docs>. They are working to add documents for Friends to review before 2019 SCYM sessions.

Representative Meeting began the issue of supporting SCYM Friends' attendance at the 2019 Gathering, June 30-July 6 at Grinnell College, which SCYM is hosting.

The ad-hoc committee on helping Friends get to the Gathering reported, proposing the following minute, which was approved after some discussion:

Minute on Financial Aid for SCYM Friends attending FGC 2019 Gathering:

*SCYM's RM approves the spending of 75% of the balance of the Spiritual Enrichment fund as of April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 towards the financial aid for Friends attending the FGC gathering in Summer 2019.*

*SCYM will accept donations for this purpose into disburseable income in the Spiritual Enrichment fund between now and April 30, 2019.*

*Before applying to SCYM for financial aid to support attendance at FGC gathering 2019, applicants will need to apply to Monthly Meet-*

*-ings, or when appropriate their Quarterly Meeting, and register during early registration period for FGC Gathering and apply for assistance from FGC. Grants will be prioritized for but not necessarily limited to Friends working on FGC gathering planning committees, people under 35 years old (single or in family groups), and first-time gathering attenders.*

*Ad hoc group Joanna Vaughn, Lidney Molnari, Karen Takemoto, Val Liveoak, and John Coffin will work on publicizing this opportunity to support attendance by SCYM members and attenders.*

Yearly Meeting Planning reported. They are adding a provision for the showing of memorial photos during the memorial minutes if Friends are able to send digital or scannable photos to Chris Drexler.

There was a discussion of the division of responsibilities of YM Planning Committee and Worship Oversight Committee. The following minute was approved:

*SCYM RM charges Nominating Committee to look at the list of responsibilities for Worship Oversight and review that list, find new members for WO committee, and check with the present members of the WO committee to see if there are members who are willing to take on the tasks that haven't been assigned by the YM planning committee in its report to RM on 17<sup>th</sup> day, 11<sup>th</sup> month, 2018.*

*Nominating Committee will ensure that the committee chooses its own clerk. In addition, Nominating Committee will report if there are remaining concerns about the WO committee at Yearly Meeting 2019.*

There was a discussion of the location of Representative Meeting. Friends made comments which will help the ad hoc committee bring back a suggestion for the future location of Representative Meeting to annual sessions.

# Peace in Our Hearts, Justice in the World



*From Ad Hoc Committee for SCYM Friends to Attend FGC Gathering*

South Central Yearly Meeting is excited to host Friends General Conference Gathering 2019 in Grinnell, Iowa and want to encourage SCYM Friends to attend. To nurture attendance, SCYM is offering scholarships. We want to especially encourage Young Adult Friends (18-35), families, and those who have never attended to apply for a scholarship; however, we invite anyone to apply. In addition, this year, there is no program fee for children and High School, meals are cut by 50% for children and High School, Young Adult fees are reduced, and FGC scholarships for families are available.

SCYM scholarships will be dispersed through our Spiritual Enrichment Fund. Friends are first to approach their monthly meeting and/or quarterly meeting with a request for scholarship to attend FGC Gathering 2019. Secondly, apply for FGC scholarship when registering for Gathering during the Early Registration period (April 1-14). Then request funds from SCYM Ministry and Care Committee at <http://www.scym.org/MailFormbox=minicareclerk>.

The SCYM scholarship can be used for housing, fees, and/or travel expenses. We hope this will enable more Friends from SCYM to be able to attend this year's FGC Gathering.

There are several ways to receive scholarships to attend FGC Gathering 2019 through FGC. The following are some of the FGC scholarship criteria:

First ask your monthly meeting/quarterly meeting. If you receive a scholarship from your monthly, quarterly, or yearly meeting, you are eligible for a matching FGC scholarship (up to established maximums) as long as funds remain. FGC's scholarship may exceed the amount of this match. If your meeting is not able to provide as much assistance as it would like, a letter

or email from the meeting(s) will increase the likelihood of FGC meeting your scholarship need. For example, if your meeting(s) can only give \$50 but wishes it could give \$300, FGC would like to know.

If you have not attended an FGC Gathering for at least 15 years, we consider you eligible for a first-time attender scholarship. Without a scholarship or a letter from your meeting, financial aid from FGC will be minimal (approximately half of your program fee).

Teen and young adult first-time attenders (up to age 35) who identify as Quakers and are not connected to a meeting will receive priority scholarship assistance if they have a current or recent affiliation with a Quaker organization (e.g., school, camp, or Quaker employer) in the region of an affiliated yearly meeting. And/or you may apply for a work grant through FGC Gathering website.

For more detailed information on work grants and scholarships visit <https://www.fgcquaker.org/connect/gathering/registration-details/financial-aid#westtravel>

Please note that it is important to **register for Gathering during EARLY REGISTRATION (APRIL 1-14)** to more likely secure FGC scholarship. So in summary:

- 1) Make your request to your Monthly/Quarterly Meeting now;
- 2) Register for Gathering in Early April and request FGC Scholarship;
- 3) Request SCYM scholarship;
- 4) Go to Gathering.

With the help of your monthly, quarterly, and/or yearly meeting along with FGC Gathering scholarship, we look forward to seeing you at this year's FGC Gathering.







## Getting to Greene Family Camp

*From Jane Houser, Clerk, SCYM Planning Committee*

**G**reene Family Camp is located in Bruceville, Texas, about midway between Waco and Temple just west of I-35. There has been considerable construction along that stretch of I-35, but here are some basic instructions: Coming from the south, stay on I-35 main lanes to exit 318 B Woodlawn Road, turn left under the highway and take the southbound frontage road. Do Not get on the main lanes. Turn right at Bruceville Road and go up the hill, following signs to Greene Family Camp.

If you are southbound on I-35, exit 319, stay on the frontage road until Bruceville Road.

From the east: if you use route 7 to Eddy, use the northbound frontage road, enter the main lanes and then exit at Woodlawn as above.

Greene Family Camp has a website with videos and up to the minute travel data.

## Are You Ready for a Gathering Workshop?

*From Sue Garzon*

**F**or lots of people, the workshops are the best part of Gathering. They are for me. As a member of this year's Workshop Committee, I've read all of the workshop descriptions, and I'm going to pass on some suggestions to get you started choosing a workshop. And remember, there are **many** more workshops, all of which are on the FGC Gathering website. I'll lead off with some questions.

### **Are you ready to take your spiritual life to a higher level?**

Take a look at: Opening to the Heart of Worship, led by Christopher Sammond; Being a Modern Prophet, led by Gail Thomas.

### **Do you want to come to a deeper understanding of your life as a Friend?**

Take a look at: Life Lessons from a Bad Quaker: For Those Bad at Being Good, led by Brent Bill.

### **Are you ready to delve into Quaker history?**

Take a look at: Early Quaker Theology: A Re-evaluation, led by Stephen Angell. (Stephen will focus on George Fox, Margaret Fell, James Nayler, and Richard Farnworth.) Root and Branch: Judaism & Quaker Faith and Practice, led by Janis Kelly.

### **Are you ready to learn about other paths to the Divine?**

Take a look at: Reading the Qur'an as Friends, led by Michael Birkel.

### **Do you want to help your Meeting achieve its full potential?**

Take a look at: Building a Culture of Multi-age Inclusion, led by Emily Provance; Bright

Silent Worship, led by Marjorie Isaacs. (Marjorie has found effective ways to help kids enter into Quaker worship.)

### **Are you looking for ways to release anger and guilt?**

Take a look at: Forgiveness as a Spiritual Practice, led by Sue Regen. (I've taken this workshop. It is not a therapy group, but it can be a life changer. And I don't say that lightly.)

### **Do you want to relax, have fun, and reconnect with the Spirit?**

There are workshops with biking, journal-keeping, making and flying kites, handwork, drawing, photography, yoga, and qigong.

### **Does singing fill your spirit?**

Take a look at: Soulful Singing, led by Ruth Fitz; Singing from the Sacred Harp (shape note singing), led by Paul Landskroener and Carol Crawford

Even if you take a non-singing workshop, you can still sing a lot at Gathering! I usually go to the Noon Sing, which is similar to the evening singing at SCYM Yearly Meetings. Last year, I also went to Round Singing most afternoons. It's a smaller, more intimate group, and I learned some great rounds.

Friends, please check out the workshops. This Gathering is ours! And I think that everyone on the Workshop Committee would agree that we are offering workshops that are well worth the trip to Gathering this summer.

## South Central Yearly Meeting

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## About Greene Family Camp—*Register Early*

*From Jane Houser, Clerk, SCYM Planning Committee*

South Central Yearly Meeting has been meeting at Greene Family Camp for its annual sessions since 1971. The camp is owned and operated by a group of Reformed Jewish synagogues, temples and organizations. In the years since we have been meeting there it has undergone several improvements including a new dining hall, office complex and sports center. There are a wide variety of sleeping accommodations and meeting spaces all with heating and air conditioning. The health house and motel complex provide rooms with two twin beds and a private bath. The couples' cabins have two bed rooms sharing a bath. Most of the group cabins have eight lower bunks with an attached bath.

The theater in the activities center is used for our business sessions, and all community events. We use many other spaces such as classrooms for workshops, committee meetings and programs for youth.

Meals are served buffet style. SCYM's planning committee works with the camp's food service director to

provide meals that will meet the needs of our attendees. While not strictly Kosher, they do maintain some customs such as serving sausage made from turkey rather than pork. We know that about 1/3 of our attendees will choose the vegan/vegetarian options, but we need to know about three weeks ahead of our arrival to provide for special needs such as medical diets. In addition, anyone may supplement the camp meals with their own items. We have use of a full kitchen in the fireplace room and a refrigerator and microwave in the health house.

Mobility issues may be difficult for some since there is a hill between the activities center (theater) and the dining hall, so we provide "taxi" service up and down the hill, as well as allowing those with special needs to drive around the campus. All buildings have at grade access.

Other questions or concerns, contact Jane Houser, clerk of YM planning at <https://scym.org/MailForm?box=ympclerk>.

