

Peace and Social Concerns Committee
Intermountain Yearly Meeting of Friends
Report to Representatives Committee, 2/9/2019
Jamie Newton, Clerk, Peace and Social Concerns Committee

**A plenary session on the work of Friends' organizations and the theme of the 2019 annual gathering:
*Faith, Fear, and Our Future***

The Peace and Social Concerns Committee and the Delegates Committee are planning together for a 90-minute plenary session scheduled for Thursday evening at the 2019 annual gathering, with unique and innovative formatting and procedures designed to illuminate the work of the major Friends' organizations with which IMYM is affiliated – AFSC, FCNL, FGC, FPT, FWCC, QEW (affiliation under discernment) –in relation to the 2019 theme: *Faith, Fear, and Our Future*. We anticipate bringing focus to the session by emphasizing several concerns with rising engagement among IMYM Friends, including climate change, eco-justice, race relations, and immigration and border issues.

Resource Center at the 2019 Annual Gathering

At the 2019 annual gathering of IMYM the Committee will again coordinate the Peace and Social Concerns Resource Center throughout the week, as we have since 2014, hosting displays and encouraging dialogue. *Guidelines* for use of the Resource Center will be distributed with IMYM's Documents in Advance, and will be available in the Resource Center. Please be sure that Friends in your meeting know that table space is not reserved in advance. Instead, Friends are asked to share the limited space cooperatively, accommodating late arrivals graciously. This approach has worked out well, so far!

Communication and networking – new resources on imym.org

The Peace and Social Concerns Committee has instituted Google Groups forums on the IMYM website, imym.org, as resources for communication on shared concerns and projects. The first three are:

- Friends for Right Relationship with Native Peoples (first, learn more about Indigenous Peoples Concerns Committee on Boulder MM's website)
- IMYM P&SC Border Concerns
- IMYM P&SC Climate Concerns

A fourth Google Groups forum, entitled *Testimonies in Action*, will soon be initiated as a platform for Friends to post commentary about concerns and projects, needs for information and support, and events, and in other ways unite with one another around shared leadings.

Links to the Google Groups forums are found by visiting: <http://imym.org/areas-of-concern-googlegroups/>. A special account is not needed in order to register as a participant in these forums. We ask Representatives Committee members to bring these resources to the attentions of their monthly meetings and worship groups.

What is rising among IMYM Friends?

IMYM's Presiding Clerk, Molly Wingate, invited the Peace and Social Concerns Committee... "to put an article in the upcoming IMYM newsletter about what meetings are doing in terms of sanctuary, death penalty abolition, and other issues... It seems to me that the newsletter – which goes to over 200 addresses – is a lovely vehicle for spreading the word and connecting folks."

In response, the Committee is reaching out to IMYM Friends in four ways to assemble concise summaries of our monthly meetings' current experiences with discernment and action on issues of peace and social concerns. One of those ways is outreach to members of the Representatives Committee, asking each to send in a summary or be sure that someone else in their meetings sends a summary. An email with details has been sent to the Representatives Committee list. If you missed that email, it's not too late! Your summary can be used if it is received by February 12, 2019.

Information from the monthly meetings will help our Committee recognize rising currents among Friends, and nourish emerging communities of concern within IMYM.

Immigration justice and border issues

IMYM Friends have hosted and supported sanctuary for immigrants, assisted immigrants in need, advocated just immigration policies, participated in the November 2018 Border Convergence (*Encuentro*) in Nogales sponsored by the School of Americas Watch, visited the tent prison camp for children at Tornillo, Texas, and in other ways actively addressed immigration justice and border issues. The Committee is alert to opportunities to assist and promote cooperation among involved Friends.

Racism and white privilege

The Peace and Social Concerns Committee continues discernment on how to most effectively implement the charge given to the Committee by the Representatives Committee in February 2018:

Exclusion based on the perception of race (a biological fiction, but a social reality) is a widespread injustice that continues to trouble IMYM Friends. Representatives charge the Peace & Service Committee to encourage monthly meetings and worship groups to continue to season the concern for racism among us and revisit the query with a report back to Representatives Committee in a year or two.

Peace and Social Concerns Committee members, with contact information

Arizona Half-Yearly Meeting

Gretchen Reinhardt (Tempe): cooperativebydesign@q.com; Tel: 480-968-4056

Tom Martin (Flagstaff): fireflytom@mindspring.com; Tel: 928 862 2873

Colorado Regional Meeting

Brent Ridley (Mountain View): brent.ridley1@gmail.com; Tel: 720-767-7010

Claire Sheridan (formerly of Colorado Springs, Claire moved to Taos, NM, and no longer represents CRM but remains active with the Committee): cs624pearl@gmail.com; Tel: 303-448-1523

New Mexico Regional Meeting

Vickie Aldrich (Las Cruces): mathstar@zianet.com; Tel: 575-541-9093

Utah Friends Fellowship

Scott Cowan (Salt Lake City): wpi958@msn.com; Tel: 801-935-4419

Clerk, Peace and Social Concerns Committee, IMYM

Jamie Newton (Gila): jnewton@sfsu.edu; Tel: 650-400-2205
