**MINUTES**

**ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE**

**Intermountain Yearly Meeting**

**Held January 16, 2021, by Zoom**

**Present: *Below is a complete list of the makeup of the committee. Names designated with \* mean that they were present at the January 16 meeting.***

Name and Monthly Meeting IMYM Position

Laura Peterson, Mountain View\* Clerk, Arrangements Committee

Lisa Fay Lister, Colo Springs \* Recording clerk, Arrangements Committee

Marc Gacy, Boulder\* Registrar

Leslie Stephens, Boulder\* Operations Co-Coordinator

Barbara Stephens, Boulder\* Operations Co-Coordinator

DeAnne Butterfield, Boulder Program Working Group Co-Clerk

John Huyler, Boulder \* Program Working Group Co-Clerk

Susan Dahl, Durango\* Volunteer Coordinator

Emily Box, Salt Lake\* ????

Kay Bordwell, Flagstaff\* Worship-Sharing Coordinator

Rebecca Cecil, Santa Fe\* ????

Ronnie Burrows, Tempe\* Bookstore Coordinator

Polly Washburn, Mountain View\* Tech Coordinator

Gale Toko-Ross, Boulder\* IMYM Co-Clerk

Valerie Ireland, Boulder\* IMYM Co-Clerk

Lisa Motz-Storey, Mountain View\* Clerk, Representatives Committee

Sarah Feitler, Boulder\* Interest Groups, Seminars Co-Coordinator

Polly Feitler, Boulder\* Interest Groups, Seminars Co-Coordinator

Rosemary Blanchard, Albuquerque\* Ombudsperson for People of Differing Abilities

Jerry Peterson, Mountain View\* IMYM Treasurer

**We began the meeting with silence.**

**Opening remarks by Clerk**

Laura Peterson reminisced about the opportunities and challenges of last year's sudden shift to plan, due to the pandemic, a virtual rather than in-person gathering. People rose to the occasion with strength, resilience and caring. It has already been decided that the 2021 gathering will be virtual, and we will draw on last year's insights to improve this year's experience. IMYM 2021 dates are June 16-20.

There is hope that Junior Young Friends might be able to somehow meet in person in 2021, but whether this is safely possible in unknown at this time. It may be possible for them to meet in the Fall, but if so this would not be under the auspices of this committee.

**Program Working Group**

John Huyler, Program Working Group Co-Clerk, reported that the keynote speaker for the 2021 gathering will be Jose Woss, who works for FCNL and identifies as a Black Latino Quaker. Although we have not yet decided on a gathering theme, this is not as important as his commitment to share his insights with the gathering. He is flexible about the direction of his talk.

Scheduling of the keynote speaker was discussed. It was suggested that he be scheduled early in the schedule, but not too early. Because of Friends that work, an evening slot is optimal. This was acceptable to the committee, but details need to be solidified. The keynote talk will be recorded, so that it can be made more widely available to those who cannot watch it live online.

Lisa Motz-Storey, IMYM Co-Clerk, reported that there is interest in continuing a virtual component of the gathering, even when we are back to gathering in person. This possibility will need to be considered by next year's Arrangement's Committee.

**Registration**

Marc Gacy, Registrar, reviewed last year's 5-tiered pay-as-led structure:

1. Full Admission Plus was $100 plus a donation to assist others
2. Full Admission was $100
3. 2/3 of Full Admission was $67
4. 1/3 of Full Admission was $35
5. A Flat Fee of $10.

Marc reported that this system worked well. There was a total of 236 participants in 2020. IMYM received 91% of what was committed by participants. Those interested in a more granular breakdown of participants by tier can contact Marc for details.

A discussion about when to open registration for the 2021 gathering ensued. Although people do not generally register far in advance, the dates of IMYM need to go out in advance so people can save the date and keep Yearly Meeting in their awareness.

**ACTIONS:**

* + 1. The date to open registration needs to be decided.
    2. Advance “save the date” publicity needs to be sent out in advance.

**Bookstore**

Roni Burrows, Bookstore Coordinator, shared that usually the bookstore has materials available written by the keynote speaker and related to his address. The Program Working Group knows he has written an essay, but is not aware of other publications.

**ACTION ITEM:** Laura agreed to contact Jose Woss to see if there are any other writings which we should know of in order to make them available to IMYM participants who are interested.

Normally, the Bookstore makes other general Quaker literature available, and provides a space for Makers to sell their work. Roni has ideas for making the Bookstore more of a more social gathering place, and would welcome additional ideas. We can look forward to this and having a physical Bookstore in the future.

**E-gathering Technical Lead job**

A paid, part-time E-gathering Tech position has been approved by Representatives Committee. This person will create and manage Zoom rooms, train volunteers, do troubleshooting, and assist users having difficulty in addition to other duties. Polly Washburn has offered to work with whoever is hired.

**TO BE RESOLVED**: It was uncertain at this time who would be responsible for hiring, and when that will happen. Perhaps Representatives Committee?

**Volunteer Recruitment and Training**

Susan Dahl, Volunteer Coordinator, will need Zoom volunteers again this year. Her main job task will be to recruit and schedule these volunteers, while the new technical position will handle their training.

**Youth Programs**

IMYM is working on adding a paid youth program director. The job description for this paid position has not yet been developed. It is hoped that this paid position will assist with all of the youth programs. (At Ghost Ranch, we paid Ghost Ranch staff to assist with the youth program, and will likely need some paid assistance when we gather in Durango).

There was feedback from Rosemary Blanchard from JYF's that they felt they were treated too much like children. We need to be aware of the sensitivities of this age group. Valerie Ireland expressed the need to make sure that we have a “listening session” with youth this year, so they feel heard and engaged. Polly Washburn believes that there are options for creative online get-togethers.

**ACTION**: In advance, contact JYF and SYF clerks (and as many others as possible) to make sure their ideas and desires are heard. They also need to share their schedules. Laura Peterson will make sure this happens, coordinating this with Gale, Valarie, Rosemary, Emily and Barb (and perhaps others).

**TO BE RESOLVED:**  When will the paid position be hired and by whom? How does the person hired fit in to this process/conversation? What kinds of inter-generational events could be planned?

**Interest Groups and Seminars**

Sarah Feitler, Interest Group Co-Coordinator reported that it is unknown at this point how many time slots are needed for groups.

**ACTIONS:**

1. We need a Screening Committee to look at proposed topics and help decide the appropriateness of the topics. Laura will ask all members of the Arrangements Committee to help with this process.
2. The Presiding Clerks will send and email to Monthly Meetings soliciting possible Interest Group topics.

**Other Ideas:**

* Could we explore the utilization of online videos (such as Quaker Speak) in Interest Groups?
* Might it be possible for people to attend more than one Interest Group?
* Could there be an option to have multiple day Interest Groups/Workshops?

**Informal Social Time**

How can we get people together to just talk and interact with one another informally? Last year, there was a “Social Room” drop-in. Was that sufficient, or are there other possibilities to explore?

**Worship Sharing Groups**

Kay Bordwell, Worship-Sharing Group Coordinator, reported that in 2020, there were approximately 24 groups of 10 people each. Kay thinks it is a good idea to have at least one WS Leader from each Monthly Meeting.

**ACTION:** Kay will contact the Keynote Speaker to get queries, which will be shared with Worship Sharing Leaders.

**Other Ideas:**

* What if we started before Yearly Meeting begins and/or went after IMYM ends?
* There was a concern about households with only one computer, as it means couples would have no option other than to be assigned to the same group (unless WS times vary).

**Land Acknowledgment Update**

Gale and Valerie, IMYM Co-Clerks, report that Representative Committee will be working on Land Acknowledgment. Last year at Business Meeting, there was some dissent, and the statement was not approved by the Yearly Meeting. It remains in process. An Interest Group will likely be proposed on this topic.

**People of Differing Abilities**

Rosemary Blanchard, Ombudsperson for People of Differing Abilities, as a concern for those with hearing disabilities using Zoom. She is asking that this be addressed at the 2021 Online gathering.

**Closing**

We ended after 2.5 hours of diligent and thoughtful work. Laura thanked everyone for their work on behalf of the Yearly Meeting.

In the Light,

Lisa Fay Lister

Recording Clerk

**APPENDIX**

***The following youth representatives were not in attendance, but is provided FYI. This list is from 2020, so may need updating.***

Eric Swanson, Durango Co-Clerk for Youth Working Group

Cindy Yurth, Durango Co-Clerk for Youth Working Group

Joseph Linton, Boulder CYM Lead Co-Coordinator

Elizabeth Linton, Boulder CYM Lead Co-Coordinator

Lisa Grenier, Pima JYF Lead Coordinator

Gretchen Reinhart, Tempe JYF Assistant Coordinator

Dave Wells, Tempe JYF Assistant Coordinator

Sam Prewett JYF Co-Clerk

Sophia Dickerson JYF Co-Clerk

Keith Dickerson

Madeline Grigio JYF Recording Clerk

Rafa Grenier, Pima SYF Co-Clerk

Nicola Gacy, Boulder SYF Co-Clerk

Kai Feitler, Boulder SYF

Elliotte Enochs, Mountain View SYF Recording Clerk