



# FORT MYERS MONTHLY MEETING OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Newsletter, Eleventh Month, 2016

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**Worship:** In the Iona House at the Calusa Nature Center  
**Mailing Address:** 902 Big Pine Way, Fort Myers, FL 33907

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**Clerk:** Nancy Fennell (239-989-2503)  
**Recording Clerks:** Kathy Hale / Richard Frechette  
**Treasurer:** John Battin

- 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the Month: Pot Luck Lunch
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Month: Meeting for Worship  
With Attention to Business
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## **QUERIES & ADVICES** from *Faith & Practice of Southeastern Yearly Meeting*

### **11. Care of the Natural World**

#### **Queries:**

- Do we live in harmony with nature? Do we live in keeping with the spirit of the unity, sacredness, and integrity of all creation?
- Do we seek to minimize our consumption of the earth's resources? Do we encourage equitable and sustainable use of those resources?
- Do we walk gently over the earth, seeing that of God in all of nature?
- Do we seek to educate ourselves, our children, our meeting, and our community about how our lives can be more in harmony with the earth?
- Does the meeting strive to bring all its practices in harmony with the natural world?

#### **Advices:**

- Maintain in ourselves and encourage in others a sense of responsibility for the environment, both for the present and for future generations.
  - Avoid amusements that stimulate destructive emotions, are detrimental to the health or tranquility of others, or are damaging to the natural environment.
  - Show a loving consideration for all creatures, cherishing the beauty and wonder of all God's creation.
  - Share our sense of reverence and stewardship for the earth.
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## **Celebrate Thanksgiving Day Dinner at Iona House**

Thanksgiving Day dinner is meant to be shared with Friends. The Meeting is sponsoring a coordinated pot-luck dinner on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 24 at 1:00 PM at Iona House. Come! Bring friends! To sign up, contact Suzanne Frechette (401-744-6097; Suzanne.Frechette@gmail.com). Because the Nature Center is closed that day, the gate will be open and staffed by a volunteer from 12:30 to 1:00 – so please plan to arrive during that time.

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**MINUTES OF THE FORT MYERS MONTHLY MEETING  
OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS  
11th Month 13, 2016**

The Fort Myers Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends met in Iona House on eleventh month 13, with 22 Friends present. The meeting opened with silent worship. Out of the silence, Clerk Nancy Fennell read advices and queries on the subject of Care of the Natural World. In response, one friend noted that, after worshipping in our natural environment at Iona House, she is able to take her sense of oneness with nature back home with her. Another stressed his pleasure that the Lee County Conservation 20/20 Preservation referendum passed overwhelmingly.

**MINISTRY AND COUNSEL:** M&C Clerk Richard Frechette reported that the Committee has begun preparations for the annual Spiritual State of the Meeting Report. The Committee will pose five queries to the meeting – to be published in the newsletter, and invites Friends to attend a Worship-Sharing gathering at the rise of meeting on Dec 18 to respond to the queries. From there, M&C will draft the report for presentation at our January meeting for business.

**CLERK’S REPORT:** The Clerk read a letter of gratitude to the Meeting from the Calusa Nature Center for our contribution of candy and other goodies for the Fall festival. She also encouraged Friends to openly respond to the Queries and Advices that are read at the beginning of meeting.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** Treasurer John Battin presented the report for the period ended October 31, 2016. He noted that we are about in the same financial position as this time last year. Friends were reminded that any contributions to the Meeting’s general fund and Meetinghouse fund are tax deductible.

	<i>October 2015</i>	<i>October 2016</i>
Contributions	\$16,481	\$14,630
Outlays	\$(11,688)	\$(11,497)
Difference	\$4,793	\$3,133
General Fund Cash on Hand Oct. 1, 2016		\$6,176
General Fund Contributions Oct. 2016		\$1,505
Budgeted Outlays Oct. 2016		\$(4,548)
Cash on Hand Oct. 31, 2016		\$3,133
General Funds Savings Oct 31, 2016 **		\$7,570
Gen. Funds-Friends Fiduciary Oct 31 , 2016		\$18,289
Total General Funds Oct 31, 2016		\$28,992
Meetinghouse Savings Oct 31, 2016		\$47,240
Meetinghouse Certificates Oct 31,2016		\$18,500
Meetinghouse-Friends Fiduciary Oct31, 2016		\$8,510
Total Meetinghouse Funds Oct 31, 2016		\$74,251

**BUDGET:** John Battin distributed a first draft of the 2017 budget for discussion purposes, noting that the budget would be reviewed again and approved at the December meeting. It was noted that there are no funds identified for the Outreach Committee, and that that committee would be

requesting \$300 funds. It was also suggested that funds for retreat and invited speakers be increased.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE:** Clerk Joan announced that the committee would be meeting late this month.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE:** Nancy Howell, Clerk, reported that the committee was actively seeking persons to come forward to fill the various roles of the Meeting, and expected to bring the results forward at the December Meeting.

**OUTREACH COMMITTEE:** Pat Iyre, Clerk, reported that the Committee was exploring having a permanent sign erected near the entrance of the CNCP or a larger temporary sign. The Committee is also making some modifications to the Meeting's business cards. The Committee now sponsors a weekly food collection which goes to the Harry Chapin Food Bank. 137 pounds of food has been collected to date. The committee will be asking to have the Meeting's name listed in the Food Bank blog as a regular sponsor.

**PEACE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS:** Clerk John Battin, informed friends that a minute came to SEYM's Peace and Social Concerns Committee from the Orlando Meeting in response to gun violence. The minute encourages Southeastern Yearly Meeting (SEYM) and its constituent monthly meetings to also join the Florida Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence and to sign the League of Women Voters call to action letter to state political leaders, which letter was initially signed by 43 religious and civic organizations. John asked that Friends at Fort Myers join in this initiative. We discussed this matter, and approved the following action minute:

- ❖ **MINUTE 16MM13:** *We, the Fort Myers Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, deplore all forms of violence. We are greatly concerned with the growth in violence created by persons with guns. We find ourselves in alignment with concerns expressed by the Florida Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence in its letter of June 20 to the governor and legislative leaders, and the letter's specific requests:*
- *"First, we call upon you to enact legislation making it a crime to import knowingly, sell, manufacture, transfer, or possess a semiautomatic assault weapon or large capacity ammunition feeding device"*
  - *"Second, we call upon the state to implement comprehensive, universal background checks."*

*We approve of the Meeting joining the Florida Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence.*

*We approve co-signing the League of Women Voters' call to action letter to State political leaders.*

*We urge Southeastern Yearly Meeting to take similar action.*

John also reported that the Committee discussed communications from the organization Interfaith Power & Light which noted that the Paris Climate agreement became international law on November 4, but also declared that the "pledge" of the 96 participating countries will in itself not be adequate to reduce global temperatures. The correspondence urges faith communities as well as individuals to commit to the pledge. John informed us that further information will be published in our newsletter, and the Committee encourages Friends to think and pray about what we as a Meeting can commit to, sharing those thoughts with members of the Committee. Tom Fennell suggested that we also seek guidance from SEYM's newly appointed Secretary for EarthCare Witness on this matter

**HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE:** Helen Snodgrass presented a proposal that the Meeting sponsor a Thanksgiving Day dinner on November 24. It would be a coordinated pot-luck meal, open to our Meeting family and their friends. Joan Culver has determined this would be acceptable to the Nature Center as long as we managed gate control. The Frechettes have offered to serve as general coordinators. It was suggested that we incorporate a period of worship into the event. Friends approved.

**CALUSA NATURE CENTER:** Joan Culver, our representative on the CNCP Board, has put in many hours in support of the CNCP's administrative processes.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

- Tom Fennell announced that the December meeting for business would also be our annual corporate meeting.
- Joan Culver brought up the concept of the Meeting's sponsoring a Syrian Refugee family, perhaps in concert with other local Peace Churches. We will take this question into discernment.

The minutes of the meeting were read and approved. We ended the meeting in centered silence.

Richard Frechette  
Co-Recording Clerk

**SEYM Half Yearly Meeting • Nov. 24-27**  
**Thanksgiving Weekend • Wekiwa Springs State Park, FL**



► **Have Thanksgiving dinner with Friends!** Turkey, dressing, & hot dishes are provided. Friends bring cold dishes & baked goods to share.

► **Enjoy 4 days of nature at Wekiwa Springs State Park.** Canoeing, nature hikes, workshops, worship sharing, & experiencing the 19 ecosystems in Wekiwa.

► **Other activities include:** cooking meals together, campfire circle, workshops, music, crafts & games. There's free time for spontaneous fun & just relaxing.

► **HYM is great time for families! --- and for SEYM youth to connect.** Youth registration fees are waived --- only pay for food and lodging. **And it's not only for Youth;** talk to our own Marilyn Weber, who has attended past Half Yearly Meetings.

► **Canoe and Kayak trips** include a short canoe trip on Saturday morning and 3 long river trips on Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday. Kayak & Canoe rentals are available.

► **For More Information,** go to [www.seymquaker.org](http://www.seymquaker.org), then click on Half Yearly Meeting.

**Scholarships available;** see the SEYM website for guidance

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The Workshop on **The "Unwritten" Rules of Meeting for Worship**, originally scheduled for Sunday, November 20 at the rise of worship, has been postponed because of a schedule conflict, and will be rescheduled for a later date.

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**SEYM's Michener Lecture**, scheduled for Sunday January 15 at the Orlando meeting-house, will feature Dr. Susan Waltz, who has been active in international human rights work for over 25 years. The title of her presentation will be "From My Measure of the Light..." More information to come in the next newsletter, but enter this in your calendar now.

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### On 1<sup>st</sup> days, Bring Yourself AND Food

In the Iona House kitchen there is a collection bin for non-perishable food items, which are donated to the Harry Chapin Food Bank. Please get into the habit of bringing one or more items when you come to 1<sup>st</sup> day worship. Most needed items include:

- Canned Meats and Fish
  - Fruit (Cups, Canned or Dried)
  - Vegetables (Canned)
  - Soups
  - Breakfast Cereals
  - Oatmeal
- Peanut Butter
  - Rice
  - Pasta
  - Mac & Cheese
  - Instant Mashed Potatoes (Boxed)
  - Dry Beans



**Harry Chapin Food Bank**  
OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA  
*Fighting Hunger, Feeding Hope*

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### RECENT E-MAIL FROM FRANK TUNG

Thanks for the newsletter. I enjoy reading it from Austin, Texas, where we have moved to since the end of April to be near our daughter's. We lived in Naples 17 wonderful and blessed years meeting many wonderful folks. Will continue to worship with you all in spirit.

May the wind be always on your back and enjoy one's health,

Friend Frank Tung <[regulargas@yahoo.com](mailto:regulargas@yahoo.com)>

## FROM THE PEACE & SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE:

Should we, the Fort Myers Monthly Meeting, take the Paris Pledge below? If so, what can our small faith community commit to now? In the future? Please think about this. Pray about this. Read the letter below from Interfaith Power and Light. Share your thoughts with your f/Friends and with the Committee.

### *The Paris Pledge*

*In an act of solidarity with global leaders and nations at the 2015 UN Climate Talks in Paris, I pledge to reduce my carbon pollution 50% by 2030 and to become carbon neutral by 2050. I believe a brighter future is within reach -- a world with an economy that works for people and the planet, a world safe from the ravages of climate change, a world with good jobs, clean air and water, healthy communities, and a world where people of faith everywhere act as stewards of Creation and begin to build a new relationship with the Earth.*



Interfaith Power & Light  
A Religious Response to Global Warming

November 4, 2016

Today is an historic day! The Paris Climate Agreement will become international law. Currently 96 countries have ratified the agreement, representing just over two-thirds of the world's greenhouse gas emissions. The Paris agreement will reduce emissions toward a shared goal of keeping global warming under 2 degrees Celsius, with an aspirational target of no more than 1.5 degrees.

We must begin immediately to “accelerate the momentum” and increase the ambition, according to Christiana Figueres, the former executive secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. This will be necessary, because so far the emissions reductions pledged by countries are not adequate to keeping warming even to 2 degrees. When asked how we can help, she said, “non-state actors (such as religious denominations, and organizations like IPL) can outline our own strong commitments to achieve a zero-emissions economy.”

**[If you haven't already, you can do your part and sign the Paris Pledge today to reduce your carbon footprint and take the first step to accelerate the momentum of Paris.](#)**

Faith groups across the nation have made the Paris Pledge commitment and are responding to the moral call to protect our climate and our planet. Below are just two examples of hundreds of success stories:

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Seattle installed solar panels and saved 29% of its electric bills in the first year. St. Andrew's has reduced its annual carbon emissions by over seven tons of carbon a year, from 63 tons to 56 tons, an 11% reduction from our baseline.

The Franciscan Renewal Center in Arizona used the Cool Congregations “25 Steps under \$25” and worked up to bigger energy efficiency projects such as weatherstripping and replacing 13 of their oldest refrigerators. Their CO2 emissions declined by 27,000 pounds annually!

Has your congregation already taken the Paris Pledge? Has your faith community worked on or planned a project this year to be more energy efficient, use renewable energy, or green your grounds? If so, submit the work you have been doing to potentially win \$1,000 in the Cool Congregations Challenge.

Faith communities across the world have responded to the moral call for a safe climate for our children and our grandchildren. Today we can be proud to say that the IPL community is part of the faithful advocating for stronger action from our government, helping to protect the most vulnerable, and making a difference in our community. Global warming is a big problem, but working together we can solve it.

The Rev. Canon Sally G. Bingham  
President, Interfaith Power & Light

<http://www.interfaithpowerandlight.org/>  
369 Pine St., Suite 700 San Francisco, CA 94104 415-561-4891



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## COME SING BEFORE WORSHIP!

Carolyn Stanley has returned from her Summer sojourn and once again has volunteered to lead pre-worship singing with voice and guitar. It will be every other week, from 9:50-10:15 am. The next one will be Nov 27. In December, we'll also be blessed with Cheryl Keen and keyboard.

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## USEFUL WEBSITES FOR FRIENDS

<http://seymquakers.org>  
[www.fcnl.org](http://www.fcnl.org)  
[www.fgcquaker.org](http://www.fgcquaker.org)  
[www.afsc.org](http://www.afsc.org)  
<http://fwcc.world>  
[www.quakerspeak.com](http://www.quakerspeak.com)  
[www.quakerhouse.org](http://www.quakerhouse.org)

Southeastern Yearly Meeting  
Friends Committee for National Legislation  
Friends General Conference  
American Friends Service Committee  
Friends World Committee on Consultation  
QuakerSpeak: a Quaker YouTube channel.  
Quaker House, Fayetteville

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## REMEMBER

### Note from the Editor:

- Please send articles, favorite passages, book reports and items of interest to Friends.
- Please send important dates, news of Friends/friends, etc.
- Those wishing to receive the newsletter by email, please contact the editor.  
(Editor's email address: [Rich.Frechette@gmail.com](mailto:Rich.Frechette@gmail.com))

## CALENDAR

11-20	Meeting for Worship	10:30 am
	Presentation: Unwritten "Rules" of Meeting for Worship	At rise of meeting
11-24	Thanksgiving Day Dinner at Iona House	Arrive 12:30-1:00 pm
11-24 to 27	SEYM Half Yearly Meeting	
11-27	Pre-Worship Singing	9:50 am
	Meeting for Worship	10:30 am
12-04	Meeting for Worship	10:30 am
	Pot Luck lunch – all are welcome!	At rise of Meeting
12-11	Pre-Worship Singing	9:50 am
	Meeting for Worship	10:30 am
	Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business	At rise of meeting
	Last Chance Book Club	At rise of meeting
12-18	Meeting for Worship	10:30 am



**Friends Meeting of Fort Myers  
Religious Society of Friends  
c/o Richard Frechette, Editor  
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Address Correction Requested