

FORT MYERS MONTHLY MEETING OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Newsletter, Third Month, 2017

Worship: In the Iona House at the Calusa Nature Center
Mailing Address: 902 Big Pine Way, Fort Myers, FL 33907
Website: fortmyersquakers.org
E-mail: FtMyers.Quakers@gmail.com

Clerk: Nancy Fennell (239-437-4615)
Recording Clerks: Kathy Hale / Richard Frechette
Treasurer: John Battin

- Worship: Every Sunday at 10:30 AM
 - 1st Sunday of the Month: Pot Luck Lunch
 - 2nd Sunday of Month: Meeting for Worship
With Attention to Business
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QUERIES & ADVICES *from Faith & Practice of Southeastern Yearly Meeting*

On Harmony Within the Meeting Community

Queries:

- Are meetings for business held in the spirit of meetings for worship?
- In decision-making, do we promote a spirit of love, understanding, and patience as we seek unity on an appropriate course of action?
- Do we keep our remarks simple and speak only as the Spirit leads?
- Are we able to unite in good grace with the sense of the Meeting when our personal desires tend in another direction?
- Do we maintain respect for others, however strongly our opinions may differ?
- Are meetings for business seen as positive opportunities for testing and practicing our spiritual life?

Advices:

- As members, attend the business meetings and extend our support to the meeting's affairs so that the burden will not rest upon a few.
- In meetings for business and in all duties connected with them, seek the leadings of the Light.
- Avoid undue persistence. As we release our attachment to our ideas, the Light may reveal solutions none of us has considered.
- Be willing to admit the possibility of being in error. Remember that the foundation of a lasting decision lies in the search for unity—that is, a corporate seeking of the Light in an atmosphere of love, trust, and mutual forbearance.
- Attenders are warmly invited to attend and participate in meeting for worship with a concern for business.
- Have a sense of when to continue to labor on or to lay aside an issue.

MINUTES OF THE FORT MYERS MONTHLY MEETING OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

3rd Month 12, 2017

The Fort Myers Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends met in Iona House on third month twelve, with ten Friends present. The meeting opened with silent worship. Out of the silence, Clerk Nancy Fennell read advices and queries on the subject of Harmony Within the Meeting Community.

MINISTRY & COUNSEL: Richard Frechette reported that the Committee is in need of an additional member. It recommends that the Meeting consider Nancy Murvine for that role, noting that Nancy has been informally approached and has expressed willingness to take on the role.

- ❖ **2017MM7:** We approve Nancy Murvine to serve on the Meeting's Ministry and Counsel Committee.

CLERK'S REPORT:

We received a letter from Nancy Corindia of Sarasota Meeting and SEYM's representative to FCNL. She expressed her gratefulness for our hospitality when she came to our Meeting to talk about FCNL, and invited us to come visit Sarasota Meeting.

THE SEYM COMMITTEE FOR MINISTRY ON RACISM has asked our meeting to take action to address an exception written into in the 13th amendment that allows for involuntary servitude i.e. slavery, as punishment for those that have been convicted of a crime. Our sense is that we unite with that committee, and we ask our SEYM reps to bring this sense back to SEYM. We will await further instruction as to development of a unified plan of action.

The Central Committee of FRIENDS GENERAL CONFERENCE has sensed the need to conduct an institutional self-assessment

to uncover structural racism within the organization of FGC and to prepare plans for the dismantling of such structures. They estimate that undertaking such an assessment and action could cost as much as \$60,000 and they ask that Friends Meetings and individuals consider providing additional financial support for this explicit purpose. We note that we currently provide \$1,200 in support to FGC. At this time, we are not in unity on providing a special contribution. Rather we will await further information from the SEYM Gathering in April.

FINANCIAL REPORT: On behalf of Treasurer John Battin, Tom Dudley Fennell distributed and presented the February 2017 Treasurer's Summary. He notes that we seem to be in good shape financially to date. *(financial data on next page)*

OUTREACH COMMITTEE: Pat Iyer distributed a draft flyer of our planned Musical Earth Day Program on Saturday, April 22. The draft will also be shared with the CNCP administration for review. Pat also noted that the Committee is seeking contributions of goods from some local retailers.

PROPERTIES COMMITTEE: The Committee has met with three different contractors about modifying our current Heating and Cooling system for Iona House and is continuing to research which type of system would best meet the needs of the Quakers and the CNCP.

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

Richard Frechette
Co-Recording Clerk

February, 2017 Treasurer's Summary				
YEAR TO DATE SUMMARY				
			<u>Feb-16</u>	<u>Feb-17</u>
	Contributions		\$ 2,810	\$ 2,590
	Outlays		\$ (688)	\$ (437)
	Difference		<u>\$ 2,122</u>	<u>\$ 2,153</u>
	General Fund Cash on Hand Feb 1, 2017			\$ 8,689
	General Fund Contributions Feb, 2017			\$ 1,025
	Budgeted Outlays Feb. 2017			\$ (229)
	Transfer to Gen Funds Savings			\$ (7,332)
	Cash on Hand Feb 28, 2017			<u>\$ 2,153</u>
#####				
	General Funds Savings Jan 31, 2017			\$ 7,577
	Transfer From General Funds Checking			\$ 7,332
	Special Contrib. to Lee Interfaith (LIFE)			\$ (2,000)
	Interest Earned			\$ 3
	General Funds Savings February 28, 2017			<u>\$ 12,912</u>
	Allocations of General Funds Savings			
	Contingency			\$ 3,728
	Meetinghouse			\$ 3,728
	Properties			\$ 3,728
	P&SC			\$ 1,728
				<u>\$ 12,912</u>



Don't forget to bring non-perishables to Meeting for the Harry Chapin Food Bank.

First Day School:

We offer First Day School for children ages 5+. If you intend to bring a child for First Day School, we ask that you contact Nancy Murvine (239-394-5534) ahead of time so that appropriate material can be prepared. Also, contact Nancy if you have any questions.

SEYM 2017 Gathering & Annual Sessions

April 12-16, 2017

United Methodist Life Enrichment Center, Fruitland Park, Florida

- *This Year's Theme is* **Climate Justice**
 - **Peterson Toscano** will lead the Walton Retreat and present the Walton Lecture
 - There are 26 individual Workshops, Discussion Groups and Presentations
 - You may register for the entire Gathering, or for any individual days/nights
 - Children under 18 can participate for free; financial assistance is also available for adults
 - You may register online, via mail, or via telephone.
 - For more information, go to seymquakers.org or pick up materials at our Meeting's information table
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Musical Earth Day Program

Saturday, April 22, 2017

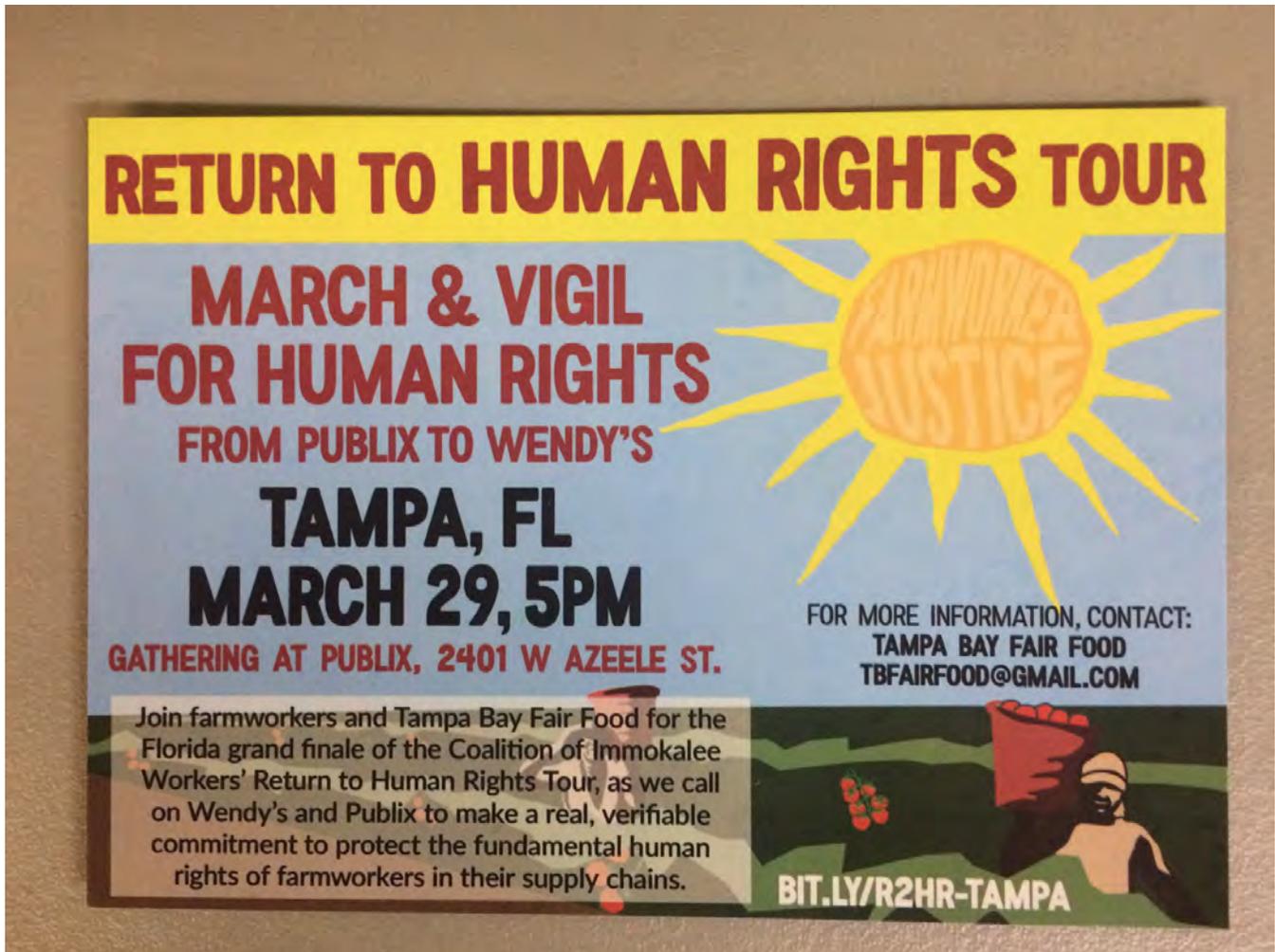
10:30 AM - 11:30 AM



There will be a variety of Earth Day related activities at the Calusa Nature Center on Earth Day. Our Meeting is sponsoring a morning program celebrating trees and water with songs, movement, art and activities led by educator and musician Carolyn Stanley. It is geared to children ages 3-12.

Admission: \$5 for children and \$10 for adults (includes all Nature Center Attractions). First 50 children ages 3-12 are free thanks to sponsorship by our Quaker Meeting

There are also other activities on that day coordinated by the Nature Center, and volunteers are invited to help out with the various activities. For more information call 239-275-3435 or visit www.calusanature.org



For more information, go to www.boycott-wendys.org/tour-schedule/tampa. Our own MaryGrace Menner is involved with the Coalition of Immokalee Workers, and encourages Friends to consider attending this important event. Although she will be driving CIW workers from Immokalee, she'll be glad to serve as point person if Friends would like to arrange an informal Ft. Myers car pool. Contact her at MGMenner@gmail.com.

USEFUL WEBSITES FOR FRIENDS

<http://seymquakers.org>
www.fcnl.org
www.fgcquaker.org
www.afsc.org
<http://fwcc.world>
www.quakerspeak.com
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



eRetreats

Are you a person who finds it difficult to get to a spiritual nourishment program in a specific location?

Are you a snow-bird who is away from this community for a period of time?

Would you like to find spiritual nourishment on your own schedule?

Friends General Conference has created an eRetreat version of their Spiritual Deepening Program and invites newcomers and seasoned Friends to build an online spiritual community through an 8-week exploration of Quaker thought and practice.

The eRetreat Schedule for 2017:

- January 9 - March 3, *Silence & Light* eRetreat
- March 26 - May 19, *Silence & Light* eRetreat
- June 4 - August 4, *Beloved Community* eRetreat
- September 24 - November 17, *Silence & Light* eRetreat

"Reading about [other participants'] experiences and ideas was an awe-some experience in itself for me. I truly appreciate the community who succeeded in going deeper individually and with each other. It is a rare opportunity for Friends to join together in this way." (eRetreat participant)

"This eRetreat has been a gentle reminder to 'wait to feel the Spirit' and listen more closely for it....This was a perfect combination of a mini retreat, communal sharing and learning experience." – (eRetreat participant)

About the Spiritual Deepening eRetreat Program

Each week, there will be a new topic with videos, quotations, and activities, and you'll be able to engage at your own time and pace. You'll connect with other participants through discussion boards and one optional video chat session. Participants are encouraged to explore a personal spiritual practice during the 8-week eRetreat.

The next 3 eRetreat series are:

- *March 26 - May 19, Silence & Light*
- *June 4 - August 4, Beloved Community*
- *September 24 - November 17, Silence & Light*

For more information and to register, go to www.FGCQuaker.org, scroll down to the bottom and click on Spiritual Deepening.

Advice from the Santa Fe Monthly Meeting of Friends on Quaker Worship...

"Occasionally someone in Meeting will feel the prompting of the Holy Spirit to give a vocal message. Friends are urged to wait until they are sure that the prompting is genuine and then speak loudly enough that all can hear. Since we believe that "that of God" is within every person, we listen carefully to each message, seeking together for the truth. Sometimes the reason for a message may be unclear, even to the speaker, but we often find out later that it "speaks to the condition" of another listener. It is our custom that speakers be brief (not continuing beyond what they feel they are required by Spirit to say), and that ordinarily they speak no more than once, not dialoguing with each other. Also it is our custom that a respectful period of silence follow each message."

Are You Looking for Spiritual Nourishment Opportunities, But Lack Adequate Funds to Pursue Such Opportunities?

The Meeting's budget for Ministry & Counsel Committee includes "scholarship" funds to assist folks from our Meeting family. Talk to any member of Ministry & Counsel.

Don't Forget: Meeting Retreat with Eduardo Diaz:

- Worship sharing at the Fennell home on Friday 3/17 at 7-8:30 pm
- Retreat at Iona House Saturday 3/18 9:30-4:30

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)

Friends Meeting of Fort Myers
Religious Society of Friends
c/o Richard Frechette, Editor
138 Pinebrook Dr.
Fort Myers, FL 33907-5988

Address Correction Requested



*Iona House
Quaker Meeting Center*

CALENDAR –March & April

All First Days	Pre-Worship Singing	9:50 am
	Meeting for Worship	10:30 am
3/18	Meeting Retreat with Eduardo Diaz (and pot-luck lunch)	9:30-4:30
4/2	Pot Luck Lunch	At rise of Meeting
4/9	Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business	At rise of Meeting
4/12-16	SYEM Gathering in Fruitland Park	
4/22	Quaker-sponsored Earth Day Activity at Iona House	10:30-11:30 am