

# FORT MYERS MONTHLY MEETING OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Newsletter, Fifth 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
- 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday: Pot Luck Lunch
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday: Meeting for Worship With Attention to Business

*From Faith & Practice of Southeastern Yearly Meeting -*

## How do Friends Care for One Another? Education

### Queries:

- Do we share our deepest beliefs and values with each other and with our children, while leaving them free to develop as the Spirit may lead them?
- Does the meeting give the children loving care and promote their spiritual life through religious education and other activities?
- Do we encourage our children's participation in the meeting's work and cultivate their desire for service to others?
- How do we educate our members and attenders about the Bible (especially the teachings of Jesus), other spiritual literature, and the history, principles, and practices of Friends?

### Advices:

- Seek for ourselves and for our children the full development of God's gifts, which is true education.
- Realize that education should continue throughout life and that all should share its opportunities and privileges.
- Make time for regular personal prayer and worship and for reading the Bible, Friends literature, Faith and Practice, the queries and advices, and other sources of spiritual value.
- Seek truth together in our families and among Friends in shared worship and discussion.
- Teach by being teachable. Be open to new ideas and approaches.
- Reach out to that of God in everyone, and endeavor to live out the testimonies of Friends in all the expected and unexpected circumstances of daily life.

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

5th Month 14, 2017

The Fort Myers Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends met at Iona House on 5th month 14, 2017, with 13 Friends present. The meeting opened with a period of silence. Clerk Nancy Fennell read queries on the subject of education of ourselves and of our Friends Community about Quaker values, history, and practices.

Ministry and Counsel: Members of Ministry and Counsel raised for discussion a care issue for an attender of this meeting. Our response after her last visit was to take care of an immediate need, but many additional needs remain. Following discussion, the following Minute was passed:

- ❖ **2017MM9:** Fort Myers Monthly Meeting accepts the ministry of assisting Deborah Green White with a transfer of \$1000.00 from the General Fund contingency allocation to Ministry and Counsel to be used to repair the car and to address the food needs. We will also make continuing efforts to connect her to a greater extent with social services. The Meeting encourages Ministry and Counsel to bring needs to the attention of the Meeting in future.

Treasurer's Report: John Battin presented the monthly report, which is attached with these minutes.

Peace and Social Concerns: With PS&C's support, Nancy Howell presented a concern to provide Draft Education Outreach to young men required to register with Selective Service. A written statement from PS&C states "The outreach would provide education on the nature of conscientious objector status and means of documenting their adherence to this belief in the event of national

conscription. This would be available to young women also, since there have been items of legislation proposed as recently as 2016 to include them as eligible for registration in the Selective Service System although not passed into law at this point." Nancy discussed several logistics ideas for moving forward. Clerk John Battin proposed and the Meeting approved the following minute:

- ❖ **2017MM10:** The Fort Myers Monthly Meeting accepts the Draft Education Outreach as a new ongoing task of the Peace and Social Concerns Committee.

Outreach Committee: Clerk Pat Iyer reported on the successful Earth Day program. Pat proposed ideas for better signage to Quaker Meeting at Iona House and would like to make a request to CNCP to allow free standing sign for Quaker Meeting at Iona House to be placed between the property and the road.

Properties Committee: Suzanne Frechette reported that the pathways were recently recovered with pea gravel.

The minutes of the meeting were read and approved. We ended the meeting with a period of silence.

Kathy Hale  
Co-Recording Clerk

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**TREASURER'S REPORT    PERIOD ENDED 4/30/2017**

	<u>April 2016</u>	<u>April 2017</u>
Contributions	\$5,810	\$5,864
Outlays	<u>\$(1,503)</u>	<u>\$(1,872)</u>
Difference	\$4,307	\$3,992
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General Fund Cash on Hand Apr 1, 2017		\$2,825
General Fund Contributions Apr 2017		\$1,889
Budgeted Outlays Apr 2017		<u>\$(723)</u>
Cash on Hand Apr 30, 2017		<u>\$3,992</u>
#####		
General Funds Savings Apr 1, 2017		\$12,915
Interest Earned		<u>\$4</u>
General Funds Savings Apr 30, 2017		\$12,919
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Allocations of General Funds Savings		
Contingency		\$3,730
Meetinghouse		\$3,730
Properties		\$3,730
P&SC		<u>\$1,729</u>
		\$12,919

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**WORKSHOP – JUNE 18  
with John Battin and Nancy Howell**

Nancy Howell attended a very interesting workshop at Yearly Meeting, given by Quaker House, the Fayetteville N.C. center for counseling, education and social services to military volunteers and veterans. She came back energized to direct some of our outreach efforts toward military issues in our local community. The first step of this is to educate our meeting members and attenders on the concept of “moral injury”, the idea that a major source of the distress experienced during and after military service comes from witnessing and participating in events that violate one’s deepest moral values.

The psychological damage from participating in war was called “shell shock” in the world wars, and came to be labelled “PTSD” in Viet Nam and later wars. During the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, the typical physical injuries tended to be traumatic brain injury, from explosions triggered at a distance, and PTSD was complicated by the long duration and frequent “stop loss” repeated terms of service. Once discharged, the rates of suicide, alcoholism, and self-medication of distress have been found to be very high, and the V.A. has struggled to cope with the demands for

their services. "Moral injury" is one of the concepts that has emerged from this social-medical crisis, including strong feelings of shame, guilt, anger and anxiety.

John Battin served as a Marine in Viet Nam, and has been a long-standing supporter of Veterans for Peace with an interest in veterans' issues. At the workshop at Iona House on June 18, after worship, Howell and Battin will share information and perspectives on moral injury with the Meeting. We will try to learn to recognize the kinds of events that trigger it, the typical forms of reaction to it, and the long-term consequences.

Soup and bread will be served before we start. We expect to be finished by 2 pm.

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## Other Adult Religious Education Events: (Mark your calendar)

- **July 16:** "A Quaker Conversation on SEYM's Queries and Advices for July," guided by Larry Butler
  - **August 27:** A Quaker Conversation on SEYM's Queries and Advices for August," guided by Connie Summerlin
  - **Sept. 17:** "Earthcare Through Recycling," presented by a representative from Lee County Dept. of Waste Management;
  - **October 22:** A presentation by Brad Stocker, co-clerk of SEYM's Earthcare Witness Committee (specific topic to be identified at a later date)
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(A Note from Karen Zentgraf)

Friends,

Hank and I have traveled to Haiti and visited some of the sites where Hope for Haiti does some of its work and has local partners. **Hope for Haiti** has been headquartered in Naples for more than 25 years. We have been volunteering there at the tiny warehouse. The Haitian office is in Les Cayes. Many small rural communities primarily in the south and west of the nation have benefited from HFH's aid. One specific need that the sisters of an orphanage/home quietly voiced when we were there, and a request that has repeatedly been made, is for **reclining wheelchairs**. Periodically we receive regular wheelchairs, but have not received the much-needed reclining version.

If you are aware of any reclining wheelchair that is no longer being used, please know that Hope for Haiti would very much appreciate receiving it as a donation.

To arrange for transportation to the Naples warehouse for shipment to Haiti,  
Contact Cathy Grassi, Gifts in Kind Director,  
239-434-7183,  
1021 5th Avenue North, Naples, FL 34102  
[www.hopeforhaiti.com](http://www.hopeforhaiti.com)

Mesi anpil!  
Karen Zentgraf

## Reflections at Dawn (Roxy Jacobs)

*When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."*

**John 8: 12 NIV**

I rose in darkness and followed a well worn path down to the shore of Lake Gennesaret, maybe more familiarly known to us as the Sea of Galilee. I wanted time alone and had brought my camera hoping to capture the sunrise though few stars were visible in the cloudy pre-dawn sky. The air was lightly scented by unseen flowers and the only sounds were of the water lapping against the old pier before moving past to touch the shore. I had seldom felt such peace. Dawn seemed to come quickly with the first rays that illumined the sky beyond the eastern hills, to the full glory of the sun turning the water to gold.



The lake is not large and one can see the distant shore. As I looked at the surrounding hills and across to Tiberias, thoughts rose up in me that these were the same hills that Jesus knew so well; he would have seen the sunrise just as I had done.

Looking at my photograph now, I recall a guided meditation led by a dear friend retelling the story of Jesus walking on the stormy sea (the Sea of Galilee) in order to reach the disciples whom he had sent on ahead. Suddenly a storm comes up and their small ship is pushed and rocked by the wind and waves.

*<sup>25</sup> And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea. <sup>26</sup> And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear. <sup>27</sup> But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid.*

*<sup>28</sup> And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water. <sup>29</sup> And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus. <sup>30</sup> But when he saw*

*the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying,  
Lord, save me.*

<sup>31</sup> *And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him.. Mt 14:  
25-31 KJV*

If I put myself in the story, in that small wind-tossed ship, will I be like Peter? Will I, for a moment, be brave enough and trusting enough to cry out , "*Lord, bid me come to thee upon the water.*" Will I step from the safety of the ship and stand upon the rushing waves of the sea? — Yes, I will; I have. We all have.

To live in the **Light** is to trust and to leap from the ship time and time again. Every life has its storms and face them we must, each in our own way. Jesus calls us to "Come" just as he called to Peter. It is an invitation to life, life lived more abundantly. We leap, believing the promise, "*Lo, I am with you always , even unto the end of the world.*"

As Friends we are counseled, "Walk in the Light" and in that instant just after we jump from the ship, we like Peter "Walk upon the Water".

There is an old hymn that I love:

*Turn your eyes upon Jesus,  
Look full in his wonderful face,  
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim,  
In the light of his glory and grace.*

We must remember that even if we turn our eyes away, God's gaze upon us is steady and true.

Was Jesus really able to walk upon the water? Did Peter actually jump from the ship and stand on the waves? I believe this story points to truth, even if we are unable to support it factually. My friend suggests that when we demand to know if stories like these really happened, when we ask if such a story was only a dream or a vision for the disciples, perhaps we are missing the point. What matters she says, is **why** the story was told. "This story transcends; it goes beyond normal understanding. It can only be received."

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# Draft SEYM Statement on Climate Change & Environmental Protection

The SEYM Earthcare Committee brought forward a proposed 'Statement on Climate Change & Environmental Protection' at SEYM's Yearly Business Meeting, held April 12-16 at our annual Gathering. The following minute was recorded:

**17YM07** Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends approves the request from the Earthcare Committee to distribute the Statement on Climate Change and Environmental Protection to Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups for their discernment and comment.

The statement, adapted from one by Orlando Meeting, is intended to be sent to Members of Congress and elected state officials, and used wherever helpful in carrying forward our Quaker earthcare advocacy. The committee asks Meetings and Worship Groups to review the statement, and send comments to Earthcare co-clerks [Brad Stocker](#) or [Bill Carlie](#)

## **Draft SEYM Statement on Climate Change and Environmental Protection; Faith statement on Care for the Earth**

It is our experience and testimony that the Light, Life, Love, and Wisdom of God calls us to preserve and protect the Holy creation of which we are part. It is contrary to the Spirit of God to waste or exploit nature on human greed or vanity. We are called to be good stewards of the earth, to live simply and sustainably, with care and reverence for all creation, preserving earth's biodiversity and abundance for future generations.

Therefore, we call on all our members of Congress, members of our state Legislature, state Governors, and local governments to uphold and enact laws, regulations, and policies that protect our natural environment from pollution, habitat loss, and climate change.

We ask you to uphold the integrity of our environmental agencies and protect public lands. The environment belongs to all of us; it is the role of government to preserve it for future generations and defend it against exploitation by private economic interests.

Urgent Action is needed if we are to avoid the catastrophic impacts of climate change. All reputable scientists agree that Climate Change is real, and is caused by increased carbon emissions mostly from burning of fossil fuels. This threatens all life on Earth. Our glaciers are melting, our seas are rising, and our ecosystems are suffering disruption from a warming climate, seasonal weather changes, and more pests and diseases. Climate change is already threatening our economy, impacting our food supply, and causing flooding of coastal communities.

We ask our government to support society's transition to clean energy sources, and redirect subsidies from fossil fuel industries to support displaced workers and communities impacted by the transition to clean energy.

Clean energy is the energy of the future. Countries and communities around the world are proving that alternative energy and sustainable practices are not only viable, but can be a boon to economies. Clean and sustainable sources of energy are now readily available and comparable or cheaper in cost than fossil fuels. Solar and wind power create more jobs than fossil fuel industries.

*“It would go a long way to caution and direct people in their use of the world, that they were better studied and knowing in the Creation of it. For how could [they] find the confidence to abuse it, while they should see the great Creator stare them in the face, in all and every part of it?”*

—William Penn, 1693

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**Since last September, our Meeting has contributed 551 pounds of non-perishable food to those in our community in need. Keep up the good work, Friends. Be sure to bring one or more non-perishable items with you to 1<sup>st</sup> day worship.**

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**FGC**  
**FRIENDS**  
GENERAL CONFERENCE

**2017 FGC Gathering**

Sunday, July 2 - Saturday, July 8

Dear Friends,

As water collects from the vast North American Great Lakes watershed to flow down the mighty Niagara River, we invite you to join the energy of a thousand Quakers converging from far and wide at Niagara University for a week of worship, socializing, learning, deepening, fun and more. Our proximity to Niagara Falls (4 miles | 6 km ) offers numerous sightseeing options as well as the opportunity to reflect on whether your spiritual journey has you in the rapids above the falls, in the midst of great change, downriver from a significant transition or somewhere else on the river. Our theme, **Ripples Start Where Spirit Moves**, invites you contemplate where spirit is moving in your life and those around you and what ripples you notice as a result.

For more information, go to [FGCQuaker.org](http://FGCQuaker.org)

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## USEFUL WEBSITES FOR FRIENDS

<a href="http://seymquakers.org">http://seymquakers.org</a>	Southeastern Yearly Meeting
<a href="http://www.fcnl.org">www.fcnl.org</a>	Friends Committee for National Legislation
<a href="http://www.fgcquaker.org">www.fgcquaker.org</a>	Friends General Conference
<a href="http://www.afsc.org">www.afsc.org</a>	American Friends Service Committee
<a href="http://fwcc.world">http://fwcc.world</a>	Friends World Committee on Consultation
<a href="http://www.quakerspeak.com">www.quakerspeak.com</a>	QuakerSpeak: a Quaker YouTube channel.
<a href="http://www.quakerhouse.org">www.quakerhouse.org</a>	Quaker House, Fayetteville

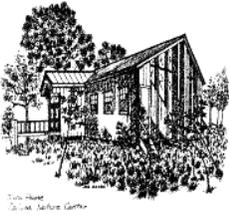
### **Note from the Editor:**

- 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 –June**

All First Days	Pre-Worship Singing	9:50 am
	Meeting for Worship	10:30 am
6/4	Pot Luck Lunch	At rise of Worship
6/11	Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business	At rise of Worship
6/18	Workshop: "Moral Injury"	At rise of Worship



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

