

Tony Hesse
Calusa Nature Center

FORT MYERS MONTHLY MEETING OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Newsletter, Ninth 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: Pot Luck Lunch
- 2nd Sunday: Meeting for Worship With Attention to Business

From Faith & Practice of Southeastern Yearly Meeting -

To what extent is our personal life in accord with Quaker principles? WITNESS

Queries:

- Do our lives reflect Quaker testimonies?
- Are we open and responsive to continuing revelation, and do we incorporate it into our spiritual life?
- Is our Quaker witness characterized by humility and a willingness to learn from others?
- Do we recognize that the Spirit works in the world through us?
- Does our witness lead us to the condition in which we “walk cheerfully over the earth answering that of God in everyone”?
- Do we as a meeting try to share in the religious life of our wider community, availing ourselves of opportunities for worship and service with other local religious groups?

Advices:

- Strive to keep true to the testimonies of integrity and simplicity.
- Try to keep before us the essential truths, and test our life by them.
- Endeavor to make our lives consistent with the high principles we profess. This involves the often-difficult discernment not only between good and evil but also between the better and the best.
- Live adventurously. Let not failure discourage us.
- Witness so that others can perceive the presence of God within us.
- “Be as good as people think you are”. *E. St. John (Jack) Catchpool*

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

7th Month 11, 2017

Clerk, Nancy Fennell, called a Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business at rise of Meeting for Worship. Financial assistance for Mary Grace Menner is a time sensitive issue that needed to be addressed prior to our next scheduled Meeting for Business in Ninth month, 2017. Unity was reached readily by the members and attenders present. The following minute was approved.

- ❖ **2017MM14:** Fort Myers Monthly Meeting approves a contribution of \$1000 to Quaker Volunteer Service in support of Mary Grace Menner, a participant in the upcoming program which begins in Ninth month, 2017. We are grateful that the funds are made available from Ministry and Counsel's scholarship fund. The Meeting is pleased to support this ministry.

The called meeting ended with this item of business.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Fennell,
Acting recording clerk

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

9th Month 3, 2017

Clerk, Nancy Fennell, called a meeting for business at the rise of Meeting for Worship today to handle several items that were time sensitive and could not be delayed.

Calusa Nature Center and Planetarium had contacted Nancy Fennell, Clerk, seeking a financial contribution for their Family Fall Festival.

- ❖ **2017MM15:** Friends approved a contribution to the Calusa Nature Center in the amount of \$100 for the Family Fall Festival.

Friends were read the following letter prepared by John Battin as Clerk of Peace and Social Concerns. The letter is intended to be read into the public record of the Lee County Board of County Commissioners during their meeting of Ninth Month 5, 2017.

*Board of County Commissioners
Commission Chambers
2120 Main Street Fort Myers, Florida*

Ninth month 3, 2017

Dear Commissioners,

The Lee County chapter of the NAACP has asked this Board to replace the current portrait in the Board's public meeting chambers with one of Robert E. Lee in civilian attire.

We stand with and support the request made by these advocates, a request made as well by many other members of our community. We urge the Board of Commissioners to adopt this plan of a new portrait in civilian attire as a symbol of civic duty and peaceful promotion of all of our citizens' interests.

*In peace and respect,
Nancy Fennell, Clerk of the Meeting
John Battin, Clerk of Peace and Social Concerns*

- ❖ **2017MM16:** Friends approved the above letter to be read into the record of the Lee County Board of County Commissioners.

Lastly, Friends discussed sending a contribution to South Central Yearly Meeting to distribute for Hurricane Harvey relief.

- ❖ **2017MM17:** Friends approved a donation of \$300 to be sent to South Central Yearly Meeting for distribution of Hurricane Harvey victim relief. Individual members and attenders may add to this donation as they so choose.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Fennell
Acting recording clerk

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

9th Month 24, 2017

Clerk Nancy Fennell called a meeting for business at the rise of Meeting for Worship today to handle an item that was time sensitive and could not be delayed. We received a letter from the Treasurer of Camden Friends Meeting in Camden Delaware, along with a check from that Meeting in the amount of \$1050. This was a contribution to support relief from Hurricane Irma in our area, as determined by Fort Myers Friends.

We discussed possible uses:

We determined that none of our Meeting Family were impacted by Irma in such a way that they required financial assistance.

Several Friends noted the dire need among farm workers in the Immokalee area, especially since so much of their fragile housing was destroyed. These Friends also reported that the Coalition of Immokalee Workers had established an Irma relief fund.

Others observed the continuing need for food among so many of the hurricane victims, and reported that the Harry Chapin Food Bank has been successful in directing food to the neediest areas of Southwest Florida. These Friends noted that Harry Chapin has been able to provide in food eight times the value of any contributions.

Friends also felt that we should add to the contribution sent to us by the Camden Friends.

- ❖ **2017MM18:** We gratefully accept the contribution of \$1,050 from the Camden, Delaware Meeting for Hurricane Irma relief support. We wish to add another \$200 from our own funds towards such relief. We approve contributing 50% of the total funds - \$625 – to the Coalition of Immokalee Workers expressly towards Hurricane Irma Relief, and the other 50% to the Harry Chapin Food Bank towards Hurricane Irma Relief.

Clerk Nancy assured us that checks would go out immediately to those organizations, and that she would report back to the Camden Friends Meeting on our behalf.

Respectfully submitted
Richard Frechette
Co-Recording Clerk

AUGUST 2017 TREASURERS REPORT

	<u>August 2016</u>	<u>August 2017</u>
Contributions	\$11,270	\$13,095
Outlays	\$(6,836)	\$(9,481)
Difference	\$4,434	\$3,614

General Fund Cash on Hand June 30, 2017	\$2,034
General Fund Contributions July-Aug 2017	\$4,305
Budgeted Outlays July-Aug, 2017	\$(2,725)
Cash on Hand August 31, 2017	\$3,614

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General Funds Savings June 30, 2017	\$11,700
Interest Earned	\$3
General Funds Savings August 31, 2017	\$11,703

Meeting House Savings June 30, 2017	\$52,676
Meetinghouse CTF Redeemed w/Interest ***	\$18,736
Interest Earned	\$18
Meeting House Fund August 31, 2017	\$71,429

Allocations of General Funds Savings

Contingency	\$2,408
Ministry & Counsel	\$102
Meetinghouse	\$3,731
Properties	\$3,731
P&SC	\$1,732
	\$11,703

In August the FGC Meetinghouse Fund redeemed all of its outstanding certificates plus accrued interest. Our Certificate was for \$18,500 and interest was \$236.

FROM THERON WHITE <theronwhite@gmail.com>

Peace to you and the Friends:

"How beautiful are the messengers that bring us good tidings of peace."

Scientists found a signal from a star. They hypothesize it would be a sign of intelligent life because it repeats exactly the same signal every cycle. That changes the creation story, but I, as do many others, believe the Bible is still being written in continuous revelations.

Though I am not active in a meeting, I learned Quakerly ways and continue to live them as truly that I can.

Thank you for linking me to the Friends.

Starlings

Now scientists engaged in the search for extraterrestrial intelligence say that one repeating fast radio burst (FRB) is being heard twittering away.

"Mysterious Signal from Outer Space Goes Hyperactive" (c/net August 30, 2017)

They neither sow nor they reap.
So, what do they do?
Parliament of owls,
Murder of crows,
Quarrel of sparrows,
Conspiracy of ravens --
You can't question what they do --
But starlings, the lowest in bird-dom,
Are a murmuration.
Starlings do not murmur.
They yak, chirp, chatter and squeak.
Hundreds amass on power lines
At Sample Road and Federal Highway.
Maybe high voltage at their feet
Lends a buzz to their behavior.
Nowhere in the city do they gather
But just that particular place.

Roll down the windows, listen.
They have front row seats
In the city's Coliseum to spectate
Combat of cars,
Mashups of motorcycles,
Crunch of pedestrians under wheels,
Rage of monster pickups,
Panic of sirens,
Go-get-a-job of homeless humans.
Is it the folly below them
That feeds their conversations?
Their murmuring is booing and cheering?
No.
Messengers to humankind,
What are you saying, so urgently?
We need not choose something like a star
When starlings will tell us what we must.

LEE INTERFAITH FOR EMPOWERMENT (L.I.F.E.)

The LIFE Organization is comprised of many different congregations, who in turn represent many different traditions. Each of its congregations believes something different about the nature and name of god. But, each of us shares a commitment to pursue justice guided by our own faith. We find, in the things we share, the strength that unity can bring. We vow to respect each other for the things we share, and for the ways we are different.

Fort Myers Quaker Meeting has been a member of LIFE for several years. Together, we have addressed issues such as expanded use of civil citations for youthful offenders, establishment of anti-bullying programs, elimination of the “have you ever been...?” check box in government employment applications, and increased prosecution of murder cases.

L.I.F.E. will hold its annual assembly, in which participants select the principle issue(s) on which we will focus during the coming months on Monday, October 16 at Mt. Herman Ministries, 2856 Douglas Street, Fort Myers. Registration begins at 6:30 PM, and the events will be from 7:00 to 8:30 PM. **Fort Myers Friends are encouraged to attend.** For more information, contact John Battin, Clerk of Peace & Social Concerns Committee (vfptmyers@gmail.com, 239-437-8716).

PRE-WORSHIP SINGING Resumes:

For those who love traditional Quaker worship, but also love to sign together with Friends, we will end the Summer (singing) dry spell and invite any/everyone to come together to sing hymns at about 9:50 AM on first days, ending in time to center down for our 10:30 meeting for worship. Copies of the Worship in Song Books are available. Sometimes we may have instrumental accompaniment, sometimes we will sing a cappella.

Southeast Yearly Meeting's Fall Interim Business Meeting (FIBM) will be held on Saturday, October 8 at the Sarasota Meetinghouse, 3139 57th Street, Sarasota, FL. All are welcome.

The schedule is.:

- 8:00 am Coffee & fellowship
 - 9:00 am Worship
 - 9:30 am Committee meetings (*all are welcome to attend*)
 - 12 noon Lunch provided by Sarasota Friends
 - 1:00 pm Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business
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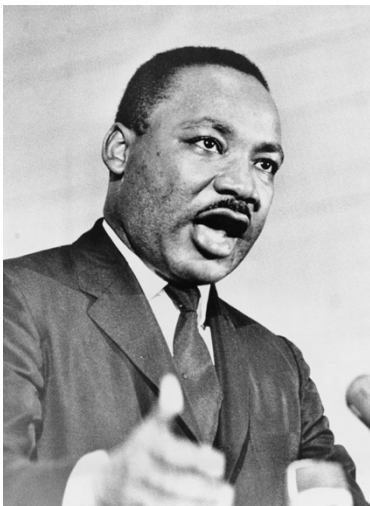
Note from the Editor:

- 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)

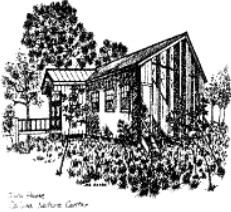
CALENDAR

All First Days	Pre-Worship Singing	9:50 am
	Meeting for Worship	10:30 am
10/1	Pot Luck Lunch	At rise of Worship
10/7	SEYM – Fall Interim Business Meeting (Sarasota)	See schedule above
10/8	Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, following simple meal of soup and bread	At rise of Worship
Mon 10/16	L.I.F.E. Assembly of Congregations @ Mt. Herman Ministries	Registration 6:30 PM Events 7-8:30 PM
10/22	Presentation by Brad Stocker, Co-Clerk of SEYM's Earthcare Witness Committee	At rise of Worship
Sat 12/9	Memorial Meeting for Phyl Stanley	2:00 pm



Six Principles of Kingian Nonviolence

1. Nonviolence is a way of life for courageous people.
2. The Beloved Community is the Framework for the Future.
3. Attack forces of evil, not persons doing evil.
4. Accept suffering, without retaliation, for the sake of the cause to achieve the goal.
5. Avoid internal violence of the spirit as well as external physical violence.
6. The universe is on the side of justice.



**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

USEFUL WEBSITES FOR FRIENDS

<http://seymquakers.org>

Southeastern Yearly Meeting

www.fcnl.org

Friends Committee for National Legislation

www.fgcquaker.org

Friends General Conference

www.afsc.org

American Friends Service Committee

<http://fwcc.world>

Friends World Committee on Consultation

www.quakerspeak.com

QuakerSpeak: a Quaker YouTube channel.

www.quakerhouse.org

Quaker House, Fayetteville