



Tony Hale
Calusa Nature Center

FORT MYERS

MONTHLY MEETING

OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Newsletter, Second Month, 2018

Worship: In the Iona House at the Calusa Nature Center
Mailing Address: 117 East Mariana Ave. North Fort Myers FL 33927

Clerk: Joan Culver (joanculver@gmail.com)
Recording Clerks: Kathy Hale / Richard Frechette
Treasurer: John Battin

- 1st Sunday of the Month: Pot Luck Lunch
 - 2nd Sunday of Month: Meeting for Worship
With Attention to Business
-

QUERIES & ADVICES from Faith & Practice of Southeastern Yearly Meeting

2. Meeting for Worship With Attention to Business

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

2nd Month 11, 2018

The Fort Myers Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends met in Iona House on 2nd Month 11 with 13 Friends present. The meeting opened with a period of silent centering. Clerk Joan Culver read queries and advices concerning Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. Some discussion followed regarding application of the queries and advices to our participation in Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business.

Ministry and Counsel. Clerk Richard Frechette read the draft statement of the Spiritual State of the Meeting. Friends felt in unity with the statement.

❖ **2018MM3. The Meeting approves the following report of the Spiritual State of the Meeting.**

Meeting for Worship remains our spiritual home where we find a balance, often a healing one, between our outer and inner lives. Through the process of silent waiting and in the messages given in spoken ministries, we may gain spiritual direction and awareness. Without judgment and allowing for silent time between messages, we can remain open to leadings and to Truth that speaks to us through Friends' messages. Individually we may feel strengthened and deepened by Spirit-led messages. As a community, we may be gathered as one in the Light. Several members have said they have felt one or another of our meetings for worship to be gathered/covered, a testimony to the love and Light in our Meeting and to the blessing of a variety of voices in our spoken ministries.

Beyond the time of First Day Meetings, we encourage Friends to strengthen their spiritual lives through adult education under the active guidance of a committee, through prayer groups meeting between First Days, and through small spiritual formation groups. The hope is that these practices, in addition to the ministries spoken in Meeting, will be guides for our members and attenders to carry on a Spirit-filled life in their secular ones. In addition, with new attenders coming in, we have set into motion a Quakerism 101 course. And, in the spirit of fellowship, several social gatherings such as Thanksgiving and Christmas pot luck dinners are becoming a tradition.

We try to be aware of and minister to those in our community who struggle to find peace in this currently very chaotic world. We affirm the pain and feelings of helplessness of Friends for the sufferings in the world – ethnic wars, refugee crises, nuclear threats – that seem to lie beyond our individual scope to change. As an aging community, we also must be tender to the feelings of loss we face. This year we witnessed the loss of four beloved members of our Meeting family: the death of Phyllis Stanley, a founding member; the death of Susan Curra, long term winter resident from the Vassalboro (ME) Meeting; the move of Tom Dudley and Nancy Fennell, long time members and weighty Friends, to move closer to family. The loss of these Friends

created a great void in our hearts and in the life of the Meeting. In addition, a number of our Quaker family continue to be burdened with mental, emotional and physical health issues which need our support and understanding.

This year we were happy to welcome into membership a convinced Friend and to accept the transfer of three more from other Yearly Meetings. We believe this speaks to the strength of our Meeting as a welcoming group for those seeking a community of worship. At the same time, one member gave up membership to become a part of another faith community. While we honor that spiritual searching will take people in many wonderful directions, this loss is a humble reminder that we sometimes fail those we care about and need to be more mindful of individual's personal needs and concerns as they make their spiritual journey among us.

We continue to seek the presence of God outside the Meeting and to share the Light and love of our Meeting with others beyond our walls. We have reached out to one specific family, not of our Meeting, who has come personally to ask our help in times of crisis. Friends bring food weekly to be given to a local food bank. We support one member's new leading to work with conscientious objectors. Other members announce letter and petition writing opportunities that address various social issues. We are committed to both our outreach program and to the work of our Peace and Social Concerns committee. We are especially grateful for the tireless work of Peace and Social Concerns as participants with the Lee Interfaith for Empowerment (LIFE) to make changes for social justice in the county. As a small community, our committees often have small numbers and overlapping members. We hope that, through our Outreach Committee, our presence in the community will invite more people to join us and support our efforts.

Last year's spiritual state of the Meeting mentioned that the Meeting missed having children and a wider distribution of ages in attendance in Meeting. That has delightfully shifted this year with the regular attendance of a few mothers and their young children. Their presence also reminds us that in our current place of worship we no longer have access to a space to serve as a First Day school or a nursery. We wait on the Light to show us a way, grateful for the new voices among us.

Treasurer's Report. Treasurer John Battin presented the January 2018 contributions and expenditures report and responded to questions. He then presented a comparison of 2016 and 2017 assets, liabilities, and fund balances in all the Meeting's accounts, and both reports will be included with the newsletter.

Finance Committee. Kathy Hale reported that the available members of the Finance Committee met and that she will chair the Committee.

Nominating Committee. Nominating Committee is seasonal and has nothing to report.

Adult Religious Education Committee. The Committee has nothing to report at this time.

First Day School Committee. Co-Clerks Richard Frechette and Nancy Howell report that there is nothing to report.

Peace and Social Concerns Committee. Carolyn Stanley is chair of Peace and Social Concerns, and the committee is interested in the issues and needs of the Immokalee workers. They have learned that many Quakers are already working with the Immokalee workers, and the Committee is considering how to coordinate with them effectively. Among other projects, the committee is supporting Life's intention to persuade the Lee County Commission to set up a Children's Services Council. There will be a Nehemiah meeting of Life members on March 20 at 6:30 and Friends are encouraged to attend. More information will be provided.

Hospitality Committee. The Hospitality Committee has no report.

Properties Committee. The Properties Committee has nothing to report.

Outreach Committee. Outreach met on Feb. 5, and Nancy Howell reported for Clerk Pat Iyer that a number of projects are progressing. New business cards are available to be picked up on the table. The committee plans to contact college campuses and post Friends' welcome notices on the bulletin boards. The committee is creating the conscientious objector section on our website so that it will include for each section a hyperlink to a Quaker discussion of the topic. Because the No Trespassing signs outside Iona House designed to keep homeless people away seem unwelcome to visitors, we will cover them on Meeting days and will also post signs directing people to Friends Meeting. The tri-panel sign outside the door will have one panel that posts the time of Friends Meeting.

Calusa Nature Center and Planetarium. There is nothing to report.

New Business. There is no new business at this point.

Minutes of the meeting were read and approved. The Meeting ended with a period of silence.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Hale,
Co-Recording Clerk



BOGOs at your local Market?

- One for Thee;
- One for the food bin in Iona House kitchen for the Food Bank

Statement of Balance Changes 12.31.2016 - 12.31.17			
General Fund Checking			
	Balance 12.31.2016		\$ 7,831.81
	Contributions	\$ 22,810.02	
	Outlays - Gifts, Expenses	\$ (16,925.61)	
	2016 Surplus to General Fund Savings	\$ (7,331.81)	
	Transfer to Meeting House Savings	\$ (1,000.00)	
	Net Fund Changes		\$ (2,447.40)
	Balance 12.31.2017		\$ 5,384.41
General Funds Savings			
			\$ 7,574.74
	Transfer From General Funds Checking	\$ 7,331.81	
	Outlay - Gifts	\$ (3,224.86)	
	Interest Earned	\$ 26.70	
	Net Fund Changes		\$ 4,133.65
	Balance 12.31.2017		\$ 11,708.39
General Funds Friends Fiduciary Fund			
	Balance 12.31.2016		\$ 18,991.24
	Dividends Reinvested	\$ 762.17	
	Market Value Change	\$ 2,527.78	
	Net Fund Changes		\$ 3,289.95
	Balance 12.31.2017		\$ 22,281.19
Meeting House Certificate of Deposit			
	Balance 12.31.2016		\$ 18,500.00
	Interest Earned Thought August, 2017	\$ 513.50	
	Transfer To Meetinghouse Savings	\$ (19,013.50)	
	Net Fund Changes		\$ (18,500.00)
	Balance 12.31.2017		\$ -
Meeting House Savings			
	Balance 12.31.2016		\$ 47,268.10
	Ctf of Deposit Redeemed w/Inverest	\$ 19,013.50	
	Contributions	\$ 5,054.91	
	Transfer From General Fund	\$ 1,000.00	
	Interest Earned	\$ 128.75	
	Net Fund Changes		\$ 25,197.16
	Balance 12.31.2017		\$ 72,465.26
Meeting House Friends Fiduciary Fund			
	Balance 12.31.2016		\$ 8,837.15
	Dividends Reinvested	\$ 354.66	
	Market Value Change	\$ 1,176.26	
	Net Fund Changes		\$ 1,530.92
	Balance 12.31.2017		\$ 10,368.07

January 2018 Treasurer's Summary			
YEAR TO DATE SUMMARY			
		January	January
		2017	2018
	Contributions	\$ 1,565	\$ 2,531
	Outlays	\$ (207)	\$ (1,114)
	Difference	\$ 1,358	\$ 1,417
<hr/>			
	General Fund Cash on Hand Jan 1 ,2018		\$ 5,384
	General Fund Contributions Jan, 2018		\$ 2,531
	Budgeted Outlays Jan. 2018		\$ (1,114)
	Cash on Hand January 31,2018		\$ 6,802
		#####	
	General Funds Savings Jan 31, 2018		\$ 11,710
	Meeting House Savings Jan 31,2018		\$ 72,474
<hr/>			
	Allocations of General Funds Savings		
	Contingency	\$ 2,511	
	Meetinghouse	\$ 3,733	
	Properties	\$ 3,733	
	P&SC	\$ 1,733	
		\$ 11,710	

Carolyn Stanley

What is it like to be a life-long Quaker? Most of us come to Quakerism later in life. Carolyn was born into it. Carolyn's mother came from many generations of Friends; Carolyn's father was a convinced Friend. Carolyn's parents met at CPS camp – Civilian Public Service - when her mother and some friends working at the AFSC went to visit some of the camps. (These camps operated from 1941 to 1947 to provide “work of national importance” for conscientious objectors. After time spent in base camps, many men opted to perform Detached Service, where they volunteered for special project work in units within public health, state mental hospitals, state training schools, dairy testing or other farm work,

smoke jumping, government research, human guinea pig research, or with the National Service Board for Religious Objectors [NSBRO] and related agencies on relief and other projects.)

Carolyn's parents had 4 children: Carolyn's older brother, Larry Tuttle (Ft. Myers MM attendee), Carolyn and her 2 younger brothers. After living in Illinois where her father taught at University of Illinois in Champaign, Carolyn moved to the Philadelphia area where her father got a job with the American Friends Service Committee. Carolyn entered Lansdowne Friends School in fifth grade and attended Westtown Boarding

School (a Quaker school just west of Philadelphia) for high school.



Carolyn grew up with the activities of activist Quakers: wearing arm bands and participating in vigils against the war. In high school, Carolyn read about the many wars that have been caused by organized religion and began to question organized religion. She went to Wilmington College, where she met her husband, and then graduated from Michigan State College. She earned a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education at MSU and a Masters Degree in Special Education at Ohio University.

David and Carolyn settled in Barnesville, Ohio, where she worked as an elementary school teacher of children with learning disabilities. They bought a 55-acre farm and were "back to the landers". They built their first home after camping in a tent trailer. The house did not have central heat, and they went to laundromat to wash their clothes. Her father used to write to them, "Dear Pioneers"! After 15 years they had a new 'dream house' built by contractors and they saved the original house as a guest house and shop. "We were flower children of the 70's", Carolyn laughs.

Carolyn encountered a different form of Quakerism in Barnesville where a conservative branch of Quakerism with an unprogrammed meeting was held. "Some thought AFSC was communistic." Ohio had three forms of Quakerism: conservative unprogrammed, liberal unprogrammed and programmed. Carolyn grew up with liberal unprogrammed meetings in the Philadelphia area and was not comfortable attending the conservative meeting in Barnesville.

A trip to South America – how exciting! A student at Olney Friends School where David was teaching invited them to come to Ecuador to meet her family. Their only cost was going to be a plane ticket. Then David's brother who was an airline steward was able to get them tickets so their 25th wedding anniversary was planned around an inexpensive trip to Ecuador.

Once in Ecuador, the trip involved a big hike to get to the girl's family home. They met an Ecuadorian family with a girl who later came to live with Carolyn and David for 2 years during high school and became like a daughter to them. Carolyn and David's lives have become intertwined with another Ecuadorian family with 5 children who they have helped support. If Carolyn moved anywhere it would be to Ecuador. She loves being outdoors there and hopes to spend the month of August in Ecuador.

Most of Carolyn's adult life she has been questioning her spirituality. She does not know who or what God is and usually conceives of God as energy (power? light?) that connects all life. Although she was raised in a pacifist family, she often questions the peace testimony and the queries regarding peace – is it pie in the sky to believe that the world can come to peace? Is there really anything we can do to bring the world to peace? She came to Fort Myers Monthly Meeting out of curiosity and to meet like-minded people. She has found a wonderful group of people to get to know there. Carolyn and David are also drawn to music. Carolyn is happiest when she is

singing. They play at the Listening Room at the All Faith Universalist Church, and a couple other venues in the area. Having

sold their Ohio home, they are now year-round Florida residents.

Interview by Pat Iyer

Quaker Writings: "An Uncalculated Risk"

This excerpt from a pamphlet published by the AFSC in 1955 was read during a recent Meeting for Worship, and a Friend requested that it also appear here in the newsletter. If you have encountered a powerful piece of text that Friends might enjoy reading, consider sharing a short excerpt with the editor.

We know of but one way to meet the forces of disintegration that threaten us. The first step is to release into society integrated men and women, whose lives are at one with God, with themselves and with their fellow men. But even this is not enough. If there is to be a religious solution to the social problem there must also be renewed in a disintegrating society the sense of community, of mutuality, of responsible brotherhood for all men everywhere. Such community is built on trust and confidence, which some will say is not possible now because the communist cannot be trusted. The politics of eternity [do] not require that we trust him. They require us to love him and to trust God. Our affirmation in this day is that of John Woolman in his: "I have no cause to promote but the cause of pure universal love." We call for no calculated risk on behalf of national interest or preservation; rather for an uncalculated risk in living by the claims of the Kingdom, on behalf of the whole family of man conceived as a divine-human society.

The politics of eternity works not by might but by spirit; a Spirit whose redemptive power is released among men through suffering endured on behalf of the evildoer, and in obedience to the divine command to love all men. Such love is worlds apart from the expedient of loving those who love us, of doing good to those who have done good to us. It is the essence of such love that it does not require an advance guarantee that it will succeed, will prove easy or cheap, or that it will be met with swift answering love. Whether practiced by men or nations, it well may encounter opposition, hate, humiliation, utter defeat. In the familiar words of the epistle, such love suffers long, is always kind, never fails. It is a principle deeply grounded in the years of Quaker sufferings, imprisonments and death. From the dungeons of Lancaster Castle, Friends spoke this Truth to Power: "*But if... not then shall wee lye downe in the peace of our God and patiently Suffer under you.*" *This is the Spirit that overcomes the world.*

(American Friends Service Committee, "Speak Truth to Power," 1955, pp. 68-9; as quoted in NEYM Faith and Practice, 1984, pp. 195-6.

Note from the Editor: (Editor's email address: Rich.Frechette@gmail.com)

- 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.

2018 Southeastern Yearly Meeting Gathering & Annual Sessions March 28 – April 1, 2018

United Methodist Life Enrichment Center, Fruitland Park, Florida

Join Friends from all over the SEYM region and beyond for 5 days of retreats, workshops, worship-sharing, the Walton Lecture, Intergenerational fun, a great Youth Program, and our Yearly Business Meeting Sessions.

54th Annual Walton Lecture • Saturday, March 31st • 7 pm **“Quaker Response in Turbulent Times”**

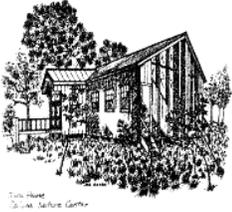
...presented by Dr. Sa'ed Atshan, an Assistant Professor of Peace and Conflict Studies at Swarthmore College. He has worked for the American Civil Liberties Union, the UN High Commission on Refugees, Human Rights Watch, Seeds of Peace, the Palestinian Negotiations Affairs Department, and the Government of Dubai. Atshan is Quaker, grew up in Palestine, and is also an LGBTQ rights activist.

You may register for a day, for the entire period, or for anything in between. There are various options for food and lodging. Scholarships are available (contact any member of FtMMM Ministry & Counsel Committee).

For more information go Online at www.seymquakers.org or pick up a folder at the Meeting-house. You may register online or via telephone. Registration deadline is March 6.

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
www.quakervoluntaryservice.org	Quaker Voluntary Service
www.quono.org	Quaker United Nations Office



**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

MEETING CALENDAR

All First Days	Pre-Worship Singing	9:55 am
	Meeting for Worship	10:30 am
Sun 2/18 & Sun 2/25	Quakerism 101	At Rise of Worship
Sun 3/4	Celebration of David Jossi, Charlie & Norma Lipsen's membership in the Meeting	At Rise of Worship
	Pot luck lunch	At rise of Worship
Sun 3/11	Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business	At Rise of Worship
Sun 3/18 & Sun 3/25	Quakerism 101	At Rise of Worship
3/28-4/1	SEYM Gathering at Fruitland Park (see above)	