

# FORT MYERS MONTHLY MEETING

OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

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Newsletter, Tenth Month, 2016

*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*

**How do Friends meet our responsibilities to the community and the world?**

### **Social & Economic Justice**

#### **Queries:**

- Do we seek to transform the world with our loving spirit?
- Do we take an active interest in the social and economic conditions of our community?
- Have we objectively considered the causes of discrimination, and are we ready to abandon old prejudices and think anew?
- Do we as individuals and as a meeting do all in our power to end governmental, social, economic, and educational injustices in our community and to create equal opportunity for all?
- How do we as individuals and as a meeting promote the welfare of those in need and work to secure a just distribution of the world's resources?
- What are we doing as individuals and as a meeting to understand and remove the causes of war and violence and to develop the conditions and institutions of peace?

#### **Advices:**

- Seek to understand the causes of social ills, and work toward their removal.
- Be not content to accept things as they are, but keep an alert, sensitive, and questioning mind.
- Understand and maintain Friends' witness for truth, simplicity, and nonviolence, holding up your personal life to these testimonies.
- Encourage inclusiveness, and discourage discrimination.
- Friends' belief in that of God in everyone should lead to reverence for all life and to personal integrity.
- Encourage all efforts to overcome prejudices and antagonisms.
- Cherish diversity.
- Aid and comfort those afflicted or in prison that they may rebuild their lives.
- Work for the abolition of the death penalty.
- Let the way that we live contribute to the realization of a peaceable kingdom on earth.

**MINUTES OF THE FORT MYERS MONTHLY MEETING  
OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS  
10th Month 9, 2016**

The Fort Myers Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends met in Iona House on tenth month 9, with 14 Friends present. The meeting opened with silent worship. Out of the silence, Clerk Nancy Fennell broke the silence by reading advices and queries on the subject of Social and Economic Justice. One Friend noted that it was timely that these queries came at a time coincidental with our considering our future role with the Lee Interfaith for Empowerment (L.I.F.E.) organization.

**Ministry and Counsel Committee:** Clerk Richard Frechette informed Friends that the Committee considered a request of one Friend that it address the matter of individuals during or at the rise of meeting asking the meeting for emergency financial assistance. The response the last few times had been a “passing of the hat.” The Committee wishes to recommend a future process and presents a draft minute for Friends to consider. In response, one friend suggested that we have on hand grocery market gift cards that could be available to meet an occasional emergency need. We discussed a particular case that occurred this year, and M&C responded that one of the committee will take steps to try to reach out to this individual. Friends approved the following minute:

- ❖ **MINUTE 16MM12:** When an individual or group during or at rise of meeting requests emergency financial assistance, the meeting will not take immediate action such as passing the hat. Rather, a member of M&C will inform the individual(s) that members of the Committee will discuss the matter with him/her after meeting. M&C will take appropriate action, if needed.

**Clerk’s Report:** Nancy Fennell read and spoke about the Spiritual State of the Meeting report from Tallahassee. “We seek to stay open to God’s guidance in dealing with our challenges, which will further strengthen our community and witness to the wider world.” “Meeting teaches us to make room for those different from ourselves, to listen to and sit with challenging statements, yet continue to experience the inclusion of us all.” “Many of us who travel or have a wide range of life responsibilities must periodically miss Meeting for Worship, sometimes for several weeks, but find experience of meeting an anchor as we seek times of quiet when we are away.”

The Clerk also announced that SEYM has hired Beverly Ward, a member of Tampa Meeting, as its Secretary for Earthcare Witness.

**Properties Committee:** Clerk Mary Smiley informed Friends that the Committee would be planning a work session for after the Nature Center’s Haunted Walk.

**Outreach Committee:** The new website is under construction and progressing well. Having started the food collection program since last month, over 27 pounds of food was brought to the Harry Chapin Food Bank. We discussed whether it would be better for us to donate money vs non-perishable foods. One Friend thought that doing both helps us to remain cognizant of the needs of our larger community.

**Religious Education:** Nancy Fennell will lead a workshop on November 20 on the Unwritten “Rules” of Meeting for Worship

### Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer John Battin distributed and spoke to our financial condition for the period ended September 30, 2016, which is shown here. John asked committees to send in their 2017 budget requests to the Finance Committee within the next month.

### Calusa Nature Center:

Joan Culver reported that the recent Return to Nature fundraising activity was considered successful. It took about 90 days to prepare. Currently CNCP is conducting the Friendly Forest, and at the end of October will be the Haunted Walk. An Office Manager and Education Coordinator have yet to be hired, as well as an Executive Director (the Board chair is still serving as acting Executive Director). We briefly discussed whether our current level of monetary and time support to the CNCP effort is optimal.

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

Richard Frechette  
Co-Recording Clerk

Treasurer's Report			
September, 2016			
General Fund Cash on Hand - September 1,2016			\$ 4,434.32
General Fund Contributions - Sept., 2016			\$ 1,855.00
Budget Outlays Sept, 2016			\$ (113.45)
Cash On Hand Sept. 30, 2016			\$ 6,175.87
Meetinghouse Savings - Sept. 1,2016			\$ 45,935.93
Interest Earned			\$ 13.28
MtgHse Certificate of Interest Deposited			\$ 277.50
Meetinghouse Savings - Sept. 30, 2016			\$ 46,226.71
General Fund Savings - Sept 1, 2016			\$ 12,565.36
Interest Earned			\$ 2.70
Dee Hohimer Bequest Withdrawal			\$ (5,000.00)
General Fund Savings - Sept. 30,2016			\$ 7,568.06
	<b>General Fund Contributions Year To Date</b>	<b>Contributions Budgeted For Year</b>	<b>Contributions Still Needed For Budget</b>
	\$ 13,125.00	\$ 17,920.00	\$ 4,795.00
Budget Category	YTD Outlays	Budgeted Outlays	Outlays Unspent
SEYM	\$ 2,176.00	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 2,324.00
Ministry & Cnsl	\$ 35.00	\$ 3,120.00	\$ 3,085.00
Religious Educ.	\$ 232.72	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 967.28
Newsletter	\$ 236.20	\$ 400.00	\$ 163.80
Hospitality	\$ 214.21	\$ 400.00	\$ 185.79
Finance Comm.	\$ 230.00	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 1,170.00
Nominating	\$-	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Properties	\$ 1,125.00	\$ 1,950.00	\$ 825.00
Peace & Soc .Cnc.	\$ 2,700.00	\$ 3,850.00	\$ 1,150.00
MtngHse Resrv.	\$-	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Total Outlays	\$ 6,949.13	\$ 17,920.00	\$ 10,970.87

## October 30 is Intervisitation Sunday

Southeastern Yearly Meeting has designated October 30 as Intervisitation Sunday and encourages Friends to consider visiting another Meeting or Worship Group for worship on that day. Addresses of all the Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups can be found on the SEYM Website ([seymquakers.org](http://seymquakers.org)) or in the SEYM Directory at Iona House.

## SEYM NEWS: SEYM Field Secretary for Earthcare Hired!

Beverly Ward, of Tampa Meeting, has been hired as Southeastern Yearly Meeting's Field Secretary for Earthcare. Friends gathered at the October 1 Fall Interim Business Meeting celebrated as Barb Letsch read this minute from the Search Committee:

*"It is with joy and a sense of Spirit that the SEYM FSE Search Committee recommends Beverly G. Ward to the position of Field Secretary for Earthcare. Beverly brings a rich and relevant background and depth of understanding to the environmental issues facing SEYM."*

Beverly has a long experience with Friends and a strong commitment to environmental concerns. Her background includes several academic degrees, leading AVP work-

shops, and addressing issues faced by vulnerable communities.

Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups are encouraged to invite the Field Secretary for a visit by contacting Beverly at [fsEarthcare@seymquakers.org](mailto:fsEarthcare@seymquakers.org).

The Field Secretary for Earthcare (FSE) position was created at 2015 Yearly Meeting to assist Southeastern Yearly Meeting, its monthly meetings, and worship groups in discernment of their Earthcare leadings, guiding monthly meeting youth and adults to projects and activities within their communities that promote care for the earth and linking SEYM efforts with the wider Quaker world.



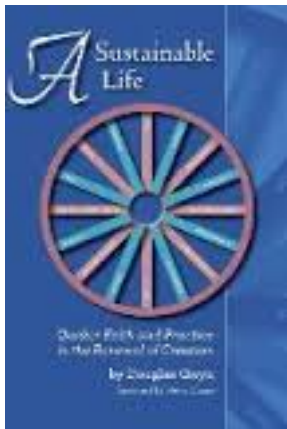
Lee Interfaith For Empowerment will be holding its Annual Assembly on **October 17th at 7:00 PM**. The location is the Mt Hermon Church, 2856 Douglas Ave, Fort Myers, FL 33916 - just off MLK Blvd, three or so blocks east of Fowler Street. With the resignation of LIFE's key Lead Organizer there have been some operational issues. The Assembly's purpose will be to explain LIFE's current situation and its path forward. Our Meeting's Members/Attendees are urged to attend this assembly. According to John Battin, our Peace & Social Concerns Committee Clerk, this presents an opportunity for FtMMM to demonstrate its full support of this valuable community engine for positive change in matters of social justice in concert with other congregations.

### 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

## A Good Read



### *A Sustainable Life: Quaker Faith and Practice in the Renewal of Creation* by Douglas Gwyn

A well-known Quaker historian explores the qualities of Quaker faith and practice that contribute to living sustainably in the world today. He explores such paradoxes as equality and community, unity and differentiation, integrity and personal discernment, and other aspects of life that Quakers have worked to bring into balance through their 350-year history. How have Quakers learned to create the kind of individual and community life that can prepare us to live fully and responsibly into a time of social and planetary change?

The book can be obtained from [www.quakerbooks.org](http://www.quakerbooks.org) and from [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com). SEYM's Peace & Social Concerns Committee are planning a full day retreat for Friday, January 13 (the day before Winter Interim Business Meeting) in Orlando, based on the book. This book may also be a good one for a discussion session at our Meeting.

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## Looking for material for contemplative reading?

Try Patti Levering's blog, **FAITH MATTERS**. Patti, a member of the Davidson Friends Meeting of North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative), has visited Friends at Fort Myers on a number of occasions in the last several years along with her husband Ralph. She says this about her blog:



*"With years of spiritual wrestling and an MDiv from Earlham School of Religion, my heart's desire has been to help people find a life-giving faith that sustains them in good times and bad and brings a flowering of love and joy. I have tried to do so in the various things I have done over the years—as chaplain in an oncology medical practice, spiritual director, teacher with School of the Spirit Ministry's program On Being a Spiritual Nurturer, and member of the Religious Society of Friends. The same desire motivates this blog."*

Some past topics have included: To Be Or To Do, Living In Unknowing, Weakness, To Weed or Not To Weed, Compassion. You can read any of the blog entries, and/or sign up to receive an e-mail of each entry, at <https://pattylevering.wordpress.com>

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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

10-16-16	Meeting for Worship	10:30 am
10-17-16	L.I.F.E. Assembly, Mt. Hermon Church	7:00 pm
10-23-16	Meeting for Worship	10:30 am
10-30-16	Meeting for Worship	10:30 am
	Intervisitation Sunday	
11-6-16	Meeting for Worship	10:30 am
	Pot Luck lunch – all are welcome!	At rise of Meeting
11-13-16	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
11-20-16	Meeting for Worship	10:30 am
	Presentation: Unwritten “Rules” of Meeting for Worship	At rise of meeting



**Friends Meeting of Fort Myers  
Religious Society of Friends  
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Address Correction Requested