



FORT MYERS MONTHLY MEETING OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Newsletter, First Month, 2017

Worship: In the Iona House at the Calusa Nature Center
Mailing Address: 902 Big Pine Way, Fort Myers, FL 33907

Clerk: Nancy Fennell (239-989-2503)
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

1. Meeting for Worship

Queries:

- Are our meetings for worship held in expectant waiting for divine guidance, with a living silence in which we feel drawn together in the Light by the presence of God?
- Do we respond to the Spirit's prompting to minister, whether in silence, through the spoken word, or through action after the meeting for worship?
- Are we sensitive to one another's needs in meeting for worship?
- Are the spiritual gifts within the meeting fostered and encouraged?
- Are our meetings accessible and welcoming to everyone?
- Are our meetings a source of strength and guidance for daily living?
- Is the vocal ministry in our meetings exercised under the leading of the Spirit?

Advices:

- Be prompt and diligent in attendance at meetings.

- Come to meeting with expectant hearts and minds prepared for communion with God.
- Be faithful, be patient, and persevere in our service as messengers of truth.
- To everyone is given a share of the responsibility for the meeting for worship, whether through silence or through the spoken word.
- Quiet our hearts and minds for worship prior to entering the meeting room, so the whole group can be knit together in spiritual fellowship.
- Do not assume that vocal ministry is never to be our part.
- Be ready to speak under the leading of the Light. Learn to recognize when a message felt within is from God and if it is a message intended for the group to hear.
- Pray that our ministry may arise from deep experience of the Divine.

- Let our spoken ministry be audible and free from unnecessary words.
- Avoid speaking in a manner that brings a sense of discussion or debate.
- Allow for a period of silence after a message has been spoken, so the group can reflect on what has been said and

- continue to be grounded in silent worship. Overly long or
- Too-frequent messages can hinder the worship of others present.
- Receive the ministry of others in a tender spirit

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

1st Month 8, 2016

The Fort Myers Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends met in Iona House on first month eight, with nineteen Friends present. The meeting opened with silent worship. Out of the silence, Clerk Nancy Fennell read advices and queries on the subject of meeting for worship. In response to the queries, Friends recognized the challenge we face making audible vocal ministry. We need to consider ways of addressing this problem. The problem can be partially addressed by our following reasonable protocols for sharing at worship, such as standing if able and projecting. Perhaps some type of sound amplification system should be considered. But also the heating/cooling system may need to be changed. Ministry & Counsel Committee will take this concern under consideration, as well as Properties Committee.

MINISTRY & COUNSEL: The Committee has asked Richard Frechette to continue as its clerk for 2017, and Kathy Hale as Interim Clerk whenever he is absent.

The Committee recommends that Keith Wallace be released from membership, noting that he has not participated in the Meeting community in any way for at least eight years, and that attempts over the last few years to communicate with him have been unsuccessful. Friends also noted we probably should formally release from membership Takeisha Velasquez, who had been accepted as a child member of the Meeting, but who years ago left the area, is now an adult and who has not been in communication with the Meeting since her departure.

- ❖ **MINUTE 17MM1:** Friends approve releasing Keith Wallace and Takeisha Velasquez from membership in the Fort Myers Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Treasurer John Battin distributed the year end financial report (period ending December 31, 2016). He noted that we ended the year with a \$7,832 excess of contributions over expenses.

December 2016 Treasurer's Summary		
	Dec-2015	Dec-2016
Contributions	\$21,626	\$20,005
Outlays	\$(14,077)	\$(12,173)
Difference	\$7,549	\$7,832

General Fund Cash on Hand Dec. 1, 2016	\$4,231
General Fund Contributions Dec. 2016	\$4,125
Budgeted Outlays Dec. 2016	\$(524)
Cash on Hand Dec. 31, 2016	\$7,832
General Funds Savings Dec, 2016 ***	\$7,575
Gen. Funds-Friends Fiduciary Dec. 31 , 2016	\$19,003
Total General Funds Dec. 31, 2016	\$34,410
Meetinghouse Savings Dec., 2016	\$47,268
Meetinghouse Certificates Dec 31,2016	\$18,500
Meetinghouse-Friends Fiduciary Dec. 31, 2016	\$8,843
Comments on General Fund Surplus	2015 2016
Meeting Budgets were as follows:	17,800 17,920
Outcomes Were As Follows:	
• Contributions in Excess of Budget Need	\$3,826 \$2,085
• Actual Outlays Under Budgeted Expense	\$3,723 \$5,747
General Fund Surplus For Year	\$7,549 \$7,832

OUTREACH COMMITTEE: Pat lyre, on behalf of the committee, presented a draft of a public invitation for people to come worship with us. This invitation would be placed in the Natural Awakenings magazine. Friends made several suggestions, which the committee will take into consideration.

The Committee also has considered requesting that the Calusa Nature Center place a notice about the Quakers on its electronic board at the intersection of Colonial and Ortiz. Joan Culver, who is on the CNCP Board, noted that the software currently used to drive the board would not be able to accommodate our request.

The committee thinks that we might want to consider sponsoring an event on Earth Day - possibly musical - at the Iona House, and possibly in partnership with the CNCP. Friends suggested that the SEYM Earthcare Secretary could be asked to take a part in this activity. Friends urge the Committee to pursue this further and especially to explore the idea of collaboration with CNCP.

Friends are asked to review the new Meeting website and to give comments to the Outreach committee.

Education Committee :

- On January 29 at the rise of meeting for worship, Nancy Corrindia of Sarasota Meeting will speak to Friends about the Friends Committee on National Legislation.
- On Saturday, March 18, Eduardo Diaz of Miami Meeting will be leading our Meeting retreat on March, with the theme "Deepening our Spirituality". Friends will also be invited to participate in an informal worship sharing with Eduardo on the prior evening.

Peace & Social Concerns: John Battin and Priscilla DeOliveira attended a meeting of Lee Interfaith for Empowerment and will report to Friends in the near future.

The “New Underground railroad”, which we have financially supported in the past, has been renamed Ugandan Safe Transport Organization and continues to assist LGBTQ people in relocating. He suggests that we continue to provide support this year, utilizing surplus 2016 funds. John received a letter from Sojourning Friend Amy VanNocker which included a contribution. In concert with general suggestions Amy made for the use of her contribution, he suggested that her contribution be part of his proposed support of this organization.

❖ **MINUTE 17MM2:** Friends approve contributing \$500 to the Ugandan Safe Transport Organization, which will include the gift from Amy VanNocker.

Other: Chris Ruhnke reminded Friends that our 2017 budget includes \$500 for Grace Methodist Church’s Franklin Park Block Party, which will be held at the end of the first week of March, and passed on the comments of the leaders of that program that just as important as providing funds is building relationships. Hence, we are encouraged to work as volunteers at the activity.

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

Richard Frechette
Co-Recording Clerk

"WHAT IS WORKING IN OTHER MEETINGS FOR OUTREACH?"

The Outreach Committee is working on collecting and exploring ideas for outreach. Several of our Quaker community spend part of the year in another Meeting, have transferred from another Meeting, or visit other meetinghouses periodically.

- What have you seen or heard about that is effectively working for outreach?
- What ideas do you have for outreach?

Please provide the responses to our committee member, Marianne Lee. You may reach her at leemarianne2@gmail.com. Please respond by February 15, 2017.

HARRY CHAPIN FOOD BANK

Contribute to reducing hunger in Lee County by bringing in a nonperishable food item when you come to meeting for worship. We have a collection box in the kitchen which we take to the food bank when it gets full.



Do you see Two-for-One sales (BOGOs) in your supermarket? Buy 2 items, keep one for yourself or donate both. Make it a habit to pick up an item each time you shop.

Also, if you wish to make a financial contribution to the Food Bank, simply place it in the Quaker Oats container in the collection box.

JEANNETTE BOTHA

This month's spotlight is on Jeannette Botha, who was born and grew up in Durban, South Africa. After living the U.S. from age 2 to 10, Jeannette and her family returned to South Africa. Jeannette lived in South Africa during apartheid. Apartheid was a political and social system in South Africa while it was under white minority rule. This was in use in the 20th century, from 1948 to 1994. Racial segregation had been used for centuries but the new policy started in 1948 was stricter and more systematic.

These laws also inaugurated a new phase in the African National Congress (ANC) history. In 1952, the ANC launched the Defiance Campaign against apartheid. With a broadened base that now included women, it adopted the Freedom Charter in June 1955 which declared that South Africa belonged to all of its residents regardless of race.

A militant nationalist group insisted that South Africa belonged to blacks and formed a rival organization, the Pan African Congress (PAC). Both organizations became involved in anti-apartheid resistance and were subsequently implicated in a defiance campaign that provoked violent reprisals in Sharpeville in 1960. The Sharpeville Massacre where 69 protestors were killed by South African police who fired on 300 demonstrators, unleashed worldwide condemnation of the nation. In response, the government declared a state of emergency, and banned both the ANC and the PAC.

Jeannette was raised in the Swedenborgian religion, a religion founded by a Swedish man named Emanuel Swedenborg who lived 1688 to 1772. As a minister, Jeannette's father ran a school for black ministers. His secretary was a black man. Jeannette suspects her father and his secretary

were involved in ANC resistance activities. The police came to the house one night at 3 AM to inspect her father's offices, found nothing and left.

Jeannette was aware of the demeaning effects of apartheid. She recalls being upset that the gardener was called "boy" and the maid was called "girl". As a child she saw a sign on the school bus stop bench that read, "For Europeans only". She said, "That does not apply to me. I am an American."



Jeannette trained to be a registered nurse in South Africa. She comments that nursing school placed a big emphasis on hands on training and less on book work.

Move to the U.S.

After marrying and having children in South Africa, Jeannette and her family moved to the United States. Her family sponsored her husband so he could enter the United States. Jeannette had 4 children within 6 years.

Jeannette and her husband and children have lived in Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Delaware and Florida. Her husband was the vice president of a large cotton mill in North Carolina and retired as the mills were moving activities overseas.

A Quaker nursing home provided Jeannette's first exposure to Quakers. She worked as an aide there and had additional jobs in doctors' offices. She did not work as an RN in the U.S.

Jeannette's husband retired at age 57 or 58, followed by a move to Florida because

two of their daughters live locally in Buckingham, FL.

Unfortunately Jeannette's husband developed Alzheimers. Medications helped him for 6-7 years, and then he deteriorated. He loved attending Fort Myers Meeting, where people fussed over him. He died at the end of December 2016.

A grandmother 5 times over, Jeannette enjoys seeing her 2 daughters who live in Buckingham. Her grandchildren are local. Another son and daughter live in Atlanta.

A nature lover, Jeannette was walked every park in Lee County. She is particularly fond of Corkscrew Swamp and the 6-Mile Cypress Slough

When Jeannette connected with Fort Myers Monthly Meeting, she said, "This is my spiritual home." She says she is not very fundamentalist and believes there is a spiritual meaning to life, and that Christ is within. She takes Quakerism as a whole.

Advice for New People

If you are new to Quakerism, Jeannette advises you to get involved by joining a committee, come to the potluck lunches (the first Sunday of the month) and participate in religious education. Get to know people within the meeting. You will feel welcome.

Interview by Pat Iyre

FROM AMY VANNOCKER:

John Battin received this correspondence from our sojourning F/friend Amy. "Greetings from Myanmar, where I'm now working as the General Manager of Mandalay Coffee Group... Mandalay Coffee Group is a private company composed of various growers, roasters, and retailers, and our anticipated output this season will be around 200MT of green coffee, ready for roasting. I'll do what I can to get some of that into the hands of my Friends in Ft. Myers! I work with kind, interesting, hard-working people everyday, and I am enjoying it immensely. I'm based in Pyin Oo Lwin, a relatively cold town up in the mountains. On a personal note, I'm still enjoying a great relationship with Marcelo, a Chilean man who also works in coffee in Myanmar."



FROM STEVE "WOODY" WOODALL

As many Friends know, Woody made the tough decision to leave our area and establish a home in Athens GA to be close to his two daughters and eight grandchildren. "New Years Day, I visited for the first time the Athens Friends Meeting, joining with 6 regular attenders and members. We sat with knees together in a small yoga studio, which the Meeting has to vacate soon. Business meeting did last for more than an hour, with great uncertainty about who was going to write the minutes and who was going to be clerk for the next 3 months, and where to hide the key for the next week. The small scale was refreshing, but the importance of the role played by you in the FM Meeting was made sharp by the contract." Woody can be reached at stevewoodall50@gmail.com, or (706) 982-1366

ATTEND A WOMEN'S RALLY FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE IN NAPLES:

-- in solidarity with women marching in the Women's March on Washington. **Saturday, January 21** 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM at Cambier Park (755 8th Ave S, Naples)

- * Men are welcome, too.
- * Hear some great Speakers.
- * Watch the Women's March on a big screen TV.

Our Outreach Committee is sponsoring a "Quaker table" at the rally. If you would like to help out at the table, contact Nancy Howell (239-888-9304; howell@chass.utoronto.ca)

LEARN MORE ABOUT FCNL:

The Religious Education Committee would like Friends to reserve **Sunday January 29** at rise of worship for a visit from Nancy Corindia of Sarasota Meeting. She is SEYM's visiting representative for the Friends Committee on National Legislation and will be speaking and answering questions about FCNL for about an hour after our cookies and juice.

"UNWRITTEN RULES FOR MEETING FOR WORSHIP"

On **Sunday, Feb. 19th** at rise of Meeting for Worship, come to a workshop where our own Nancy Fennell will guide us through a fun look at ourselves, as well as a thoughtful review of individual needs in worship. Soup and bread will be offered prior to the workshop.

FORT MYERS MEETING RETREAT

On **Saturday, March 18th**, Eduardo Diaz, will lead us in our **Annual Spiritual Retreat**. Eduardo is a birthright Quaker, born in Cuba, and long-time member of Miami Friends Meeting. A brief biography of Eduardo is being prepared and will be distributed after the first of the year. The title of his focus is "**Deepening our Spirituality.**" Eduardo will be accompanied by his wife, Clara, pictures of his three daughters, and his much-loved grandbabies. Details of the event will be in next month's newsletter.

The Paris Pledge - Am I ready to sign on?

*In an act of solidarity with global leaders and nations at the 2015 UN Climate Talks in Paris, I pledge to **reduce my carbon pollution 50% by 2030 and to become carbon neutral by 2050.** I believe a brighter future is within reach -- a world with an economy that works for people and the planet, a world safe from the ravages of climate change, a world with good jobs, clean air and water, healthy communities, and a world where people of faith everywhere act as stewards of Creation and begin to build a new relationship with the Earth.*



My name is Pam Wilkinson and I am one of the co-directors of Friends Music Camp, a Quaker-run music camp which takes place at Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana. We are actively seeking campers for our sessions this summer. I'm sure it's hard to imagine

planning the summer when winter is barely upon us but I know many people make decisions about their summer early in the year, so I wanted to get in touch to offer a little more information!

FMC is open to campers from 10 to 18 years old at all musical levels. Our session this year runs from July 9 to August 6, 2017. For campers between 10 and 12 years old, there is an option for a two-week session only, which runs from July 9 to July 23.

During the summer, campers attend lessons, sing in the chorus, play in large and small ensembles, act in a musical theater production, take classes, and, of course, have ample time for hanging out and having fun. We ask that prospective campers have had lessons for at least one year on their chosen instrument, OR that they have participated in a school orchestra, band or choral program for at least one year. Evening activities include capture the flag, a dance, outside speakers, visits to the local pool, and other fun activities. Both students and staff perform at weekly recitals and on weekend concerts.

This is a wonderful experience for any young music student. There is a great deal of information about FMC on our website, www.friendsmusiccamp.org. Please feel free to take a look and pass this information along to anyone who might be interested in FMC! You will also be receiving some materials by snail mail sometime in the next month or so. If you have any questions about FMC, feel free to contact me at any time!

Sincerely, Pam Wilkenson <pamwilkinson89@gmail.com>

PEACE
cannot be kept
by force
It can only be
achieved by
understanding
EINSTEIN

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

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)

CALENDAR –January & February

1-15	Pre-Worship Singing	9:50 am
	Meeting for Worship	10:30 am
	Worship-Sharing about the Spiritual State of our Meeting	At rise of worship
1-21	Women's Rally for Social Justice in Naples	10 am – 2 pm
1-22	Pre-Worship Singing	9:50 am
	Meeting for Worship	10:30 am
1-29	Pre-Worship Singing	9:50 am
	Meeting for Worship	10:30 am
	Nancy Corindia speaks about FCNL	At rise of worship
2-5	Pre-Worship Singing	9:50 am
	Meeting for Worship	10:30 am
	Pot Luck lunch – all are welcome!	At rise of worship
2-12	Pre-Worship Singing	9:50 am
	Meeting for Worship	10:30 am
	Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business	At rise of worship
	Last Chance Book Club	At rise of worship
2-19	Pre-Worship Singing	9:50 am
	Meeting for Worship	10:30 am
	Nancy Fennell on "Unwritten Rules for Meeting for Worship"	At rise of worship
2-26	Pre-Worship Singing	9:50 am
	Meeting for Worship	10:30 am



This House
is the Native Garden

**Friends Meeting of Fort Myers
Religious Society of Friends
c/o Richard Frechette, Editor
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Fort Myers, FL 33907-5988**

Address Correction Requested