



# FORT MYERS MONTHLY MEETING OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Newsletter, Twelfth 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](http://fortmyersquakers.org)  
**E-mail:** ..... [FtMyers.Quakers@gmail.com](mailto: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 meet our responsibilities to the community and the world? Peace Testimony & Nonviolence

### Queries:

- Do we work for peace in the world? Do we nurture peace within ourselves?
- Do we “live in the virtue of that life and power which takes away the occasion of all wars”?
- Do we seek consistently to carry out this testimony for peace in all our relationships, including family, community, and work life?
- Do we as individuals and as members of a meeting seek to take part in the ministry of reconciliation between individuals, groups, and nations?
- Do we faithfully maintain our peace testimony?
- Do we reject military training, preparation for war, and participation in war as inconsistent with the spirit of Christ’s teachings?

- Do we as a meeting take a stand and do all we can to remove the causes of war and violence?

### Advices:

- War is contrary to the life and teaching of Jesus. Seek through God’s power and grace to overcome in our hearts the emotions that lie at the root of conflict.
- Strive for nonviolent approaches to conflicts in all aspects of our lives.
- Every human being is a beloved child of God and has that divine spark which claims our reverence. War is a denial of this truth.
- Friends’ peace testimony is the positive exercise of good will calling us to lend our influence to all that strengthens the growth of international friendships and understanding.
- Cultivate an active spirit of love and peace.
- *The first step to peace is to stand still in the Light...* George Fox, 1653

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## (Draft) MINUTES OF THE FORT MYERS MONTHLY MEETING OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

**12th Month 10, 2017**

The Fort Myers Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends met in Iona House on 12th Month 10, with 22 Friends present. The meeting opened with silent worship. Out of the silence, Clerk Nancy Fennell read queries on the subject of the Peace Testimony and Nonviolence. We recognize that the current divisive climate in our country presents a serious challenge to our ability to live up to the Friends Testimony of Peace.

The Clerk noted that this meeting also served as the annual meeting of the Fort Myers Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, Inc. and that, in accordance with state law, this annual meeting was announced on at least two separate occasions.

### MINISTRY & COUNSEL COMMITTEE:

On behalf of M&C Richard Frechette reported that a clearness committee consisting of Larry Butler, John Battin and Kathy Hale met with David Jossi regarding his desire to become a member of our Meeting. That committee and David found clearness in his readiness for membership and recommends that the Meeting accept David into membership, and Ministry and Council Committee aligns with their recommendation.

- ❖ **Minute 2017MM22:** Fort Myers Monthly Meeting welcomes David Jossi into membership in our Meeting and into the Religious Society of Friends. We see this welcoming of David into membership as a blessing to our community.

The Yellow Springs Monthly Meeting (Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting) has sent to our Meeting a request to transfer Kathy Hale's membership from their Meeting to ours. M&C has reviewed this request and recommends approval of the Meeting.

- ❖ **Minute 2017MM23:** We approve the transfer of membership of Kathy Hale from Yellow Springs Monthly Meeting (Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting) to Fort Myers Monthly Meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT: John Battin, Treasurer, distributed and reported on the financial activities of November 2017.

### **YEAR TO DATE SUMMARY**

	<u>November</u> <u>2016</u>	<u>November</u> <u>2017</u>
Contributions	\$15,880	\$20,115
Outlays	\$(11,649)	\$(16,798)
Difference	<u>\$4,231</u>	<u>\$3,317</u>
General Fund Cash on Hand Oct. 31 ,2017		\$4,519
General Fund Contributions November, 2017		\$1,120
Budgeted Outlays November, 2017		\$(2,322)

Cash on Hand November 30, 2017	<u>\$3,317</u>
#####	
General Funds Savings October 31, 2017	\$11,705
Interest Earned	<u>\$2</u>
General Funds Savings November 30, 2017	<u><u>\$11,707</u></u>
Meeting House Savings Oct. 31, 2017	\$71,447
Budgeted Amount MH Funds Allocation	\$1,000
Interest Earned	<u>\$9</u>
Meeting House Fund November 30, 2017	<u><u>\$72,456</u></u>
Allocations of General Funds Savings	
Contingency	\$2,410
Ministry & Counsel	\$102
Meetinghouse	\$3,732
Properties	\$3,732
P&SC	<u>\$1,732</u>
	<u>\$11,707</u>

2018 BUDGET: Copies of the final proposal for the 2018 budget were distributed and reviewed by Friends. One Friend suggested that we include in our budget funds to support the work of the organization Cultivate Abundance, which serves impoverished residents of Immokalee. Such support was encouraged by our sojourning Friend Rebecca Garofano. Friends thought that this might be a good allocation, and noted that the Peace & Social Concerns budget includes allowance for other local initiatives. Friends asked P&SC to explore the organization further and to report back to us at the next meeting.

❖ **Minute 2017MM24:** Friends approved the following budget for calendar year 2018

SEYM Support: M=\$114 A=\$57 (2017-8)		<b>4,300</b>
Ministry and Counsel		
	Friends General Conference	1,200
	Spiritual / Scholarships	1,000
	Care: Members/Attendees/Others	1,000
	Friends Journal/ Listing	70
	Invited Speakers (incl Retreat)	200
	General/Miscellaneous	150
	<b>Total Ministry &amp; Counsel</b>	<b>3,620</b>

Religious Education		
	Books/Misc.	400
	1st Day School	150
	Retreats	650
	Total Religious Education	<b>1,200</b>
Newsletter/ Other Expenses		<b>280</b>
Finance Committee		
	Banking & Corporate Fees	250
	Gifts/Contingency	600
	Total Finance Committee	<b>850</b>
Hospitality Committee		<b>400</b>
Nominating Committee		<b>100</b>
Outreach Committee		<b>900</b>
Property Committee		<b>500</b>
Meeting House Reserve		<b>1,000</b>
Calusa Nature Center		
	CNCP Membership	250
	CNCP Utility Payments	1,200
	CNCP Board/Event Participation	500
	Total CNCP	<b>1,950</b>
Peace & Social Concerns		
	FCNL	500
	AFSC	500
	Quaker Voluntary Services	200
	H. Chapin Foodbank	300
	Lee Interfaith for Empowerment	500
	Educational Concerns for Hunger Org. (ECHO)	200
	Quality Life Center	300
	Other Local Initiatives/ Committee Expenses	1,300
	Total Peace & Social Concerns	<b>3,800</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$18,900</b>

#### NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

Nancy Howell, Clerk, presented the Committee's proposed roster of clerks, committee members and other assignees, including the formal Corporation Report. The Committee's report noted that Ministry and Council Committee differs from others in having staggered 3 year terms, and

in nominating their own new members. Other committees are reformed in their entirety each year. Committees are expected to create their own agendas, consider policy issues and make proposals to the Meeting for Worship for Business, and carry out the activities approved by the Meeting. Some committees meet regularly, while others usually talk about their jobs while they are doing them, and rarely feel the need for formal meetings. In recent years, committees have increasingly held meetings on First Day, before or after meeting for worship, but this is a decision for the committee.

❖ **Minute 2017MM25:** We approve the following annual Corporation Report

Fort Myers Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, Inc., a Florida non-profit corporation

- **Registered Agent** – John Battin (Treasurer)
- **Directors** – Joan Culver (President), Richard Frechette, Kathy Hale, Nancy Howell

❖ **Minute 2017MM26:** We approve the following assignments for 2018:

**Clerk of the Meeting** - Joan Culver

**Co-Recording Clerks and Membership Clerks** - Richard Frechette, Kathy Hale

**Treasurer** – John Battin

**Assistant Treasurer** – Susan Oehl

**Newsletter Editor** – Richard Frechette

**Ass't Editor for circulation** – Mary Smiley

**Librarian** – Connie Summerlin

**Historian** – Larry Butler

**SEYM Representative** – Richard Frechette

**FCNL Representative** - Chris Ruhnke, John Battin

**Liaison to CNCP** – Joan Culver

**Liaison to Harry Chapin Food Bank** – Connie Summerlin

**Music Leaders** – Carolyn Stanley and Cheryl Keen

**Manager of Web Site** – Pat Iyer

**Ministry and Council Committee**

2018- Richard Frechette

2019- Jeannette Botha

2020- Helen Snodgrass

2018- Nancy Howell\*

2019- Nancy Murvine

2020- Kathy Hale

\*(finishing the term of T. D. Fennell)

**Adult Religious Education Committee:** Connie Summerlin, Chris Ruhnke, Roxy Jacobs.

**Finance Committee:** Kathy Hale, John Battin, Susan Oehl, Charles Lipsen, Tom Dudley Fennell.

**First-day School Committee (Children's Religious Education):** Richard Frechette, Nancy Murvine, Nancy Howell.

**Hospitality Committee:** Connie Summerlin, Suzanne Frechette, Nancy Howell, Cheryl Keen, Roxy Jacobs, Omar Ziedan.

**Nominating Committee:** Nancy Howell, Suzanne Frechette, Vicki Scott.

**Outreach Committee:** Patricia Iyer, Nancy Howell, Carolyn Stanley, Marianne Lee.

**Peace & Social Concerns Committee:** John Battin, Priscilla DeOliveira, Helen Fox, David Jossi, Susan Oehl, Chris Ruhnke, Vicki Scott, Carolyn Stanley.

**Properties Committee:** Suzanne Frechette, Richard Frechette, Tom Jacobs, Chris Ruhnke .

### **OUTREACH:**

Pat lyre, reporting on behalf of the Outreach Committee, reminded Friends that the publicly listed phone number for the Meeting is the personal home number of the retiring Presiding Clerk. The committee recommended that the Meeting purchase a dedicated cell phone which will pass from Clerk to Clerk. In response, Priscilla DeOliveira offered to assist the Meeting in setting up a digital “Google Phone” account/number which would simply forward to the Clerks’ phone – a less expensive means of serving the need. Friends asked the Committee to pursue the options and make a final determination.

The Committee noted that, as far as outreach, we are challenged by a lack of permanent signage identifying CNCP/Iona House as the place where Friends meet, and also by damaged CNCP electronic and other signage. We discussed the problem and solutions. We will ask CNCP – via our liaison Joan Culver – for exclusive use of one of the information panels at the Iona House parking lot. We are willing to refurbish the panels, as well as to create permanent signs identifying and directing visitors to the Iona House.

**ADULT EDUCATION:** A course entitled Quakerism 101 will be held over multiple dates during January through March. This course was developed by Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. The dates will be published soon. Friends interested in participating in this course will be provided with either digital or paper copies of appropriate reading materials.

**CLERKS REPORT:** Nancy Fennell shared with Friends that she has been honored to serve for several years in the role of Presiding Clerk for our Meeting, and that she is also glad to hand the role to another.

- ❖ **Minute 2017MM27:** We thank Nancy and Tom Dudley Fennell for their years of dedication and service to our Meeting. We wish them Godspeed as they relocate to their new home near family.

We ended the meeting in centered silence.

Richard Frechette  
Co-Recording Clerk

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### **A Taste of Christmas in Ecuador:**

As part of the Education Committee’s goal to plan something once a month after meeting. For the month of December, they have invited Carolyn and David Stanley to share some music and “show and tell” about their experiences in Ecuador while Friends taste a simple lunch that includes some Ecuadorian recipes. This is planned for after meeting on Sunday, Dec. 24, Christmas Eve day, from about noon until 1:30. This is not a pot luck lunch. It would help us to know how much food to prepare if you could RSVP to Connie Summerlin (251) 533-1990. Come join us to taste some food and sing along! Feliz Navidad!

## **Spiritual Formation Program**

Ministry and Counsel Committee is offering an opportunity to explore SEYM's Spiritual Formation Program to our newest attenders as well as to returning and long-time members and attenders who might be drawn to small groups of spiritual companions. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Nancy Murvine (by phone/text: 239.293.6952 or by e-mail: [nrmurvine@embarqmail.com](mailto:nrmurvine@embarqmail.com)). Below is SEYM's introduction to the concept and format of Spiritual Formation Program.

The work of Spiritual Formation Programs is accomplished within a small group format. These groups have been referred to as "circles of trust," "circles of light," "friendship circles," "spiritual companion groups," etc. SEYM prefers to call the small groups "spiritual companion groups."

The primary goal of a spiritual formation program is to deepen one's relationship

with the Divine, God, Spirit, or Inner Light through four major avenues: reading devotionally, individual spiritual practice, deep listening and spiritual community. Walking the spiritual path along with others in the group tends to lead to the formation of meaningful and long-lasting relationships. The transformative work of spiritual formation inevitably contributes to the spiritual well-being of the individual, the monthly and yearly meetings.

Spiritual Formation Programs have a long and respected history among many religious groups, including the Religious Society of Friends. Both Philadelphia and Baltimore Yearly Meetings have collaborated and published their entire programs on the web in order to serve as models for others. Many yearly meetings in the United States have adapted these models to meet the particular needs of their constituent meeting



### **Profile: Marianne Lee by Pat Iyer**

Marianne's son calls her the "mystic momma". One of her most distinctive qualities is the ability to create the lyrics and a song while sitting in silence during a meeting for worship. "I never had the experience of having a song come to me before", she says. "I did not know what to do the first time it happened to me. It was a powerful experience I knew I had to share. Although I argued with myself for a long time, I knew I was supposed to share my songs. It gives me goosebumps."

Marianne grew up in Southern California outside of Los Angeles. Her father was a carpenter. Her mother had 7 sisters and 3 brothers. Marianne's uncle was a minister who was well known in the Church of God and ran tent revivals and a church in Kentucky. "I'm Church of God non-Pentecostal", Marianne learned to say when growing up. But for her great great grandfather drifting away from religion, Marianne could have been raised Mormon. Her great great grandfather was one of Brigham Young's inner circle.



Wayne and Marianne met when Marianne was at UCLA. Her cousin introduced them. (Wayne went to a Quaker college for one year and was exposed to programmed meetings.) They married after college and moved to Portland OR so Wayne could go to graduate school. While Marianne got a teaching job with kindergarteners, Wayne completed his graduate degree in social work. Once Wayne completed the degree, they returned to Southern California for 4 years and had their first son before moving to West Virginia.

A charismatic and pathological liar psychiatrist convinced Marianne and Wayne and others to move to West Virginia to be part of a clinic called Total Life. The vision was to have Christian professionals work together and provide services under a grant from Johnson and Johnson, but there was no grant and no clinic. Marianne and Wayne got other jobs for the 5 years they were in West Virginia before moving to Northern California (the Santa Rosa area) where they raised their family of 2 boys and a girl.

Marianne hurt her back while pregnant with her daughter and was limited in her ability to go out. For 15 years a minister ran a care group for 10 people in Marianne and Wayne's home until Marianne's back got better, and she was able to return to teaching. During this time, she and her brother, his wife, and two cousins formed an oldies rock 'n' roll band, The Passions, playing local parties and school events. She calls it a blast from the past!

When her back deteriorated again, she retired, and they moved to Kentucky where her son ran a church. Her son was trained as a Southern Baptist minister, was a senior pastor at a Methodist church and ultimately found the Mennonite faith most appealing to him. He, his wife and their children live in Harrisonburg Virginia, where Wayne and Marianne spend their time when not in Florida. Their other son lives near Santa Rosa and their daughter is in Denver.

The journey to Fort Myers Monthly Meeting began with Marianne's Google search for "socially involved churches". She had never been to a Quaker meeting and was intrigued. Not knowing what to expect, she thought she'd find people dressed like the man on the Quaker oats box. Nancy Murvine was the first person Marianne saw when she entered the meetinghouse. Nancy's flaming red hair and leopard print dress reassured Marianne she'd fit in.

The silent meeting for worship perfectly suits Marianne. She would not go to a programmed meeting. There is a Quaker meeting near Harrisonburg, but songs do not come to her there. Until she found the Quakers, she says she has never been part of a church where she felt nurtured. She has found nurturing and her songs at Fort Myers Monthly Meeting.

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### **Fort Myers Meeting to Offer "Quakerism 101"**

"Quakerism 101" is a basic course for adults providing information on the Quaker way of doing things, and historical background on the ways that Quakerism developed from the mid-1600s to today. There will be opportunities in the course to discuss beliefs, describe one's own experience, and to share perspectives with others in the group. The course will be presented by Nancy Howell, and discussions and

questioning will be initiated by Bond Perry, both of our meeting. All who attend are expected to participate, as they feel led.

The schedule includes 6 sessions, of about one and a half hours each, after worship, at Iona House. The dates are January 21 and 28, February 18 and 25, and March 18 and 25, starting about noon and ending about 1:30. The target audience is members of



our meeting, both newcomers and some seasoned Friends, with perhaps a few guests of friends with no background in Quakerism who are particularly interested.

The curriculum to be followed is based upon a version produced by Shirley Dodson of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Adult Religious Education Committee, in the 1990s. The topics for the six sessions are: 1) Seekers and Finders: the Experience of Early Friends; 2) The Light Within;

3) Quaker Universalism; 4) Worship and Ministry; 5) Living in the Light: Quaker Witness; 6) Getting Down to Business.

There will be Xeroxed readings for each session and suggestions for further readings for those who wish to do so.

To reserve a spot, contact Nancy Howell (239-888-9304; howell@chass.utoronto.ca)



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## **SEYM Half Yearly Meeting**

The annual SEYM Half Yearly Meeting gathering, held over Thanksgiving weekend (November 23 -26), again was celebrated at the Youth Camp in Wekiwa Springs State Park. Chris Ruhnke, Vicki Scott and Pat Iyer traveled together to the event on Friday morning and left after meeting for worship on Sunday. We stayed in the youth camp which was tucked into the park. Vicki and Pat were delighted that the women stayed in the infirmary which had two bed rooms and heat. Chris stayed with his friend Mike who came from Dallas with two teenage boys from Thailand. Mike's first exposure to Quakers took place at the meeting. The boys enjoyed the exposure to the teenage girls who were present at the camp.



Our planned kayak trip was affected by the many trees felled over some sections of Rock Springs Run and the Wekiwa River, making many parts impassible. Pat had an opportunity to experience what it is like to paddle against a current on Rock Springs Run, making her appreciate the still waters in SW Florida. But she appreciated the power of having Mike behind her, as he was better than an outboard motor.

Half Yearly Meeting had a minimum of structured activities but plenty of opportunities for hikes, swimming and canoeing, with an emphasis on connecting with our wider SEYM Quaker community and ample time for personal reflection. Vicki, Chris and Pat enjoyed an extended hike in the woods after a morning of kayaking.

On Friday evening, there was a remembrance ceremony/workshop led by Jane Westberg and Kody Hersh, "Towards Right Relationship with Native Peoples." We

learned about how the American Indians were systematically and persistently driven off their land. The impact of the workshop was powerful and highly emotional.

In sharp contrast to the seriousness of the Friday workshop, we had our annual NO TALENT NECESSARY talent show Saturday night, hosted by Vincent Cosomono and Aurelio Anderson. The show included gymnastics, violin playing, a play, poetry, singing and Quaker humor. After the show Saturday night, we had a campfire where we roasted marshmallows for s'mores, sang songs and told scary stories.

We ended the weekend with meeting for worship in a screened in building on the edge of a lake. Although we could see the cars passing on the edge of the park, we felt like we were in the middle of wilderness. It felt like a little vacation and promoted an opportunity to meet Quakers from around the state.

*By Pat Iyer and Carl Hersh, with additional contributions from Jerry Knutson, Beverly Ward and Miami Friends*

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**Note from the Editor:** (Editor's email address: [Rich.Frechette@gmail.com](mailto: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

## **SEYM Michener Lecture & Seminars**

Sunday, January 14th, 2018

Luncheon • 11:30 am ----- Lecture & Seminars • 1 pm – 4 pm

Orlando Friends Meetinghouse • 316 E. Marks St., Orlando, Florida 32803

**“Remixing the Quaker Tradition: Renewal in a Participatory Culture”**  
**presented by C. Wess Daniels**

For more information, go to <http://seymquakers.org/news-events/michener-lecture/>

## **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
<a href="http://www.quakervoluntaryservice.org">www.quakervoluntaryservice.org</a> .....	Quaker Voluntary Service
<a href="http://www.quano.org">www.quano.org</a> .....	Quaker United Nations Office

## CALENDAR

All First Days	Pre-Worship Singing	9:50 am
	Meeting for Worship	10:30 am
Sun 12/24	"A Taste of Christmas in Ecuador" (see inside)	At rise of Worship
Sun 1/7	Pot luck lunch	At rise of Worship
Sat 1/13	SEYM – Winter Interim Business Meeting	All day - Orlando
Sun 1/14	SEYM Mitchner Lecture (Orlando meetinghouse)	Afternoon – Orlando
Sun 1/14 (Tentative)	Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business	At Rise of Worship
Sun 1/21 & Sun 1/28	Quakerism 101	At Rise of Worship
Fri 2/2 Sat 2/3	Meeting retreat led by Cece Yocum (Tampa Meeting)	Fri evening - location TBA; Sat all day @ Iona House
Sun 2/18 & Sun 2/25	Quakerism 101	At Rise of Worship



**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