

# FORT MYERS MONTHLY MEETING OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Newsletter, Fourth 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* ----- **Mutual Care**

### Queries:

- How do we foster a spirit of community among the meeting's members and attenders?
- How does the meeting keep in contact with all of the meeting's members and attenders?
- How does the meeting assist couples and families to communicate, grow together, and rear children in a loving environment?
- Does the meeting community nurture the meeting's children?
- How does the meeting care for those who live alone, the sick, the aging, the widowed, the separated or divorced, and others with families affected by disruption?
- Do we assist Friends in need as their circumstances require?
- How do we labor with and care for those whose conduct or manner of living gives grounds for concern?

- How are visitors to our meeting made to feel welcome?

### Advices:

- Be truthful and sincere, and thus encourage these qualities in others.
- Through example and education, help each other to recognize and follow the voice of God both in our spiritual lives and in joyful and willing service.
- Watch with tenderness over the opening minds of children. Seek to awaken in them the love and understanding of the life and teachings of Jesus and a sense of security in the love of God.
- Remember that there is a unique potential in each human being as a beloved child of God and that the Holy Spirit may lead children to give wise counsel to listening adults.
- Young people, too, have responsibility to care for the meeting and to participate in meetings both for worship and for business. Faith is needed as a vital part of our living.

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

4th Month 9, 2017

The Fort Myers Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends met in Iona House on fourth month nine, with seventeen Friends present. The meeting opened with silent worship. Out of the silence, Clerk Nancy Fennell read advices and queries on the subject of Mutual Care.

**MINISTRY & COUNSEL:** Richard Frechette reported that the Committee saw the need for more opportunities for people from the Meeting family to gather socially in order to enhance our sense of community. They had some suggested activities, including re-establishing an informal tradition of announcing plans to go to a local restaurant after 1st day worship, Invite someone else from the Meeting to a coffee or other informal weekday connection, and holding a “Blue Moon Sunday” (i.e. fifth 1st day of the month) potluck lunch. Friends added other possibilities – inviting several friends over for dinner, repeating the Thanksgiving dinner at Iona House that we held last year, planning for a Sunday afternoon group excursion to nature-centered places.

## **CLERK’S REPORT:**

- We received an e-mail from Barry Crossno, FGC Secretary, explaining FGC’s concerns about problems of Friends of color within Quaker circles. He is hoping that FGC will be able to better understand and address these issues after a formal evaluation by an outside organization.
- We received communication from Asian Friends Peace Teams. This will be referred to Peace & Social Concerns Committee.
- We received a Report of activities from Friends Ugandan Safe Transport initiative.

**TREASURER’S REPORT:** On behalf of Treasurer John Battin, Tom Dudley Fennell reported on our year-to-date financial status as of March 31, 2017. We are doing OK financially. Our contributions (\$1,150) as well as expenditures (\$1,150) through March this year closely match that of last year. General fund cash on hand at the end of the quarter was \$2,825, and savings on hand was \$12,915.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE:** Joan Culver reported that the committee is continuing its discernment of how to best communicate to friends our financial activities and status. Among other things, they are considering the placing of detailed financial reports on the Meeting’s website. The committee is also discerning how to best illustrate budgetary distributions so that friends can make informed decisions. She encouraged Friends to communicate suggestions to her.

**OUTREACH COMMITTEE:** Carolyn Stanley reported that Our Earth Day activity planning is in good shape. Volunteers for that activity should arrive at 9AM.. We had some discussion on procedure for funneling subsidies for children to the Nature Center, and agreed that it should be on a reimbursement basis. We discussed how to film the activity without violating privacy issues.

**ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:** Nancy Fennell reported that the committee received 19 responses to their request for input on future RE activities. We provided a contribution to CNCP for the use of Iona House on our Saturday March 18 retreat. There will be no adult religious education activities in April due to Yearly meeting and our Earth Day program. On May 28 there will be an interactive workshop – “What does love require of me?” at the rise of worship. There are two

Yearly Meeting source possibilities being pursued: Quakerism 101 and a visit from Beverly Ward, SEYM's Earthcare Witness Secretary.

**PROPERTIES COMMITTEE:** Mary Smiley reported that the committee is continuing discernment on how to address the problem of an overly loud HVAC system. We have talked with several contractors and have four proposals for solutions that range from \$12,000 to \$23,000. Joan Culver described the various proposals. A new system would probably have to be underwritten by both CNCP and our Meeting, and CNCP would need to ultimately approve the system. Joan will be presenting this information to CNCP shortly, but the Committee will not likely be ready to present a recommended plan and cost to Friends for several months. Friends

discussed grant possibilities. Friends also discussed possible sound system solutions to the problem of many being unable to hear vocal ministry at worship.

❖ **2017MM8:** Friends approve funding 50% of the cost of a replacement HVAC system in Iona House and ask the Properties Committee to negotiate with the Calusa Nature Center for a mutually approved system.

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

Richard Frechette  
Co-Recording Clerk

### TREASURER'S REPORT PERIOD ENDED 3/31/2017

General Fund Cash on Hand - January 1, 2017	\$7,831.81
General Fund Contributions - Jan-Mar, 2017	\$3,975.00
Special Contrib. Olympia Friends/Ugandan Safety Network	\$(500.00)
Transfer to Gen Fund Savings	\$(7,331.81)
Budget Outlays - Jan. - Mar. 2017	\$(1,149.52)
Cash-On-Hand - Mar. 31, 2017	\$2,825.48
Meetinghouse Savings - January 1, 2017	\$47,268.10
Meeting House Ctf. 6 Mos. Interest	\$277.50
Interest Earned	\$40.95
Meetinghouse Savings - Mar. 31, 2017	\$47,586.55
General Fund Savings - Jan 1, 2017	\$7,574.74
Transfer From Checking 2016 Surplus	\$7,331.81
Special Contrib. to LIFE	\$(2,000.00)
Interest Earned	\$8.89
General Fund Savings - Mar 31, 2017	\$12,915.44

*(Treasurer's Report – Continued)*

General Fund Contributions Year To Date	Contributions Budgeted For Year	Contributions Needed For Budget
\$3,975.00	\$18,220.00	\$14,245.00

Budget Category	YTD Outlays	Budgeted Outlays	Budget Unspent
SEYM	-	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00
Ministry & Cnsl	\$68.50	\$3,120.00	\$3,051.50
Religious Educ.	\$495.37	\$1,050.00	\$554.63
Newsletter	-	\$280.00	\$280.00
Hospitality	\$53.32	\$400.00	\$346.68
Outreach	-	\$900.00	\$900.00
Finance Comm.	\$61.25	\$920.00	\$858.75
Nominating	-	\$100.00	\$100.00
Properties	\$432.22	\$1,950.00	\$1,517.78
Peace&Soc.Cnc.	\$38.86	\$4,000.00	\$3,961.14
MtngHse Resrv.	-	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
<b>Total Outlays</b>	<b>\$1,149.52</b>	<b>\$18,220.00</b>	<b>\$17,070.48</b>



Sunday, April 16, will be the last Sunday this season that Carolyn will be leading singing in the morning before meeting (9:50 - 10:20 AM).

Thereafter, until the fall, friends are welcome to continue gathering to sing, but it will be without a leader/musician.

### From Ministry & Counsel Committee

If, during worship, you are led to vocal ministry, please stand if you are able. Remember to project your voice and to speak slowly so that all can hear.



Friends Peace Teams in Asia West Pacific builds trust over time through commitment to long-term relationships in little-traveled areas in conflict. Our

principled friendships put us in touch with local customs on a local scale, so we are able to understand if and when outside help may actually help. Our workshops in Alternatives to Violence Project training, resiliency, developmental play, and discernment, transmit tools and practices for preserving peace.

### **Overview of 2016**

Friends Peace Teams Asia West Pacific worked in Nepal, Indonesia, the Philippines and Korea supporting nonviolence, peace, trauma healing, conflict transformation and social justice advocacy for landless or poor farming communities recovering from war or religious violence. We completed earthquake relief activities in Nepal.

- Celebrated a decade of tsunami relief: We spoke openly with people on all sides of the war going on when the tsunami hit. Their final message, "Nothing will help us more than a movement of conscience in the U.S. to stop the war and violence."
- Celebrated seven years of support to clean drinking water, and now SHEEP in Jogjakarta has begun small scale production of ceramic household water filters. They are now providing water filters to households in poor communities and for disaster relief.
- We purchased the land adjacent to Peace Place to create a green space for gardens and a children's play area which has brought more life to Peace Place. Parents of the school children immediately raised funds for the landscaping and children's park.
- Hosted the 3rd International Peace and Conscience Training at Peace Place with participants from the Philippines, US, West Papua, Australia and Indonesia. The training focused on practicing basic nonviolence, trauma recovery and developmental play.
- Peace Place is expanding AVP workshops for parents; teachers and local government. We held workshops for inter-faith peace and alternatives to violence for local residents and a Mennonite community. Peace Place hosted peace intern Felicitas Zschoche from Germany for 6 months, and Erik Skeaff and Heidi Ahrens and their children for a month.
- Barak Induk teachers, Mislán, Egi, and Sud are completing their bachelors' degrees in Early Childhood Education. Their land status remains unclear. We were able to support them in curtailing the outright violence, but as productivity from rubber planting yields increasing proceeds, political pressures mount internally and externally. We continue to support Dita in her pursuit of a college degree in Early Childhood Education.
- Peace Place teachers, Nanik, Erni and Wiwit, received scholarships: Nanik returned for certification in Early Childhood Education. Ernie began her first college program in Early Childhood Education, and Wiwit is undertaking school psychology.
- Elizabeth Walmsley visited the Bhutanese community to give good guidance on how outreach to the Bhutanese takes time and personal contact. We established contacts to invite Jamuna Shrestha to come to the U.S. to visit with Bhutanese in 2017.
- Power of Goodness published the English-language edition of the Chechen print version and

conducted a summer library tour in the U.S. and did a Storytelling event at two schools in the DC area. We are now actively soliciting new-Stories.

- Nepal activities took a rest following the huge efforts of the earthquake response there. We were able to finally deliver the roofing materials held up by the political violence in the region. They were able to complete the Youth Manual translation into Nepali. They began planning and preparation to host the AVP International Gathering next in 2017.

For more information on the Friends Peace Teams in Asia West Pacific or to donate to them, go to [FPT-AWP.org](http://FPT-AWP.org), or follow them on Facebook at Facebook.com/ftpawp.

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## Musical Earth Day Program

Saturday, April 22, 2017

10:30 AM - 11:30 AM



There will be a variety of Earth Day related activities at the Calusa Nature Center on Earth Day. Our Meeting is sponsoring a morning program celebrating trees and water with songs, movement, art and activities led by educator and musician Carolyn Stanley. It is geared to children ages 3-12.

Admission: \$5 for children and \$10 for adults (includes all Nature Center Attractions). First 50 children ages 3-12 are free thanks to sponsorship by our Quaker Meeting

There are also other activities on that day coordinated by the Nature Center, and volunteers are invited to help out with the various activities. For more information call 239-275-3435 or visit [www.calusanature.org](http://www.calusanature.org)

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*FCNL Calls on  
Congress to Stop  
Unlawful Escalation  
in Syria*

The Trump administration's missile attack against Syrian government airfields will do nothing to end the bloodshed and violates U.S. and international law. The Friends Committee on National Legislation urges Congress to step forward from the sidelines and reassert its constitutional authority by voting to stop the U.S. from widening the war in Syria.

*(For more information, go to [www.FCNL.org](http://www.FCNL.org))*

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## 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

### **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.

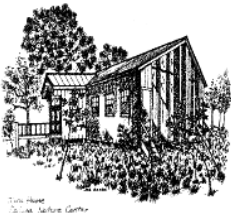
(Editor's email address: [Rich.Frechette@gmail.com](mailto:Rich.Frechette@gmail.com))



**Don't forget to bring non-perishables to with you on 1<sup>st</sup> Day for the Harry Chapin Food Bank. Store BOGOs are perfect: one for you, one for the food bank**

### CALENDAR – April & May

All First Days	Pre-Worship Singing	9:50 am
	Meeting for Worship	10:30 am
4/22 (Sat)	Earth Day activities @ Iona House (see article above)	10:30 am
4/24 (Mon)	Ministry & Counsel Meeting @ Fennell home	10:30 am
5/7	Pot Luck Lunch	At rise of Meeting
5/14	Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business	At rise of Meeting
5/28	Interactive workshop: "What Does Love Require of Me?" (Additional information in next newsletter)	At rise of Meeting



Friends Meeting of Fort Myers  
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Address Correction Requested

PEACE

*cannot be kept  
by force.*

*It can only be  
achieved by  
understanding*

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