



---

# FORT MYERS MONTHLY MEETING

## OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

---

Newsletter, Third Month, 2016

902 Big Pine Way  
Fort Myers, FL 33907

Clerk: Nancy Fennell (239) 989-2503  
Recording Clerk: Kathy Hale/Richard Frechette  
Treasurer: John Battin (239) 437-8716

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month: Pot Luck Lunch—all welcome  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month: Meeting for Worship with attention  
to Business

Newsletter Editor: Jeannette Botha (239) 368-7229

---

“True unity may be found under great apparent differences.  
This unity is spiritual, it expresses itself in many ways, and  
We need divine insight that we may recognize its working.  
We need forbearance, sympathy, and love, in order that,  
While remaining loyal to the truth as it comes to us,  
We may move forward with others to a larger and richer experience and  
expression of the will of God”

London Yearly Meeting, 1916

---

### QUERIES & ADVICES FOR THE THIRD MONTH

#### Harmony within the Meeting Community

#### Queries:

Are love and unity maintained among us?  
When differences arise, do we settle them in a spirit  
of love and humility?  
Are we careful not to hold an idea too firmly,  
knowing that another may bring us closer to the  
truth?  
Are we patient and considerate towards those we find  
difficult to understand or like?  
Do we demonstrate a forgiving spirit?  
Do we have concern and respect for the reputation of  
others?  
When people are hurt, do we take care to hold them  
up with a tender heart?  
Do we respect that of God in each person, though it  
may be expressed in unfamiliar ways or may be  
difficult for us to discern?

#### Advices:

Maintain love and unity by avoiding tale bearing and  
detraction.

Settle differences promptly, in a manner free from  
resentment.

When we have a difference with another person,  
speak to them in private “in the love and wisdom that  
is gentle and pure.”

Be aware that verbal violence can be as destructive as  
physical violence.

Be careful that our language does not incorporate  
violence, consciously or unconsciously.

Listen patiently, and seek the truth another person’s  
expressions may contain for us.

Be willing to seek and willing to receive counsel and  
help from one another.

In our daily lives, seek to know one another in the  
things that are eternal and to enter with ready  
empathy and sensitive discretion into the joys,  
sorrows, and needs of each other.

Be mindful that everyone is included in the life and  
activities of the meeting.

**MINUTES OF THE FORT MYERS MONTHLY MEETING  
OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS  
3rd Month 13, 2016**

- The Fort Myers Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends met on 3<sup>rd</sup> month 13<sup>th</sup> day with 13 Friends present. We entered into silent worship. Presiding Clerk Nancy Fennell read queries and advices from Faith & Practice on harmony within the Meeting community.
- On behalf of **Ministry and Counsel Committee**, Richard Frechette reported that the committee considered the bequeathment from Dee Hohimer and were in unity that at least some portion of those funds should be available to provide financial assistance to f/Friends from the Meeting community experiencing financial hardship.
- **Treasurer** John Battin was not with us due to illness, but would send the monthly financial statement for publication in the newsletter.
- On behalf of the Finance Committee, Joan Culver brought forward a recommendation concerning moving funds to a new account. She noted that the Treasurer is willing to do the necessary work associated with the transfer.
- ❖ **2016MM04:** The Fort Myers Meeting approves opening savings accounts with Suncoast Federal Credit union for Meeting House Fund and General Fund Surplus Account. Signers will be the Meeting Clerk and Treasurer.
- Nancy Howell reported that the **Nominating Committee** will hold a meeting within the next month in order to begin the process for the next cycle.
- On behalf of the **Peace and Social Concerns Committee**, Ann Suich reminded Friends that Life's Nehemiah Action is scheduled for April 4, urging friends to place this on their calendar.
- Helen Snodgrass, on behalf of **Hospitality Committee**, noted that we have been experiencing a table shortage problem and will check with the CNCP.
- On behalf of the **Properties Committee**, Mary Smiley and Woody Woodall reported that two more signs for wheelchair-restricted parking have been ordered and will be placed on the two sides of the access path.
- Reporting on the **Calusa Nature Center**, Joan Culver noted that the Aviary needs to be upgraded. The CNCP has established a matching fund for this purpose. Mary Smiley reported that the newly hired CNCP staff seem to be working out well. We are still working on a process whereby the CNCP notifies us if when an activity is occurring at the Iona House on the day before first day.

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

*Richard Frechette, Co-Recording Clerk*

---



WEDDING BELLS  
Rebecca Garofano & Patrick Fitzsimons  
12-27-15



***In our Friend, Rebecca's, own words:***

"We were married on December 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015 in his hometown, Wellington, New Zealand. It was a Catholic ceremony, though there was a period of silence included—to honor my values. We're currently living in Fang, Thailand—at ECHO's seed bank. He works as a translator.

My phone number is currently just a Thai number, - [+66 932594405](tel:+66932594405). Don't know if that's very helpful to folks. My address in the U.S can be my parents: 217 Parsons Drive, Syracuse, NY 13219. My international address is P.O. Box 64 Chiang Mai 50000, Thailand.

My husband and I met in Chiang Mai and are in the process of moving out of the city and to ECHO Asia's seed bank, which is located in a rural community, three hours north of the city where we currently are. I'll continue to work for ECHO a bit longer and he'll work as a freelance translator (English/Thai), which he seems to enjoy. . . Please give my love to everyone. I think of you all often as well, and hope to visit again if we find ourselves in the States."

*Grace & Peace, Rebecca*



Rebecca and Patrick, Friends at the Fort Myers Religious Society wish you a long and very happy marriage!

---

**FORT MYERS MONTHLY MEETING AND L.I.F.E**

**Quick Problem Summary and Ask**

*Submitted by John Battin*

**The Problem Summary**

During the past several years, the number of arrests for murders in Lee County has not kept pace with the number of murders. In the five and a half years from January 2010 through June 2015, there were 185 murders, but only 92 arrests for murder.<sup>1</sup> That is an arrest/murder rate of only 50%, and in the City of Fort Myers only 36% of murders will end in an arrest!

There is a lower chance of a murderer being brought to justice in Lee County than in similar counties like Pasco and Pinellas where arrest rates for murder reach into the eighty percent range. There is no reason to think that murderers here are more difficult to prosecute successfully than murderers in those places. This leaves murderers on the streets of Lee County who should not be there: murderers who are frightening and endangering the community.

There is no reason to think that our local murder cases are categorically different from the murders that occur in those demographically similar Judicial Districts. The State's Attorney and the law enforcement

---

agencies for Lee County must examine the factors that inhibit the law enforcement agencies in Lee County, especially the Fort Myers Police Department, from conducting the investigations needed to support proper arrests and effective prosecutions.

### **The ASK**

#### **Chief of the Fort Myers Police Department State's Attorney for the 20<sup>th</sup> Judicial District**

1. Do you agree to strengthen and make more effective the collaborative effort between the Fort Myer's Police Department and the State's Attorney described in the Fort Myers Police Department's Strategic Plan dated 2012-2015 so that more murder cases get resolved?
2. Do you agree that the collaborative will meet at least monthly?
3. Do you agree to examine your procedures and to conduct research into what other law enforcement agencies and State's Attorneys elsewhere are doing that result in higher arrest-to-murder ratios and higher conviction-to-murder ratios than your current rates?
4. Do you agree to formulate and implement a plan based on your findings and meet with L.I.F.E. quarterly to discuss your progress in resolving murder cases?

**When:** April 4<sup>th</sup> - Check-in 6:00 Event @ 7:00

**Where:** Harborside Center – Downtown Fort Myers

**Parking:** Free at adjacent garage

---

### **L.I.F.E. PRAYER VIGIL FOR UNSOLVED KILLINGS IN FORT MYERS**

**Several of the members of Fort Myers Monthly Meeting took part in this peaceful vigil**

***“The status quo is unacceptable.*”**

That was the sentiment of nearly 100 people who assembled outside the state attorney's office in downtown Fort Myers on Monday.

Members of Lee Interfaith for Empowerment, a 15 congregation-member organization that focuses on systemic justice issues, held a prayer vigil to draw attention to the unsolved murders in the community and call leaders to action. More than 200 murders have occurred in Fort Myers in the last 16 years and only 92 have been solved. . . .

Glover made it clear to the group at the beginning that they were not protesting. The peaceful prayer vigil was necessary because State Attorney Stephen Russell refused to arrange a meeting to talk about problems facing the community, Glover said. He previously met with Russell in late 2014 about unsolved homicides, but the state attorney didn't like the questions and is now refusing another meeting.”

*Quote from the Newspress*



**Nancy Murvine**  
**Interviewed by Pat Iyer**

Rabbits and rats shared Nancy's childhood home on the weekends. Nancy was born in Washington DC where her father worked for the Food and Drug Administration until he got a job as a chemist for DuPont and moved to Delaware. Nancy's father brought laboratory animals home for visits on the weekend as a way to enrich his family's life. She was raised as a Catholic.



One of four sisters, Nancy spent her middle and high school years in Delaware, and then entered University of Delaware. She got married in June at age 19 while in college. Her husband Todd was stationed with the Navy in Rhode Island, so she transferred to Rhode Island College to complete her undergraduate work. Her husband left in November for 7 months at sea. Nancy found herself in college, married, and without many friends except for the professors.

When told about her marriage plans, her father asked her to promise to finish college, which she did. Nancy majored in English and minored in Education, combining her two major loves: writing and children. A difficult experience as a student teacher made Nancy leery of getting a job as a teacher. She was placed in an urban school that employed armed guards and was populated with many students who were taking drugs; overdoses were common.

After Nancy's husband finished his service in Rhode Island, they returned to Delaware. Nancy's first job after graduation involved selling nuts and bolts in a territory from Wilmington to Baltimore. She found that she missed kids and decided to apply for a job in a private school. Nancy taught in two private schools in Delaware and returned to the University of Delaware for her Master's degree. She said her claim to fame is that Joe Biden lived next door to one of the schools and Dr. Oz spoke at the graduation of the second school. It was common to see Joe Biden in Wilmington; Nancy recalls speaking to him while on line in a restaurant. They discussed a current issue which was occurring in the government.

Nancy changed schools after going through a difficult year in which her husband and she lost 3 parents in 6 months.

An aunt who was a nun was Nancy's first spiritual guide. Nancy remembers her Aunt Bobby speaking to her at a very early age when she was struggling with the idea of eternal life, and she continued to support Nancy as she explored other religions. "Quakerism would be a perfect faith for you; I can see you as a Quaker", her aunt told her.

As a member of a book club in the mid 80's Nancy encountered Quakers for the first time. The Quakers were teachers at a Quaker school in Wilmington. Although the group did not last long, the impression Nancy developed of Quakers was long-lasting. She began attending meeting for worship in Wilmington where there were 3 Quaker meetings at least 200 years old within 10 miles of each other. Nancy attended meeting for worship in an old building with no heat – it housed an eclectic group of people. She felt she had found her home.

When Nancy realized her lupus was sapping her energy and causing her pain, she knew she had to take an early retirement. Her husband loved the water and wanted to live in the Florida Keys. Nancy preferred Santa Fe but compromised on Florida provided she could find an unprogrammed Quaker Meeting. (Fort Myers Monthly Meeting fit the bill.) They bought a house on Marco Island before they both retired and found it to be a natural transition to Florida living

when they were ready to move from Delaware. The Murvines have been full-time in Florida for 12 years.

Nancy's husband spends his time working on their house and boat and volunteering at a car museum.

Nancy is a volunteer guardian ad litem, a position she assumed as a result of a suggestion by dear Friend Al Webber. The advice felt like a leading. She works with the court system and children who are removed from their homes by the state. She is the voice of the children in court; she goes to physical therapy and doctors' appointments, mentors other guardians, and works with the parents. The experience can be "heart wrenching". Nancy says it is "heart work, not hard work". In addition, Nancy enjoys writing and has written poems, short stories and novels.

For Nancy, the Quaker testimonies are wonderfully intertwined, "like holistic medicine". She finds integrity to be the guide for everything else. Be true to the light within and simplicity, peace – all the testimonies – will find their place in living as a Friend.



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY  
TO OUR *SENIOR-MOST*  
FRIEND**

**SHE WAS AN APRIL FOOLS BABY !!!  
PHYLLIS STANLEY**

**!!! WE LOVE YOU PHYLLIS !!!**



**Mark your Calendars**

**New Date for Religious Education**

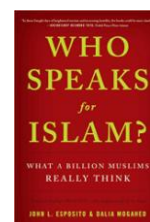
**April 24, at rise of Meeting—bring a brown bag lunch.**

**FACILITATOR:** Mary Wickes

This discussion will not be on 3/27/16 as previously reported. **This workshop is especially relevant at this time.**

**Topic:** Islamophobia, The topic is covered in a book and some on the Amazon review of the book "*Who Speaks for Islam: What a Billion Muslims really think*"

Amid the rhetoric of hate and growing violence, both anti-Americanism in the Muslim world and Islamophobia — discrimination against or hostility toward Islam or Muslims — have increased precipitously. In the aftermath of 9/11, President George W. Bush emphasized that America was waging war against global terrorism, not against Islam. However, the continued acts of a terrorist minority, coupled with statements by preachers of hate (Muslim and Christian) as well as anti-Muslim talk show hosts and political commentators have inflamed our emotions and distorted our views. The religion of Islam and the mainstream Muslim majority have been conflated with the beliefs and actions of an extremist minority. The result was reflected in a USA Today/Gallup poll, which found substantial minorities of Americans admitting to negative feelings or prejudice against Muslims and favoring heightened security measures with Muslims to help prevent terrorism. Nearly one-quarter of Americans, 22%, say they would not want a Muslim as a neighbor; fewer than half believe U.S. Muslims are loyal to the United States; and 44% say Muslims are too extreme in their religious beliefs. (handouts will be emailed with this newsletter). *Mary Wickes*





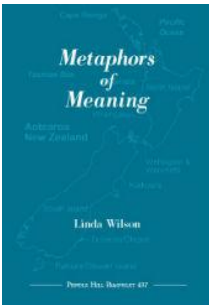
## Reviews of Pendle Hill Pamphlets by Friends

Several Friends have subscribed to the Pendle Hill Pamphlets and we hope to give a book review on them as they are received. Last month, Helen Snodgrass gave a review on “Spreading the Fire, Challenging & Encouraging Friends through Travel in the Ministry” by Debbie Humphries. This month Helen is again reviewing her pamphlet for us:

### Metaphors of Meaning

By Linda Wilson

Pendle Hill Pamphlet # 437



The author is a New Zealander (fourth generation) who spent ten months at Pendle Hill after her 55<sup>th</sup> birthday. She appears to be influenced by the Maori culture.

She became concerned with the meanings of metaphors as they related to how one describes their spiritual life to others. The author discusses common metaphors people use when describing their life in the spirit. She encourages us to develop and work with our own metaphors. She does not support the metaphor of the spiritual path but developed her own metaphor of the spiritual home. The path or journey metaphor focuses on going rather than being.

She gives many practical ideas on tending to our spiritual home. This was an interesting read with a new perspective.

---

## USEFUL WEBSITES FOR FRIENDS

Southeastern Yearly Meeting

[www.seymquakers.org](http://www.seymquakers.org)

Fort Myers Meeting Website

[www.quakercloud.org/fortmyers](http://www.quakercloud.org/fortmyers)

American Friends Service Committee

[www.afsc.org](http://www.afsc.org)

Friends General Conference

[www.fgcquaker.org](http://www.fgcquaker.org)

Friends General Conference Book Store

[www.quakerbooks.org](http://www.quakerbooks.org)

Pendle Hill

[www.pendlehill.org](http://www.pendlehill.org)

**Editor's email address is:** [jeannettebotha64@gmail.com](mailto:jeannettebotha64@gmail.com)

3-27-16	Meeting for Worship	10:30 – 11:30
4-3-16	Meeting for Worship	10:30 – 11:30
	Pot Luck Lunch—all are welcome	At rise of Meeting
4-10-16	Meeting for Worship	10:30 - 11:30
	Meeting for Worship with regard to Business	At rise of Meeting
	Last Chance Book Club	At rise of Meeting
4-17-16	Meeting for Worship	10:30 – 11:30
4-24-16	Meeting for Worship	10:30 – 11:30
	Workshop and Discussion of Islamophobia—see above	At rise of Meeting



“QUAKER WEDDING” by Howard Pyle

*Friends Meeting of Fort Myers*  
*Religious Society of Friends*  
**Jeannette Botha**  
**2135 Oxford Ridge Circle**  
**Lehigh Acres, FL 33973**

Address Correction Requested



