

FORT MYERS MONTHLY MEETING OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Newsletter, Tenth 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
E-mail: 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
- 1st Sunday: Pot Luck Lunch
- 2nd Sunday: Meeting for Worship With Attention to Business

From Faith & Practice of Southeastern Yearly Meeting -

To what extent is our personal life in accord with Quaker principles? WITNESS

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 8, 2017

The Fort Myers Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends met in Iona House on 10th Month 8, with ten Friends present. The meeting opened with silent worship. Out of the silence, Clerk Nancy Fennell read queries on the subject of Social and Economic Justice. In response, a Friend noted that these queries present quite a challenge. Another Friend reflected on the egalitarian society of the Bushmen hunters and gatherers, where no one is elevated more than anyone else and where sharing is the norm. Another noted that there are no slums in Switzerland. We wondered what we may learn from these societies.

CLERK'S REPORT:

- We received a letter from Mary Grace Menner, thanking us for our contribution to her year with Quaker Voluntary Services.
- We received correspondence from the Solebury Friends Meeting of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting passing on a request for transfer of membership of Charles and Norma Lipsen to our Meeting. Ministry and Counsel Committee is asked to review this request and report back to Friends at our next meeting.
- We received a note from David Jossi requesting membership in the Fort Myers

Meeting. Ministry and Counsel Committee is asked to review this request and report back to Friends at our next meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

John Battin, Treasurer, reported on the financial activities of September 2017. We had Member/Attender contributions of \$1,785, and a contribution from Camden (DE) Friends of \$1050. Regarding expenditures, there was \$100 of budgeted outlay, and contributions of \$475 for Hurricane Harvey relief and \$1,250 for Hurricane Irma relief. The general fund balance on September 30, 2017 was \$4,624.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Joan Culver reported that the Finance committee has determined that future budgets and reports should include a specific line item for Calusa Nature Center support. Committee clerks will be asked this month to notify Finance Committee or Treasurer of its financial needs for next year.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Nancy Howell reported that the committee has begun its process of considering nominations for 2018, and, as a first step, is passing out questionnaires to our Meeting family to complete. It intends to present a preliminary report to the Meeting in

November, and a final report in December.

It was noted that, in order to meet Florida Law, we must have an official noticed meeting in December and to formally name our legal representatives at that meeting. This will coincide with our December monthly meeting.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE:

Connie Summerlin reported that, in the past 12 months, our Meeting has contributed 650 pounds of food and \$126 to the Harry Chapin Food Bank

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

On October 29, Brad Stocker, from the SEYM Earthcare Witness Committee, will be giving a presentation to Friends at the rise of meeting. In February, Cece Yocum of Tampa Meeting will be leading our annual Meeting retreat. We will provide hospitality to her.

Friends considered how we might be able to strengthen our fellowship period at the rise of worship to include more discussion about Quaker related matters. The Clerk polled friends about the holding of a Quakerism 101 course during Jan-Mar. There was a positive response, and the Adult Education Committee will work on putting it together.

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE:

Nancy Howell noted that the committee does not hold meetings, but communicates informally with each other while fulfilling its responsibilities. A Montessori School will be using the Iona House on Monday through Friday from 7:30 AM to 6 PM, and the committee is assessing how this will impact our procedures for setting up and breaking

down before and after our First Day gathering, and impact on our paper supply procedures. The school is leaving the facility neat and tidy, and we are asked to return the main room to the layout in which we find it.

CALUSA NATURE CENTER:

Joan Culver reports that the CNCP has made arrangements with the Sheriff's office to make window framing and siding improvements to the Iona House. She is working closely with reps from the Montessori School about various matters of co-existence. The idea of getting rolling carts for the stacking chairs is being considered.

The Nature Center is bringing in an Internet connection to Iona House. That will provide greater opportunities for us to tap into the Internet for presentations. We might want to consider purchasing a stationary hanging projection screen.

OTHER:

Last year we sponsored a Thanksgiving Dinner at Iona House. Suzanne Frechette asked if we can repeat this activity this year. Connie Summerlin will check with the CNCP as to availability of the facility

- ❖ **2017MM19:** We approve holding a 2018 Thanksgiving Day pot luck dinner at the Iona House, pending approval of CNCP.

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

Richard Frechette
Co-Recording Clerk

SUGGESTION REGARDING POTLUCK MEALS: We usually have a wonderful selection at the monthly pot luck meals. To assist those with specific diet requirements,

the hospitality Committee has recently prepared labels that you can place in front of your item identifying it as: a vegan offering, vegetarian offering, contains nuts, contains shellfish.

[ARE YOU EARTH LITERATE?](#)

Please Join Us to Welcome BRAD STOCKER

When: October 29, 2017, at rise of Meeting for Worship, (after soup)

What: 1 ½ hour workshop

What do you need to know to be Earth Literate? This workshop explores getting us back in touch with our Earth roots and discovering what skills and knowledge we need to pass on to the next generations. The methodology involves all senses, mind and body, and requires a sense of playfulness. In an hour and a half we will touch upon a slice of what has been up to a 40-hour course. Come with an open heart.

Brad Stocker served on the Council of the Earth Ethics Institute at the Miami Dade College for more than 20 years. He has a post-doctoral certificate in Ecology and Human Spirit and has been designing, developing, and teaching Earth Literacy workshops and courses since 1992. He is a member of Miami Friends Meeting, a co-clerk of the SEYM Earthcare Committee, and a representative to Quaker Earthcare Witness.

All are welcome!
Adult Education Committee



Quaker Voluntary Service is an 11-month experiment, living at the intersection of transformational spirituality and activism. Young adults work full-time in professional positions at community based organizations addressing a wide range of issues, while living in a cooperative house and worshipping with, and being mentored by, local

Quakers. Fellows receive housing, transportation, food, support for health and wellness (including access to health insurance if needed), and a small stipend, while engaging in regular self-led workshops and retreats that allow for continuing education in social justice, faith, and community building topics.

QVS began as an idea formed at a Pendle Hill consultation in 2009. The board was established in 2010 (our own Cheryl Keen is an original and continuing board member), and QVS was incorporated in 2011. There are currently QVS Houses in Atlanta, Philadelphia, Portland (WA) and Greater Boston, and a house will be launched in Minneapolis in 2018.

Sojourning Fort Myers Member Tom Flaherty served in QVS/Philadelphia a few years ago and stayed on with the organization that was initially assigned to. Mary Grace Menner, who worshipped and shared fellowship with us in the past year, applied for and was accepted into QVS and is stationed in Dorchester/Boston. She sends us the following update:

“We only moved into the QVS House in Dorchester about a month ago, but it already feels like home. Eight of us fellows live together in intentional community, supporting each other, worshipping together, and sharing the regular tasks of daily living. We all work in some sort of social justice field -- but I've been amazed by the breadth of our placements. For example, we include a teacher, two homeless healthcare providers, an environmental advocate, and a small-business loan provider. It has been enlightening and exciting to be surrounded by such a variety of topics and I feel very lucky to learn from my f/Friends both at home and at work! I work at Metrowest Worker Center (Casa del Trabajador). Casa is a multi-lingual, worker-led center that works primarily with undocumented immigrant workers. We work with attorneys, faith groups, and the local community to combat wage theft, educate workers about their rights, and assist people injured on the job. We accompany workers to hearings (both immigration and workers comp) and draw on local communities of privilege to visibly stand with at-risk workers. It is really fulfilling and I'm certainly drawing on my experiences in Immokalee as I take on this new role.”

May you have a fulfilling, exciting and fun experience with QVS, MaryGrace. She can be reached at MGMenner@gmail.com, or at 68 Bailey St, Dorchester Center, MA 02124. If you would like more information on QVS, go to www.quakervoluntaryservice.org

Report from SEYM Fall Interim Business Meeting on ProNica:

Anchored by the Florida Quakers of Southeastern Yearly Meeting (SEYM) and a growing number of supporters across the globe, ProNica was officially organized in 1986. The mission of ProNica has been building cross-cultural sustainable relationships between the peoples of Nicaragua and North America based on Quaker values. Their partner projects have been community-initiated and focus on the health, harmony and well-being of individuals as well as the community as a whole, addressing not only urgent needs but the roots of social injustice.

The ProNica board members from SEYM report that, due to increasing Nicaraguan Government regulation of NGOs and internal conflicts, the Board has decided to close the Nicaragua operations. The only options relating to the assets and title, given governmental requirements, was to gift all to another NGO – International NGO El Porvenir. This has happened. An agreement between ProNica and El Porvenir results in the following:

- The office and living space is to be sold and half the profits will be given to ProNica's partners, the other half to be retained and used for daily operations at Quaker House;
- Quaker House will continue to be called such and will be available for the Managua Worship Group to meet.
- EP hired two principle Quaker House staff members with a two-year contract.

We fully expect that many of the wonderful projects will continue, such as the oft-mentioned Beauty School of Acahualinca, based near the Managua city dump, giving job and business skills to many otherwise impoverished residents. The stateside ProNica, Inc., based in St. Petersburg, is envisioning a future that will support our Nicaraguan partner organizations with monetary donations deposited directly into their Nicaraguan bank accounts. They are in the process re-strategizing – including efforts to increase their social media presence - and reorganizing to assure local community involvement. More to come...

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

All First Days	Pre-Worship Singing	9:50 am
	Meeting for Worship	10:30 am
11/5	Pot Luck Lunch	At rise of Worship
11/12	Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, following simple meal of soup and bread	At rise of Worship
Mon 10/16	L.I.F.E. Assembly of Congregations @ Mt. Hermon Ministries	Registration 6:30 PM Events 7-8:30 PM
10/29	Presentation by Brad Stocker, Co-Clerk of SEYM's Earthcare Witness Committee (see above)	At rise of Worship
Sat 12/9	Memorial Meeting for Phyl Stanley	2:00 pm



Celebrate Thanksgiving With Friends at the Iona House

Any and all are invited to share in food and fellowship on Thanksgiving Day at noon at the Iona House. Mark your calendar. More information will be provided in the November Meeting Newsletter.

Interfaith Action Group of Southwest Florida

Presents

A Special Luncheon Program

“ Violence In the Name of Religion? ”

Scripture, Traditions, History, Current



**LOIS THOME
WINK NEWS**



**RABBI STEPHEN FUCHS
JUDAISM**



**Rev. William Bogholtz
Christianity**



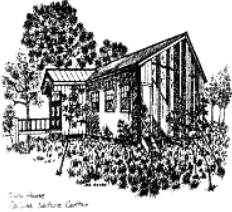
**MR. HASAN SHIBLI
ISLAM**

Thursday October 26, 2017 11:30-1:30

Unitarian Universalist Church. 13411 Shire Lane Fort Myers, FL 33912

Please RSVP by Monday October 23 . Lunch is \$10 per person

RSVP by email: iagswf1@gmail.com or phone: 941-218-0059



**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

USEFUL WEBSITES FOR FRIENDS

<http://seymquakers.org>..... Southeastern Yearly Meeting
www.fcnl.org Friends Committee for National Legislation
www.fgcquaker.org..... Friends General Conference
www.afsc.org American Friends Service Committee
<http://fwcc.world>..... Friends World Committee on Consultation
www.quakerspeak.com..... QuakerSpeak: a Quaker YouTube channel.
www.quakerhouse.org Quaker House, Fayetteville
www.quakervoluntaryservice.org Quaker Voluntary Service
www.quno.org..... Quaker United Nations Office