



FORT MYERS MONTHLY MEETING OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Newsletter, Sixth 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 -

How do Friends Care for One Another? Home, Family, & Relationships

Queries:

- Do we make our home a place where love, peace, happiness, friendship, and refreshment of spirit are found and where the presence of God is experienced?
- Do all members of our family receive our affection and understanding?
- Do we take care that responsibilities outside the home do not encroach upon the time and loving attention our family needs?
- Do we acknowledge and support all relationships and families, whether conventional or not, that are based on love and commitment?
- Does our family set aside First Day and other times for worship, service, rest, and refreshment of spirit?

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Advices:

- Live in love, and learn from one another. Try to live simply.
- In our family life, encourage reliance upon God's guidance and help for each day's needs.
- Remember the value of beauty in all its forms.
- God's gifts are for all to enjoy; learn to use them wisely.

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

6th Month 11, 2017

The Fort Myers Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends met at Iona House on 6th month 11, 2017, with 13 Friends present. The meeting opened with a period of silence. Clerk Nancy Fennell read queries on the subject of home, family, and relationships.

Ministry and Counsel. Acting Clerk Kathy Hale reported that Mary Wickes contacted Clerk Nancy Fennell asking to be removed from membership with this meeting. The following Minute was approved.

- ❖ **2017MM11.** The Meeting received a request from Mary Wickes to be removed from membership as she is now attending another church. The clerk has acknowledged receipt of this request and the Meeting is laying down her membership.

Ministry and Counsel has completed revisions on A Guide to Listening and Speaking in a Quaker Meeting for Worship. Richard Frechette and Nancy Murvine have completed the formatting of the text and it will be available shortly.

Ministry and Counsel requested that an additional \$326.50 be transferred from the Meeting budget to Ministry and Counsel to cover an expense for the family this Meeting supports that went beyond the \$1000.00 previously designated. The Meeting discussed the particular circumstances of the request and the following minute was approved.

- ❖ **2017MM12.** The Meeting approves the transfer of \$326.50.00 from the Meeting budget to Ministry and Counsel to cover an expense for the family that the Meeting supports.

Clerk's Report. Clerk Nancy Fennell

reported that there will be a called meeting in a few weeks to discuss this meeting's support of Mary Grace Menner's work this year with Quaker Voluntary Service.

Nancy Fennell requests that community members read the Draft SEYM Statement on Climate Change and Environmental Protection and be prepared to consider a minute at the September Meeting for Business.

SEYM apportionment numbers showed 42 regular attenders for this meeting, which we corrected to 17 regular attenders.

Treasurer's Report. John Battin presented the monthly report, which is attached with these minutes and will be included the Newsletter. He also announced that two contributions have been made to the Meeting House fund.

Finance Committee. Clerk Joan Culver reported on financial expectations surrounding her board membership at the Calusa Nature Center and Planetarium and requested a discussion of alternative financial contributions from the Meeting and a process for funding. Friends agreed that in lieu of the current request for Board members' contributions, we would offer to pay \$157.00 for one child's attendance at the CNCP summer camp. Additionally, for next year's budget, we will consider putting all the donations to CNCP (other than repairs to Iona House) into one budget line.

- ❖ **2017MM13.** Friends agreed that for the current request for Board members' contributions, we would offer instead to pay \$157.00 for one child's attendance at the CNCP summer camp.

Nominating. Nancy Howell reported that the Nominating Committee has not met recently

but will be actively working to fill committees for next year. Nancy encourages anyone interested in serving on the Nominating Committee to contact her.

Outreach Committee. Nancy Howell reported that the Outreach Committee will be working over the summer to make the

website reflect more local issues and activities.

The minutes were read and approved. The Meeting closed with a period of silence.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Hale
Co-Recording Clerk

May 2017 Treasurer's Summary

YEAR TO DATE SUMMARY

	<u>May 2016</u>	<u>May 2017</u>
Contributions	\$7,665	\$7,310
Outlays	\$(3,515)	\$(4,147)
Difference	<u>\$4,150</u>	<u>\$3,163</u>
General Fund Cash on Hand May 1, 2017		\$3,992
General Fund Contributions May 2017		\$1,446
Budgeted Outlays May 2017		<u>\$(2,276)</u>
Cash on Hand May 31, 2017		<u>\$3,163</u>
#####		
General Funds Savings May 1, 2017		\$12,919
Interest Earned		\$4
Ministry & Counsel - Contingency		<u>\$(563)</u>
General Funds Savings May 31 , 2017		\$12,360
Meeting House Savings May 1, 2017		\$47,600
Gifts		\$5,054
Interest Earned		\$14
Meeting House Fund May 31, 2017		<u>\$52,669</u>
Allocations of General Funds Savings		
Contingency		\$2,731
Ministry & Counsel		\$437
Meetinghouse		\$3,731
Properties		\$3,731
Peace & Social Concerns		<u>\$1,730</u>
		\$12,360

Upcoming Adult Religious Education Events: (Mark your calendar)

- **June 18:** “Moral Injury”, led by Nncy Howell and John Battin
 - **July 16:** “A Quaker Conversation on SEYM’s Queries and Advices for July,” guided by Larry Butler
 - **August 27:** “A Quaker Conversation on SEYM’s Queries and Advices for August,” guided by Connie Summerlin
 - **Sept. 17:** “Earthcare Through Recycling,” presented by a representative from Lee County Dept. of Waste Management;
 - **October 22:** A presentation by Brad Stocker, co-clerk of SEYM’s Earthcare Witness Committee (specific topic to be identified at a later date)
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CALENDAR – June, July and Beyond

All First Days	Pre-Worship Singing	9:50 am
	Meeting for Worship	10:30 am
6/18	Workshop: “Moral Injury”	At rise of Worship
6/25	Called Meeting for Business to discuss the Meeting's support of Mary Grace Menner's work this year with Quaker Voluntary Service.	At rise of Worship
7/2	Pot Luck Lunch	At rise of Worship
7/16	Quaker Conversation on 7 th Month Queries	At rise of Worship
8/6	Pot Luck Lunch	At rise of Worship
8/27	Quaker Conversation on 8 th Month Queries	At rise of Worship
There are no regularly scheduled Meetings for Worship with attention to business in July & August. Such will be called by the Meeting Clerk if needed		



Nancy Webster was visiting Rhode Island recently, and saw the headline above in the local newspaper. This may provoke much thought and discussion...

Webs in the Light of Morning

The means to gain happiness is to throw out from oneself like a spider in all directions an adhesive web of love, and to catch in it all that comes.

Leo Tolstoy

At the start of an early morning walk my husband and I discovered an incredible array of spider webs that began in the ditch along side our Indiana home and stretched for almost a half mile down the farm road. The webs were still heavy with dew and in the morning light their beauty and complexity was revealed. These weavers were *orb spiders* which are plentiful near farm fields and a boon to farmers as they consume many insects that may harm crops. I have a real fear of spiders but appreciate their place in the pattern of all life.

Orb spiders construct new webs nightly. Toward evening, the spider consumes the old web, recovering the silk protein and conserving energy that would be lost in new silk production. After resting for perhaps an hour or more, the spider labors in the darkness weaving a fine new web, that will glisten in the dew of the coming dawn. There, as we walked in the morning light, the night work of thousands of spiders was revealed to us. The beautiful work of the small night weavers seemed to me in that moment a metaphor for God's work done unseen.

We discover it is often more difficult to forgive ourselves than to forgive others. We learn that that we can let go of old hurts, angers, and prejudices. When we are ready, we can give them to God and take another step toward healing. There is no time table, no estimated time of arrival. We labor along side God as we are able, knowing that when we rest or when we sleep, God is with us and the work continues.



We are led to restoration. We may realize that where we have caused hurt it is not enough to say, "I'm sorry, God. Please forgive me." It is to that person or situation we must go and make a sincere apology with no excuses. Restored relationships reconnect us and bring us joy. Like the filaments of the spider's web, one relationship is tied to others in family and community and joy can be felt throughout. Often the friendships and love we experience and, in turn, give to others are the visible and tangible results of the healing work done unseen.

I sometime look at my photos of wonderful moments shared with loved ones gone from my sight through time, geography, and even death. In some photos love is visible. I see happiness radiating from their faces that is beautiful and vibrant and I relive it. It is the joy of the moment and the friendship of decades that is revealed to me, not the hurts, painful losses, and disappointments of life they have overcome.

"Death is but crossing the world, as friends do the seas;
they live in one another still."

Wm. Penn, *More fruits of Solitude*

Roxy Jacobs



2017 FGC Gathering

Sunday, July 2 - Saturday, July 8

Dear Friends,

As water collects from the vast North American Great Lakes watershed to flow down the mighty Niagara River, we invite you to join the energy of a thousand Quakers converging from far and wide at Niagara University for a week of worship, socializing, learning, deepening, fun and more. Our proximity to Niagara Falls (4 miles | 6 km) offers numerous sightseeing options as well as the opportunity to reflect on whether your spiritual journey has you in the rapids above the falls, in the midst of great change, down-river from a significant transition or somewhere else on the river. Our theme, **Ripples Start Where Spirit Moves**, invites you contemplate where spirit is moving in your life and those around you and what ripples you notice as a result.

For more information, go to FGCQuaker.org

Many may recognize Ann deNevers in this eulogy, but I believe the character essentially is known universally among Quakers.

Theron White

The Death of the Good Quaker

She wore on her face
The spirit of kindness, and
Spirit of peace,
Like the walnut of the benches
Of the Quaker Meeting houses
Burnished to a gentle glow and polish
From generations of seated seekers
Of the Spirit.

As a little girl fidgeting on hard seats
She learned to settle into respite
Of silence, patiently waiting
With all others in the room
For the Presence;
The child could glimpse blue sky
Through the wind-blown
Branches of her tree of thoughts.
The old Quaker writers,

Spoke of the Light,
That which can't be named,
The I am that I am,
That means no evil.

This vision guided her life into adulthood:
Red Cross worker post-War Germany,
Parent and guide to her daughter,
Counselor of troubled people,
Promoter of good causes,
Fearless speaker of truth to power
And a good friend to many.

This imbued her life even to her death.
She waited patiently for the Light,
Spoke of the congregation at her bedside
Those preceding her end of life.
"Can't you see them?" she asked.
Then she extended her hand upward
To that only she could see
And together they led her away.

Hunger and Peace: Hand in Hand

When you are hungry it is difficult to be peaceful.
When you are hungry it is easy for quarrels to escalate.
When you are hungry all other problems become harder to solve.

Our meeting has been supporting the Harry Chapin Food Bank, which is addressing food insecurity. Currently we are using food donations to directly assist a family in need. We encourage members and attenders of the Fort Myers Friends to bring nonperishable food every week for this family.



Quakers have long been supporters of such local and international organizations that nurture the common good.

As do many others, they believe that we are all our “brother’s keepers”. It is our business to be sure our neighbors thrive. Our neighbors are those who live near us ...in our city ...in our state...in our country...and in our world.

Quakers also support the American Friends Service Committee which has spent decades providing relief. AFSC was founded in 1917 and among other activities, fed thousands of children after WWI. They also addressed hunger through such disparate efforts as those in Appalachia and in Gaza. The organization kept track of the work hours of the POW’s during the WWII and paid the men after the war so they could feed their families.

The Nobel Peace Prize was given to the British Quakers and AFSC after WW II in 1947. They were commended for providing relief and comfort “from the nameless to the nameless”. The spokesperson from AFCS stated:

“...simple plain men and women ... if they devote themselves to resolute insistence on Goodwill in place of force...can do something to build a better peaceful world.” Tackling hunger is one way to build a better peaceful world. That mission is still possible here in Fort Myers.

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)



**Friends Meeting of Fort Myers
Religious Society of Friends
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Address Correction Requested

USEFUL WEBSITES FOR FRIENDS

<http://seymquakers.org>

Southeastern Yearly Meeting

www.fcni.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