



Tony Hale
Calusa Nature Center

FORT MYERS

MONTHLY MEETING

OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Newsletter, Third Month, 2018

Worship: In the Iona House at the Calusa Nature Center
Mailing Address: 117 East Mariana Ave. North Fort Myers FL 33927
E-mail: ftmyers.quakers@gmail.com **Website:** www.fortmyersquakers.org

Clerk: Joan Culver (joanculver@gmail.com) • 1st Sunday of the Month: Pot Luck Lunch
Recording Clerks: Kathy Hale / Richard Frechette • 2nd Sunday of Month: Meeting for Worship
Treasurer: John Battin With Attention to Business

QUERIES & ADVICES from Faith & Practice of Southeastern Yearly Meeting

2. 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 11, 2018

The Fort Myers Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends met in Iona House on 3rd Month 10 with 15 Friends present. The meeting opened with a period of silent centering. Clerk Joan Culver read queries and advices on harmony in the Meeting. In response, it was suggested that our community be more active individually in reaching out to people who haven't been attending so that they know we care.

Ministry and Counsel. The committee has nothing to bring to the Meeting at this time.

Treasurer's Report. John Battin distributed the February and year-to-date financial summary and announced that the \$15,800 from Phyllis Stanley's bequest has been deposited in our General Savings account. The entire report will be in the newsletter.

Finance Committee. The Finance committee discussed our current banking situation of having our accounts in two different local banks. The committee decided to move our Fifth Third bank account into Suncoast Federal Credit Union, where we also have an account. This streamlines our banking processes and eliminates some concerns we have had with Fifth Third.

We discussed the issue of the \$5,384 residual monies from 2017. The committee recommends leaving it in the bank savings account instead of checking to gather interest. Committees may bring any request for use of the funds to the Meeting.

The committee opened discussion of the use of the \$15,800 from Phyllis Stanley's bequest. The committee recommends holding the funds while we consider what would be an appropriate way to honor Phyl's legacy in social concerns. Some

discussion followed on possibilities of the Life program as a beneficiary. There is some concern from those who are working with Life that their approach is not always in line with Quaker values, though significant power is brought from the coordination of so many churches. It was suggested that we consider that racial dynamics and African-American history and life experience come into play in what we consider a confrontational approach. Regardless, many members of the committee believe that their Quaker presence with Life has had and continues to have a positive influence on the process.

Another option presented was the addition of all or part of the funds to the Meeting House fund, which would preserve the Meeting's presence in Fort Myers. A third idea was that since Phyl had a passion for education, it would be appropriate to give some money to a fund for the Parkland or local students to support their advocacy of gun control and other social issues. Finally, there was a suggestion of a scholarship fund or a program to train locally in advocacy.

Nominating Committee. No report

Adult Religious Education Committee. No report.

First Day School. No report.

Peace and Social Concerns Committee. Carolyn Stanley reported that the committee would like to support the new Cultivate Abundance's Immokalee Farmworker Household Container Gardening Project by making a \$200 donation toward the organization's total need of \$2000 to get the project up and running. There is a food desert

in Immokalee and this kind of project addresses that food need. The organization developed by former Echo employees and is recommended by long distant FMMM member Rebecca Garafano. Carolyn and the committee continue to pursue other methods and other sources to address the food desert issue.

The committee asked for beginning consideration of support of the UN Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty and identified some Quaker meetings which are already supporting this issue. Discussion followed in which people expressed support for the issue, though there were concerns raised. After discussion of the complexities of the issue, the suggestion was made that the Clerk of Peace and Social Concerns explore further with SEYM and with the Ann Arbor Monthly Meeting in Michigan and the Multnomah Oregon Monthly Meeting in Portland before presenting a Minute for consideration.

Hospitality Committee. No report.

Properties Committee. Suzanne Frechette reported that the committee is working on completion of the repair of the four-panel sign in front of Iona House.

Outreach Committee. Friends are invited to examine the website and suggest anything they think should be there. The committee has advertised in Friends' Journal. Efforts on the signs for visitors is progressing.

Calusa Nature Center and Planetarium. Joan Culver, who is liaison to CNCP announced that Larry Aguilar, Executive Director of CNCP, has resigned effective April 6. This doesn't impact our relationship or use of Iona House. However, Joan is trying to connect the Iona House event scheduler to coordinate with our Hospitality Committee and/or Properties Committee. A fundraiser is scheduled for April and donations accepted of valuable items to be auctioned.

New Business. Karen Zentgraf expressed willingness to continue Sue Curra's stamp project.

Minutes of the meeting were read and approved. The Meeting ended with a period of silence.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Hale,
Co-Recording Clerk



Our Meeting is a member of Lee Interfaith for Empowerment (L.I.F.E.). Join us in the Nehemiah Action where we will be asking the county commissioners to pass a resolution placing the formation of a Children's Service Council on the Nov. ballot that would ensure broader access to health programs for families and children. We will also be asking local law enforcement officials to recommit to a greater utilization of civil citations for youth and diverting them from the criminal justice system.

LIFE for Justice, justice for life!

United Nations Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty

Helen Fox has recently brought to the Peace and Social Concerns Committee the following letter from Multnomah Friends Meeting in Portland Oregon regarding the United Nations Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty that was passed in July of 2017. The P&SC Committee has sent it on to SEYM for consideration and **is asking Fort Myers Friends to consider if it speaks to us as a community.**

Friends,

This email is being sent from Multnomah Monthly Meeting of Friends to share a Minute supporting the United Nations Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty, which was approved in Meeting for Worship for Business on September 17, 2017. It is our intention to send it to all Quaker Monthly and Yearly Meetings and prominent institutions. You can access a copy of the Minute here: https://gallery.mailchimp.com/2099154b7c975701e96493d8f/files/cadced50-a117-4d76-aaa8-79d39e75c1ef/Nuclear_Treaty_Minute_MMM_09172017.pdf <also below>

We are asking that all who identify as Quakers, if so led, join us in supporting the new United Nations Treaty which bans nuclear weapons, just as chemical and biological weapons are already banned.

Treaty negotiations were successfully concluded within the United Nations on July 7, 2017. On September 20, 2017, the new Treaty was opened for signature by heads of governments or Foreign Ministers. Fifty governments took the first step and signed the treaty on that first day and three have already submitted their documents to the United Nations for ratification. Once 50 nations have ratified, it will enter into force.

Relatively few of our fellow citizens in the United States – including many Quakers – are aware of this treaty. Our major media in this country have not reported on its development, nor have they encouraged open discussion of its significance or pros and cons of its 18 articles. Most other countries are already deeply engaged in this process.

We in Multnomah Monthly Meeting of Friends in Portland, Oregon encourage all Quaker Meetings and institutions to engage in educating ourselves and our fellow citizens on its existence. Let us now join together, seeking Divine guidance and proceeding as the way opens before us.

Additionally, we've produced a resource sheet that provides background information and links to more details about the Treaty, which you can access here: https://gallery.mailchimp.com/2099154b7c975701e96493d8f/files/4304b3bb-9e8b-4818-8d91-d2991174abc6/Resources_on_Prohibition_of_Nuclear_Weapons_Treaty.pdf

In the Light,

*Jeff Love, Clerk of Multnomah Friends Meeting
Portland, OR*

The Minute...

**Multnomah Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
North Pacific Yearly Meeting
4312 SE Stark Street, Portland, OR 97215
503-232-2822 www.multnomahfriends.org**

The following Minute was approved by the Multnomah Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends at the 9th month Meeting for Worship for Business on September 17, 2017.

We, Quakers of Multnomah Friends Meeting in Portland, Oregon, United States, support the new United Nations General Assembly's Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty. (A copy of that treaty is available at: <http://undocs.org/A/CONF.229/2017/8>)

In accordance with the Quaker Peace Testimony, Quakers have worked tirelessly for abolition of nuclear weapons ever since United States airplanes dropped two of these secretly produced bombs on August 6 and 9, 1945. The bombs destroyed both Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan, and the world has not yet recovered from all that those two bombs destroyed.

This treaty may seem imperfect to many Friends because it does not seek the elimination of nuclear energy as well as weapons. It is, however, the longest step world governments have taken toward the actual elimination of these weapons from our already wounded earth.

There is much work yet to do if we are to achieve actual abolition, to which our own government is adamantly opposed. The United States Congress has allocated a trillion dollars, already being used, to modernize our own nuclear arsenal over the next thirty years. Very few of our citizens are even aware of this new United Nations treaty since the major media have not reported on its development or discussed publicly its impact.

We request that all Friends and Quaker Meetings, which are so led, join to make this Treaty more widely known. Let us show our fellow citizens that the door to abolition of nuclear weapons is open. Let us proceed together as the Spirit leads and as the Way opens.

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.quono.org	Quaker United Nations Office

February 2018 Treasurer's Summary			
YEAR TO DATE SUMMARY			
		February	February
		2017	2018
	Contributions	\$ 2,590	\$ 5,086
	Outlays	\$ (437)	\$ (1,734)
	Difference	\$ 2,153	\$ 3,352
<hr/>			
	General Fund Cash on Hand Feb 1 ,2018		\$ 6,802
	General Fund Contributions Feb, 2018		\$ 2,555
	Budgeted Outlays Feb. 2018		\$ (620)
	Cash on Hand February 28,2018		\$ 8,737
		#####	
	General Funds Savings Feb 28, 2018		\$ 11,711
	Meeting House Savings Feb 28,2018		\$ 72,483
<hr/>			
Allocations of General Funds Savings			
	Contingency	\$ 2,512	
	Meetinghouse	\$ 3,733	
	Properties	\$ 3,733	
	P&SC	\$ 1,733	
		\$ 11,711	
<hr/>			
In early March, the Meeting received a bequest from Phyllis Stanley in the amount of \$15,810 which was deposited into General Fund Savings			

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.quono.org	Quaker United Nations Office

Letter to Dan Stanley

March 5, 2018

Dear Dan,

This letter is in acknowledgment of the recent gift of \$15,810 on behalf of the late Phyllis Stanley. Phyllis was a founder of our Meeting here in Fort Myers and a strong supporter of peace and reconciliation in other community activities as well. She holds a lasting place in all our hearts.

On a personal note, she suggested to me that we institute 'Letter-writing Sundays' – a way for our Members/Attendees to advocate Quaker values by addressing letters to those in positions of authority to make positive changes locally and nationally. Wisely, she told me to be sure to do this on Pot-luck lunch Sundays to get the most possible signatures for our group letters. This Sunday we sent to our Lee County Commissioners letters on a local issue that had 34 signatures.

We wish you well in your new home, and many here have asked for you

With warm regards on behalf of all our Members/Attendees and our deep regrets for Phyllis' passing.

John Battin, Treasurer,

Fort Myers Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

USED POSTAGE STAMP PROJECT



Karen Zentgraf will be collecting used postage stamps from Ft. Myers friends. This Used Stamp Project was done efficiently and quietly by Sue Curra for a number of years before her passing. The stamps are used to raise funds for the Right Sharing of World Resources, a Quaker organization founded in 1967. The organization says they are "Empowering Women: One Grant at a Time." It is an interesting organization.

The Used Stamp Project has been headed by several different groups/people over the years. Currently stamps are being sent to the Indianapolis First Friends, who take care of securing a good return on them.

Suggestions:

- Take care in clipping stamps. Clipped perforations, tears, thinned paper from the stamp being having been peeled off the envelope may render the stamp useless for resale
- Non-profit and flag stamps are very common and therefore not worth much.
- On the other hand, foreign stamps, commemorative stamps and ones with special designs or pictures are prized...I enjoy buying and receiving them – don't you?
- Put your used stamp donation in a bag or envelope marked "used stamps kin the name tag cart if I am not at Meeting. I will pick them up when I come.

Thank you,
Karen Zentgraf
zentgraf2@comcast.net



**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

MEETING CALENDAR

All First Days	Pre-Worship Singing	9:55 am
	Meeting for Worship: "Quaker Witness"	10:30 am
Sun 3/18	Quakerism 101: "Living in the Light: Quaker Witness"	At rise of worship
Tue 3/20	L.I.F.E Nehemiah Action (see further info above)	7:00 PM
Sun 3/25	Quakerism 101: "Getting Down to Business"	At rise of worship
3/28-4/1	SEYM Gathering at Fruitland Park	
Sun 4/1	Pot luck lunch	At rise of worship
Sun 4/8	Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business	At rise of worship
