



Iona House
Calusa Nature Center

FORT MYERS MONTHLY MEETING OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS NEWSLETTER, SIXTH 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)
Recording Clerks: Kathy Hale / Richard Frechette
Treasurer: John Battin

- 1st Sunday of the Month: Pot Luck Lunch
 - 2nd Sunday of Month: Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
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QUERIES & ADVICES *from Faith & Practice of Southeastern Yearly Meeting*

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?

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.
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**MINUTES OF THE FORT MYERS MONTHLY MEETING
OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS
6th Month 10, 2018**

The Fort Myers Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends met in Iona House on 6th month 9 with 14 Friends present. The meeting opened with a period of silent centering.

Queries and Advices: Clerk Joan Culver read the following advice: "Live in love, and learn from one another."

Ministry and Counsel: Nancy Howell reported that our Clerk is away for several weeks this summer, as are several members of Ministry and Counsel. We have arranged a schedule of who will open and close Meeting during that time.

Ministry and Counsel is pleased to recommend acceptance of Susan Oehl's transfer of membership to Fort Myers Monthly Meeting.

- ❖ **MM 2018MM6:** We accept with pleasure the transfer of membership requested by Susan Oehl from Middletown Monthly Meeting of Friends to the Fort Myers Monthly Meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Susan Oehl gave the Treasurer's report. Contributions last month totaled \$10,336, and outlays totaled 5,066. A question was raised about the difference in SEYM's apportionment request and FMMM's budget amount. Possible explanations were discussed, and John Battin is checking into it. Friends were reminded that our FMMM budget is somewhat flexible and usually has funds left at the end of the year.

Finance Committee: Finance Committee discussed the relationship of our budget to SEYM's budget regarding the apportionment. It is the Finance Committee's understanding that the contribution to SEYM has traditionally been the responsibility of the Meeting rather than of individual members and attenders.

Nominating Committee: No report.

Adult Religious Education Committee: Connie Summerlin reported on the committee's upcoming presentations. The June presentation will be a worship sharing facilitated by David Culver on children and young people in the Meeting for Worship. On November 4, Beverly Ward, Field Secretary for Earth Care, will present a session from 1-4 p.m., on a topic to be selected. Connie asked Friends to convey to her any ideas for a topic for Beverly Ward. One Friend has heard her speak on the relationship of water quality to economics of communities and recommends that topic.

Connie expressed the committee's appreciation for the addition of three new members: Tom Jacobs, Jeannette Botha, and David Culver. Regular committee meetings are being held every first Sunday.

David Culver presented an introduction to his upcoming presentation on the subject of children and young people in the Meeting for Worship. He will be using a worship sharing format, for

which there will be an initial overview using some guidelines provided by Roxy Jacobs, followed by a list of queries to consider the topic of children in Meeting for worship. David thinks this process may be useful for some other topics in the future.

Connie Summerlin discussed a plan the committee has in place to offer education programs once each month. A request was made to distinguish between educational programs and worship sharing programs. The Clerk asked the committee to work together to determine their approaches.

First Day School Committee: No report.

Peace and Social Concerns Committee: Carolyn Stanley, the Meeting's representative to the board of the L.I.F.E organization, will be attending the national Justice Ministry Conference in Orlando in July. Carolyn hopes to gain a better understanding of the LIFE organization so that she can more accurately represent it to the Meeting.

David Jossi sent a sketch of a new t-shirt suggestion for the Meeting to consider. The question was raised and discussion followed about whether it was acceptable to the Meeting to put "Fort Myers Monthly Meeting" on the t-shirt. Carolyn will report back to the Committee that there is no unity on this issue.

The Peace and Social Concerns committee is continuing collection of food and money donations needed by the Mision Peniel for the farm workers in Immokalee through the fall so that our snow birds may participate.

Hospitality Committee: No report.

Properties Committee: Friends again expressed their pleasure with the new Quaker Meeting signs made by Tom Jacobs.

Outreach Committee: The committee is placing notices about Friends Meeting college campus bulletin boards around the beginning of fall semester.

Calusa Nature Center and Planetarium: Clerk Joan Culver reminded the Meeting that CNCP needs volunteers.

New Business: No report.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Hale,
Co-Recording Clerk

		2018 Treasurer's Summary	
		YEAR TO DATE SUMMARY	
		<u>May</u>	<u>May</u>
		<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>
	Contributions	\$ 7,310	\$10,336
	Outlays	\$ (4,147)	\$ (5,066)
	Difference	\$ 3,163	\$ 5,270
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General Fund Cash on Hand April in hand May 2018			\$ 4,328
General Fund Contributions May 2018			\$ 1,042
Budgeted Outlays May 2018			\$ (100)
Cash on Hand May 31 2018			\$ 5,270
		#####	
General Funds Savings May 2018			\$32,919
Interest Earned 5/18			\$ 11
General Funds Savings May 31st 2018			\$32,930
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Meeting House Savings May 1 2018			77,507
Interest Earned 5/18			21
Meeting House Savings May 31 2018			<u>77,528</u>
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SEYM sent us a notice of our 2018-19 apportionment			
The total is \$5,173., much higher than the \$4,300			
amount in our 2018 budget, as we have in the past 1/2 of the			
apportionment will be paid in June with the balance in the Fall.			

Larry Butler's papers archived at Swarthmore College

Larry Butler, of our meeting, has been working to organize and document the books and papers he has accumulated during a life active in Quaker issues, and these contributions have now been accepted into the Quaker Historical Library of Swarthmore (in Philadelphia) in a special collection named

for him, where they will be permanently available to scholars of Quaker history.

His first contribution consisted of three unpublished documents, the draft manuscript of an article by Geoffrey Kaiser, an account by Larry Butler of the early days of the formation and organization of the

Committee on Homosexuality of the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, and the complete record of the Minutes of the Committee on Homosexuality in its early days. These documents were enthusiastically accepted by librarian/archivist Susanna Morikawa, with thanks.

Larry then went on to organize eleven envelopes of materials that might be useful in historical research on Quakerism. These collections of papers include a diary of his civil rights work in Barbour County, Alabama in the 1960s; the papers that were handed out to those who attended the funeral of Rev. Martin Luther King; materials from the Black Panther convention held in Philadelphia in 1970; etc. All of these collections were indexed by Larry. Susanna Morikawa incorporated the second set of documents into what

she now refers to as the Larry Scott Butler Small Collection, at the Friends Historical Library of Swarthmore College, as a part of the permanent record of Quaker thought.

I admire Friend Larry's efforts to make the experiences that he lived through accessible to the historians and others who didn't have the direct experience but who might benefit from knowing how these events were perceived at the time they occurred. If you have private papers that might be valuable to others, think about offering them for archiving in a library. With internet access, nowadays, it isn't even necessary to travel to the library where papers are located: often they can be accessed on the Web.

- Nancy Howell

Our Sojourning Friend, **Mary Grace Menner**, has written to us:

Hello from Boston! It's been about a year since I departed from Ft. Myers Friends and I've been thinking of you all as I reflect on my journey over the past 11 months.

As I've previously shared, Quaker Voluntary Service Boston writes a seasonal newsletter. In the spring edition, I write a bit about my first experiences with Quakerism at Ft. Myers Friends Meeting. I thought I'd share if anyone is interested in hearing both about that and about the QVS experience in general! I've also included the old newsletters.

I am sending love and light to my Friends in FL, and holding gratitude for the meeting's financial and spiritual support on my journey!

Peace,
MaryGrace

(Editor's Note: Below is Mary Grace's article. If you would like to read the entire Spring QVS-Boston newsletter, as well as the prior Fall and Winter editions, contact me and I will e-mail you a pdf file of each).

Path to Quakerism *by Mary Grace Menner*

As a retreat leader in Fordham University's Campus Ministry office, I met regularly with a spiritual director. We met in her office in the basement of the chapel, with the walls draped in colorful fabrics and art from different religious traditions. At this point in my life I knew I had a deep-rooted call to spiritual life, yet felt that the only place I'd ever find a spiritual "home" was inside of myself. I was raised in an Irish Catholic family. While my parents perfectly embodied Jesuit values, I still felt excluded from the Catholic tradition. I had tried-on different practices, read texts from different theologians, and visited various services, and I learned beautiful ways of engaging with spirit from each one. I built a wholly unique practice of encountering the divine from this wandering, curious path, but I had never found a faith community that fully embraced my scrambled, un-named "faith" and engaged social justice in spiritual life. I believed that I would float among different faith communities while living my own spiritual practice yet never find one that fully accepted my spirituality for itself.

Within those isolated, fearful moments, my director loaned me a copy of *A Quaker Book of Wisdom* by Robert Lawrence Smith. When I read about Quakerism I felt like I was looking in a mirror. I did not have to re-word explanations of the Divine to make them fit my views. They simply fit. I already knew, internally, that I could access an inner light without anyone teaching me how to do so. I felt seen and validated in my understanding of the Divine, and didn't feel like I had to shed parts of myself to experience Quakerism.

I went to my first Quaker meeting while I was working in Immokalee, Florida, as

a legal assistant in an immigration law firm. Immokalee is a small town on the southern gulf coast of Florida that produces 90% of the nation's winter tomatoes. One main road bisects it and you can drive through the entire town in about 10 minutes, passing trailers and agricultural packing-houses along the way. Immokalee is a hub for migrant farmworkers who spend hours stooped in the Florida sun, picking and hauling tomatoes. Fort Myers Friends joyfully welcomed me and drew me from my somewhat isolated spiritual path into a community and deeper into Quakerism. This welcome occurred at a fraught moment: President Trump had just been inaugurated and anti-immigrant rhetoric ignited across the nation. In our struggling nonprofit office, we didn't have the resources to keep up with the overwhelming flow of people seeking help. I saw hopeful families enter with folders stuffed to the brim with yellowed paystubs, torn birth certificates, and desperate letters written by friends and pastors. In the midst of the challenges I faced at Legal Aid, I continued to deepen my involvement in Quakerism. More and more, I felt pulled toward the Friends, and the integrity, intentionality, and generosity they exhibited.

It's been just over a year since I attended my first Quaker meeting. In this year I have grown into a spiritual practice that has pushed me, cradled me, and allowed me to deepen my spiritual life in a way I've never experienced before. I'm a regular attender at Friends Meeting at Cambridge and worship in community with my housemates. I'm realizing that a strong spiritual practice was within me all along, and discovering my own small, still voice has been a gift I'll carry for the rest of my life.

Friends General Conference Gathering 2018

Taste the vibrancy and the variety that is available by immersing yourself in this community of Friends for a week. FGC eagerly looks forward to welcoming you — in person — to the Gathering!

Location: University of Toledo, OH

Dates: July 1-7, 2018

Theme: The Power of Truth

For More Information, go to www.fgcquaker.org/connect/gathering

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia...

Peace Testimony

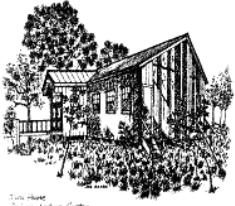


Peace testimony, or **testimony against war**, is a shorthand description of the action generally taken by members of the [Religious Society of Friends](#) (Quakers) for peace and against participation in war. Like other [Quaker testimonies](#), it is not a "belief", but a description of committed actions, in this case to promote peace, and refrain from and actively oppose participation in war. Quakers' original refusal to bear arms has been broadened to embrace protests and demonstrations in opposition to government policies of war and confrontations with others who bear arms, whatever the reason, in the support of [peace](#) and active [nonviolence](#). Because of this core testimony, the Religious Society of Friends is considered one of the traditional [peace churches](#).

The Peaceable Kingdom (c. 1834) by [Edward Hicks](#)

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
www.quakervoluntaryservice.org Quaker Voluntary Service
www.quno.org Quaker United Nations Office



**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:	10:30 am
Sun 6/24	Religious Education sponsored worship sharing on Children & Young people at meeting for worship	At rise of worship; brown bag lunch
Sun 7/1	Pot luck lunch	At rise of worship
July 1-7	Friends General Conference Gathering – University of Toledo, Ohio	
Sun 8/5	Pot luck lunch	At rise of worship
Sun 9/2	Pot luck lunch	At rise of worship