



Iona House
Calusa Nature Center

FORT MYERS MONTHLY MEETING OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Newsletter, Eighth 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*

Personal Integrity & Right Action

Queries:

- Do we keep to simplicity and moderation in speech, manner of living, and vocation?
- Do we make time in our day for silence, solitude, spiritual reflection, and the growth of our inner life?
- Do we remind ourselves each day of our connections with people, other creatures, and all that sustains life?
- Are we ready to live in the Spirit that heals estrangements that may arise from resentment, nagging fears, and alienation from others?
- Do we listen to others, even beyond words, being sensitive to their personal needs and difficulties?
- Are we free from the use of judicial oaths, thus affirming that our statement is only part of our usual integrity of speech?

- Do we regard our possessions as given to us in trust, and do we part with them freely for the needs of others?
- Are we careful to keep our jobs and social activities from absorbing time and energy that need to be given to spiritual growth and service to others?
- Do we stay tender and open to the leadings of the Spirit?

Advices:

- Use our capabilities and possessions as God's gifts entrusted to us to share with others in humility, courtesy, and affection.
 - Accept and encourage the creativity in others.
 - When we have a choice of employment, choose that which gives the fullest opportunity for the use of our talents in the service of others..
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Bill Wells

Long-time member Bill Wells recently passed away, his death caused by a subdural hematoma. Bill had been an active member of the Meeting until the past few years, when health issues prevented him from driving from his Naples home. He is survived by his wife, Sara.

Letter From Joan Culver:

Hello Friends,

The Ft Myers Monthly Meeting is happy to be known as a very welcoming place to visit. These last weeks have shown me how important a quality that is! While attending the New Paltz Friends meeting at the rise of a satisfyingly centered worship, I felt the need for Fellowship and must have been transparent. Two lovely women asked me to join them for lunch and we laughed and talked and I felt at home.

I am now staying for a few weeks at a Quaker community (www.qivc.org) located near the Powell House, a retreat and conference center. Although many of these members have been together for over 18 years, they have learned the essential art of reaching out and providing a warm welcome.

I hope all of you are having a satisfying summer filled with fellowship and laughter.

Joan Culver, Clerk

On Ministry

Worship Sharing, Aug. 19, at the rise of worship on the subject of "Ministry", led by Roxie Jacobs. Please bring a Brown bag lunch.

Upcoming Spiritual Deepening eRetreats

Friends General Conference has 2 upcoming Spiritual Deepening eRetreats:

- September 9 - October 5: Becoming Patterns & Examples;
- October 14 - November 9: Understanding & Healing White Supremacy.

"A Spiritual Deepening eRetreat connects you with other seekers in an online exploration of Quaker thought, a deepening of your own spiritual practices, and the sharing of stories from your life and your personal journeys."

For more information, go to [/www.fgcquaker.org/deepen/spiritual-deepening/spiritual-deepening-eretreats](http://www.fgcquaker.org/deepen/spiritual-deepening/spiritual-deepening-eretreats).

Election Primary is coming...

You are cordially invited to discuss the upcoming August 28 primary and the issues after worship on August 26. Brown bag lunch.

Notes from the Field

Reported by Beverly Ward, SEYM's Earthcare Field Secretary

20 Sixth 2018

"Are you ready to Rise for Climate, Jobs, and Justice on September 8th?" Last night climate movement leaders from around the world spoke on planning activities for the Global Climate Action Summit and their commitments to address climate disruption. (Follow this link to see a recording of the videoconference: <https://youtu.be/Khzq5-39Cwo>.)

The Rise for Climate, Jobs, and Justice, a 350.org initiative (<https://riseforclimate.org/?referrer=350-org&source=350>), has four major goals:

- Remind the world that the vast majority of us still care about climate, the earth, and our communities
- Demand that the Summit commitments are bold and address climate change through a lens of economic and racial justice
- Strengthen relationships across our movements
- Educate voters prior to the 2018 midterm elections about climate, jobs, and justice.

Currently, there is only a couple of actions scheduled in Florida, Miami and Pensacola. However, the First Unity Earthcare core team, First Unity, St. Petersburg, is in the process of planning an action in the Tampa Bay area and looking for partners. For more information, contact:

Douglas Bonar & Teresa Miller
Unity EarthCare Core team members
tbteresabeth@gmail.com
Teresa's cell 727-318-7632 for conversation or text

Of course, I'll share information, contacts, and other updates as we get ready to rise!

27 Seventh 2018

The Florida Interfaith Climate Actions Network convened its fourth assembly 29 and 30 Sixth Month. The opening day's theme, "Cultivating Health Climates for Resilient Communities invited participants to

- *experience civic engagement; Discover dynamic new partners;*
- *Strengthen relationships and emerging networks;*
- *Form bioregional nodes;*
- *Synergize FL-iCAN! Affiliates;*
- *Explore pathways for policy strategies;*

- *Signup for FL Climate Actions Alerts;*
- *Be prepared to be surprised.*

Attendees met others from their bioregions, which included participants from across the State. There also was a celebration of the 18th birthday of the Earth Charter, <http://earthcharter.org/>. Lynn Ringenberg, MD, spoke about the World Health Organization report on health and climate, global health, and climate change challenges. During the afternoon, a World Café—a set of small group conversation rounds—focused on reflections from earlier events, e.g., bio-regional experiences; Earth Charter celebration; health challenges, etc. This was followed by an Open Space period where participants self-selected to lead discussions to organize actions. Liz Jenkins, Orlando Monthly Meeting, led a discussion on “The World of All Our Great Grandchildren.” and I led a discussion on Passion (Asset) Mapping. After dinner, a memorial campfire was held honoring Miccosukee-Simanoolee clan leader Bobby C. Billie and a leading resource to FL-iCAN.

On Seventh day, the theme, “Welcoming Community in Changing Climates” provided opportunities to

- *Hear how people came together to work on brownfields, air quality, and sea level rise;*
- *Share disenfranchisement and environmental justice histories;*
- *Learn about solutions from neighbors who live there now;*
- *Brainstorm about how to cultivate resilient communities;*
- *Hear examples for policy education and actions;*
- *Experience civic engagement;*
- *Share stories of inspiring collaborations;*
- *Choose to commit to health and resilient communities throughout Florida*

There were presentations from communities around the state on efforts to address climate disruption. Dr. Shanta Barton-Stubbs and Stevenson Bassy, New Image, Orlando, spoke the work the organization is doing in the Parramore area with youths; Crystal Johnson and Joan Marshall, discussed the environmental issues in the Dunbar community of Fort Myers. Jan Booher, John Heimborg, and I discussed levels of collaboration using the Shorecrest, Miami example. Chris Castro, City of Orlando Greenworks, provided information on the City’s efforts “...to transform Orlando into one of the most environmentally-friendly, economically and socially vibrant communities in the nation.”

Following lunch, I made a presentation, “Sowing a Culture of Peace” on dynamic governance or sociocracy. Lawanna Gelzer, a local advocate, spoke on the environmental challenges facing the Parramore neighbor—site of the assembly.

On 28 Seventh Month, participants from the four assemblies will reconvene to discuss the future governance of the assembly, including developing a timeline or calendar of actions. As provided by Liz Jenkins earlier, Friends can sign up for Action Alerts, <https://fl-ican.org/action-alerts/>. More information regarding the Climate Action Network will be provided through the alerts and, of course, I have a dual role in keeping you informed.

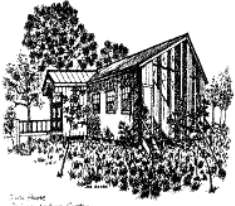
Thank you, Friends!

MEETING CALENDAR

All First Days	Pre-Worship Singing	9:55 am
	Meeting for Worship:	10:30 am
Sun 8/19	Worship sharing on Ministry	At rise of worship
Sun 8/26	Open discussion on the 8/18 primary	At rise of worship
Sun 9/2	Pot luck lunch	At rise of worship
Sun 9/9	Meeting for worship with attention to Business	At rise of worship
Sat 11/4	Bev Ward, SEYM Earthcare Secretary, presenting to us	1-4 PM

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



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Address Correction Requested