



Iona House
Calusa Nature Center

FORT MYERS MONTHLY MEETING OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS NEWSLETTER, NINTH 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*

Witness

Queries:

- Do our lives reflect Quaker testimonies?
- Are we open and responsive to continuing revelation, and do we incorporate it into our spiritual life?
- Is our Quaker witness characterized by humility and a willingness to learn from others?
- Do we recognize that the Spirit works in the world through us?
- Does our witness lead us to the condition in which we "walk cheerfully over the earth answering that of God in everyone"?
- Do we as a meeting try to share in the religious life of our wider community, availing ourselves of opportunities for worship and service with other local religious groups?

Advices:

- Strive to keep true to the testimonies of integrity and simplicity.
 - Try to keep before us the essential truths, and test our life by them.
 - Endeavor to make our lives consistent with the high principles we profess. This involves the often-difficult discernment not only between good and evil but also between the better and the best.
 - Live adventurously. Let not failure discourage us.
 - Witness so that others can perceive the presence of God within us.
 - Be as good as people think you are. E. St. John (Jack) Catchpool
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**MINUTES OF THE FORT MYERS MONTHLY MEETING
OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS
9th Month 9, 2018**

The Fort Myers Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends met in Iona House on 9th Month 9th day with 13 Friends present. The meeting opened with a period of silent centering. Clerk Joan Culver read queries and advices on the subject of our Meeting for Worship.

There were several responses to the queries. Friends asked that we have other testimonies available in addition to the frequently referenced Peace Testimony. The Clerk addressed Quaker Process. Meeting for Business is also a Meeting for Worship and does not, in general, follow a secular format. Friends are asked to consider their thoughts, usually only speak once, and address these comments to the Clerk holding in the light the Meeting as a whole. In moments of disagreements, this process has proven helpful.

Committee Reports

Ministry and Counsel. The Memorial Service for Bill Wells will be held on Saturday, October 6, from noon to 3:00 pm. Lunch will be served courtesy of the Wells family. All are welcome. A question was posed whether or not FMMM typically prepares a memorial minute for the Yearly Meeting. Clerk Joan Culver will research what has been done in the past.

Ministry and Counsel has been helping someone who has occasionally come to ask the meeting for Financial help.

Treasurer. Most of our budgeted yearly expenses have been paid, including the SEYM apportionment. We thank Susie Oehl for her help in maintaining our books this summer. Current cash on hand is \$2,167.55; General Fund is \$33,252.67; and Meeting House Savings \$77,298.89.

Finance. The Finance Committee will be sending out the 2018 for committees to review in preparation for considering their needs for next year's budget.

Nominating. The Nominating Committee will begin the process of asking people to consider what they want to do to support the meeting so that the responsibility is more equitably distributed. The Clerk encourages people to read the SEYM Faith and Practice to consider committee responsibilities.

Adult Religious Education. The committee continues to meet every first Sunday after potluck. June and August Worship Sharing was facilitated respectively by David Culver on Children and Youth in Meeting; and Roxie Jacobs on Ministry. Both sessions were well attended and well received. The Committee presented the following schedule for ARE for the fall sessions:

- September 23, 12:15 - 1:45 pm. Carolyn Stanley will facilitate a discussion of purpose, goals, and impact of L.I.F.E. (Lee Interfaith For Empowerment) with light lunch beforehand.
- October 28 at rise of Meeting. Joan Culver will present an update on the situation in Gaza. Soup will be served.

- November 4, 1:00 - 4:00 pm. First Sunday, following potluck, Beverly Ward, Field Secretary for SEYM's Earthcare Witness will speak. Friends agreed that the Meeting should offer an honorarium to Friend Beverly Ward.
- November 11, Committee will gather information on Friends interests in topics and methods of presenting.

It was noted that David Culver, committee member, will be away from Meeting September 19 - October 30.

First Day School. There is no report for this committee/

Peace and Social Concerns. David Jossi paused the food and clothing for the summer in order to care for his parents. Roxie and Tom Jacobs were able to continue this mission to Mision Peniel for the Immokalee community. A thank you letter from Mision Peniel was read in the Meeting for Business and is included later in this newsletter.

Carolyn Stanley attended the annual DART (Direct Action and Research Training) conference as a team leader for our local L.I.F.E organization. Carolyn became acquainted with other Team Leaders from other congregations and learned of successful actions that have taken place in other parts of Florida and as far north as Columbus, Ohio. Carolyn continues to believe that this is an important involvement for our Meeting. There will be a notice in this month's newsletter regarding the September 23 meeting to discuss our commitment to L.I.F.E.

Hospitality. The Clerk thanks Susan Oehl and David Culver for setting up the room for the Meeting this summer and asks Friends to prayerfully consider the need to set up the chairs for the Meeting while David is away.

Properties. There is no report.

Outreach. There is no report.

CNCP. A concern was expressed about the external appearance of Iona House. Joan Culver will speak to the School and the staff at CNCP to find a resolution.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Culver, Clerk

**Memorial Service for longtime FMMM Member Friend Bill Wells
Saturday Oct 6, noon, at Iona House
Followed by lunch courtesy of the Wells family**

Fall Interim Business Meeting of Southeastern Yearly Meeting

Being held at St. Petersburg Meeting – Saturday October 6, 9am to 5pm.

For more information, go to <http://seymquakers.org/business-meeting/?ri=0>

Thank you letter from Mision Peniel:

Dear Friends of the Fort Myers Quaker Meeting,

On behalf of Pastor Miguel and the farmworker community we serve, thank you for the donations of food and clothing that you continue to collect and bring to the mission in Immokalee!

As you know, we host a weekly distribution every Friday and serve between 500-700 people (men, women, and children) a meal, groceries and clothing. This is only possible with support from churches, groups and individuals such as you! We thank you for our ongoing support of Mission Peniel and thank God for the blessing of your partnership with this mission!

Know that you are most welcome to visit us during the week or join others in our Friday afternoon distribution! May God continue to bless your fellowship.

*With appreciation,
Ruth DeYoe
Mission Coordinator*

Fort Myers Monthly Meeting L.I.F.E. Gathering **Looking for support and participation** **with the Lee Inter Faith for Empowerment organization**

All members, attenders, and friends of Fort Myers Monthly Meeting are invited to attend our meeting's **L.I.F.E. Gathering on Sunday, September 23** following Meeting for Worship (about 12:15 - 1:45). During the month of September all congregations that have joined L.I.F.E. have gatherings to begin this season's efforts to address issues that face our community. Carolyn Stanley, our L.I.F.E. Team Leader, will present an overview of L.I.F.E., lead a time to share what issues of injustice in Lee County concern us most, and discuss ways we can make a commitment to support L.I.F.E. and its work for justice. We will begin our gathering with a light lunch/snack. Please RSVP to Carolyn. carolyn2020stanley@gmail.com. or 827-1800-1800 or in person, so that she will have enough food and handouts.

Rice & Beans to Support Justice at the Border

Saturday October 6 6-8 pm

St. Petersburg Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends 130 19th Avenue SE

Dinner ~ Dance Performance ~ Jewelry & Crafts Sale

Come to show solidarity with those affected by U.S. immigration policy and for fellowship with friends and other members of the community.

Ana Maria Vasquez of the Border Patrol Victims Network will give an update of what is happening at the border

\$10 suggested donation for the dinner will help raise funds for the legal and medical services for immigrant victims

RSVP for dinner by October 1st: selmocabi@gmail.com or call 727 439-0137

International Day of Peace Friday September 21

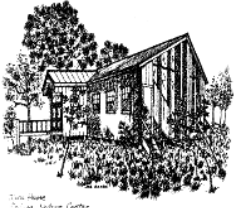


If you would stop someone on the street right now, today, and share with them a heartfelt message about violence in our times - what would you say? What issues would you name? What breaks your heart right now? The International Day of Peace is a time when people of faith and conviction can step up and make our broken hearts public, and invite others to join us in praying for healing and reconciliation.

The theme for the International Day of Peace in 2018 is "The Right to Peace - The Universal Declaration of Human Rights at 70," and it celebrates the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Universal Declaration states in Article 3, "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person." However, the Universal Declaration does not include a separate article on "Right to Peace." This is why we ask you this year: What does "The Right to Peace" mean to you?

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 9/23	Discussion on FtMMM and L.I.F.E. led by Carolyn Stanley	At rise of worship
Sat 10/6	Memorial Meeting for Bill Wells	Noon
Sat 10/7	Pot luck lunch	At rise of worship
Sun 10/14	Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business	At rise of worship
Sun 10/28	Presentation on Gaza by Joan Culver	At rise of worship
Sun 11/4	Presentation by Bev Ward, SEYM Earthcare Secretary	At rise of worship