



FORT MYERS MONTHLY MEETING OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS NEWSLETTER, TENTH 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
-

QUERIES & ADVICES *from Faith & Practice of Southeastern Yearly Meeting*

Social & Economic Justice

Queries:

- Do we seek to transform the world with our loving spirit?
- Do we take an active interest in the social and economic conditions of our community?
- Have we objectively considered the causes of discrimination, and are we ready to abandon old prejudices and think anew?
- Do we as individuals and as a meeting do all in our power to end governmental, social, economic, and educational injustices in our community and to create equal opportunity for all?
- How do we as individuals and as a meeting promote the welfare of those in need and work to secure a just distribution of the world's resources?

- What are we doing as individuals and as a meeting to understand and remove the causes of war and violence and to develop the conditions and institutions of peace?

Advices:

- Seek to understand the causes of social ills, and work toward their removal.
- Be not content to accept things as they are, but keep an alert, sensitive, and questioning mind.
- Understand and maintain Friends' witness for truth, simplicity, and nonviolence, holding up your personal life to these testimonies.
- Encourage inclusiveness, and discourage discrimination.
- Friends' belief in that of God in everyone should lead to reverence for all life and to personal integrity.

- Encourage all efforts to overcome prejudices and antagonisms.
- Cherish diversity.
- Aid and comfort those afflicted or in prison that they may rebuild their lives.

- Work for the abolition of the death penalty.
- Let the way that we live contribute to the realization of a peaceable kingdom on earth.

MINUTES OF THE FORT MYERS MONTHLY MEETING OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS 10th Month 14, 2018

The Fort Myers Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends met in Iona House on 10th Month 14th 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 Social & Economic Justice. In response, some Friends shared that, while they feel called to address various social and justice matters, they often find it challenging if not overwhelming. We shared ideas of how we as a community and as individuals can address the matters brought up by these queries.

Clerk's Comments: We received a thank you letter from our own Mary Grace Menner thanking us for our contribution to the Quaker Voluntary Service.

Ministry and Counsel Committee: Richard Frechette reported that the committee is in discernment on procedures relating to requests for a variety of forms of assistance from persons outside of the meeting community.

Treasurer: John Battin reported that, as of Sept. 30, we had a balance of \$60,624 in General Funds, and \$88,118 in Meeting House Funds. To date this year, we have expended \$12,712 of our annual budget of \$18,900. He noted that the SEYM apportionment amount is substantially higher than we had budgeted. The detailed report will be posted in the Meeting newsletter. Friends discussed several areas of the report and recognized that we may need to reconsider in which line various items should be budgeted and expended.

Finance Committee: The Committee sent out a copy of the 2018 budget to every committee and asked that they submit to Finance Committee their request for 2019 budget.

Nominating Committee: The Committee has begun the work of considering the volunteer needs for calendar 2019.

Adult Religious Education Committee: Connie Summerlin reported that the committee is preparing to initiate a survey on what topics of religious education the community wants. She also noted that on November 4, following potluck, Beverly Ward, Field Secretary for SEYM's Earthcare Witness will make a presentation to Friends.

Peace and Social Concerns Committee: Carolyn Stanley reported that the Committee will continue to the collection of items for Misi3n Peniel. Tom & Roxie Jacobs have volunteered to take the donations to the mission in Immokalee. The Committee is looking for a volunteer to step forward to reactivate the monthly letter writing project. The Committee has become

aware of the plight of Lara Alqasem and has decided to support both Lara's Go Fund Me page and the Holy Land Trust with a \$100 donation to each from their budget. Joan Culver presented information about Lara's background and welcomes Friends to contact her (Joan) if they wish any further information. Lara Alqasem, an American of Palestinian descent, is a University of Florida student who has been accepted for graduate studies at Hebrew University. Despite having a valid visa she is currently held in solitary confinement in Israel and threatened with deportation because of her beliefs in a non-violent solution to the Israeli/Palestinian conflict.

- ❖ **2018-MM7:** Friends agreed to increase the amount of funding going to Lara Alqasem's Go-fund me page by \$200.
- ❖ **2018-MM8:** Friends asked the Clerk to write a letter on behalf of the meeting to Congresswoman Betsy McCollum from MN and our state reps, Nelson and Rubio, urging them to raise the issue of Lara Alqasem with Congress, and for the Clerk to forward this issue to American Friends Service Committee, Friends Committee on National Legislation and the Quaker United Nations Office.

Hospitality Committee: Nancy Howell reported that the Committee believes that there should be a rotation in committee membership from year to year, and asks Nominating Committee to keep this in mind. The committee also notes that persons often donate food and other supplies for meeting use, and recommends that, for the sake of recognizing budgetary need, persons request reimbursement. The committee asks that the Meeting once again sponsor a Thanksgiving Day Pot Luck dinner at Iona House, and that Friends invite their family and friends to this event. The Committee is taking on the task of cleaning out our storage room. We discussed various ways in which we can as a meeting and individuals find ways to reduce use of plastic and styrofoam.

- ❖ **2018-MM9:** Minute: We approve sponsoring a Thanksgiving Day pot luck celebration at Iona House.

Outreach Committee: Outreach Committee will be meeting on Nov 5.

New Business:

- ❖ **2018-MM10:** We are quite concerned about the devastation in the Florida's Panhandle from Hurricane Michael. We will contribute \$200 to the Tallahassee Friends Meeting, leaving it to them to use for Hurricane relief in their area as they deem appropriate.

The minutes of the meeting were read and approved. We closed with a brief period of silent worship.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard Frechette, Co-Recording Clerk

To read more about the **plight of Lara Alqasem** as identified in the Meeting Minutes above, read this recent CBS report:

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/lara-alqasem-israel-us-student-appeal-supreme-court-expulsion-bds-boycott/>

**Treasurer's Report:
Funds Balances as of 9/30/18**

General Funds Checking	\$	4,360.24
Gen Fund Savings	\$	4,913.36
MMkt Gen Funds	\$	28,350.31
Total General Funds Savings	\$	33,263.67
General Fund - Friends Fiduciary	\$	23,000.00
Meetinghouse Savings	\$	36,521.69
MMkt Meetinghouse	\$	40,796.78
	\$	77,318.47
Meeting Hse - Friends Fiduciary	\$	10,800.00
General Fnds Resource Totals	\$	60,623.91
Meetinghouse Funds Resource Totals	\$	88,118.47
Total Resources	\$	148,742.38

**Treasurer's Report:
Expenditures by Line Item as
of 9/30/18**

	Spent - YTD	18 Budg	Under (Over)
SEYM	5,173.00	4,300.00	(873.00)
Ministry and Counsel	-	-	-
Friends General Conference	1,200.00	1,200.00	-
Spiritual / Scholarships	-	1,000.00	1,000.00
Care: Members/Attendees	-	1,000.00	1,000.00
Friends Journal Listing	-	70.00	70.00
Invited Speakers (incl Retrea	458.60	200.00	(258.60)
General/Miscellaneous	83.90	150.00	66.10
Religious Education	-	-	-
Books/Friends Journal Misc.	213.25	400.00	186.75
1st Day School	-	150.00	150.00
Retreats	-	650.00	650.00
Newsletter	-	-	-
Newsletter Expenses	-	280.00	280.00
Finance Committee	-	-	-
Banking & Corporate Fees	61.25	250.00	188.75
Gifts/Contingency	500.00	600.00	100.00
Hospitality Committee	50.54	400.00	349.46
Nominating Committee	25.44	100.00	74.56
Outreach Committee	-	-	-
Other Outreach	105.00	900.00	795.00
Property Committee	-	-	-
Project and Materials Expens	15.99	500.00	484.01
Meeting House Reserve	-	1,000.00	1,000.00
Calusa Nature Center	-	-	-
Membership	500.00	250.00	(250.00)
Utility Payments	800.00	1,200.00	400.00
Board/Events	125.00	500.00	375.00
Peace & Social Concerns	-	-	-
FCNL	500.00	500.00	-
AFSC	500.00	500.00	-
Quaker Voluntary Services	200.00	200.00	-
H. Chapin Foodbank	300.00	300.00	-
Lee Interfaith for Empowerm	500.00	500.00	-
Educational Concerns for Hur	200.00	200.00	-
Quality Life Center	300.00	300.00	-
Environmental, Other Local	900.00	1,300.00	400.00
	12,711.97	18,900.00	6,188.03

Friends and Unity with Nature



Please join us on November 4 for a presentation by Beverly Ward, SEYM Field Secretary for Earthcare Witness. The topic is "*Friends and Unity with Nature: What are you called to do?*" She asks that we bring pencil/pen and paper for journaling. Join us for Meeting for Worship, potluck lunch and an afternoon of new ideas and reflection.

Misión Peniel

Since 2006, Misión Peniel has served as a pastoral ministry of charity and service to farmworkers in Immokalee Florida. It continues to be a vehicle of faith for people to respond to a call for compassionate service to complement the focus on social justice provided so aptly through the Coalition of Immokalee Workers. As spiritual and social advocates Misión Peniel brings together people of faith and compassion to act with farmworkers to achieve fundamental change in their living and working conditions while increasing public awareness of the need for reconciliation and bridge building between sectors. Misión Peniel achieves a mission of change by being a destination for mission outreach for local churches and a learning community for the coastal faith community to communicate regularly with the farmworkers community a unifying message that human dignity is not a bargaining chip for change.

Donation Needs List for Fall 2018 (Items can be dropped off at Iona House on 1st day and will be delivered periodically to Misión Peniel).

Clothing/Shoes:

- Men's: Tennis shoes or work boots, long sleeve t-shirts, pants, shirts for work,
- Women's: Tennis shoes or work boots, long sleeve t-shirts, pants, skirts, shirts
- Children's: All Sizes, Newborn - 16 Years Old, Children's Tennis shoes
- Baseball Caps and Sun Visors

Toiletries:

- Family Size Shampoo, Conditioner, Toothpaste, Soap, Lotion, Disposable Razors, Deodorant

Other:

- Diapers: Size 4,5,6 ONLY
- Bath sized Towels
- Sheets
- Pillows
- Baby strollers, high chair
- Children's books, stuffed animals

Pantry:

- Rice, Beans, Peanut Butter, Canned Meat (Chicken, Beef, Vienna Sausages), Oatmeal, Canned Vegetables, Pasta, Canned/Dried Fruit

The SEYM eNews is a key way to know about Quaker news, upcoming events, and opportunities in our region and the wider Quaker World. You can subscribe to eNews by going to <http://seymquakers.org/sign-seym-enews/>.

SEYM's Half Yearly Meeting

November 22-25, 2018
Wekiwa Springs State Park, Florida

Half Yearly Meeting is a serendipitous 4 days over Thanksgiving weekend when Friends come together for good food and good friends in [Wekiwa Springs State Park](#). We have exclusive use of the Youth Camp, a natural setting with rustic cabins, accessible lodging, dining hall, kitchen, and conference hall.

Group activities include Thanksgiving dinner, preparing meals together, canoeing, hiking, campfire gatherings, and much more. Youth and intergenerational activities are planned. Friends bring workshops, worship-sharing, music, ideas, crafts, music and games to share. There's unprogrammed time for spontaneous activities, enjoying nature, and just relaxing.

Half of the program involves environmental education, a requirement to use the Youth Camp. [Wekiwa Springs State Park](#) is an ideal setting: 7800 acres of wild Florida at the headwaters of the Wekiwa River, with 19 distinct plant communities and an abundance of wildlife.

Saturday evening special event: Dr. Robert Sitler, Professor of World Languages and Cultures at Stetson University, will be speaking on **"Local Springs and Water Issues,"** referencing the indigenous (Mayan) relationship to Nature.

Canoeing, Kayaking, & Swimming: Friends can enjoy the Wekiwa Springs swimming area during daylight hours. Canoes & kayaks can be rented from the Park's concession for short trips down the Wekiwa State Park section of the river. Longer river trips are planned for Wednesday, Thursday, & Saturday.

Get more information and registration instructions at www.SEYM.org

Celebrate Thanksgiving With Friends at the Iona House



Any and all are invited to share in food and fellowship on Thanksgiving Day (Nov 22) at noon at the Iona House. Bring Family and Friends. It's a coordinated pot-luck. Mark your calendar. As the Nature Center is officially closed for that day, you must arrive between noon and 12:30pm, at which point the gates will be closed. Sign up for a food item to bring. Contact Suzanne Frechette (Voice/Text 401-744-6097; Suzanne.Frechette@gmail.com;) to register and to sign up for a food item to bring.

Letter from Woody Woodall

Hi. It has been quite some time since I was last in Fort Myers, but I do not want to lose touch. I particularly enjoy reading the monthly newsletter. I now live in the metro Atlanta area, and have returned solidly to the Atlanta Friends Meeting. My former mailing addresses (Clayton and Winterville) are null and void, but my cell phone number (706/982-1366) and this email address (stevewoodall50@gmail.com) remain unchanged. My new street and mailing address is **1133 Mannbrook Drive, Stone Mountain, GA 30083**. I welcome visits from fellow Friends as they migrate north and south with the seasons. I live just off the eastern ring road (I-285) and have a guest room with a queen bed and separate bath.

I serve on the Outreach Committee of the Yearly Meeting to which Atlanta belongs (Southern Appalachian). Through that committee work, I have become friends with Hank Fay, of the Berea, KY meeting. Hank has shared many stories about the covered meetings he has experienced at Iona House meetings for worship. My house mate is Sarah Walton, member of the Vassalboro, ME meeting. Some of your meeting may know her, as well. My compliments on your excellent website. I particularly appreciate the prominence given to conscientious objection to war.

I hold your meeting in my heart, and hope to visit in coming years.

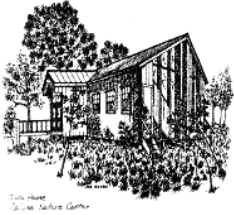
Steve Woodall (aka Woody)

Do you contribute to the Meeting via automatic monthly bank draft?

If you do, the Treasurer has a new address: John Battin, 9349 Lennex Lane, Fort Myers, FL 33919. Please notify your bank of the address change.

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 11/4	Pot luck lunch, followed by presentation by Beverly Ward, SEYM Earthcare Secretary	At rise of worship
Sun 11/11	Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business	At rise of worship
Thurs 11/22	Pot Luck Thanksgiving Dinner	Noon