



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

Care of the Natural World

Queries:

- Do we work for peace in the world? Do we nurture peace within ourselves?
- Do we "live in the virtue of that life and power which takes away the occasion of all wars"?
- Do we seek consistently to carry out this testimony for peace in all our relationships, including family, community, and work life?
- Do we as individuals and as members of a meeting seek to take part in the ministry of reconciliation between individuals, groups, and nations?
- Do we faithfully maintain our peace testimony?
- Do we reject military training, preparation for war, and participation in war as inconsistent with the spirit of Christ's teachings?
- Do we as a meeting take a stand and do all we can to remove the causes of war

and violence?

Advices:

- War is contrary to the life and teaching of Jesus. Seek through God's power and grace to overcome in our hearts the emotions that lie at the root of conflict.
 - Strive for nonviolent approaches to conflicts in all aspects of our lives.
 - Every human being is a beloved child of God and has that divine spark which claims our reverence. War is a denial of this truth.
 - Friends' peace testimony is the positive exercise of good will calling us to lend our influence to all that strengthens the growth of international friendships and understanding.
 - Cultivate an active spirit of love and peace
 - *The first step to peace is to stand still in the Light...George Fox, 1653*
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**MINUTES OF THE FORT MYERS MONTHLY MEETING
OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS
12th Month 9, 2018**

The Fort Myers Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends met in Iona House on 12th Month 9th day with 13 Friends present. The meeting opened with a period of silent centering. Clerk Joan Culver read queries on the subject of the Peace Testimony and non-violence. *Do we work for peace in the world? Do we nurture peace within ourselves? Every human being is a beloved child of God and has that divine spark which claims our reverence. War is a denial of this truth.* In response Friends noted the we are so much better off when we don't try to assign blame on all bad things that happen. Reverence for life is so important, as are acts of good will.

Ministry and Counsel Committee: Ministry & Counsel Committee established a clearness committee to meet with Paul Davis concerning his desire to become a formal member of the meeting. The report of that clearness committee follows:
December 2, 2018

The Clearness Committee met on Thursday, November 29 at the home of Larry Butler. In attendance were Helen Snodgrass, Larry Butler, Richard Frechette and, of course, Paul Davis. The gathering lasted approximately 2 hours.

Paul shared his past involvement with Quakers, including his attendance at the Cedar Friends Meeting in East Lansing a number of years ago. He also shared how he slowly came to appreciate the process of centering into silent worship. He believes that other aspects of his life would dovetail well with membership in the Quaker community. He feels that he is both willing to give of himself to the community and to appreciate that which the community can give to him.

We mutually explored implications of being a Quaker and of being a member of a specific Quaker community. We mutually recognized the theological diversity that exists in our Quaker community. We discussed the responsibilities of both the community to the member and the member to the community. We explored the idea of meeting for worship as the most central part of our community and Paul's level of comfort with that concept.

At the conclusion of the gathering, all present were clear that Paul is ready for membership in the Fort Myers Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends and believe that this would be of mutual benefit to both Paul and the community.

Ministry & Counsel Committee unites with the Clearness Committee and recommends that the Meeting accept Paul into membership.

- ❖ **2018-MM11:** Friends approve and welcome Paul Davis into membership in the Fort Myers Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

❖ **2018-MM12:** We approve the following annual Corporation Report

Annual report of Fort Myers Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, Inc., a Florida Non-profit Corporation” (eligible for tax-deductible gifts)

Current Principal Place of Business: Iona House, Calusa Nature Center, 3450 Ortiz Avenue, Fort Myers, FL 33905.

Current Mailing Address: c/o Joan Culver, 117 E. Mariana Avenue, North Fort Myers, FL 33917

FEI Number: 65-0607361

Certificate of Status Desired: No

Name and Address of Current Registered Agent: Joan Culver, address above.

The Officers/Director of this Corporation are:

- Director Richard Frechette, 138 Pinebrook Drive, FM, FL 33907
- Director John Battin, 13162 Feather Sound Drive, Apt 61, FM, FL 33919
- Director Nancy Howell, 105 Pinebrook Drive, FM, FL 33907
- Director Kathy Hale, 1625 Hough Street, Fort Myers, FL 33901

Treasurer: Treasurer John Battin gave a year-to-date summary for the period ended November 30, 2018. He noted that we are pretty close to where we were last year at this time.

November 2018 Treasurer's Summary YEAR-TO-DATE SUMMARY	November 2017	November 2018
Contributions	\$20,115	\$19,795
Outlays	\$(16,798)	\$(16,655)
Difference	\$3,317	\$3,140

Cash on Hand November 1, 2018	\$4,099
General Fund Contributions November 2018	\$1,740
Budgeted Outlays November, 2018	\$(2,699)
Cash on Hand November 30, 2018	\$3,140

Outreach Committee: Pat Iyer reported that the Committee met via virtual media last week. The committee will evaluate our Meeting's website at a January 11 meeting. Friends beyond the committee are welcome to participate in this virtual media meeting. The Committee would also like to sponsor a threshing session about where we should go as far as outreach, given current – or potential – resources. This engendered considerable discussion among Friends about who it is that we wish to reach out to. We are in unity with the committee's suggestion of threshing this further, and suggest that the committee come back in January with a more solidified sense of the agenda of such a threshing session.

Finance Committee: Kathy Hale distributed the revised draft of the 2019 budget, which Friends reviewed.

❖ **2018-MM13:** Friends approve the following Budget for 2019.

2019 Budget

SEYM			\$5,300
Ministry & Counsel	Friends Gen. Conference	1,200	
	Spiritual/Scholarships	1,000	
	Care: Members/Attenders	1,000	
	General/Miscellaneous	300	\$3,500
Religious Education	Books/Misc	500	
	1st Day School	150	
	Retreats/Speakers	800	\$1,450
Newsletter	General Expenses		\$300
Finance Committee	Banking & Corporate Fees	150	
	Gifts/Contingency	600	\$750
Hospitality Committee			\$400
Nominating Committee			\$100
Outreach Committee			\$900
Property Committee			\$500
Meetinghouse Reserve			\$1,000
Calusa Nature Center	Membership	250	
	Utility payments	1,200	
	Board/Events	500	\$1,950
Peace & Social Concerns	FCNL	500	
	AFSC	500	
	Quaker Voluntary Services	200	
	H. Chapin Foodbank	300	
	Lee Interfaith for Empowerment	500	
	Educ Concerns for Hunger Org.	200	
	Quality Life Center	300	
	Quaker House	300	
	Friends Peace Teams	300	
	Initiatives As May Arise	1,000	\$4,100
Grand Total			\$20,250

Nominating Committee: Nancy Howell, Clerk, presented the Committee's report. The report noted that Ministry and Council Committee differs from others in having staggered 3 year terms, and in nominating their own new members. Other committees are re-formed in their entirety each year. Committees are expected to create their own agendas, consider policy issues and make proposals to the Meeting for Worship for Business, and carry out the activities approved by the Meeting. Some committees meet regularly, while others usually talk about their jobs while they are doing them, and rarely feel the need for formal meetings. Each committee chooses their own clerk. ***The first meeting of the year should be called by the first member listed, who shall serve as convener until a clerk is selected.*** Friends may join committees during

the year. Nancy also noted that some committees are currently short on membership, but that the process of naming someone to serve on a committee can continue throughout the year

- ❖ **2018-MM14:** We approve the following assignments for 2019:
 - Clerk: Joan Culver
 - Recording Clerk: Richard Frechette, Kathy Hale
 - Membership Clerk: Richard Frechette
 - Treasurer: Paul Davis
 - Newsletter: Editor – Richard Frechette; Assistant Newsletter Editor for Circulation – Mary Smiley
 - Librarian: Susan Oehl; Assistant Librarians: Nancy Murvine and Jennette Botha
 - Lead singing before meeting: Carolyn Stanley, Cheryl Keen
 - First Day School Teachers during worship (when called upon): Suzanne Frechette, Richard Frechette, Nancy Murvine, Nancy Howell
 - Infant and Toddler Care Providers during worship: child's parents, unless special arrangements are made before worship.
 - Volunteer Liaisons between FMFM and other Quaker organizations: American Friends Service Comm. – Joan Culver; Friends Committee on National Legislation – Chris Ruhnke; Quaker Voluntary Service – Cheryl Keen; Quaker United Nations Office – Jim Keen; SEYM – Richard Frechette.
 - Liaisons between FMFM and other Community Organizations: Harry Chapin Food Bank - Connie Summerlin; L.I.F.E. - Carolyn Stanley; Calusa Nature Center and Planetarium - Joan Culver ; Echo Farm – Peter Curra ; Mission Peniel – David Jossi, Roxy and Tom Jacobs, Hugh Pettigrew.
 - Ministry and Counsel Committee: (year appointment expires) Jeannette Botha (2019), Nancy Murvine (2019), Kathy Hale (2020), Helen Snodgrass (2020), Nancy Howell (2021), Richard Frechette, (2021).
 - Finance Committee: Joan Culver, John Battin, Kathy Hale, Charley Lipsey, Paul Davis
 - Hospitality Committee: Suzanne Frechette, Deb and Bob White, Susan Oehl, Pat Iyer, David Culver, Tom Jacobs, Omar Zeidan.
 - Nominating Committee: Suzanne Frechette, Nancy Howell, Vicki Scott.
 - Outreach Committee: Pat Iyer, Chris Ruhnke, Nancy Howell, David Culver.
 - Peace and Social Concerns Committee: Carolyn Stanley, John Battin, Helen Fox, Vicki Scott, David Jossi, Susan Oehl, Priscilla DeOliveira, Hugh Pettigrew, Janelle Christensen.
 - Properties Committee – Richard and Suzanne Frechette, Vicki Scott, Tom Jacobs, Tom Miller, Chris Ruhnke.
 - Religious Education Committee: Roxy Jacobs, Pat Iyer, Nancy Murvine, Vicki Scott, Helen Snodgrass, Chris Ruhnke; Susan Oehl, David Culver.

Adult Religious Education Committee: Connie Summerlin submitted a written report. It outlined our community's response to the Adult Religious Education survey. In total there were 21 responses. The majority response for method of presentation was Quaker conversations. Primary responses on topics were:

- Your Spiritual Path 12
- Quaker history 10
- Faith & Practice 10
- What is Mindfulness.....9
- Following Your Leadings9
- Earthcare / Earth Stewardship ..9
- Quakers & Christianity8
- Prayer / Silence / Solitude8

Other ideas: Study of Nancy Fennell's new book, Racism/Whiteness Within Quaker Meeting, Quakers in Palestine, Quaker Voice in Politics, Quakers & the Criminal Justice System.

Peace & Social Concerns: Carolyn Stanley reported that L.I.F.E. (Lee County Interfaith for Empowerment) continues and our Meeting continues to participate fully in it.

Hospitality Committee: Suzanne Frechette reported that the Committee worked on organizing our storage closet. The Committee appreciates the work of friends helping out before and after worship.

Properties Committee: The faulty front door knobs have been replaced. We followed our commitment to utilize universal design – accessible items (lever in place of knob)

Calusa Nature Center and Planetarium: Carolyn Stanley, who volunteers with CNCP, expressed her excitement about the quality of the current staff. She notes that the CNCP has an ongoing need for both regular and sporadic volunteers.

Other Business: Mercedes Soca, a visiting Friend, passed on information from Friends Committee on National Legislation, and urged us to stay in contact with FCNL about current issues, particularly relating to current issues of immigration and refugees status.

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

L.I.F.E. [Lee county Interfaith For Empowerment] Update

The L.I.F.E. organization, of which our meeting is a member, is busy. After making the decision in October to continue to work to get a Children's Services Council established in Lee County and also work on the problem of the lack of affordable housing, a committee was formed for each area. After much research, discussion and interviews, their job is to decide what specifically to ask for in order to help solve the problem and who has the power to resolve the problem.

Richard Frechette, Carolyn Stanley and Sue Oehl are on the **Children's Services Council Committee**. Thursday, December 13 (9AM - 11AM at Mount Hermon Ministries), committee member volunteers are meeting with Aaron Stitt from the SW Florida Department of Children and Families.. On Thursday, January 10 (6:15 AM - 2:30 PM committee members are visiting the Pinellas County Juvenile Welfare Board (what they call their Children's Services Council). We will observe a council meeting and meet with the executive director. And on Friday, January 11 (4 PM - 6:15 PM at Mount Harmon Ministries) they will be meeting with Dr. Adkins, Superintendent of Lee County Schools. Aaron Stitt and Dr. Adkins would both serve on a Children's Services Council if one is established in Lee Co. Other meetings are in the process of being scheduled.

The **Affordable Housing Committee** will be meeting on Thursday, December 20 (7 PM at Mount Hermon Ministries). Nancy Howell is on that committee. More people are needed. It really helps to have at least 2 people from our meeting participate. If anyone is interested in volunteering to work with that committee please contact Nancy or Carolyn (carolyn2020stanley@gmail.com or 740-827-1800). It would be helpful to attend the meeting on Dec. 20. Sometimes all that is needed is for you to attend an interview or meeting to silently show your support or concern. It is also helpful to have extra ears to listen at these meetings.

Carolyn attended a recent LIFE board meeting. We welcomed the membership of a new congregation and learned that a couple more congregations are seriously considering membership. Chelsea, our lead organizer, is submitting grants which, if approved, will significantly support LIFE financially and allow us to hire an additional organizer. There is still concern that we are not on track to have at least 1000 people attend the Nehemiah Action Assembly scheduled for Tuesday, April 9th at 7 PM.

L.I.F.E. is working for justice in Lee Co. and its effectiveness improves with an increase in the number of people who attend the Nehemiah Action Assembly. Please mark your calendars (April 9) and plan to attend.

Carolyn Stanley, L.I.F.E. board member representing FtMMM

SEYM VISITATION SUNDAY

- A day to visit another Monthly Meeting or Worship Group
- Every Fifth First Day, the next one of which is December 30
- Take a Friend
- We are all made richer by Intervisitation!

One of Susan Oehl's paintings won third place at the gallery in Labelle in the juried show in November. The judge had very insightful things to say about the painting. Congratulations, Suzie!

Southeastern Yearly Meeting

Quakers in Florida, southeast Georgia & coastal South Carolina

SEYM Happenings on weekend of Jan 18-20, all at the Orlando Meetinghouse, 316 E. Marks St., Orlando, FL

Winter Executive Committee Meeting will be held Friday, January 18th at 7pm. All are welcome to attend.

Winter Interim Business Meeting will be held on Saturday, January 19, beginning at 9:00 AM. The WIBM Documents in Advance (DIAs) can be reviewed on the SEYM Website (www.seymquakers.org).

The 2019 Michener Lecture & Seminars will be held Sunday, January 20th. The Title of the Lecture is "**Good News to the Oppressed: Friends' Witness in the 21st century.**" The Michener Lecturer is Eden Grace, a member of Beacon Hill Meeting, NEYM, and currently FUM's Director of Global Ministries.

All the details ---along with hospitality, hotels, and other information---is posted on the SEYM Website (www.seymquakers.org)

Women's March in Fort Myers

There will be a Women's March Fort Myers on January 20 from 10 to 2 at Centennial Park in Fort Myers. Other cities are planning marches on the 19th, but here the Park is already taken on the 19th. There will be a range of featured issues, not all of them strictly women's issues.

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
www.quakerearthcare.org	.....	Quaker Earthcare Witness

Christmas Day Pot Luck at the Cracker Box on Peace Acre

All are invited to attend the 3rd annual pot luck celebration on Christmas Day (weather dependent) at the Frechette's getaway on the Orange River, beginning at NOON. Please bring a folding chair, if you have one.

A special part of the day is the "Buckingham Swap"—starting at 1:30. Participants bring a small wrapped gift (recycled, hand made, or purchased for less than \$5; can be something funny). Everyone draws a number from Santa's hat. The person with #1 selects a gift, opens it for all to see; then the person with #2 does the same, but can choose to keep it or swap with #1, and so on...

There are also kayaks available for paddling on the river, later in the afternoon—the love-liest time on the river. Feel free to bring your own paddle craft or a fishing pole, if you wish. The bass are biting.

If you plan to attend, contact Suzanne (Suzanne.Frechette@gmail.com; call/text 401-744-6097), and identify a food item you will bring.

We were saddened to hear of the **recent death of Rebecca Garafano's mother** after her long illness. Rebecca and her siblings and father were together with her mother and she describes their experience of joy of that unity.

*Our life is love, and peace, and tenderness,
And bearing with one another,
And not laying accusations against one another;
But praying for another
And helping one another
With a tender hand.*

-Isaac Penington (1616 -- 1679) (Father-in-law of William Penn)



**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

FORT MYERS MEETING CALENDAR

All First Days	Pre-Worship Singing	9:55 am
	Meeting for Worship:	10:30 am
12/25	Christmas Day Pot Luck at the Cracker Box on Peace Acre	Noon
Sun 1/6	Pot Luck Lunch	At rise of worship
Sun 1/13	Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business	At rise of worship
Sat 1/19	SEYM Interim Business Meeting at Orlando MtgHse	All Day
Sun 1/20	SEYM Mitchner Lecture at Orlando Meetinghouse	Afternoon