



# FORT MYERS MONTHLY MEETING OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS NEWSLETTER, FIRST MONTH, 2019

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**Worship:** In the Iona House at the Calusa Nature Center  
**Mailing Address:** 117 East Mariana Ave. North Fort Myers FL 33927

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**Clerk:** Joan Culver (joanculver@gmail.com)  
**Recording Clerks:** Kathy Hale / Richard Frechette  
**Treasurer:** John Battin

• 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the Month: Pot Luck Lunch  
• 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Month: Meeting for Worship  
With Attention to Business

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

### **1. Meeting for Worship**

#### **Queries:**

- Are our meetings for worship held in expectant waiting for divine guidance, with a living silence in which we feel drawn together in the Light by the presence of God?
- Do we respond to the Spirit's prompting to minister, whether in silence, through the spoken word, or through action after the meeting for worship?
- Are we sensitive to one another's needs in meeting for worship?
- Are the spiritual gifts within the meeting fostered and encouraged?
- Are our meetings accessible and welcoming to everyone?
- Are our meetings a source of strength and guidance for daily living?
- Is the vocal ministry in our meetings exercised under the leading of the Spirit?

#### **Advices:**

- Be prompt and diligent in attendance at meetings.

- Come to meeting with expectant hearts and minds prepared for communion with God.
- Be faithful, be patient, and persevere in our service as messengers of truth.
- To everyone is given a share of the responsibility for the meeting for worship, whether through silence or through the spoken word.
- Quiet our hearts and minds for worship prior to entering the meeting room, so the whole group can be knit together in spiritual fellowship.
- Do not assume that vocal ministry is never to be our part.
- Be ready to speak under the leading of the Light. Learn to recognize when a message felt within is from God and if it is a message intended for the group to hear.
- Pray that our ministry may arise from deep experience of the Divine.
- Let our spoken ministry be audible and free from unnecessary words.
- Avoid speaking in a manner that brings a

- sense of discussion or debate.
- Allow for a period of silence after a message has been spoken, so the group can reflect on what has been said and continue to be grounded in silent

- worship.
- Overly long or too-frequent messages can hinder the worship of others present.
- Receive the ministry of others in a tender spirit.

## MINUTES OF THE FORT MYERS MONTHLY MEETING OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

**1st Month 13, 2019**

The Fort Myers Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends met in Iona House on 1st Month 13th day with 21 Friends present. The meeting opened with a period of silent centering. Nancy Howell, standing in for Clerk Joan Culver, read queries and advices on the subject of meeting for worship: *Are our meetings a source of strength and guidance for daily living? Are the spiritual gifts within the meeting fostered and encouraged? Do not assume that vocal ministry is never to be our part. Be ready to speak under the leading of the Light. Learn to recognize when a message felt within is from God and if it is a message intended for the group to hear.* Friends noted that it is helpful to remember who we are, and why we have chosen this path, as well as how important it is for us to recognize the spiritual diversity among us.

Nancy passed on Clerk Joan Culver’s regrets; she is attending a family reunion in California; Joan expressed her gratefulness to Nancy for facilitating this meeting.

**Ministry and Counsel Committee:** Richard Frechette reported that the Meeting has received a letter from Tom Miller expressing his desire to become a formal member of the Meeting. M&C will put together a clearness committee to meet with Tom. The Committee is in discernment on the Spiritual State of our Meeting and expects to submit a draft of the statement to Friends at our next Monthly Meeting. The Committee continues to provide confidential care to individuals as needed.

**Treasurer’s Report:** John Battin, represented a financial report of for the month ended December 31, 2018.

	December 2017	December 2018
Contributions	\$22,810	\$24,410
Outlays	-\$17,426	-\$17,524
Difference	\$5,384	\$6,986

Cash on Hand December 1, 2018 ..... \$3,140  
 General Funds Contributions Dec 2018..... \$4,615

Budgeted Outlays December 2018 .....	-\$796
Cash on Hand December 31, 2018 .....	\$6,986

John noted that the new treasurer, Paul Davis, will be presenting the entire financial report for the year ended 12/31/2018 at our February meeting.

- ❖ **Minute 2019-MM01:** Friends wish to express their appreciation to John Battin for his several years of competent service as our Treasurer.

**Adult Religious Education:** David Culver and Roxie Jacobs reported that the Committee will meet shortly to put into place the 2019 program. Roxie will serve as convener of the group's first meeting.

**Peace & Social Concerns:** Carolyn Stanley reported that the Committee met on January 12, and asked Carolyn to serve as Clerk of the 2019 Committee. Among the Committee members there was a universal concern for the environment, There was also intense interest in being active to promote justice and systemic change locally as well as in supporting state and national organizations that share our concerns.

The Committee believes that our Meeting should be kept informed about the organizations to which we contribute money. Many of these organizations have a liaison from our Meeting. The Committee asks that each liaison try to provide updates about that organization to the meeting 3 or 4 times a year or when there is something interesting from their organization to share. Those organizations and the assigned liaisons are:

- American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) - Joan Culver
- Harry Chapin Food Bank - Connie Summerlin
- Calusa Nature Center and Planetarium - Joan Culver
- Educational Concerns for Hunger Org. (ECHO) - Peter Curra
- Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) - Chris Ruhnke
- Misión Peniel in Immokalee - Tom and Roxy Jacobs, David Jossi, and Hugh Pettigrew
- Lee Inter Faith for Empowerment (L.I.F.E.) - Carolyn Stanley
- Quality Life Center (on MLK Blvd) - Susan Oehl
- Quaker Voluntary Services - Cheryl Keen
- Friends Peace Teams - Nancy Howell
- Quaker House - Nancy Howell

The Committee hopes to reinstate letter writing to politicians and government officials this year. They encourage the writer to also attach the letter to an email and forward it to others in the Meeting directory, so that they may have the option of personalizing it and sending their own letter. A friend suggested that P&SC might want to invest in purchas-

ing post cards before the price increases on Jan 27 and have them available for our community members to write out concise statements to officials. We note that communications sent via this method may be more likely to be read than letters in envelopes. The Committee will consider this suggestion.

The Committee will continue its current support of the Misión Peniel in Immokalee and explore possible ways to support the newly formed Fair Housing Coalition of Immokalee. They will also continue to be active supporters of L.I.F.E

P&SC is exploring ways in which we can be more actively involved in caring for our earth. They have formed a working group of Jim Koopman, Vicki Scott, and Suzanne Frechette to help lead this effort.

The Committee would also like to explore participation in the annual Peace Day at the Park which occurs in September at the Alliance for the Arts, and have established a working group of Carolyn Stanley, Susan Oehl and Nancy Howell to lead in this effort.

P&SC's next meeting will be held Saturday, February 9 at 10 AM - place to be announced.

Susan Oehl presented several examples of personally produced bags for shopping, holding produce, etc. Such bags can raise greater consciousness about the environment among other shoppers.

**Hospitality:** Deb White reports that she will serve as clerk of the committee for 2019. The committee has confirmed its intention to be more conscious of the environment and social justice by committing to purchasing paper rather than Styrofoam cups, and to purchasing fair trade produced coffee. The Committee asks that the Meeting consider taking on this commitment further by actively promoting fair trade produced coffee. There was much discussion on this matter and a recognition that the meeting would benefit from an education and brain-storming session. We will consider this further at our next month's meeting.

**Properties:** The committee will meet over this coming month. One friend suggested that we would benefit from a sign at the juncture beyond the gate, so that newcomers would know to turn to the left to go to Iona House.

**Outreach:** Pat Iyer will serve as clerk of the Committee for 2019. They met last week and will meet monthly via digital means. They will meet on Feb 24 to consider the website as a method of outreach, and possible improvements. All are welcome to participate in this meeting. Instructions for participating digitally were distributed, and will be included in the newsletter.

**CNCP:** Joan Culver reported that the new Audubon Aviary will have its grand opening on January 25.

**Library:** Susan Oehl reports that she and Jeannette Botha will be reorganizing the library, including the establishment of a catalogue and cataloguing system. We discussed the possibility of expanding our library space but recognize that finding the extra space might be problematic. We ask that Properties Committee take on the task of evaluating potential for expanding library space.

**Other Business:**

Richard Frechette reported that the 2017 minutes and newsletters have been sent to the SEYM archives, and that the roster of Ft. Myers Meeting Members and Attenders as of 1/1/2019 has been sent to SEYM

Suzanne Frechette suggested that one of the orchids that was included in Larry Butler's memorial service be naturalized as an epiphyte – i.e. attached to a nearby tree – at the Nature Center.

- ❖ **Minute 2019-MM02:** Friends ask that the Calusa Nature Center approve the naturalization of an epiphyte on a cocoplum that is within sight of the Iona House in memory of Larry Butler, one of our Founding members.

The minutes of this meeting were read and approved. We ended in silent worship.

Respectfully submitted,  
Richard Frechette  
Co-Recording Clerk

## 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.

## 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](http://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](http://www.seymquakers.org))

### Save the date: February 24 at 3 PM Fortmyersquakers.org website review

Join the Outreach committee to give your thoughts on the website as a method of outreach.

Patricia Iyer is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.  
Join by computer or phone (if using phone you will need to be in front of a computer)

By computer: Join Zoom Meeting  
Use this link at the time of the meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/293297010>

By phone: Call 1-646-876-9923  
Then use the Meeting ID: 293 297 010

## *Food-for-thought page...Sustainable Living*

*The produce of the earth is a gift from our gracious creator to the inhabitants, and to impoverish the earth now to support outward greatness appears to be an injury to the succeeding age.*

John Woolman, c. 1760

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*WE, as Friends, are disturbed by the increasingly numerous, and increasingly severe, environmental problems besetting our world. We deplore environmental degradation as well as attempts by groups and individuals to eliminate such protections of the environment as are already in place.*

*As Friends, we believe that harmony with the world around us is an important part of our service to the divine. By living sustainably, living in a way that the natural systems of the world can support, by seeking to live with nature rather than to control it, we come to deeper spiritual fulfillment and insight. We believe that human efforts should be directed towards the spiritual fulfillment found in a harmonious relationship with God and nature.*

*The idea of sustainability brings together such long standing Quaker testimonies as simplicity, stewardship, and justice. We believe that seeking God's will includes accepting limits on our acquisitions and on our demands on the environment. We call upon our fellow Friends, our fellow citizens, and our political leaders to join us in a search for a sustainable and sensitive manner of living.*

Minute on Sustainable Living  
Princeton (N.J.) Monthly Meeting  
(approved October 13, 1996)

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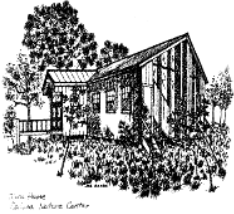
*All things are bound together. All things connect. Whatever befalls the earth, befalls also the children of the earth.*

Oren Lyons, Chief of the Onondaga Nation

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*We are called to assist the Earth to heal her wounds and in the process heal our own—indeed to embrace the whole of creation in all its diversity, beauty and wonder.*

Wangari Maathai, 2004



**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	10:00 am
	Meeting for Worship	10:30 am
Sat 1/19	SEYM Winter Interim Business Meeting @ Orlando Meetinghouse	All day
Sun 1/20	SEYM Michener Lecture @ Orlando Meetinghouse	1 PM
Sun 1/24	Women's March – Centennial Park	10 am to 2 pm
Sun 2/3	Pot luck lunch	At rise of Worship
Sun 2/10	Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business	At Rise of Worship
Tues 4/9	L.I.F.E Nehemiah Action	7:00 PM