



Iona House
Calusa Nature Center

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

Worship: In the Iona House at the Calusa Nature Center
Mailing Address: 117 East Mariana Ave. North Fort Myers FL 33927
Website: fortmyersquakers.org * **e-mail:** ftmyers.quakers@gmail.com

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

2. Harmony Within the Meeting

Queries:

- Are love and unity maintained among us?
- When differences arise, do we settle them in a spirit of love and humility?
- Are we careful not to hold an idea too firmly, knowing that another may bring us closer to the truth?
- Are we patient and considerate towards those we find difficult to understand or like?
- Do we demonstrate a forgiving spirit?
- Do we have concern and respect for the reputation of others?
- When people are hurt, do we take care to hold them up with a tender heart?
- Do we respect that of God in each person, though it may be expressed in unfamiliar ways or may be difficult for us to discern?

Advices:

- Maintain love and unity by avoiding talebearing and detraction.
- Settle differences promptly, in a manner free from resentment.
- When we have a difference with another person, speak to them in private "in the love and wisdom that is gentle and pure."
- Be aware that verbal violence can be as destructive as physical violence.
- Be careful that our language does not incorporate violence, consciously or unconsciously.
- Listen patiently, and seek the truth another person's expressions may contain for us.
- Be willing to seek and willing to receive counsel and help from one another.
- In our daily lives, seek to know one another in the things that are eternal and to enter with ready empathy and

- sensitive discretion into the joys, sorrows, and needs of each other.
- Be mindful that everyone is included in the life and activities of the meeting.

- Attenders are warmly invited to attend and participate in meeting for worship with a concern for business.
- Have a sense of when to continue to labor on or to lay aside an issue

MINUTES OF THE FORT MYERS MONTHLY MEETING OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS 3rd Month 10, 2019

The Fort Myers Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends met in Iona House on 3rd Month 10th day with 19 Friends present. The meeting opened with a period of silent centering. Clerk Joan Culver read queries and advices on the subject of Harmony within the Meeting community: *Do we respect that of God in each person, though it may be expressed in unfamiliar ways or may be difficult for us to discern? Are we careful not to hold an idea too firmly, knowing that another may bring us closer to the truth?* In response, one Friend noted that he is learning how important it is to not harbor hatred and to not see someone as demonic. Another noted that there is so much to mend.

Clerk's Report: Joan has made a copy of 15 Monthly Meetings' reports of their spiritual state. She finds they vary greatly in what they report, and she recommends that Friends read these reports, which are available in hardcopy and on the SEYM website.

Ministry and Counsel Committee: M&C has worked on a revised draft of memorial minute for Larry Scott. Nancy Howell read the draft.

- ❖ **Minute 2019-MM04:** Friends approve the following Memorial Minute for Larry Scott Butler:

The Meeting grieves over the death while simultaneously celebrating the life of Larry Scott Butler, the last of our Meeting's founding members.

Larry was born Seventh month 29, 1943 in Clearfield, Pennsylvania. to William and Marion Butler. While in high school he was a circuit lay preacher for small family Methodist churches in the mountains. In 1965 he graduated from Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pennsylvania with a major in history. He was a founder of a liberal discussion group on campus called Concern and a founder of a Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) chapter in the town of Carlisle. His senior year he worked for the Pennsylvania State Council of Churches as a pastor in migrant labor camps where he also lived.

He became a convinced Friend and was accepted into membership by Warrington Monthly Meeting in Wellsville, Pennsylvania. After graduation he worked for the Summer Community Organization and Political Education (SCOPE) project of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference of which Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was president. Bayard Rustin, noted Quaker, trained those SCOPE volunteers. Larry led a successful voting registration drive and political education campaign in Eufaula, Alabama where he was

briefly jailed. He moved to Philadelphia, transferred his membership to Central Philadelphia Monthly Meeting and taught history and religion at Friends Select School from 1970-1980. He received his Master's Degree from Temple University with attention to Quaker American history.

Larry was the first clerk of the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's Committee on Homosexuality which had a major impact on educating Friends on gay and lesbian issues. The organization later evolved into Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Transgender and Queer Concerns. With a small group of other Quakers he was a founding member of Unami Monthly Meeting in Pennsburg, Pennsylvania.

In 1980 Larry moved to Florida and lived on a boat for a number of years. He became a member of Miami Monthly Meeting. In 1981 he began working with the developmentally disabled and helped start a horticultural vocational training program in Miami Beach called The Log Cabin Plant Nursery. In 1986 he moved to Fort Myers, Florida and co-founded the Fort Myers Monthly Meeting. He continued his work with the developmentally disabled, concentrating on men with low IQ and issues of violence.

In recent years, Larry was beset by various health concerns, including the amputation of one leg. These health challenges never stopped his commitment to life in its fullest. He continued until his death to be the primary caregiver to a beloved developmentally disabled housemate. Larry remained a vibrant part of the life of the Fort Myers Meeting, serving on a Clearness Committee only weeks prior to his passing, and often sharing in vocal ministry at our meetings for worship.

In his last years, Larry worked to organize and document the books and papers he accumulated during a life active in Quaker issues, and these contributions have now been accepted into the Quaker Historical Library of Swarthmore (in Philadelphia) in a special collection named for him, where they will be permanently available to scholars of Quaker history.

Larry passed away on December 15, 2018. He is survived by his partner of many years, Wandson D. DeOliveira and Wandson's children, Priscilla and Samuel, whom Larry helped to raise. He had two brothers who died before him, and is survived by two sisters, Susie Barley and Diane Butler.

- ❖ **Minute 2019-MM05:** Recognizing Larry Butler's role in the Quaker world that went far beyond our Meeting, Friends approve sending Larry's Memorial Minute to Southeast Yearly Meeting and to Friends Journal for publication.

Ministry & Counsel Committee established a clearness committee to meet with Tom Miller concerning his desire to become a formal member of the Meeting. The report of that clearness committee follows:

The Clearness Committee met on Wednesday, February 13 at the home of Tom Miller. In attendance were Paul Davis, Marilyn Webber, Richard Frechette and, of course, Tom Miller. The gathering lasted approximately 2 hours.

Tom shared his past involvement with Quakers. He was active with the Friends Community in Laramie Wyoming, beginning in 1967, and has worshipped with Friends Meetings in Eugene, Oregon; Portland, Oregon; and DuPont Circle in Washington D.C. Tom has worshipped periodically with Friends at the Fort Myers Meeting since 1991, when his family moved to this area.

In the recent past, Tom has felt the desire for a more intimate relationship with the Meeting and has asked for membership. He has increased both his attendance level and has committed to various responsibilities within the community, such as serving on the Properties Committee and the Peace and Social Concerns Committee.

We discussed theological matters. Tom believes in the still small voice and the inner Light. He also feels at one with nature. He is interested in contemplative meditation and the writings of Friar Richard Rohr. Tom is comfortable with the theological diversity that exists within our Quaker community.

Tom is committed to a peaceful world and supportive relationships. He feels at one with our community that is committed to various forms of peace and social justice.

Tom is the caregiver for his adult son John, who has cerebral palsy. John is not comfortable with the manner of Friends worship and will continue to worship at the Fort Myers Congregational United Church of Christ. Tom will sometimes accompany John to worship there and does not feel he can completely sever his relationship with FMCUCC. But his relationship there will be a diminished one.

At the conclusion of the gathering, all present were clear that Tom 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 Tom and the community.

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

❖ **Minute 2019-MM06:** Friends approve and welcome Tom Miller into membership in the Fort Myers Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends.

Finance Committee: Kathy Hale presented the financial report for the period ended 2/28/19 on behalf of our Treasurer Paul Davis, who couldn't attend today

Cash on Hand	\$4,887
General Fund	\$67,331
Meetinghouse Savings	<u>\$88,727</u>
Total	\$160,945

Expenses for February	\$158
Income for February	\$1,572

The Committee also asked that Friends who send checks for support of the Meeting to send it to the new Treasurer's address: Fort Myers Quaker Meeting c/o Paul Davis, Treasurer, 5530 Harborage Dr. Fort Myers, FL 33908

Adult Religious Education: Roxy Jacob reported that the committee met, but does not yet have a clerk. The committee realized that they had neglected to provide an honorarium for Jerry Knutson, who led a presentation for Friends. They have now authorized an honorarium of \$100 and will send a letter of thanks to him.

Peace & Social Concerns: Hugh Pettigrew reported that the Committee will schedule another visit to Immokalee to meet with Reverend Miguel Estrada at Mission Peniel to discuss the newly formed Fair Housing Coalition and to witness the progress Cultivate Abundance has made with their garden behind the Mission Peniel building.

They also received an invitation from a member of the Fort Myers Congregational United Church of Christ to consider starting a Lee County chapter of World Beyond War. Hugh is attending an exploratory

meeting tonight and will report back to the Committee and to the Meeting. He encouraged Friends to learn more about the initiative at this website: WorldBeyondWar.org.

The Environmental Concerns Working Group has been focusing on the issue of glyphosate use. They are considering organizing an informational session open to everyone that might include the viewing of the video "Toxic Puzzle".

The P&SC Committee is recommending to Friends that we endorse the Coalition of Immokalee Workers Wendy's Boycott campaign and read a proposed letter of endorsement. We discussed the proposed endorsement. Friends ask the Committee to address concerns that were expressed at the meeting, and to re-present a letter if they wish.

Hospitality: Deb White reported that the Committee expresses its thanks for our community's response to the call for food and funds for the Harry Chapin Food Bank. They also reported its commitment to purchasing only fair trade organic coffee for our fellowship periods, in spite of the higher cost.

Properties: Suzanne Frechette reported that she has been named clerk of the committee for 2019. Tom Jacobs has agreed to

produce two signs identifying the location of the Iona House on the CNCP complex.

The Meeting remains thoughtful about our possible future needs to relocate or expand our opportunities at CNCP. In that light, Properties Committee offered some information on recent explorations of possibilities.

Friends noted that our kitchen entryway is in bad shape and asked that the Properties Committee address this as soon as possible.

Outreach: Pat Iyre reported on the successful on-line meeting concerning our website; several good ideas came from this meeting, and people have come forward with further suggestions. Changes are being made to a test site, and Friends will be asked to attend a 2nd on-line meeting to re-view the beta test.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Richard Frechette
Co-Recording Clerk

Got Stamps? Save your cancelled stamps. They can be dropped off at the meetinghouse, and will be sent to Right Sharing of the World's Resources to fund grants for micro-enterprise projects in Kenya, Sierra Leone and India.

Specific Instructions:

- Leave a 1/8" to 1/4" margin around the stamp to prevent the edges from tearing.
- No non-profit or flag stamps (no market for them)
- Foreign, unusual or pretty stamps are prized.
- The stamps can be placed in the large labeled envelope on the back table.

This was a "mission" of many years of Sue Curra before her passing away, and Karen Zentgraf has graciously offered to continue the mission.

Southeastern Yearly Meeting

Quakers in Florida, southeast Georgia & coastal South Carolina

SEYM Gathering & Annual Sessions April 17 - 21, 2019

United Methodist Life Enrichment Center, 4991 Picciola Rd, Fruitland Park, Florida

Theme: Taking off the Masks: Undoing Racism as Personal & Community Practice

2019 Walton Lecture Saturday 7:PM

'Taking off the Masks: Undoing White Supremacy as Spiritual Practice' will be presented by Lucy Duncan & Noah White

Lucy and Noah --- as a white woman and a bi-cultural man --- will tell stories of how the socialization of white supremacy was taught to us, and explore our journey toward deeper awareness and mutual liberation. Through deeply personal stories, they will delve into the dynamics of growing up in a system that uses us to perpetuate and receive harm---in our families, communities, and society --- and explore the sometimes quite intimate way white supremacy is transmitted and the healing that has happened for each of them. They will talk about their shared work in the Quaker community to hold others as they struggle toward and resist their liberation.

What else is happening at the Gathering? A wide array of workshops, worship sharing, great fellowship.

Site use and lodging options: Motel-like rooms, Tenting and RV sites, or day use.

Costs: Registration: Adults (over 18 - \$50; Single Day registration - \$35, Youth, Free Housing: See the SEYM website for detailed cost information.

Registration period is now until April 1

For More Information: <https://seymquakers.org/news-events/yearly-meeting-gathering/> or call Susan Wade, Registrar (727-821-5048)

FOR our FtMMM Friends Community:

* Car pooling: Contact Nancy Howell

* The Meeting is most pleased to offer "scholarships" (co-funded by our Meeting and SEYM) to individuals and families who would like to attend some or all of the Gathering, but cannot afford the full cost. One needs only to register by the April 1 deadline. For informal discussion, contact Richard Frechette.

Harry Chapin Food Bank

Connie Summerlin, our emissary to the Harry Chapin Food Bank, provides the following report of food and funds contributed by our Meeting family to this wonderful organization:

Food:	2019 to date: 164 pounds;	since Sept 2016: 1,188 pounds
Funds:	2019 to date: \$445	since Sept 2016: \$989

BE...SPEECHLESS

...With Friends on Saturday, March 30, from 1:00 to 4:00 at the Cracker Box on the Orange River, about 10 miles northeast of Iona House, behind and to the north of The Hut Restaurant, 5150 Buckingham Rd.

Come on out to Buckingham for an afternoon of Silent, Mindfulness.

Meditate, pray, paint, write poetry, kayak (our boats or bring your own), swing in the hammock, fish, walk, read, journal, take photographs, play with clay, sketch, and give yourself permission to claim three hours, just for yourself.

Bring some light snacks for the sharing table, and a reusable cup for yourself.

Bring a chair, journal, art supplies, camera or anything else that will facilitate your time with yourself.

We'll have ice water, soft beverages, art supplies, writing paper, pens, pencils, and self hardening clay.

Arrive between noon and 1:00. Silence will begin when you exit your car.

Turn off your phone.

Limited, essential, non-verbal communication by note or gesture will be OK, but allow yourself and others the freedom to BE.

At 4:00, a bell will ring and we'll have an opportunity to gather together and debrief.

Please RSVP, so we'll know how many folks to plan for. E-mail or text Suzanne at Suzanne.Frechette@gmail.com; 401-744-6097

L.I.F.E. Nehemiah Action

The L.I.F.E. Nehemiah Action Assembly will be held on Tuesday, April 9 at 7 PM at the South Fort Myers High School, 14020 Plantation Road, Fort Myers. Show your support for L.I.F.E., for more affordable housing in Fort Myers, and for establishment of a Children's Services Council (more funding and better coordination of programs) for Lee County). Help us use people power to bring justice to Lee County.

To Think Upon a Friend



To think upon a friend this first day
Is faith it will not be the last day,
But one in many to come, even
As time drops away,
As all shadows vanish,
And thou and I walk
In the Radiance
Of the endless day.

December 23, 2007

by Theron White

A Sojourning member of FtMMM



**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

1st Days (Sundays)	Pre-Worship Singing (most 1st days)	10:00 am
	Meeting for Worship	10:30 am
Sat 3/30	Mindfulness meditation	1-4 PM in Buckingham
Sun 3/31	Visitation Sunday (every 5 th Sunday). Consider visiting another Friends Meeting	varies
Sun 4/7	Pot luck lunch	At rise of Worship
Tues 4/9	L.I.F.E. Nehemiah Action	7:00 PM South FtM High School
Sun 4/14	Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business	At Rise of Worship
Wed 4/17 – Sun 4/21	Southeastern Yearly Meeting Gathering	Fruitland Park, FL