



Iona House
Calusa Nature Center

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

Worship: In the Iona House at the Calusa Nature Center
Mailing Address: 117 East Mariana Ave. North Fort Myers FL 33927
Tel: (239) 318-0538 * **Website:** fortmyersquakers.org * **e-mail:** ftymyers.quakers@gmail.com

Clerk: Joan Culver (joanculver@gmail.com)
Recording Clerks: Kathy Hale / Richard Frechette
Treasurer: Paul Davis

- 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

How do Friends care for one another? 4. Mutual Care

Queries:

- How do we foster a spirit of community among the meeting's members and attenders?
- How does the meeting keep in contact with all of the meeting's members and attenders?
- How does the meeting assist couples and families to communicate, grow together, and rear children in a loving environment?
- Does the meeting community nurture the meeting's children?
- How does the meeting care for those who live alone, the sick, the aging, the widowed, the separated or divorced, and others with families affected by disruption?
- Do we assist Friends in need as their circumstances require?
- How do we labor with and care for those whose conduct or manner of living gives grounds for concern?
- How are visitors to our meeting made to feel welcome?

Advices:

- Be truthful and sincere, and thus encourage these qualities in others.
- Through example and education, help each other to recognize and follow the voice of God both in our spiritual lives and in joyful and willing service.
- Watch with tenderness over the opening minds of children. Seek to awaken in them the love and understanding of the life and teachings of Jesus and a sense of security in the love of God.
- Remember that there is a unique potential in each human being as a beloved child of God and that the Holy Spirit may lead children to give wise counsel to listening adults.
- Young people, too, have responsibility to care for the meeting and to participate in meetings both for worship and for business. Faith is needed as a vital part of our living.

**MINUTES OF THE FORT MYERS MONTHLY MEETING
OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS
4th Month 14, 2019**

The Fort Myers Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends met in Iona House on 4th Month 14th day with 21 Friends present. The meeting opened with a period of silent centering. Clerk Joan Culver read an advice from Faith & Practice on the subject of Mutual Care: *Be truthful and sincere, and thus encourage these qualities in others.*

Clerk's Message: Joan talked about Quaker process. She recognized that we come from many different Quaker Meetings with varying protocols. She read an excerpt from the book Friends for 350 Years: "Opinions should always be expressed humbly and tentatively in the realization that no one person sees the whole truth the whole meeting can see more of the Truth than can any part of it. When B speaks following A, he takes into consideration A's opinion. C follows with a statement which would probably have been different had A and B not spoken. Every speaker credits every other sincere speaker with at least some insight."

Treasurer's Report: On behalf of our Treasurer, Paul Davis, Joan Culver reported that we are in an excellent financial position. Paul recommends that the Finance Committee consider placing more of our savings into CDs. The financial status as of March 31 is as follows:

Money Market Funds	\$40,889
Savings	\$40,297
Meetinghouse Fund	\$37,550
Checking Account	\$6,201
Total	\$158,287

Finance Committee: The committee is working on a plan to transfer more funds from savings to CD. The committee will also present next month a request to increase the Outreach budget to cover the cost of the Meeting's phone

Ministry and Counsel Committee: Jim Koopman has submitted a request to become a formal member of the Meeting. A Clearness Committee consisting of Nancy Howell, Kathy Hale, Helen Snodgrass and Richard Frechette met with Jim. Jim has had a long association with Quakers both at Ann Arbor meeting and at Fort Myers Meeting. More recently, Jim has become active in environmental issues with the Peace and Social Concerns Committee. Jim appreciates the acceptance of the diversity of thought and spirituality in the Fort Myers Meeting. The Clearness Committee recommended accepting Jim into membership in the Fort Myers Monthly meeting, and the Ministry & Council Committee unites with that recommendation.

- ❖ **Minute 2019-MM07:** Fort Myers Monthly Meeting welcomes Jim Koopman into membership in our Meeting and into the Religious Society of Friends. We are appreciative of his presence with us.

Adult Religious Education: Roxy Jacobs reported that Jeannette Botha has agreed to clerk the committee.

Peace & Social Concerns: The Committee presented to Friends a draft letter which would endorse the Coalition of Immokalee Workers boycott of Wendy's Fast Food Chain, noting that this letter is in support of the Fair Food Program. Friends discussed the letter, suggesting a single modification in language. Joan reminded us of our Meeting's long history on this general issue.

- ❖ **Minute 2019-MM07:** Friends approve the following letter, which will be sent to the Coalition of Immokalee Workers and to Southeastern Yearly Meeting.

*To: Southeastern Yearly Meeting (SEYM) and
Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW)*

From: Fort Myers Friends Meeting (Quakers)

March 30, 2019

Guided by our Quaker principles of fairness and equality, Fort Myers Friends Meeting has supported the Coalition of Immokalee Workers since its inception in 1993. Over the years we have been gratified to see the progress that CIW and its Fair Food Program have made in bringing together farmers, farmworkers, and retail food companies to ensure humane wages and working conditions for tens of thousands of U.S. farmworkers. McDonalds, Walmart, Taco Bell, KFC, Whole Foods, Fresh Market and Pizza Hut all now recognize the benefits of buying from growers that agree to fair labor standards.

We are concerned, however, that of the five largest fast food companies, Wendy's is the only one that has declined to participate in CIW's Fair Food program. In order to convince Wendy's to join in the human rights effort, Fort Myers Friends Meeting endorses the CIW's Boycott of Wendy's Fast Food Chain.

*Sincerely,
Joan Culver
Clerk, Fort Myers Friends Meeting*

The Environmental Working Group under the care of P&SC will be making an educational presentation about harmful algae blooms and what we can do about them after meeting for worship on April 28. This presentation is expected to take about forty-five minutes. Details will be published in the April newsletter.

The P&SC committee is organizing a visit to Immokalee, FL, to meet with Ralph Pollock and Pastor Miguel Estrada to discuss the Immokalee Fair Housing Alliance, Inc. on Wednesday, May 1. Details will be published in the newsletter.

Hospitality: The committee will not need snack donations for the next several weeks, as they are working on depleting excess supplies in our refrigerator.

Properties: Suzanne noted that the hot water heater was set at a fairly low temperature, today, and it may be for the safety of the children coming in during the week. Chris Ruhnke completed some touch up painting on the outside of Iona House.

Calusa Nature Center and Planetarium: There will be an Earth Day celebration at the CNCP on April 27, and friends are encouraged to come both to enjoy the activities and to support the CNCP. On that day, Carolyn Stanley and Connie Summerlin will be making a presentation on expanding our concept of recycling.

New Business: Meeting/Worship Site: Joan Culver introduced this segment with some historic background. In 2015, we searched for an alternative site for a new meeting house. After an unsuccessful search, Friends held a threshing session about the question of a meeting-house. The sense from this session was that we should negotiate an agreement with the CNCP. The seven-year agreement, authorized by Friends in April 2016, recognized Friend's replacement of the Iona House roof and other Friend's initiated improvements, at value of over \$20,000. Friends offered to pay \$100/month for utilities. The FMMM had been meeting in Iona House for over 20 years without paying rent, trading volunteer work at the Calusa Nature Center instead.

There is no reason to believe we cannot continue but there is concern about the limitations of our space.

Since the agreement has 3 years left, it may be time to start the process of discernment about our relationship with Iona House. Suzanne and Richard Frechette reported that, recognizing the need to continue to keep eyes open for future possibilities, they met with representatives of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Fort Myers to discuss the concept of sharing facilities in some way.

It is the sense of the FMMM that we will start in the fall to determine ways to discern our way forward.

The minutes of today's meeting were read and approved. We closed in silent worship.

Joan Culver,
Clerk

QUAKERS, BLUE-GREEN ALGAE, RED TIDE, SCIENCE & SOCIETY

On April 28, at the rise of worship, Vicki Scott, Jim Koopman, and Suzanne Frechette will lead a 45-minute discussion on those headline topics. The experiences of these environmental affronts over the past year have raised a new consciousness among Quakers and the wider society that, "Never has it been more important to understand how the natural world works and what we can do to help it." We have a local problem that can have local solutions with world-wide implications. Come and discuss this with us.

Friends, remember to bring to Iona House on 1st days non-perishable foods (for both humans and pets) for the Harry Chapin Food Bank.

OPPORTUNITY TO COMBINE ACTIVISM WITH PLEASURE

Dear Friends, the Ft. Myers Friends Peace and Social Concerns Committee would like to invite any and all Ft. Myers Friends and Attenders to come on a combined trip to the beautiful Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary, have lunch at the funky, authentic, delicious Juanita's Authentic Mexican restaurant in Immokalee, and attend an informal discussion with Pastor Miguel of Mision Peniel about how Quakers can support the newly formed Fair Housing Alliance by and for farmworkers in Immokalee.

BACKGROUND: Last year a group of Ft. Myers Friends visited Mision Peniel and the Coalition for Immokalee Workers to better understand the accomplishments and further needs of these two organizations and the farmworkers they serve. While we were impressed with the improvements to the lives of farmworkers we were appalled at the living conditions of many of these workers and their families, including the aged and the very young. More recently, we learned that a Fair Housing Alliance has been formed with the goal of constructing decent, fair, affordable housing for this population. Still, we have many questions about how and if Quakers can be involved. Pastor Miguel has been kind enough to set up another meeting with us on Wednesday, May 1 at 2PM to discuss these issues. He is a dynamic speaker, and very approachable.

Here's the tentative **PROGRAM for WEDNESDAY, MAY 1**

- 10:30AM Meet at the Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary, 375 Sanctuary Boulevard West, Naples. <http://corkscrew.audubon.org/> Please make your own carpooling arrangements if desired. Bring the usual sunglasses, hat, water, sunscreen, binoculars, etc. and be prepared to pay \$14. admission to the 2.5 mile boardwalk. (If you forget anything, it's all available at the gift shop on site). The place is magical; far from city noise, it encompasses several different old Florida environments and is a haven for birds and animals of all kinds, including the rare Florida panther, bobcat, deer, otters, and wild turkey. There is a lovely visitors center with all the amenities.
- 12:30 PM Leave Corkscrew, drive 20 minutes to Immokalee
- 1:00 PM meet at Juanita's Authentic Mexican Restaurant, 204 Boston Ave., Immokalee
- 2:00 PM Short walk to Mision Peniel to meet Pastor Miguel. We may also be able to see the gardens at the back of the Mision by Cultivate Abundance, a group that Ft. Myers Friends Meeting supports, and hear how they benefit farmworker families.
- Around 3:00 PM Leave Immokalee.

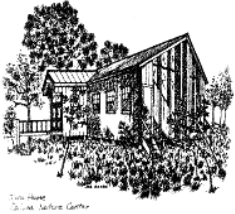
PLEASE RSVP to Helen Fox: hfox@umich.edu

FAIR TRADE COFFEE



You may have noticed that our fellowship period after worship includes coffee purchased from Equal Exchange. The Hospitality Committee made a decision that it would serve fair trade coffee from this point on, and it chose Equal Exchange coffee as the brand. If you would like to find out more about Equal Exchange (and maybe buy some for yourself) go to <https://equalexchange.coop>, You can also buy Equal Exchange coffee

from Amazon.com.



**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
Sun 4/28	Presentation from Environmental Action Group	At rise of Worship
Wed 5/1	Trip to Corkscrew Sanctuary & Mision Peniel	All day
Sun 5/5	Pot luck lunch	At rise of Worship
Sun 5/12	Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business	At Rise of Worship