



FORT MYERS MONTHLY MEETING

OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

NEWSLETTER, TWELFTH MONTH, 2019

Worship: Iona House at the Calusa Nature Center, 3450 Ortiz Ave, FtM

Mailing Address: 117 East Mariana Ave. North Fort Myers FL 33927

Telephone: (239) 318-0538 ❖ **Website:** fortmyersquakers.org ❖ **e-mail:** ftmyers.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

QUERIES & ADVICES from Faith & Practice of Southeastern Yearly Meeting

How do Friends meet our responsibilities to the community and the world?

12. Peace Testimony & Nonviolence

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

Fort Myers Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends Minutes of 12th Month 8, 2019

The Fort Myers Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends met in Iona House on 12th month 18th day with 14 Friends present. The Meeting opened with a period of silent centering.

Queries and Advices. Clerk Joan Culver read selections from the 12th month Advices regarding the Peace Testimony and Non-Violence.

- *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.*
- *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.*

Treasurer’s report. Paul Davis, Treasurer, presented the financial report for the period ended November 30, 2019. He reminded all that, if anyone has receipts to be reimbursed, s/he should submit them in advance of the end of the month, so that he will be able to provide a proper year-end report.

FMMM Funds Report 11/30/2019

General Funds			
Checking	10,163		
Gen Fund Savings	40,337		
		November 2019 Income vs Ex-	
		November Income	3,025
Gen Fund Friends Fiduci-	24,503	November Ex-	233
Total General Fund	75,003		
Meeting House Funds			
Savings	80,571		
MH Funds Fr Fiduciary	11,402		
Total Meeting House Funds	91,973		
FMMM Total Funds	166,976		

Finance Committee – 2020 Budget: The Finance Committee presented a proposed budget for 2020. Paul Davis noted that there is virtually no change from the draft budget reviewed last month. There was no discussion.

- ❖ **Minute 2019-MM13: Friends approve the following budget for calendar year 2020, totaling \$21,900.**

<u>Budget Year</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
SEYM Support	5,400	
Ministry & Counsel	4,000	3,500
Friends General Conference	1,200	
Scholarships/ Spiritual Nourishment	1,500	
Care for individuals	1,000	
General/Miscellaneous	300	

<u>Budget Year</u>		<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Religious Education	Total	1,450	1,450
Books/Misc		500	
1st Day School		150	
Retreats		800	
Newsletter/Other Expenses	Total	300	
Finance Committee	Total	750	750
Banking & Corporate Fees		150	
Gifts/Contingency		600	
Hospitality Committee	Total	450	400
(coffee, kitchen supplies, etc.)			
Nominating Committee (misc)	Total	100	100
Outreach Committee	Total	1,000	1,531
Friends Journal Listing		80	
Website Hosting		60	
Phone		400	
Webmaster for more complex Charges		250	
Misc.		210	
Property Committee	Total	500	500
(Supplies for repairs/alterations as needed)			
Meeting House Reserve		1,000	1,000
Calusa Nature Center & Planetarium	Total	1,950	1,950
CNCP Membership			
CNCP Utility Payments		1,200	
CNCP Board/Event Participation		500	
Peace & Social Concerns	Total	5,000	4,100
FCNL		600	
AFSC		600	
Quaker Voluntary Services		200	
Quaker House		300	
Friends Peace Teams		300	
Lee Interfaith for Empowerment		500	
Quality Life Center		500	
Educational Concerns for Hunger Org (ECHO)		200	
Harry Chapin Food Bank		500	
Peace Day Participation		100	
Environmental Working Group		100	
Immigration Working Group		100	
Initiatives that may arise		1,000	
TOTAL		\$21,900	\$20,881

Nominating Committee: On behalf of the Committee, Nancy Howell presented the corporation report, which must be submitted annually to the State. Also presented was their proposed list of Officers, Committee Members, liaisons to other organizations and other volunteer positions. They also distributed a summary of the job descriptions of the various committees. Friends discussed the fact that, while the Nominating Committee annually pulls together this list, every committee is welcome to recruit additional people as needed during the year. Friends concurred that we should regularly post the names and contact numbers of the Clerks of the respective committees.

Nominating Committee's distribution included a brief description of the Committee Job Description. Discussion ensued on whether projects done in the name of the Meeting need to be brought to the MFB. This has been the practice of this Meeting. It is important, however, that a level of trust be also evident in our Quaker process.

❖ **Minute 2019-MM14: Friends approve the following Annual Corporation Report**

Annual report of the 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:

1. Director Richard Frechette, 138 Pinebrook Drive, FM, FL 33907
2. Director Paul Davis, 5530 Harborage Drive, FM, FL 33908
3. Director Nancy Howell, 105 Pinebrook Drive, FM, FL 33907
4. Director Kathy Hale, 1625 Hough Street, FM, FL 33901

❖ **Minute 2019-MM15: Friends approve the following list of volunteer positions for our Meeting for 2020:**

1. Officers and Specific Jobs:

- Clerk – Joan Culver
- Recording Clerks – Richard Frechette and Kathy Hale
- Membership Clerk – Richard Frechette
- Newsletter Editor – Richard Frechette
- Assistant Newsletter Editor for Circulation – Mary Smiley
- Librarian – Susan Oehl
- Lead singing before meeting: Carolyn Stanley, Cheryl Keen

Volunteer Liaisons between FMFM and other Quaker organizations:

- Amer. Friends Service Committee - Joan Culver;
- Friends Committee on National Legislation – Helen Fox;
- Quaker Voluntary Service – Cheryl Keen;
- Quaker United Nations Office – Jim Keen;
- Southeastern Yearly Meeting – Richard Frechette.

Liaisons between FMFM and other Organizations:

- L.I.F.E. - Carolyn Stanley
- Calusa Nature Center and Planetarium – Joan Culver
- Mission Penial, Roxy and Tom Jacobs
- World Without War – Tom Miller
- ECHO – Peter Curra
- Quality Life Center - Susan Oehl

2. Volunteers to serve on regular committees to carry out the Meetings' business:

- The Ministry and Counsel Committee nominates their own members, who serve for 3 year terms. (year appointment expires) Kathy Hale (2020), Helen Snodgrass (2020), Nancy Howell (2021), Richard Frechette (2021), Nancy Murvine (2019), Jeannette Botha (2019).

The following committees are open to all who volunteer to join, at any point during the year. Each committee selects its own clerk from among those who attend the first meeting of the year. The first meeting of the year can be called by any member of the committee who is moved to do so. In case of doubt, the first Friend listed here shall serve as Convener until a clerk is selected.

- Finance Committee: Kathy Hale, John Battin, Paul Davis.
- Hospitality Committee: Deb and Bob White, Suzanne Frechette, Pat Iyer, Roxy and Tom Jacobs.
- Nominating Committee (for 2020-21) – Kathy Hale, Vicki Scott,
- Outreach Committee – David Culver, Pat Iyer, Nancy Howell,
- Peace and Social Concerns Committee (includes the Environmental Working Group– Carolyn Stanley, John Battin, Janelle Christensen, Helen Fox, Jim Koopman, David Jossi, Susan Oehl, Vicki Scott, Chris Ruhnke, Tom Miller, Hugh Pettigrew.
- Environmental Working Group (Sub-group of Peace & Social Concerns Comm): Janelle Christiansen, Jim Koopman, Vicki Scott, Chris Ruhnke, Suzanne Frechette, Paul Davis,
- Properties Committee – Vicky Scott, Richard Frechette, Tom Jacobs, Andy Poltzer, Benji Poltzer, Zander Poltzer
- Religious Education Committee; Jeannette Botha, Helen Snodgrass, Roxy Jacobs, Susan Oehl.
- First Day School Planning Committee – (sub-committee of Rel. Ed) Richard Frechette, Nancy Howell, Janelle Christensen, Nico Ashe, Deb White, April Rhoden, Roxy Jacobs

Women's March: Susan Oehl has asked if she could set up a table for the Meeting in the Women's March at the Alliance for the Arts on Jan 18. Friends gladly welcome the proposal and have agreed to pay the \$25 fee.

Clerk's Report:

- Joan announced that George Lakey, long-time activist and author, and member of Central Philadelphia Friends Meeting, recently visited four Meetings in Florida, giving workshops based on his latest book, *How We Win: A Guide To Nonviolent Direct Action Campaigning*. Information about these workshops is available online at SEYMquakers.org. This interactive, intense workshop walks Friends through the process of planning a sustained, successful nonviolent campaign to effect social change.

The Clerk was asked by the Miami Monthly Meeting if the FMMM would like to host a workshop in the same time frame as the Miami and Palm Beach Meetings, which will occur in late March 2020. The day available for Ft Myers is March 29, approximately 12:30 -4:00.

Friends were in unity that this invitation should go out. Joan asked Friends to consider stepping forward to serve as coordinator for this event.

- The Clerk read a letter from the Ann Arbor Friends Meeting Lake Erie Yearly Meeting that recommends the transfer of membership of Helen Fox to our Meeting.

❖ **Minute 2019-MM16: The Fort Myers Monthly Meeting gladly approves the transfer of membership of Helen Fox to the Meeting.**

Statement regarding our Native American Precursors:

Friends reviewed 5 variations of a statement referencing the Native Americans on whose land we worship, as suggested by SEYM. There was considerable discussion, and Friends came to unity with the statement below.

- ❖ **2019MM17:** Let us begin by acknowledging, with humility, that for nearly two thousand years, the land where we meet today was the home of the Calusa people. We ask the spirits of the Calusa to welcome us into this space, and to allow us to feel their presence in the earth and the living things upon it. We open our hearts and minds to the ancient understanding that all things in the natural world are connected: animals, plants, water, stones, celestial bodies, geological formations, and sacred spaces. and that all these things can be felt and experienced as spirits with whom we can enter into a relationship. We thank the ancestors for this wisdom and ask that it guide us to a deeper appreciation of the world as we address today's challenges

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

Respectfully submitted, Richard Frechette

Our Meeting Business Card

The Outreach Committee reminds Friends that we have a business card for the Meeting that identifies our contact information and a little bit about us. You are welcome – no, encouraged – to take some cards and give it to individuals or leave in public spaces as you deem appropriate. The cards will be on the back table weekly.

Save The Date; Friday, December 13th 2019

Cody O'Rourke and Lara Alqasem from the Good Shepherd Collective [\[https://goodshepherdcollective.org\]](https://goodshepherdcollective.org) will give a presentation at Nancy Howell's home from 3-5 pm. FtMMM supported Lara last year with a donation when she was held at the Ben Gurion Airport due to her concerns about treatment of Palestinians and not allowed to enter Israel to attend the masters degree program to which she had been admitted. All are invited; let Nancy know if you are coming (V/T 239- 888-9304; howell@chass.utoronto.ca)

A Quaker Presence on the Hill: FCNL's Public Policy Institute in Washington D.C.

I never thought I'd be walking into Marco Rubio's office in Washington D.C. to ask him for his vote on stopping endless war. But on a chilly weekend in November, after a few hours of training by young staff from the Friends Committee on National Legislation, the Florida Quaker delegation, me included, walked up the Hill to the Senate office building and waited nervously outside the Senator's office.

We didn't expect to catch sight of Senator Rubio himself. His legislative aide had scheduled us to sit down with her for thirty minutes to state our case. There she is in the picture, fifth from the left. I was surprised by how young she is, not to mention smart, poised, cheerful, and genuinely interested in who we are and what we had to say. We were there to explain why we wanted the Senator to vote for the repeal of the 2002 Iraq AUMF – the Authorization for the Use of Military Force – that allows any president to circumvent the constitutional requirement for Congress to declare and manage the never-ending war in Iraq.

As we had been trained, we introduced ourselves and expressed our thanks to the Senator for an action he'd taken that we agreed with – in this case, taking the lead on a bipartisan bill to restore coral reefs <https://www.rubio.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/2019/8/rubio-schatz-scott-hirono-introduce-bill-to-restore-and-protect-america-s-coral-reefs> Then we stated our case against endless war quickly and clearly, handed the aide an information sheet on the issue, and one by one, told our stories about why stopping endless war matters to us personally. I said something about being changed by my Peace Corps service in India at the time of the Vietnam war. The aide listened to each one of us carefully. She took notes. She promised to relay our ask to the Senator. And as I left the office, she took me aside for a moment and told me how much Senator Rubio cares about human rights in Asia, how he'd recently met with the Dalai Lama, and how he advocates for the religious freedom of the Tibetan people <https://www.rubio.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/press-releases?ID=1E57F7D5-7916-42B7-A7EA-DD5B67F5FA68> It wasn't exactly stopping endless war, but yes, it was a point of connection.

It was amazing to see how many young people like Senator Rubio's aide are all over the Hill, both in the halls of government and staffing FCNL's offices. Executive Director Diane Randall had said something about that the previous evening when 400 Quakers had arrived for FCNL's Annual Meeting and Quaker Public Policy Institute. "I believe that change is coming," she'd told the packed hall. Young people are leading the fight. Our country has been at war almost their entire lives – longer than WWI, WWII and the Civil War combined. Their most pressing issues are climate change, immigration, gun violence. They are running for office, staffing congressional offices, lobbying their elected officials, demonstrating on the steps of the Supreme Court. They are persistent, even when it's a struggle. They develop relationships with lawmakers on both sides of the aisle, meeting with them again and again. This is what FCNL has done for 76 years, and why we're known on the Hill for fairness, integrity, and getting things done. "For Quakers, developing relationships with legislators is a spiritual

practice, a discipline. It can be tiring; we don't always see a positive outcome. But it is a manner of staying in the light."

If you want to learn more about the FCNL method of advocating and lobbying, please come to Helen and Jim's on Pine Island on **Saturday December 14 at 1:30**. 7418 Grande Pine Rd. Bokeelia – the orange house. Or see Helen after Meeting.

Helen Fox

Christmas Day Potluck Lunch in Buckingham

All are invited to participate in a Christmas Day Potluck Lunch at the Frechette's getaway cottage (the "Crackerbox on Peace Acre") by the Orange River. The now-traditional highlight is the "Buckingham swap" where inexpensive wrapped gifts are selected and swapped. The gathering is at noon. Contact Suzanne Frechette to sign up, get directions, etc. (Suzanne.Frechette@gmail.com, 401-744-6097).

Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends Invites everyone to the...

- Winter Executive Committee Meeting (Friday, January 17, , 7:00 pm)
 - Winter Interim Business Meeting (Saturday, January 18 all day)
 - Youth Program (Friday, January 17 through Sunday, January 19)
 - The 50th annual Michener Lecture and Seminars (Sunday, January 19, 1:00 pm)
"From Fear & Scarcity to Hope & Abundance: Confronting and Transforming the Giant Triplets of Racism, Materialism, and Militarism" -presented by Brian Corr
- For more information, go to www.SEYMQuakers.org

What is the Spiritual State of our Meeting?

A long-standing tradition among Friends is to annually consider the Spiritual State of the Meeting. Ministry & Counsel Committee plays the coordinating role in this process. The Committee invites Friends to stay a while after potluck lunch on Jan 5 to participate in worship-sharing based on the queries below. M&C will then fold the responses into a draft to be considered by Friends at the February 9 meeting for worship with attention to business.

1. Are we a loving community? How do we see that love present among us?
2. Are we a welcoming and hospitable community? Do we make non-Quaker visitors feel comfortable through adequately explaining the Quaker way and spirit of worship?
3. Are we a spiritual community? Do we understand and appreciate the power and strength of silence? Does our worship and our vocal ministry reflect a sense of divine presence and unity of spirits
4. Are we a disciplined community?" Do we understand Quaker process and the processes of this Meeting and work within those parameters for the sake of unity and order?
5. Are we a community committed to peace? Do we work for peace within our meeting, in our community, and in the world?
6. What do I need to say about our meeting?

2020 Women's March Fort Myers

Saturday, Jan 18 10 am to 1 pm at the Alliance for the Arts. In addition to the March, there will be a rally with speakers, entertainment and information tables from groups that support the WMFtM goals of equality, democracy, honesty and human rights with liberty and justice for all. (Editor's note: at Susan Oehl's suggestion, the Meeting agreed to sponsor an informational table). Additional volunteers will be needed for staffing or setting up/taking down the table. For more information, contact Susan (860-754-7468; sisietree@gmail.com)

Spiritual Formation Program

Ministry and Counsel is offering an opportunity to explore SEYM's Spiritual Formation Program to our newest attenders as well as to returning and long-time members and attenders who might be drawn to small groups of spiritual companions. If you are interested in learning more, Nancy Murvine will do a brief presentation after Meeting for Worship on December 29. If you are unable to attend that day but are interested to learn more, please contact Nancy Murvine (by phone/text: 239.293.6952 or by e-mail: nrmurvine@embarqmail.com). Below is SEYM's introduction to the concept and format of Spiritual Formation Program.

The work of Spiritual Formation Programs is accomplished within a small group format. These groups have been referred to as "circles of trust," "circles of light," "friendship circles," "spiritual companion groups," etc. SEYM prefers to call the small groups "spiritual companion groups."

The primary goal of a spiritual formation program is to deepen one's relationship with the Divine, God, Spirit, or Inner Light through four major avenues: reading devotionally, individual spiritual practice, deep listening and spiritual community. Walking the spiritual path along with others in the group tends to lead to the formation of meaningful and long-lasting relationships. The transformative work of spiritual formation inevitably contributes to the spiritual well-being of the individual, the monthly and yearly meetings.

Spiritual Formation Programs have a long and respected history among many religious groups, including the Religious Society of Friends. Both Philadelphia and Baltimore Yearly Meetings have collaborated and published their entire programs on the web in order to serve as models for others. Many yearly meetings in the United States have adapted these models to meet the particular needs of their constituent meetings.

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.quono.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

1st Days (Sundays)	Pre-Worship Singing (1 st & 2 nd Sundays)	9:50 am
	Meeting for Worship	10:30 am
Fri 12/13	Presentation by Cody O' Rourke and Lara Alqasem from the Good Shepherd Collective	3-5 pm at Nancy Howell home
Sat 12/14	Presentation and discussion on FCNL	1:30 PM @ Fox/Koopman home
Wed 12/25	Christmas Day Pot Luck Lunch in Buckingham	Noon
Sun 12/29	Presentation and discussion on Spiritual Formation Program	At rise of Worship
Sun 1/5	Potluck lunch	At rise of Worship
Sun 1/12	Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business;	At rise of Worship
Sun 1/12	"Last Chance" Book Club	
Sat 1/18	FtM Women's March 2020 @ Alliance for the Arts	10 am – 1 pm
Sat 1/18	SEYM Interim Business Meeting @ Orlando MM	All day
Sun 1/19	SEYM Michener Lecture @ Orland MM following worship & Lunch	