



Iona House
Calusa Nature Center

FORT MYERS MONTHLY MEETING OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

NEWSLETTER, FIRST MONTH, 2020

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?

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

Advices: (Continued)

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.

Fort Myers Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends Minutes of 1st Month 12, 2019

The Fort Myers Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends met in Iona House on 1st month 12th day with 16 Friends present. The Meeting opened with a period of silent centering.

Queries and Advices: Clerk Joan Culver read selections from the 1st month Advices regarding meeting for worship:

- ❖ *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.*

Clerk's Report:

Joan told us she received a letter with greetings from Nancy Webster, a member from Naples, who has been unable to attend worship with us. She also received a letter from Karen Zentgraf, a seasonal Friend from Colorado, who informed us that she and her husband will no longer be coming to Florida. It was noted that Karen had been collecting used postage stamps as a fundraiser for Right Sharing of the World's Resources. We are hoping to recruit a replacement volunteer

Joan reported that an ad hoc meetinghouse committee has been established comprised of Joan Culver, Paul Davis, Richard Frechette, Kathy Hale, and Deb White. The Committee has met twice and will meet again. They will sponsor a threshing meeting on March 22. They have promulgated a set of queries which will be sent out to all of our meeting family within a week or so and will be available in the meetinghouse for the next three weeks.

Our Relationship with our local Native American Predecessors: The Clerk asked Friends to consider what we should do with the statement that we had approved last month. Friends were in unity that we should print a document to be hung in the Iona House Meeting room permanently, assuming that the CNCP would approve such a wall hanging. We could read it

aloud once per month. The Clerk will check with the CNCP and, if approved, will name an ad hoc committee to submit a design for Friends approval.

George Lakey Workshop: The Clerk senses that FtMMM is not in a position at this time to sponsor a March 29 workshop led by George Lakey. However, we can let Friends know via our newsletter should they wish to attend similar workshops by George Lakey to be held in Miami and Palm Beach.

Clerk Joan has been part of an SEYM ad hoc group with Kody Hersh and CeCe Yokum working on ways to support a project led by Lucy Duncan of AFSC related to **detention of Palestinian children by Israelis**. They hope to show a film and have discussion at yearly meeting this April. She hopes that other FtMMM Friends will be able to learn more and become involved.

Treasurer’s report. Our Treasurer, Paul Davis, is away, but provided this report for the period ended 12/31/2019:

General Funds

Checking	11,606
Gen Fund Savings	40,342
Gen Fund Fr Fiduciary	25,460

Total General Fund 77,408

December 2019 Income vs Expense	
December Income	6,127
December Expenses	1,257

Meeting House Funds

Savings	84,022
MH Funds Fr Fiduciary	11,847

Total Meeting House Funds 95,869

2019 Income vs Expense	
2019 Income	33,327
2019 Expenses	16,471
Retained	16,856

FMMM Total Funds 173,277

The Treasurer reported that our checking account balance at the end of 2019 was so high - \$11,606 – that he decided to pay our contribution to SEYM and some of our larger commitments in January. Our checking account will be reduced by over half in January as a result of paying our commitments earlier in the year. Finance Committee is working on plans to move some of our money into longer term and higher yielding accounts.

Ministry & Counsel Committee:

The Committee presented its composition for the current year, requesting the Meeting approve the class of 2022:

- Class of 2020: Kathy Hale & Helen Snodgrass
- Class of 2021: Richard Frechette & Nancy Howell
- Class of 2022: Nancy Murvine

M&C is still in discernment on a second person for the Class of 2022. The M&C clerk will be named at its January 27 meeting.

❖ **2020-MM01: Friends approve the appointment of Nancy Murvine to the Ministry & Counsel Committee, class of 2022.**

The Committee expresses its gratefulness to Jeannette Botha, who is rolling off the committee, for the many years of service on M&C.

M&C reported that the Meeting has received a letter from Roxy Jacobs requesting dual membership, the other Meeting being Duneland Friends Meeting (Illinois Yearly Meeting). We are awaiting a formal response from the Clerk of Duneland Friends Meeting before taking formal action on the request.

The Committee reported that Priscilla DeOliveira and Dylan Goldey have requested to be married under the care of the Meeting, and that a clearness committee will be established. Friends were delighted to hear of this request.

Records: Richard Frechette, as records keeper, reported that all minutes and newsletters for 2019 were sent to the SEYM archives at the Smathers Library in the University of Florida/Gainesville, and that, with the help of M&C, our list of members and regular attenders as of December 31 was prepared and forwarded to SEYM.

CNCP: Friends are appreciative of all the work our Clerk performs as a board member with the CNCP. Joan noted that there are many opportunities for volunteering .

Immokalee Fair Housing Alliance: Peace and Social Concerns Committee intends to become more involved with this organization, and will sponsor a presentation on the Alliance at the SEYM gathering. Helen Fox will serve as coordinator. Friends applaud and support their efforts.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard Frechette
Co-Recording Clerk

“Four Doors to Meeting for Worship”

Our Meeting’s Religious Education Committee is sponsoring its second session on William Taber’s pamphlet “Four Doors to Meeting for Worship” on Sunday, January 19 at the rise of worship. It will be guided by Roxy Jacobs. The last session in November focused on Door 1 and Door 2; this session will focus on Door 3 and Door 4. Bring a brown bag lunch to tide you over.

World Beyond War

As Quaker liaison to World Beyond War chapter in SWF, Tom Miller wishes to announce that on Sunday, Feb.23rd, Rev. John Pegg will show a movie and lead a discussion about WBW. It will be held at the Fort Myers Congregational United Church of Christ, 8210 College Pkwy, Fort Myers. Questions? Call Tom at 239-482-2908.

SEYM Yearly Gathering is just.....around the corner

It happens April 8-12. Registration begins on Feb 8. More info to come in next month's newsletter. In the meantime, talk to a Friend in our Meeting who has been to the Gathering, or check out www.seymquakers.org, then click on Events, then Yearly Meeting Gathering.

Thoughts on Confession

I have recently come to wonder how the rite of confession might work within the realm of Friends. People may sometimes feel compelled by the spirit to say something during meeting worship, but that is not exactly what I had in mind. Part of this arose around my own struggle with things I have done in the past. In my curiosity about this, as I was just poking around on Google for some answers, I found an interesting blog that addressed this from a personal, contemporary standpoint, but it also referenced very old (18th century) Quaker sources. Rather than talk about it any more, I will just forward the link, and any interested people can read it, themselves. I think it raises interesting points/questions. I thought that it could be an interesting topic for discussion. Click on the [link](#), or go to <http://thegoodraisedup.blogspot.com/2006/03/confessions-part-i.html> (Note: once on that site, you can go to the bottom and click on "Newer Posts," some of which will be further blogging about the concept of Quaker confession)

Sincerely, Will Noel

"What does it mean to say 'I have survived' until you take the mirrors and turn them outward and read your own face in their outraged light? --- That light of outrage is the light of history springing upon us when we're least prepared, thinking maybe a little glade of time leaf-thick and with clear water is ours, is promised us, for all we've hacked and tracked our way through: to this: What will it be? Your wish or mine? your prayers or my wish then: that those we love be well, whatever that means, to be well. Outrage: who dare claim protection for their own amid such unprotection? What kind of prayer is that? To what kind of god? What kind of wish?" From "Through Corralitos Under Clouds" parts 3 and 4 from the poetry book "An Atlas of the Difficult World" by Adrienne Rich 1991.

More on L.I.F.E.

Carolyn Stanley, our Meeting's representative to L.I.F.E (Lee Interfaith For Empowerment) invites folks to come to her home to learn more about L.I.F.E. and the opportunities to help ensure a successful Nehemiah Action on 3/9.

Date/Time: Sunday, January 26 at 6:30-8:30,

Address: 14093 Mystic Seaport Way, Fort Myers.

RSVP: 740-827-1800. carolyn2020stanley@gmail.com

Introit



*Fidgety sleep awoke me near dawn.
I stepped outside to breath sea air,
To ponder in darkness the coming day.
Then came the great surprise —
A wave of aquamarine, emerald light
Illuminated sky from east to west,
Took away all words,
And left wonder and joy in their place.*



*Then new light rose in the east,
Clothed in fog, diffused into atmosphere —
In alchemy of that moment,
Leaden fog became gold,
More beautiful than any Monet sunrise.
The familiar lighthouse emerged
In vague silhouette from a mystery of night.
A choir of mockingbirds and ring necked doves
Sang the swelling introit of that new day,
Praised One from whom all blessings flow.*

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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

Changing Systems, Changing Ourselves

Anti-racist practice for Sanctuary, Accompaniment, and Resistance



American Friends
Service Committee

"Without community, there is no liberation." Audre Lorde

As the Trump administration continues to ramp up its attacks on immigrant communities, many activists across the U.S. are searching for deeper, more meaningful ways to stand with immigrant communities against racism and injustice.

If this sounds like you, join our e-course “**Changing Systems, Changing Ourselves: Anti-racist practice for sanctuary, accompaniment, and resistance.**”

This free, interactive e-course was designed for congregations and other groups and individuals interested in learning, reflecting, and acting for social change—while following the leadership of immigrants and others impacted by injustice. The e-course begins Jan. 28 and will take place every fourth Tuesday evening through May.

More than 1,000 people have taken part in “Changing Systems, Changing Ourselves” since 2018, with several sharing with us how it has transformed how they accompany immigrants in working for social change. One participant, for example, was supporting an immigrant family in navigating their relationship with their child’s school. After the e-course, the participant changed her approach. Instead of acting on the family’s behalf, she began helping the family develop their own relationship with the school.

This story and others represent what we’re trying to accomplish—preparing to work for social change in a way advocated by Australian Aboriginal activists in the saying, “If you have come here to help me you are wasting my time, but if you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together.”

Sign up for our e-course today.

In five sessions, we will also explore the history of racial exclusion in the U.S.; criminalization, immigration, and the prison industrial complex; and skills to accompany immigrants at ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) check-ins, in detention centers, and in other contexts.

I hope you will join us in learning more.

In peace,

Lucy Duncan
Director of Friends Relations

*Changing Systems, Changing Ourselves is a collaboration of **AFSC's Friends Relations**, the Unitarian Universalist Association and Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's **Love Resists** campaign, **Church World Service** and **Freedom for Immigrants**.*



Friends Meeting of Fort Myers
Religious Society of Friends
c/o Richard Frechette, Editor
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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
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 Wor- ship and Lunch
Sun 1/19	Discussion of "Four Doors to Meeting for Worship"	At rise of Worship
Sun 1/26	L.I.F.E. Informational Meeting @ Stanley home	6:30-8:30 pm
Sun 2/2	Potluck lunch	At rise of Worship
Sun 2/9	Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business;	At rise of Worship
Sun 2/9	"Last Chance" Book Club	
Wed 4/8 – Sun 4/12	SEYM Gathering and Annual Sessions at Life Enrich- ment Center, Fruitland Park FL	More info to come in the February Newsletter
Mon 2/24	L.I.F.E. Rally	
Mon 3/9	L.I.F.E Nehemiah Action 7 PM	