



FORT MYERS MONTHLY MEETING OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Newsletter, Second Month, 2022

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Meeting for Worship During the Pandemic

Friends are meeting for hybrid worship every 1st day at 10:30AM. Friends may meet physically outdoors (weather permitting) under the roof of the chickee hut on the Orange River in Buckingham.

Friends who prefer to meet via Zoom instead may do so. Each Friday an invitation to Zoom worship is sent to our entire e-mail list, identifying the hyperlink and meeting number. People may join early either physically or via Zoom at 10:00 a.m. for conversation and fellowship.

Midweek worship, in person only, is held at the chickee hut each Wednesday morning, at 10:30 a.m.

For directions to the chickee hut, call 239-313-6201 or e-mail the e-mail address above for directions.

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

First Section:

What is the state of our meetings for worship and business?

2. Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business

Queries:

- Are meetings for business held in the spirit of meetings for worship?
- In decision-making, do we promote a spirit of love, understanding, and patience as we seek unity on an appropriate course of action?
- Do we keep our remarks simple and speak only as the Spirit leads?
- Are we able to unite in good grace with the sense of the meeting when our personal desires tend in another direction?
- Do we maintain respect for others, however strongly our opinions may differ?
- Are meetings for business seen as positive opportunities for testing and practicing our spiritual life?

Advices:

- *As members, attend the business meetings and extend our support to the meeting's affairs so that the burden will not rest upon a few.*
- *In meetings for business and in all duties connected with them, seek the leadings of the Light.*
- *Avoid undue persistence. As we release our attachment to our ideas, the Light may reveal solutions none of us has considered.*
- *Be willing to admit the possibility of being in error.*
- *Remember that the foundation of a lasting decision lies in the search for unity—that is, a corporate seeking of the Light in an atmosphere of love, trust, and mutual forbearance.*
- *Attendees 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.*

Fort Myers Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends Minutes of 2nd Month 13, 2022

The Fort Myers Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends met online on the 2nd month 13th day via Zoom conference with 13 Friends present. The Meeting opened with a period of silent centering. Richard Frechette, Clerk read Queries Advices from Faith & Practice:

- In decision-making, do we promote a spirit of love, understanding, and patience as we seek unity on an appropriate course of action?
- Are we able to unite in good grace with the sense of the meeting when our personal desires tend in another direction?
- Do we maintain respect for others, however strongly our opinions may differ?

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Paul Davis reported that there was not much activity in January. We paid our L.I.F.E. commitment, and since our checking balance is so good we'll start paying our other donations to charities so they'll have money to work with during the year.

A Friend commented that that L.I.F.E. is currently so short of funds that they can barely pay their staff. Several Friends have made contributions as individuals and encourage others to do the same.

General Funds

Checking	9,956
Gen Fund Savings	40,405
Gen Fund Fr Fiduciary	31,438
Total General Fund	81,799

Jan 2022 Income vs Expenses	
Jan Income	\$ 2,075
Jan Expenses	\$ 936*
*\$500 LIFE	

Meeting House Funds

Savings	183,458
MH Funds Fr Fiduciary	14,629
Total Meeting House Funds	198,087
FMMM Total Funds	279,886

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee had their first meeting this week. They will prepare the Meeting's yearly financial audit this month. The Clerk of the Committee has not yet been chosen.

Combined Meetinghouse Committees

Friend Paul reported that the Sacred Space and the Covenant Committees have been working with engineers to find a location on the UU property that meets the County's environmental requirements. The only spot they found was not conducive to our needs nor those of the UU's. Therefore, the committees have asked the UU's if we could return to the original spot, which they consider to be "the heart of their campus." The UU leadership has been supportive of this idea (though they will need to get the approval of their executive board and the congregation) and has asked us to prepare a lease. They have given us a draft, and the committee will go over that this coming week.

Friends agreed that we are comfortable going back to the original area. With that sense, the joint committees will continue to work on the prospective lease.

Compensation for Internet Use

Friends approved the following Minute regarding the internet use at the Chickee Hut:

- ❖ **Minute 2022-MM-04:** *In recognizing the generosity of our neighbors in Buckingham in lending us the use of their Internet connection for Zoom-based worship on 1st days, Friends approve contributing \$50 per month to the Gunnerly Road Baptist Church, which owns both the next door property and the internet account, for as long as we require the connection.*

Religious Education Committee

The Quakerism 101 session scheduled for Feb 20 will be delayed until March.

We closed in silent worship at 1:05pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Helen Fox
Recording Clerk

Did you miss our Nancy Fennell's Michener Lecture (SEYM) a few weeks ago? Wanting to hear it again? The lecture was recorded (audio & video) and is on the web via You-Tube. Click on this hyperlink: <https://youtu.be/c53Zul0Bkw4>

Thanks to Mary Smiley for finding the link and sharing it.



Reader's/Writer's Corner

Most of us are avid readers, and some of us are writers, as well. Submit any essays, poetry or book reviews (400 words or less—about one news-letter page) that witness to the testimonies of Quaker life. Please email:

debwhitenfl@gmail.com

Book Review:

***American Dirt* by Jeanine Cummins**

Lydia Quixano Pérez runs a bookstore in Acapulco, Mexico, where she lives with her husband, Sebastián, who is a journalist, and their son, Luca. When a man starts visiting her store, buying books and striking up a friendship, she has no idea initially that he will be responsible for turning her life upside down. But Lydia and Luca will have to flee Acapulco, setting them on a journey they will share with countless other Central and South Americans-turned migrants.

This novel gave me a new perspective on the hazards migrants go through to reach the border.

~Pat Iyer

I Am Lazarus

The sacrament waits its weekdays on a shelf
Near the schoolyard fights with sticks.
"I have nothing," cries the ragged mother
Begging by the freeway.

Ah, to retire to a room with a sunny view
Big enough for a life of velleities and
Little regrets in teacups
Is a fair end.

The cork crumbled into the bottle long ago.
It is far away, the pool
Where swallows dart in the gloaming
And trouble waters at the spring.

As the bow is drawn against the heart
Compassion's born with the first true note,
'til then the chalice awaits,
Locked in the soul's stony sacristy.

"I am Lazarus, quiet in my death,
Disquieted at my return.
Did I hear weep, the one
Who brought me back?"

Barruch ata Adonai,
He blesses the morning,
As did his fathers
Tfillin entwined, as

The true vine
Bears the fruit,
And fills the cup that
He has become.

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Ad hoc Florida Retirement Community Committee

SEYM Winter Interim Business Meeting

15 First Month 2022

The Florida Retirement Community Committee has interviewed the former Board Chair and retired Executive Director of Foulkeways, a Quaker Continuing Care Retirement Community (CCRC) located in Gwynedd, PA. He provided suggestions, and made recommendations for additional resources relevant to our topic.

We are gathering information for the purpose of preparing a committee mission statement. To that end, we would invite SEYM members to consider and respond to the following queries:

1. Would you be interested in joining a Friends retirement community in Florida? If so, what services, amenities, or coverages would you seek? Would you accept a retirement community that avoided a significant, permanent initial investment, by limiting medical care, amenities, and/or food service?

2. If so, which of the following issues are of interest to you? Please rate each as high, medium, or low interest.

- geographical location within FL, e.g. near/not near a city/a coast/an airport
- availability of a refund of any initial investment when you leave
- the amount of the required monthly payment
- the number and quality of meals provided
- the nature of any housekeeping cost included in the monthly cost.
- the levels of medical care provided or available (i.e., independent living, assisted living, skilled nursing care, rehabilitation, or hospitalization)
- whether it is a self-sufficient retirement community, or a community integrated with or within nearby towns or cities.
- the extent to which the retirement community exemplifies and implements Quaker values and testimonies.
- the degree of participation from residents allowed by the retirement community in the management of the retirement community.
- the degree to which the retirement community might accommodate SEYM needs for meeting, event, and Annual Gathering space or accommodations.
- the degree to which the retirement community could accommodate the broader educational needs of SEYM, its meetings, their members, and families.

3. Are there other issues of interest or concern? Are there comments on the above issues? Are there other suggestions for addressing listed concerns?

4. We also ask SEYM Meetings and members to express any leading you might have to contribute to the work and expense of this committee. For example, one suggestion made by our guest was that the committee consider seeking professional assistance in guiding its work, or drafting its mission statement. Such professional assistance would likely entail financial expenditures for costs, or fees. Any donations you felt led to make for such or similar expenses should be made to SEYM, earmarked for this committee.

5. Any communications regarding this committee or its work can be directed to me. My contact information follows my signature below.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel R. Vaughn, Clerk
dvaughen@gmail.com
386-490-2216 – mobile
386-624-6479 - home

A bit of humor...

Overheard in a group of Friends waiting for an elevator: "This elevator runs on Quaker process; It usually gets you to the right place, but it often takes forever to get there."

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.quno.org	Quaker United Nations

Contributions to the Meeting can be made payable to Fort Myers Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, and can be sent to:

Paul Davis, Treasurer
5530 Harborage Drive
Fort Myers, FL. 33908

MEETING CALENDAR

1 st Days (Sundays)	Meeting for Worship in a hybrid format: in person at Buckingham chickeehut or via Zoom An informal conversation time begins at 10:00 am	10:30 am
Sun. 3/6/22	Potluck for worshipers at chickeehut.	Upon rise of worship.
Sun. 3/13/22	Meeting for worship with attention to Business	12:45 p.m.
Sun. 3/20/22	Religious Education presents: Quakerism 101	exact time TBD



**Friends Meeting of Fort Myers
Religious Society of Friends
c/o Richard Frechette
138 Pinebrook Dr.
Fort Myers, FL 33907-5988**

Address Correction Requested