



FORT MYERS MONTHLY MEETING

OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

NEWSLETTER, FIFTH MONTH, 2022

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Meeting for Worship

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*

SEYM Queries & Advices

Second Section: How do Friends care for one another?

5. Education

Queries:

- *Do we share our deepest beliefs and values with each other and with our children, while leaving them free to develop as the Spirit may lead them?*
- *Does the meeting give the children loving care and promote their spiritual life through religious education and other activities?*
- *Do we encourage our children's participation in the meeting's work and cultivate their desire for service to others?*
- *How do we educate our members and attenders about the Bible (especially the teachings of Jesus), other spiritual literature, and the history, principles, and practices of Friends?*

Advices:

- *Seek for ourselves and for our children the full development of God's gifts, which is true education.*
 - *Realize that education should continue throughout life and that all should share its opportunities and privileges.*
 - *Make time for regular personal prayer and worship and for reading the Bible, Friends literature, Faith & Practice, the queries and advices, and other sources of spiritual value.*
 - *Seek truth together in our families and among Friends in shared worship and discussion.*
 - *Teach by being teachable. Be open to new ideas and approaches.*
 - *Reach out to that of God in everyone, and endeavor to live out the testimonies of Friends in all the expected and unexpected circumstances of daily life.*
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Fort Myers Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends Minutes of 5th Month 8, 2022

The Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business opened from centering silence. There were 7 members/attenders present in person and 7 attending via Zoom.

Richard Frechette, Clerk of the Meeting, called our attention to three queries from Quaker Earth Care Witness:

- Do we work together to educate ourselves about the care of Creation, in order to make responsible choices?
- By sharing things we spread the world's resources. Do I enjoy things without owning them and do I give things away for others to use?
- Am I willing to know and pay the full and fair cost of the goods and services I use, including the future ecological and social costs?

A Friend connected the queries to our need to be responsible in our deliberations regarding place and balance in the environment in which we select to build a place of worship.

The Treasurer's report was approved and is attached.

Peace and Social Concerns Committee's report is also attached, calling to our attention that on Thursday, May 12, there will be a discussion of FCNL's "Six Non-Violent Ways Congress Can Help Ukraine" by Bridget Moix. In addition, at the request of Southeastern Yearly Meeting, the committee is compiling a list of resources for children concerning racial justice. The issue of concealed vs. open carry of guns is active in Florida again. Lastly, the committee answered questions about how to be heard regarding the potential Supreme Court decision regarding abortion rights.

The Meeting House Committee reported that, after numerous meetings, the UU church is in support of sharing space with them. The next step is for the UU church to sign the proposed lease agreement. In addition, we learned that the yurt must be constructed in the "dry season." We recognize that trust must be extended by all parties involved in the meetinghouse project and process.

Due to health concerns and issues, the next schedule of programs from the Religious Education Committee is temporarily postponed.

The Meeting closed in silence.

Nancy Fennell,
Acting Recording Clerk

FtMMM Funds Report 04/30/2022

General Funds

Checking	6,886
Gen Fund Savings	40,410
Gen Fund Fr Fiduciary	29,271
Total General Fund	76,567

Meeting House Funds

Savings	183,804
MH Funds Fr Fiduciary	13,621
Total Meeting House Funds	197,425

April 2022 Income vs Expenses	
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April Income	\$ 450
April Expenses	\$ 1,316*
*\$500 Quality of Life, \$600 FCNL	

FMMM Total Funds	273,992
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Peace and Social Concerns Report to FMMM with Attention to Business

The Peace and Social Concerns Committee completed their race relations resource of reviews of books and media that we used as a focus of our work in 2021. At their request we have submitted that work to SEYM.

Since then we have decided to consider adding resources for children. To assist us we have invited Melinda Wenner Bradley to join us at our next P&SC Committee meeting on Zoom June 7 at 1 PM. She compiled resources for a religious education curricula concerning racial justice for Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. She looks forward to having a conversation with us.

Our April 28 discussion on Non-Violence and the War in Ukraine was cancelled. We have scheduled a new **discussion Thursday, May 12 at 7 PM. We hope many of you will be able to join us for a discussion of FCNL's "Six Non-Violent Ways Congress Can Help Ukraine" by Bridget Moix:**

<https://www.fcnl.org/updates/2022-04/six-nonviolent-ways-congress-can-help-ukraine>

Submitted by
Carolyn Stanley, clerk of the P&SC Committee



LIFE Update for Lee County Friends

You are invited to attend Lee Interfaith For Empowerment (LIFE)'s next event: A Celebration of LIFE's work over the last ten years, our current issues and renewal of our relationships with each other. We will meet IN PERSON at the Covenant Presbyterian Church, 2439 McGregor Blvd. on Tuesday, May 10th at 7 PM.

At a recent LIFE board meeting we learned that our Lead Organizer, Chelsea Plaisance, will return to work after Easter but she and her husband are planning to move in the future. To keep the LIFE organization going it is imperative that we continue to hire at least one DART (Direct Action Research Training trained organizer asap. We also learned that we will need to raise the salary to be able to hire a trained, experienced organizer.

"LIFE is funded by member congregations and by individual members who make this work possible. LIFE is owned by each of its investors and the returns we leverage for our community equal over \$300 for every \$1 invested in LIFE.

Receipts and full financial statements are available upon request."
Investments can be made by mailing checks to the LIFE office:
PO Box 62692
Fort Myers FL, 33906,

Or on CashApp at \$LIFEJustice,
Or on the website at this link:
<https://www.lifejustice.org/make-a-donation>

Thank you for supporting LIFE in whatever way you are called.
Sincerely for justice,
Carolyn Stanley 740-827-1800 carolyn2020stanley@gmail.com
Team Leader and LIFE Board member representing the Fort Myers Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
Lead for the 2022 LIFE Affordable Housing Action Team



Quaker Cuisine

Here is a recipe shared by **Bond Perry** of a stew he brought to pot-luck May 1.

For our community "pot luck" meal this month, I was inspired by Helen Fox's frequent reminders of the debt we owe to the original occupants of the land on which we live and hold our Meeting. I made a version of a traditional Native American stew that features Beans, Corn, and Squash. These vegetables are known as the Three Sisters.

I don't follow a recipe when I cook; I do some basic research and in this case try to channel the spirits of Algonquin peoples who gave this dish to the first pilgrims in Plymouth MA.

Ingredients:

My version starts with rinsing and soaking dry beans overnight...and then simmering them for several hours until tender. This step can be eliminated by using canned Butter Beans or Pinto or Kidney beans....rinsed.

I cut kernals from 6 ears of native sweet corn but frozen or canned corn can be used. I peeled and cut a butternut squash into 1/2 inch cubes. (this can also be found in the frozen vegetable section)

Chopped onions and multi-colored bell peppers. (Frozen "Sofrito Blend" makes this quicker and easier.)

Chopped Roma tomatoes or canned diced tomatoes (fire roasted would be nice)

Method:

1. Heat oil in a frying pan and saute a blend of chopped onion, bell peppers.
2. Add diced butternut squash, the corn and the beans and tomatoes....cook until tender.
3. Add seasonings such as parsley, thyme, oregano, winter savory... salt and pepper.
4. Add liquid as needed.....stock, broth or water.....but avoid making it too soupy....unless you want a bowl of soup.
5. Let it rest in the refrigerator over night.....the flavors will blend and the liquid will soak in.

Notes:

This version is a winter version.....utilizing winter squash.....it can be made with summer squash..the white patty pan being the most authentic. Green Pole beans would be a great addition, cut into bite size pieces.

For Meeting Pot Luck I kept it vegetarian.....however turkey bacon or pork would be authentic.....game would certainly have been added as available.

This dish is very flexible and can benefit from what ever else you have in the garden or fridge and that sounds good to you.



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

Mother's Day



My heart awakened by fire,
Became its ready kindling,
Made big by breath from source unknown,
Gestated for its time, until you came.

My baby, my baby dazzled by light,
First you saw, not my pallid face
Nor my exhaustion
But my joy.

That moment you don't remember,
Is phylogeny and stamped on your genes,
For you to recreate
For another newly living being.

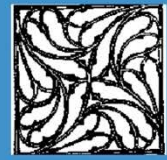
You are my love embodied,
And of my mother's,
And hers, and hers, and on,
The cord to which we're tied.

Progeny of fire were you born,
May you kindle it and carry it;
And in your ending hour,
By light and joy be dazzled, again.

© Theron White Mai 8, 22



Friends Conference on Religion and Psychology



A few weeks ago Fort Myers Friends were joined in worship by Karen Zipser, a guest of Bill & Mara Fallon. Karen told us about the Friends Conference on Religion and Psychology based in the Philadelphia area, which organization Karen serves as registrar. She invited Fort Myers Friends to attend their 80th Annual Conference. It will take place at Pendle Hill and virtually via Zoom from May 27 to May 30. The topic of this year’s conference is “THE NEUROBIOLOGY OF THE SPIRIT: Compassionate Witness and the Chemistry of Healing.” To find out more about the conference and to register, go to <http://fcrp-quaker.org/>.

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

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
Each Wednesday	Meeting for Worship at Buckingham chickeehut. This is in person only.	10:30 a.m.
Tues. 5/10	LIFE meeting at Covenant Presbyterian Church	7:00 p.m.
Thurs. 5/12	Zoom Discussion: “6 Non-Violent Ways Congress Can Help Ukraine.” (See above for Zoom link)	7:00 PM
1 st Day June 5	Pot Luck Lunch for those worshipping at the Chick-eehut	Following Worship

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

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