



# FORT MYERS MONTHLY MEETING

Of the Religious Society of Friends

## Meeting for Worship

Friends are meeting for hybrid worship every 1st day at 10:30 A.M. Friends may meet physically outdoors (weather permitting) under the roof of the Chickee on the Orange River in Buckingham. (aka Peace Acre). 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

Midweek worship, in person only, is held at the Chickee on Peace Acres each Wednesday morning at 10:30 a.m. For directions to Peace Acres, call 239-313-6201 or email the e-mail address above for directions.

Meeting Mailing Address: 138 Pinebrook Dr.

Fort Myers FL 33907

Telephone: (239) 318-0538 ❖ Website:  
fortmyersquakers.org

E-mail: [ftmyers.quakers@gmail.com](mailto:ftmyers.quakers@gmail.com)

Newsletter Editor: Deb White: [debwhitenfl@gmail.com](mailto:debwhitenfl@gmail.com)

## SEYM Queries & Advices

### Third Section:

*To what extent is our personal life in accord with Quaker principles?*

### 7. Self-Discipline & Responsibility

#### Queries:

- Do we attend meeting for worship regularly and punctually?
- Do we participate in meeting for worship with a concern for business and support it financially and with personal service according to our resources and abilities?
- Are we conscientious in fulfilling all obligations of state and society that are not contrary to our religious convictions?
- Are we punctual in keeping promises, just in payment of debts, and honorable in all our dealings?

- Do we choose recreations that strengthen our physical, mental, and spiritual life, avoiding those that may hinder others, our Earth, and ourselves?
- Do we act responsibly concerning substances and behaviors that can become addictive?
- Be mindful at all times of our connection with the Divine and others—avoid substances, behaviors, and activities which diminish this connection.
- Be aware of the ill effects of mind-altering or habit-forming drugs, intoxicants, gambling, and other detrimental practices.

### Advices:

- Take heed, dear Friends, to the promptings of love and truth in our hearts, which are the leadings of God.
- Bring the whole of our life under the healing and ordering of the Holy Spirit, remembering that there is no time but this present.
- When tempted to do wrong or to despair, call upon God with an open heart, confessing our weaknesses and our needs.
- Choose recreations that increase our vitality, self awareness, and peace of mind and strengthen our will to create what is good.
- Make thoughtful use of our time.
- Guard ourselves and our children in our choice of print, electronic media, and other entertainments. Avoid those that promote violence and disrespect for human beings.
- Friends, strive to be courteous and responsible while driving.

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## Fort Myers Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business 7<sup>th</sup> Month 9, 2023

The Fort Myers Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends met at noon on the 7<sup>th</sup> month 9<sup>th</sup> day in hybrid worship online and at Peace Acre in Buckingham with 9 Friends present. The Meeting opened with a period of silent centering.

Richard Frechette, Clerk, read Queries from Faith & Practice, 7<sup>th</sup> Month on Self-Discipline & Responsibility:

- Are we punctual in keeping promises, just in payment of debts, and honorable in all our dealings?
- Do we choose recreations that strengthen our physical, mental, and spiritual life, avoiding those that may hinder others, our Earth, or ourselves?

## **Treasurer's Report**

As the Treasurer is traveling, there was no Treasurer's Report presented.

## **Ministry & Counsel Committee:**

Friend Helen Fox was asked to read the following report:

M&C asks that the following memorial minutes for Tom Jacobs and John Battin be recorded and copies sent to SEYM.

### ***Memorial Minute for Tom Jacobs***

*Tom Jacobs was born into a farming family in Valparaiso, Indiana on December 25, 1961. Tom was first and foremost a farmer, with a love for the land, for the seasonal cycles of the natural world, and for animals. He completed a degree in engineering and worked for years as a project engineer, but he never gave up farming, first with his father and then with his stepson Carey, until the family farm was sold. Tom was a quiet, gentle soul whose nature was to help others in whatever way he could.*

*In 1985 Tom and Roxy Thalmann were married in Valparaiso under the care of Duneland Friends Meeting. Tom became a source of strength for stepchildren, Heidi, Ron, Carey, and Darian, and later for their children.*

*While Tom never became a formal member of Duneland Friends Meeting, he was a faithful presence at many Quaker gatherings. He was generous with his time and his skills and could be counted upon to help young Friends with woodworking.*

*Tom and Roxy moved to Arcadia, Florida in 2017, and connected with the Fort Myers Monthly Meeting. Tom immediately became involved with the life of the Meeting, participating on Properties and Hospitalities committees. He and Roxy also became emissaries to Misión Peniel in Immokalee FL, transporting food and other supplies to their distribution site. In May 2019, Tom was welcomed into membership with the Fort Myers Monthly Meeting.*

*Tom battled for a number of years with early-onset Alzheimer's disease. He chose to participate in an Alzheimer's disease research project with hope to find a cure. In 2022, for safety reasons, Tom was placed into institutional*

care. Roxy maintained loving contact with him until his passing on March 12, 2023.

- ❖ **Minute 2023-MM-07:** Friends approved the Memorial Minute for Tom Jacobs.

### **Memorial Minute for John Thomas Battin**

*John Thomas Battin, son of Harry E. and Phyliss Bovingdon Battin, was born on July 25, 1942, in Albany, New York and died in Ft. Myers, Florida on April 9, 2023, at the age of 80. He is survived by his sons, John Christopher Bovingdon Battin, Samuel Frost Battin, and Gregory English Battin, and by his sister Joan Mahlan and his brother Harry Battin. Evelyn Battin, his beloved wife of forty years, died in 2008.*

*John was educated at the Albany Academy, The Lawrenceville School, and Hamilton College. Before beginning his life's career in banking, he served in Vietnam and was awarded the Bronze Star for valorous conduct in combat. He was an active member of the Albany NY Vietnam Veterans Memorial Committee. His participation was integral in the funding and building of the memorial which was dedicated in 1993.*

*After Evelyn's death, John moved to Ft Myers. His son Sam moved to Ft Myers as well and was with him in the last years of his life. John quickly became a regular attender at the Ft Myers Monthly Meeting and kindly offered his expertise, becoming the Meeting Treasurer as well as working with another Quakers to help small business owners in the community with loans. For many, John is best known for his activist work for a better community and world. He was a member, co-clerk and clerk of our Peace and Social Concerns Committee and a representative of our Meeting to Lee Interfaith For Empowerment, a group working with social justice issues in the county. John was often side-by-side with other Quakers in rallies for environmental and justice issues. Equally dear to him was his work with VFP (Veteran's for Peace). While strong in his commitment to peace, to anyone who inquired about his time with the Marines, he spoke honestly about not only the negative consequences of his service but also the positive aspects of his own military experience, reminding us that there is Light even in the darkness.*

*Always kind and thoughtful, John brought joy and good fellowship to everyone he met through his hard work, reliability, razor-sharp mind, keen wit, excellent sense of humor.*

❖ **Minute 2023-MM-08:** Friends approved the Memorial Minute for John Thomas Battin.

### **Meetinghouse Committee**

Meetinghouse Committee Clerk Helen Fox gave the following report:

The Meetinghouse Committee met with our architect, Jeff Mudgett, and Engineers Jack Morris and Autumn DeBarr on July 23rd at the office of Parker, Mudgett, & Smith to discuss the results of the engineering survey and to make adjustments to the architectural plan as needed.



We briefly discussed the possible need for a fire hydrant, a sidewalk to the existing bus stop, and a connection to the Unitarians' water system. The main topic was the preservation of a number of mature oaks and pine trees on our site. One of the trees is dying and must be removed. Three 8" diameter pines must be removed where the building will be constructed. One more tree must be cut to accommodate the road from the parking lot to the building. However, the five pines at the edge of the preserve and several large oaks can be saved with slight

modifications to the design: moving the building slightly, redesigning the parking spaces, lengthening the driveway, and reducing the size of the drainfield.

Jack will design the landscape to “code minimum.” Friends will add native plantings around the building as desired.

Jack is “90% sure” that lighting will not be required in our small parking lot; however, we can add it if necessary, at a cost. The committee will ask the UU’s their preference.

#### TIME FRAME

- End of July – All parties meet with our builder, Tommy Lee Cook, to get cost estimates from both Tommy Lee and Jack. Jeff will provide the final site plan, which the committee will share with the Unitarians.
- August – Jack and Jeff will apply for the necessary permits for sitework and building. Tommy Lee will bid on materials and labor.
- Sept-Oct – Site and water management design will go to the County for first and second permit review. The committee will meet twice with all parties on the final site design.
- Nov. 1 – Construction starts

Comments: Friend Suzanne added that she had gotten in touch with our general contractor, Tommy Lee Cook, since we hadn’t heard from him in a long time. He texted back: “Everything looks good. All I have seen so far is as it should be; you have hired good people.”

In response to a question, committee members explained that “water management” covers “incoming, outgoing, and surface water.” Their conversation with the UU’s will include whether we should be tapping into their source of county water or if we will have to have our own separate meter.

The committee was thanked for all their work so far.

There being no other items of business, the Meeting closed in silent worship at ~12:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Helen Fox, Recording Clerk

***A Request from the L.I.F.E.  
(Lee Interfaith For Empowerment) Organization***

A call has been sent to Team Leaders of all member congregations of the LIFE organization to encourage us to attend the Fort Myers City Council Meeting on Monday, July 17 at 4:30. We are concerned about the lack of action from the City regarding the lack of affordable housing. The Affordable Housing Trust Fund that we worked for several years to convince the City Council to approve has money in it now but is not being used.

We plan to have LIFE members speak during the public comment section of the July 17th City Council Meeting. We will have scripts ready for people to use. We'd like a number from your congregation to know how many people we can expect from each congregation. This will only be effective if we bring people power. When one of our members addresses the Council we will urge every LIFE member to stand at their seats in solidarity.

Anyone willing to speak will be given a script and needs to arrive at 3:45 to complete the paperwork. All others should arrive no later than 4:15. The lack of affordable housing is so critical and we have won too much to let it slip away. If you live in Lee County, please seriously consider attending.

If you have questions or are planning to attend please contact Team Leader, Carolyn Stanley ([2020stanley@gmail.com](mailto:2020stanley@gmail.com)) or the LIFE lead organizer, Paul Liangang ([paul@thedartcenter.org](mailto:paul@thedartcenter.org)).

LIFE for justice!

## For Your Spiritual Journey

**SEYM Worship and Ministry Committee** offer “Queries for the Journey” weekly queries to help Friends center, through quiet, contemplative reflection, in their daily journey.

Queries are meant to be read thoughtfully in the Light without indulging in self-criticism or judgment. This practice gives us a way to help recognize the movement of the spirit within us, and follow spirit more faithfully

New queries will be posted monthly.

### **Queries for the Journey – Seventh Month 2023**

2 Seventh Month

*Am I grateful for the reminders of God in my daily life? How do I show this? How do I share this?*

9 Seventh Month

*In what ways can I be a source of joy to others in my daily interactions? How open am I to finding joy in my own heart?*

16 Seventh Month

*Of what habits do I need to rid myself in order to walk more purposefully in the Light? Am I*

*gentle with myself in this work?*

23 Seventh Month

*Do I practice forgiveness of both myself and others? How can I make this an action of tenderness and grace?*

30 Seventh Month

*How can I deepen my ability to surrender to God when I find myself faced with seemingly insurmountable challenges?*



## The Ear of Wheat

§ § §

On the hill the waves of wheat  
Are calling, beckoning,  
On slowing winds  
Of memory.

Remember those who loved us,  
Who passed to us  
The true vine's fruit and the loaf  
At the feast  
At which we sit.  
So that we will live abundantly.

We are congregants  
In the ear of wheat.



© Theron White December, 2022

**Here are new addresses for those of our meeting who will be moving or have recently moved:**

**Dylan & Priscilla Goldey:**

**66 Spruce St., Warwick RI, 02866 Jill**

**Husson Martinez and family:**

**4 Liberty Lane, Cumberland, ME 04021**

## USEFUL WEBSITES FOR FRIENDS

<a href="https://pendlehill.org">https://pendlehill.org</a> .....	Pendle Hill, Quaker Retreat and Resource Center
<a href="http://seymquakers.org">http://seymquakers.org</a> .....	Southeastern Yearly Meeting
<a href="http://www.fcni.org">www.fcni.org</a> .....	Friends Committee for National Legislation
<a href="http://www.fgcquaker.org">www.fgcquaker.org</a> .....	Friends General Conference
<a href="http://www.afsc.org">www.afsc.org</a> .....	American Friends Service Committee
<a href="http://fwcc.world">http://fwcc.world</a> .....	Friends World Committee on Consultation
<a href="http://www.quakerspeak.com">www.quakerspeak.com</a> .....	QuakerSpeak: A Quaker YouTube Channel
<a href="http://www.quakerhouse.org">www.quakerhouse.org</a> .....	Quaker House, Fayetteville
<a href="http://www.quakervoluntaryservice.org">www.quakervoluntaryservice.org</a> .....	Quaker Voluntary Service
<a href="http://www.quno.org">www.quno.org</a> .....	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:

FMMM,  
Denise Runyon  
125 Pinebrook Dr,  
Fort Myers, FL 33907

**The Meeting's Directory has been updated and is available. If you wish to have one, please text or e- mail Richard Frechette (239-313-6201; [Rich.Frechette@gmail.com](mailto:Rich.Frechette@gmail.com))**

	<b>MEETING CALENDAR</b>	
<b>Each First Day</b>	Meeting for Worship in a hybrid format: in person at Peace Acres or via Zoom. An informal conversation time begins at 10:00 am.	10:30 a.m.
<b>Each Wednesday</b>	Mid-week Meeting for Worship at Peace Acres. This is in person only.	10:30 a.m.
<b>07/17/23</b>	LIFE representatives speak at City Council meeting re: the use of the affordable housing Trust Fund. Quakers in Lee County are encouraged to attend.	4:30 p.m.
<b>08/06/23</b>	First Day potluck at Peace Acres	upon rise of meeting

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