



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 Acre each Wednesday morning at 10:30 a.m. For directions to Peace Acre, call 239-313-6201 or email:

ftmyers.quakers@gmail.com

Meeting Mailing Address: 138 Pinebrook Dr.

Fort Myers FL 33907

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

E-mail: ftmyers.quakers@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor: Deb White: debwhitenfl@gmail.com

SEYM Queries & Advices

Fourth Section:

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

10. Social & Economic Justice

Queries:

- *Do we seek to transform the world with our loving spirit?*
- *Do we take an active interest in the social and economic conditions of our community?*
- *Have we objectively considered the causes of discrimination, and are we ready to abandon old prejudices and think anew?*
- *Do we as individuals and as a meeting do all in our power to end governmental, social, economic, and educational injustices in our community and to create equal opportunity for all?*
- *How do we as individuals and as a meeting promote the welfare of those in need and work to secure a just distribution of the world's resources?*

- *What are we doing as individuals and as a meeting to understand and remove the causes of war and violence and to develop the conditions and institutions of peace?*

Advices:

- *Seek to understand the causes of social ills, and work toward their removal.*
- *Be not content to accept things as they are, but keep an alert, sensitive, and questioning mind.*
- *Understand and maintain Friends' witness for truth, simplicity, and nonviolence, holding up your personal life to these testimonies.*
- *Encourage inclusiveness, and discourage discrimination.*
- *Friends' belief in that of God in everyone should lead to reverence for all life and to personal integrity.*
- *Encourage all efforts to overcome prejudices and antagonisms.*
- *Cherish diversity.*
- *Aid and comfort those afflicted or prison that they may rebuild their lives.*
- *Work for the abolition of the death penalty.*
- *Let the way that we live contribute to realization of a peaceable kingdom on earth.*

Fort Myers Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Meeting for Worship for Business

Minutes of 10th Month 08, 2023

The Fort Myers Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends met for Business in hybrid format on 10th month, 8th day with 16 Friends present. The Meeting opened with a period of silent centering. Clerk Richard Frechette read from SEYM's Queries & Advices on Social & Economic Justice:

- *Do we as individuals and as a Meeting do all in our power to end governmental, social, economic, and educational injustices in our community and to create equal opportunity for all?*
- *How do we as individuals and as a Meeting promote the welfare of those in need and work to secure a just distribution of the world's resources?*

- What are we doing as individuals and as a Meeting to understand and remove the causes of war and violence and to develop the conditions and institutions of peace?

Among the thoughts expressed in response were the belief that it is possible to build an economic system that takes care of everyone; that our Meeting already contributes to many helpful organizations; and that our new Meetinghouse can become a strong center for likeminded people working for equality, nonviolent resistance and peace.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Paul Davis shared the following report for September.

General Funds

Gen Fund Checking 11,596
Gen Fund Savings 42,314
Gen Fund Friends Fiduciary 28,704
Total General Fund 82,614

Meeting House Funds

MH Funds Savings 458,838
MH Funds Friends Fiduciary 13,357
Total Meeting House Funds 472,195

FMMM Total Funds 554,809 September 2023 Income vs Expenses

September Income (donations) \$ 1,032

September Expenses \$ 9,112*

* Architect & Engineering for Meeting House

Treasurer Paul Davis reports: We should end 2023 with a budget surplus from this year. We have a pledge of \$4,000 from the Friends General Conference to help us with the handicap parking that is not reflected in the Financial Report. The Meeting has already spent around \$30,000 on the new Meetinghouse, which was anticipated.

A couple of unusual things:

- Friend Paul noticed someone had gotten into our debit card and, even though only a few pennies were missing, he cancelled the card.
- Friends Denise Runyon and Tom Malcolm will meet with a representative from Friends Fiduciary who will explain how they invest in companies that fit with our Quaker values.

Clerk Richard has been the principal liaison with the law firm regarding the Donna Anderton Trust. After a long delay, some complications have been resolved and the lawyers should be able to make an initial distribution in a month or two. FMMM is a potential recipient of a portion of Friend Donna's trust.

Ministry & Counsel Report

M&C Clerk Nancy Murvine reported that the process of writing our annual Spiritual State of the Meeting report to SEYM will begin soon. The committee asks for everyone's input. The queries will be posted in the October Newsletter. Please take time to review them and respond to those few (or many) that greatly speak to you. If you have comments outside the realm of the queries, please share those as well. The final report will be presented to the entire Meeting for approval.

Nominating Committee Report

NC Clerk Deb White shared several concerns:

- The committee needs additional members. At present, Friends Deb, Carolyn Stanley and Chris McBride constitute the committee.
- Friends are asked to decide which committees they want to join or continue working on. Committee descriptions will be in the newsletter.
- Because of our small numbers, many Friends are already serving on more than one committee. For that reason we should re-think the need for several of our non-functioning committees (Outreach, Technology) as well as the suggestion to add another one (Music).
- After agreeing that outreach is really the responsibility of everyone, a decision was made to retire the Outreach committee at least until we are in our new Meetinghouse. Chris Ruhnke wrote an impromptu recruitment song that was enjoyed by all.
- The technology committee will not be retired; instead, more Friends are encouraged to join.

- During the discussion of the proposed Music Committee, Friend Carolyn questioned the need for such a committee, saying that music comes from the spirit, from within, spontaneously, and doesn't need to be planned. It was suggested that instead of having a committee could we ask Denise to lead some occasions for singing, as she is moved to do so. Friend Deb asked us all to think about this during the next month and email the Nominating Committee if we have other ideas.

Peace and Social Concerns Report

Friend Carolyn Stanley, Clerk of PSC, reports that the Peace and Social Concerns Committee met on Oct. 4 to discuss three issues:

1. There have been questions about what to do with the results of the Peace Day Bean Poll. The Committee decided they will be published in the FMMM Newsletter, and that each year we will make a poster for the Peace Day booth with the results of the previous year's Bean Poll. And we will write to Zachari, the organizer of Peace Day, and ask if he has any other suggestions.
2. After hearing interest in visiting the Black History Museum, Chris McBride is organizing a guided tour in early November. The museum is located in the Roberto Clemente Park off MLK Jr. Blvd. in Fort Myers. Details will be announced as soon as they are confirmed. There is plenty of parking.
3. P&SC invites everyone to attend an After Meeting for Worship Gathering on Sunday, October 29. The purpose is to share what peace and social concerns you think are most important for the Peace and Social Concerns Committee to focus on in 2024. The meeting will be on Zoom and at the Chickee Hut. Those at the Chickee Hut are invited to bring a snack to share.

It was mentioned that Friend Bond Perry's neighbor is the former owner of the Florida Weekly, a free publication that is widely read. Since the NewsPress does not seem to be interested in Peace Day at all, perhaps someone could see if the Florida Weekly would do a follow up story with our Bean Poll results.

Meetinghouse Committee Report

Meetinghouse Committee Clerk Helen Fox reported on the progress of building the new Meetinghouse:

- Authorization forms have been signed by a representative from the Unitarians.
- A boundary survey was finalized.
- The materials for the development order were submitted and a check for \$3060 was mailed to Lee County for the development order fee.
- Architect Jeff Mudget advised us that they had to move on from their original Mechanical/Electrical/Plumbing engineers who were not performing. They have asked a larger firm to do the project and they now have four engineers working on it.
- Jeff hopes to receive the final set of plans from the engineers by the end of the week. With that they will be able to give our contractor, Tommy Lee Cooke, all of the building drawings for sub-contractor bidding and for submitting to the County for the building permit.

Friend Suzanne mentioned that Tommie Lee Coe, our prospective general contractor, has assured us that the delay is “not unusual.” He hasn’t asked for any money yet. Once he receives everything he needs to begin the work he will discuss the fees.

The Meeting closed with silence at 12:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Helen Fox, Recording Clerk

Don't ask yourself what the world needs, ask yourself what makes you come alive. And then go and do that. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive.

Howard Washington Thurman

The Southwest Florida Peace Day Quaker Booth Sunday, September 24, 2023



The Fort Myers Monthly Meeting Peace and Social Concerns Committee would like to thank all of you who were involved in creating another successful Quaker booth at the annual SWFL Peace Day. This year it was a Block Party on Cottage Street in downtown Fort Myers. A special big thank you to Chris McBride for putting the activities together and spending the day at the booth!



Children young and old made feathers for the dove on the Actions for Peace poster.



from Ministry and Counsel

Lots of people stopped by to vote yes or no in our 6 questions Bean Poll. This website: <https://tayloroconnor.medium.com/198-actions-for-peace-44c9cbab8095> lists 198 practical actions you can take for a more peaceful and just world.

2023 Peace Day- Bean Poll Results

1. Do you believe, with the support of NATO, Ukraine will win their war with Russia?

YES 75 NO 26

2. Do you believe Ukraine should negotiate with Putin and be willing to give up some of the land they are fighting for?

YES 17 NO 86

3. Do you support Governor Newsom's proposed 28th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution?

YES 74 NO 26

4. Do you believe gun violence can be ended without passing gun control laws?

YES 30 NO 72

5. Do you practice any of these three in your life?

*Volunteering in support of a social justice cause.

* Teaching children to resolve conflicts peacefully.

* Helping to create community gardens or green spaces (parks, preserves, etc.)

YES 85 NO 16

6. Do you nurture peace within yourself by practicing at least one of these Actions for Peace?

* expressing gratitude;

* meditating; or

* spending time in nature?

YES 99 NO 4

Queries for the annual report On The Spiritual State of the Meeting

We are in the process of gathering thoughts for our annual report to SEYM on the Spiritual State of our Meeting. Below is a list of queries offered by SEYM for consideration.

Do not attempt to address all these queries. They are simply intended to assist you in thinking about how spirit works through your Meeting. Of course, if there are other queries that are more meaningful to the spiritual state of your meeting, by all means add and use them.

We ask that you respond to those few queries that speak deeply or directly to you or add a query that does the same. Please send those thoughts responses before December 1 to the Clerk of Ministry and Counsel at nrmurvine@gmail.com to allow time to create the report and deliver it to the Meeting in early January.

1. How do we support each other as members of this beloved community?
2. How well do our meetings for worship with a concern for business lead to a corporate search for and revelation of God's truth?
3. What was our meeting's witness in the wider community in the last year?
4. How has our meeting for worship or other meeting activities nurtured our spiritual growth?
5. Has there been a deepening and strengthening of the sense of the Divine Presence in our midst during the past year? Do we feel a sense of our individual spirits fusing into an undivided group as we worship? Do we leave our meetings filled with a sense of love and peace and courage to meet the challenge of Spirit filled living?
6. Where do you find hope in the meeting and in the meeting's spiritual life?
7. How is God's presence being experienced in our meeting?
8. Are there places where the meeting isn't reaching fully for the Light?
9. Do you have other reflections on the current condition of the meeting—places where you see new life emerging or loss or sadness that you want to share?
10. How does the spirit of worship extend into our committee work and into meeting for worship with a concern for business?
11. How does love manifest in our meeting, in our community, and in the world?

Ministry and Counsel is also 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, 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.



The members of Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fort Myers (UUCFM) are glad and proud partners with the Fort Myers Meeting; we want to make you aware of a fun and fabulous way to enrich our relationship by joining with us in a celebration this October 21st.

The Music and Arts Community Center (MACC), a partnership between the Gulf Coast Symphony and UUCFM which holds performances on our campus, invites you to a “Masquerade at the MACC,” Saturday, October 21 beginning at 5:30 p.m. The fun evening starts with dinner, opportunities to bid on some great vacations and baskets, raffles, and wraps-up with a special Masquerade Concert by the Gulf Coast Symphony. Masquerade attire is optional.

We are planning an enjoyable event which is open to the entire community and MACC patrons of the Symphony. Proceeds from the evening will be used to make needed Hurricane Ian repairs to our MACC facilities so our community can continue to enjoy the many performances at the MACC. (Check out this MACC season calendar of events [at www.gulfcoastsymphony.org/concerts/](http://www.gulfcoastsymphony.org/concerts/))

Make reservations/donations at <https://my.gulfcoastsymphony.org/donate/contribute2>
Admission donations for the gala evening are \$50/person; \$75 for two. Table sponsorship opportunities are available at \$500 per table.

Please share this information with your leadership and any others who might enjoy this fun-filled community event. We appreciate all YOU do for the larger community and for helping us out with getting the word out about Masquerade at the MACC.



*Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of
Friends (Quakers)*

Half Yearly Meeting

A Family Friendly Event

November 23 through 26, 2023

Wekiwa Springs State Park - 1800 Wekiwa Circle,

Apopka, Florida Bring your family. Bring your friends.

All are welcome.

Come for an afternoon, stay for one night, or spend the whole weekend!

Half Yearly Meeting is a family friendly 3-day event from late afternoon Thursday, November 23rd through mid-day Sunday, November 26th, when Friends come together for good food and good company. Escape the clamor of the holiday season and revive your spirit among friends in the natural beauty of Wekiwa Springs State Park. We have exclusive use of the Youth Camp, a natural setting with rustic cabins, ADA lodging, dining hall, kitchen, and conference hall.

Registration Fees are Pay-as-Led!

This year, Half Yearly Meeting registrants are invited to choose the amount they will pay to attend. Some registrants may be able to pay more to help cover the costs, others less or nothing. We want you to attend, whatever amount you are able to pay!

*SEYM will observe the following Covid-19 protocols:
Masks are optional for all indoor spaces but encouraged when social
distancing is not an option.*

Outdoor dining is available

*Windows will be kept open in the dining hall weather
permitting Hand sanitizer and KN95 masks for adults and
children will be provided.*

Meals: We prepare all the meals ourselves – help out, get to know Friends from all over SEYM, and have FUN! We will accommodate allergies and other dietary restrictions as much as possible; indicate restrictions on your registration form, or contact HYM Food Coordinator Susan Wade, swade3231@gmail.com, as early as possible and in the subject write: HYM 2022.

Lodging: The Wekiwa Youth Camp has group cabins. Unfortunately, we cannot use tents in this area. Families and friends are housed together as requested. Attenders 18-35 years old can opt to stay together in a "Young Adult" cabin. Gender-neutral housing and ADA compliant cabins are available. The infirmary building has burned down, so there is limited availability of heated cabins with bathrooms.



Youth and Families: HYM is a great opportunity for youth and families to connect, play, and relax!

- Youth are welcome to attend HYM with either their parent/guardian, or an adult sponsor who will be present and is willing to be responsible for them the whole time they are there.

Volunteer: *HYM Works Because Everyone Pitches In!!!*

- Meal Preparation and Cleanup
- Monday Cleanup: everyone, please! Sign-up in the dining hall when you arrive.
- Discussion Sessions: lead a discussion about the environment, Quakerism, spirituality.
- Imagination Stations: bring anything that sparks creativity: crafts, games, outdoor games, science projects, etc.
- Talent Show: musical instruments, skits, or stories to share.
- Worship Sharing: set a time, bring some queries.
- Photographer: capture our memories then send your photos to the SEYM office, office@seym.org.

Swimming, Canoeing, Kayaking, Biking Friends can enjoy the Wekiwa Springs swimming area during daylight hours. You may bring your own bikes, canoes, and kayaks, or they can be rented from the Park's concession.

To register go to:

https://seymquakers.formstack.com/forms/half_yearly_meeting_2023

Registration deadline: November 22.

USEFUL WEBSITES FOR FRIENDS

https://pendlehill.org	Pendle Hill, Quaker Retreat and Resource Center
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		
Each First Day	Meeting for Worship in a hybrid format: in person at Peace Acre or via Zoom. An informal conversation time begins at 10:00 am.	10:30 a.m.
Each Wednesday	Mid-week Meeting for Worship at Peace Acre. This is in person only.	10:30 a.m.
10/13/23 10/14/23	SEYM Fall Executive Committee meeting. SEYM Fall Interim Business Meeting Sarasota Meetinghouse. Check SEYM webpage for more details. (see above).	6:30 p.m. 9:00 a.m.
10/29/23	Peace and Social Concerns discussion on our priorities.	upon rise of meeting

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)

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

Friends Meeting of Fort Myers
Religious Society of Friends
c/o Richard Frechette
138 Pinebrook Dr.
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