



# 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](mailto:ftmyers.quakers@gmail.com)

Meeting Mailing Address: 138 Pinebrook Dr.

Fort Myers FL 33907

Telephone: (239) 318-0538 ♦ Website:

[fortmyersquakers.org](http://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

### 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?*

## Meeting Directory Available

A pdf file of the Ft. Myers Quaker Meeting Directory is available to our Meeting family.

Ask Richard Frechette ([Rich.Frechette@gmail.com](mailto:Rich.Frechette@gmail.com)) to e-mail you a copy. Or, if you are unable to open up or print down a pdf file, ask Richard to make a paper copy for you.

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

*(Editor's note: This space is usually reserved for the Minutes of the Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. We did not meet this month.)*

## 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 and 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.



## FMMM Funds Report for 4/30/2024

### General Funds

Checking	4,544
Gen Fund Savings	38,373
Gen Fund Fr Fiduciary	32,337a
<b>Total General Fund</b>	<b>75,254</b>
<b>Meeting House Funds</b>	
Savings	480,837
MH Funds Fr Fiduciary	15,047
<b>Total Meeting House Funds</b>	<b>495,884</b>
<b>FMMM Total Funds</b>	<b>571,138</b>

### April 2024 Income vs Expenses

**April Income**           **\$13,880\***

**April Expenses**       **\$ 9,043\***

\* Income

\* \$11,000 Meeting House

\* \$ 2,880 General Fund

\* Expenses

\* \$2,074 Owens Env.

\* \$3,345 Morris DePew

\* \$ 158 Fire Permit

Recently the Meeting received communication from long-time member Nancy K. Webster. She remarked on her mother’s contribution to the beginnings of a Quaker presence in SW Florida. Her mother, Alice Knoop began a worship group in SW Florida back in the 1970’s. They met once a month at a bank in Bonita Springs. By 1988, the group had changed as many of the attenders passed. As a result, a new meeting was started in Fort Myers, which worshipped weekly.

Nancy’s tribute to her mother included a reminder that the 50th Anniversary of the original worship group will be in October. “Mother would be so happy to see a building for the Meeting. It was her fondest wish—I hope it happens! ”

## FRIENDS FEEDING THE HUNGRY IN GAZA

Opening my copy of AFSC's "Quaker Action" this week, I was surprised to find that the American Friends Service Committee has found a way, despite the border closures, to deliver drinking water, hot meals, clothing, blankets, hygiene kits and medical supplies to civilians in Gaza.

In an purported effort to prevent Hamas fighters and military supplies from entering the beleaguered territory, Israeli authorities have delayed the delivery of aid for months, leaving hundreds of thousands of ordinary people vulnerable to famine and early, preventable death.

AFSC's Gaza staff has coordinated closely with local, regional and international partners to locate and deliver aid, despite, in some cases, having lost homes and family members, themselves.

"The dire humanitarian situation in Gaza is unprecedented," says Serena Awad, program officer in Gaza. "Bombs, cold, and hunger are in every corner of the city. Our everyday has become only about survival. Being part of AFSC's team working on the ground, next to and with our people, gives me – and them – so much hope. We're grateful for the unwavering support of the AFSC community in making our efforts possible."

Please join me in sending what financial resources you can to AFSC's Gaza Emergency Relief at <https://afsc.org/news/afscs-gaza-emergency-relief>

~ Helen Fox

*From Dylan, Priscilla and Annabelle Louise now living in Rhode Island...*

We're doing well. We moved almost a year ago now. Annabella is flourishing! She is almost 2 years old. It's been such a wonder watching her bloom.

Dylan is also doing well. Dylan is getting acclimated and adjusting. Looking for more management roles in golf.

I am working full time in a special education setting. It's an alternative school. These students haven't been successful in a regular classroom. I support them the best I can. It's great!!! I love working with this population. I feel like I can connect with them on some level. It's definitely a challenge some days. But I love it!!!

We miss FMMM dearly. We attended Providence for a short time, but it wasn't as friendly as we'd like. So we're attending somewhere else.

We love and miss you all!!!

-Goldeys



## *Our Peace Statement Was Published!*

# **Quakers issue call to end conflict in Israel-Palestine**

### **Your Turn**

Richard Frechette,  
Guest columnist

We are heartbroken by the terror, violence, and devastation in Israel and Palestine. War is never the answer. War does not address the root causes of a conflict or resolve injustices; it only settles which nation can mobilize its fighting forces best. It makes enemies more entrenched in “us vs. them” and revenge narratives. It deepens hatred and increases enmities and violence, making all people less safe. War is a betrayal of our humanity, and of what is most sacred.

Our Quaker faith reminds us that there is that of God within every person, without exception. And that every person has the capacity to experience and respond to the love and guidance of God. We unconditionally oppose bigotry against Jews, Palestinians and other Arabs and Muslims that has led to the rise in hateful rhetoric and actions targeting these communities in the United States and worldwide.

We unite with the calls of people across the world for: 1. An immediate lasting ceasefire and a total end to hostilities on the way to a genuine effort towards peaceful and just solutions, 2. Immediate release of all hostages and prisoners held under administrative detention without charges or trial, 3. Provision of urgent humanitarian aid to Gaza including resumption of funding for United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

The U.S. government has a responsibility to think with greater vision rather than contributing to the further militarizing of a tragic situation. We urge the president and Congress to join with other nations to address the roots of war, to work for a lasting solution that provides for security, justice, and dignity for all Palestinians and Israelis.

Our faith challenges us to resist the escalating pressures throughout our human family that attempt to justify atrocities against other humans, and to remember we are each capable of evil, even in the name of good. We take up the commitment to turn from our hostile impulses, from amplifying division within our communities, and from the cycles of vengeful action in conflicts worldwide, so we can move toward the work of peacebuilding.

Let us seek paths to work for peace, to act in faith and love, with persistence, patience, and courage. We ask everyone, including those in power, to learn from and work with the peacebuilders, who have labored long and hard. May they lead us all in creating an enduring peace built on justice and reconciliation that provides safety, sovereignty, and a future free of war as Palestinians, Israelis and all people of the region become partners pursuing the sacred goal of Peace, Shalom, Salaam.

*From the Fort Myers Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) who approved this statement on April 14, 2024.*

**The News-Press**, Sunday May 5, 2023: Views Section, Page 38A

In addition to getting this statement published in the News-Press, Clerk Richard Frechette signed printed copies of the statement and mailed them to President Biden, Senators Scott and Rubio, Congresspersons Donalds and others who represent our districts, the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) headquarters and Miami offices, and the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL). Thank you, Friend Richard, for working with the P&SC committee to share our testimony of peace with others.



## USEFUL WEBSITES FOR FRIENDS

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

<b>MEETING CALENDAR</b>		
<b>Each First Day</b>	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.
<b>First First Day of each month</b>	Potluck lunch at Peace Acre (Chickee Hut).	Upon rise of worship
<b>Each Wednesday</b>	Mid-week Meeting for Worship at Peace Acre. This is in person only.	10:30 a.m.
<b>Third First Day</b>	Singing before worship.	10:00 a.m.