



FORT MYERS MONTHLY MEETING

OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Newsletter, Seventh Month 2006

52 Fenny Bosk Trail
Venus, Florida 33960

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- Potluck luncheons are once a month, the first First Day of the month. All are welcome.

“O Great Spirit, whose breath gives life to the world and whose voice is heard in the soft breeze—make us wise so that we may understand what you have taught us, help us learn the lessons you have hidden in every leaf and rock, make us always ready to come to you with clean hands and straight eyes, so when life fades, as the fading sunset, our spirits may come to you without shame.”

*Modern prayer of the Onondaga tribe in upstate New York
(submitted by Hermine Rand)*

QUERIES FOR THE SEVENTH MONTH

How do Friends meet their responsibilities outside the Meeting?

Social and Economic Relationships

- **Are you working towards the removal of social injustices?**
- **Have you attempted to examine objectively their causes, and are you ready to abandon old prejudices and think anew?**
- **What are you doing as individuals or as a meeting to insure equal opportunities in social and economic life and in education for those who suffer discrimination because of gender, race, creed or social class?**
- **Do you take a living interest in the social conditions of the community in which you live?**
- **Do you seek to promote the welfare of those in any kind of need and to secure a just distribution of the resources of the world?**
- **Do you regard your possessions as given to you in trust and do you part with them freely for the needs of others?**

- **Do you recognize that we are a part of the natural world and are you responsible heirs of its resources?**
- **Are you concerned that our increasing power over nature should be used responsibly with reverence for life and with a sense of the continuing creation of God in which we are called to participate?**

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Minutes of the Meeting for Worship with a concern for Business
 Held Seventh Month 9, 2006
 Fort Myers Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

The meeting opened from silent worship with 10 F/friends in attendance.

The clerk read the Query on Friends' responsibilities outside of the meeting, on social and economic relationships. Reflections included our Meetings' support of Immokolee Farm Workers, ECHO, the local food bank, and sharing and generosity shown by members of the meeting. Many Friends work with organizations outside the meeting that are focused on issues on justice and equality, and environmental awareness and conservation. Quakers tend to have their consciousness raised about environmental and social issues.

Reports of Committees:

Ministry and Counsel: In the absence of the clerk, Tom Fennell said that there was no report. There was a reminder from last month that the potluck for Ann deNevers will be on August 12, at noon at the Frenchs' house.

Treasurer's Report:

The Finance Committee Report was prepared by Dave French, Treasurer, and read by Tom Fennell. The committee didn't meet recently; we will meet next month for regular items. The treasurer provided a statement of income and expenses.

The Education Committee: Ann deNevers reported that there was no formal meeting. The committee proposed the following minute.

06MM14: The Education Committee wishes to offer a minute of appreciation to Ann deNevers who has served this committee so well for many years. Whether Ann was contributing to the Education Committee, Peace and Social Concerns, Ministry and Counsel, or any other committee, she has always worked to bring information and thoughtfulness to the issues and concerns of the Meeting. In that sense, Ann is ever involved in education. Ann's faithfulness and dedication to Ft Myers Monthly Meeting members will long serve as guideposts for us all.

The Hospitality Committee. There was no report.

The Peace and Social Concerns Committee: The Committee met June 25, 2006. The Committee is in the process of making appointments to meet with Senator Nelson and with Congressman Connie Mack.

The Property Committee: The committee has not met formally, but Alan Ruppert reports that there is a corporation that is helping the Nature Center replace the roof on the teaching center and is considering helping us put new siding on Iona House. Doug McLaren is researching the typical form of siding in 1906 when Iona House was built.

Other Business: Al and Marilyn Webber reported that they are going to be working at the Calusa Nature Center on a regular basis from now on.

The minutes were read and approved. The meeting closed with silent worship.

Submitted by Recording Clerk Nancy Howell, Seventh Month 9, 2006.

Calusa Nature Center News

The Calusa Nature Center eagerly awaited the return of veteran Dave French (one of Fort Myers' best) on July 15, 2006. (He's back!) Staff has really missed his pleasant presence. Other eager beaver friends volunteers include: Nancy Howell, Nancy Hendrix, Al and Marilyn Weber and Trudy Ellyson.

You might have noticed that the landscape surrounding Iona House has been kept groomed lately. In part, this is due to some attention by Maggie and Lou Martinez, new neighbors to the Calusa Nature Center. They say "We like to contribute to our community". Thanks to the two of them and a few others, we can enjoy the landscape. Thankfully, there hasn't been the concern of plants dying of drought lately.

Camp at the museum continues Mon. – Fri. through the end of July. Jeannette,

Hope you can pop in for a visit soon.

Mary Anne Ruppert
Coordinator, Volunteers & Special Activities

we are glad your grandchildren joined us! Other summer activities have included sleepovers in the museum and various other activities and field trips. The planetarium has also been giving numerous daily shows. Some of our exhibits have grown and changed.

A cooperative effort is underway from a local builder and many volunteers to replace the roof on the educational pavilion which was rotted through. Special thanks to the many who continue to work on this project.

Painting of the Iona Roof will be sometime in the Fall after the rainy/hurricane season finishes. Alan Ruppert, Doug McLaren, Al Weber and others have been conversing about how to proceed with the Iona House siding, which is in dire need of repair.

The Editor received a loving letter from our Friend Hermine Rand. As we all know, Hermine has a leading to be concerned with the worrisome environmental issues which surround us, particularly Global Warming. Hermine urges Friends to contact our senators—Bill Nelson and Mel Martinez (for Floridians) and urge them to co-sponsor the McCain/Lieberman Senate Bill called “Climate Stewardship Act”. (Non-Floridians contact your home state senators.)

Right Sharing of World Resources

Our Friend, Barb French, has been led to fund raise for this organization which provides humanitarian aid and education to many needy countries such as India, Africa, the Philippines, etc. They have projects to educate women and help them with agricultural projects and also help orphanages. Their mission statement is:

“God calls us to the right sharing of world resources, from the burden of materialism and poverty into the abundance of God’s love, to work for equity through partnership with our sisters and brothers throughout the world”.

Barb collects stamps (all kinds) which she sends to the organization in large packets and they sell them for funds. So far stamp donations have grossed \$50,000!!

Don’t forget to bring stamps to Meeting for this worthy cause.

7/23/06	Meeting for Worship	10:30 am
	Peace and Social Concerns	9:15 am
7/30/06	Meeting for Worship	10:30 am
8/6/06	Meeting for Worship	10:30 am
	First Day School	9:15 am
	Adult Discussion Group	9:15 am
	Potluck – All Are Welcome!	After rise of Meeting
8/12/06	Potluck Farewell for Ann de Nevers	12 pm
	(being held at the Frenchs' house)	
8/13/06	Meeting for Worship	10:30 am
	Meeting for Business	At Rise of Meeting
	Last Chance Book Club	At Rise of Meeting
8/20/06	Meeting for Worship	10:30 am
	First Day School	9:15 am
	Adult Discussion Group	9:15 am
8/27/06	Meeting for Worship	10:30 am
	Peace and Social Concerns	9:15 am

Committees wanting their meetings to be listed in the calendar should provide their schedules to the editor.

Note from the Editor:

Please send articles, favorite passages, items of interest to Friends.

- Please send important dates, news of Friends/friends, etc., as it is not possible for me to attend all Meetings.
- Those wishing to receive the newsletter by email, please contact me.
- Suggestions?

My email address is: jeannettebotha@earthlink.net



**Friends Meeting of Fort Myers
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Address Correction Requested

Seventh Month 2006

