

FRIENDS IN SAN ANTONIO

7052 North Vandiver at Eisenhower

March 2015

Facing the Challenge of Climate Change,-

A shared statement by Quaker groups

“It would go a long way to caution and direct people in their use of the world, that they were better studied and knowing in the Creation of it. For how could [they] find the confidence to abuse it, while they should see the great Creator stare them in the face, in all and every part of it?”

William Penn, 1693

As Quakers, we are called to work for the peaceable Kingdom of God on the whole Earth, in right sharing with all peoples. We recognize a moral duty to cherish creation for future generations.

As we gather at events surrounding the UN Climate Summit, we call on our leaders to make the radical decisions needed to create a fair, sufficient and effective international climate change agreement.

As Quakers, we understand anthropogenic (due to human activities) climate change to be a symptom of a greater challenge: how to live sustainably and justly on this Earth.

We recognize that current and unprecedented rates of greenhouse gas emissions, if left unchecked, will likely lead to global mean temperature rises of extreme detriment to human beings.

We recognize that catastrophic anthropogenic climate change is not inevitable if we choose to act.

We recognize a personal and collective responsibility to ensure that the poorest and most vulnerable peoples now, and all our future generations, do not suffer as a consequence of our actions. We see this as a call to conscience.

We recognize the connections between climate change and global economic injustice as well as unprecedented levels of consumption, and question assumptions of unlimited economic growth on a planet with limited natural resources.

We recognize that most greenhouse gas emissions are created by fossil fuel combustion.

We recognize that our increasing population continues to pursue fossil fuel-dependent economic growth.

We recognize that the Earth holds more fossil fuel reserves than are safe to burn, and that the vast majority of proven fossil fuel reserves must

Calendar

1. Sunday
Potluck lunch at
11.30 a.m..

8. Sunday
Forum –
Interview with a
mother and her son
who fled El Salvador,
with Tessa

15. Sunday.....
Contemplative
Singing, 9.00-9.45
am.
Meeting for
Business, 11.30.

22, Sunday
Forum – Creating a
Vision for Our
Meeting in 2040, with
Ashley and Suzanne .

25. Wednesday
Midweek Meeting,
7.00, Gary’s home.

29. Sunday
Forum - How to Write
So Others will Read
what You Have to
Say, with Gretchen.

April 2-5
South Central Yearly
Meeting,
www.scym.org.

remain in the ground if we are to prevent the catastrophic consequences of climate change. We therefore question profoundly the continued investment in, and subsidizing of, fossil fuel extraction.

We seek to nurture a global human society that prioritizes the well-being of people over profit, and lives in right relationship with our Earth; a peaceful world with fulfilling employment, clean air and water, renewable energy, and healthy thriving communities and ecosystems.

This week, we join the People’s Climate March as members of this beautiful human family, seeking meaningful commitments from our leaders and ourselves, to address climate change for our shared future, the Earth, and the generations to come.

We see this Earth as a stunning gift that supports life. It is our only home. Let us care for it together.

September 2014

- Friends World Committee for Consultation with links to FWCC Sections and to Quaker service organizations
- From Wider Quaker Fellowship — what do Friends around the world believe and do?
- Friends World Committee for Consultation Section of the Americas
- Friends United Meeting
- Friends General Conference
- Evangelical Friends Church International
- Friendly Water for the World
- Friends Peace Teams
- Right Sharing of World Resources



Personal News

Dan has a car that does 125 miles to the gallon. And that’s Dan! Marian had a birthday. (Doesn’t everybody?) She was entertained to dinner at Janet’s Physical Therapy place, with Lee, David, and Ken. And Janet!

Bill tells us; “Pam is a finalist for the Eastern Connecticut Symphony Soloist Competition, and will be playing in the finals in New London, CT on March 7. The winner of the competition will perform during the symphony’s 2015-2016 season.

Jocelyn has been accepted to the graduate program in museum studies at the University of Kansas, and has been invited to interview with the Cooperstown Graduate Program (also focused on museum studies) in Cooperstown, NY during the weekend of March 20-22. The Cooperstown program accepts only 16 graduate students each year.”

Business Meeting

The Ministry and Oversight report was mainly focused on Meeting’s current involvement in immigrants’ issues. It said that an upcoming meeting of the Interfaith coalition would be held at the meetinghouse, when women would speak of their reasons for fleeing their homes..The committee is working to place an article in Friends Journal about our part in the local efforts.

Nominating Committee’s final report was approved.

Suzanne reported for the Property Committee that damage to the building is being repaired and a new dishwasher has been installed by Dan. A bench, to be installed near the parking lot, will be obtained. A workday is being organized.

The Treasurer thanked Jim for his help in the use of a new financial double-entry computer

program. He reported that current income is normal and that though a large donation to RAICES appears to overspend he budget, this is just due to the failure to do this in December.

Jim, the Meeting auditor, reported that the Meeting's financial records for 2014, which were made using the new program, GnuCash, were accurate. The audit was accepted, with approval of only one auditor for the year.

Meeting closed in silence.

SC Yearly Meeting

The 2015 sessions of South Central Yearly Meeting will be held at Greene Family Camp - Bruceville Texas, Thursday April 2 through Sunday April 5, 2015. For first-time attenders, Greeters will be on hand to answer "first" questions, show around the camp, help find lodging space, introduce to others, etc.

The theme of this yearly meeting is "SCYM: Quaker Response to Mass Incarceration: Our Ways Forward." There will be an exhibit, a bookstore, youth programs, a nature walk, and boating on the lake. And, of course, workshops and talks. We don't have information on these yet, even from the website www.scym.org. But you can see the Quaker emphasis on equality and social justice from the theme. The mystical theme of Quaker worship is always firmly rooted in the world and the faith in "that of God" in every person, in and out of the Meeting and of all races, nations, and faiths.

For more information or to register for it, please see <http://www.scym.org/>

EASTER EGG CREATION & HUNT April 4 & 5 weekend

By popular request, Meeting will host an Easter Egg Hunt after rise of meeting on Easter Sunday, which is April 5th this year. The children participating will decide if they want to hunt or hide (or both). Last year the children enjoyed creating plastic eggs with quotes and had fun hiding them for the adults to find.

We will prepare the eggs on April 4th, Saturday afternoon, from 2-5 PM in the community room. If you want to come play and/or help please RSVP with Suzanne at thecosmicbody@gmail.com

Here are other ways to help- We could use empty baskets (leave them in the children's room). Bring a dozen boiled eggs and come help us dye them on Saturday. Come play with us on Sunday. Offer to take baskets of goodies to the Children's Shelter after the hunt. Donate wrapped candies for the baskets. Bring printed out quotes cut from old forums or that you have collected to share in the plastic eggs. It would also be nice to invite some of the families that are in the immediate neighborhood, so let me know if you can spread the word. We will be mentioning it to Celebration Circle, Plum Branch Sanga and the Congregation of the Goddess.

Day Retreat

A short, one-day, silent retreat, arranged by David, was held at the meetinghouse on the last Saturday in February. It was attended by a small number, about six. We assembled, sitting in silence, then spent an hour writing, observing nature (cold), and pondering insights. Soup and coffee were provided; thank you, Lee! Retreaters brought their own lunch.

The day was a peaceful interlude and uplifting. Birdsong among bare trees. Mountain laurel flowerbuds just appearing. Retreaters writing notes. Sitting silently in the meetingroom. Pouring coffee meditatively. Walking. Waiting in silence. Meeting in silent worship.

The day ended with appreciation from those present.

A Link!

On August 17 and 18, 2014, thirty-three Friends gathered at Pendle Hill in Wallingford, PA to envision the future of religious education among Friends. We left feeling exhilarated, believing that way had opened for a collective effort in Quaker religious education that reaches across the current yearly meeting, organizational and geographic boundaries. "Elegant in its simplicity, the meeting planted a thousand seeds," is how one Friend described the gathering.

Here's the link:

http://neym.org/sites/default/files/QREC_Press_Release_2014.final__o.pdf

And here's the content of the link:

Quaker Religious Education Collaborative Forms

The major underpinnings the gathered group confirmed:

Religious education for Friends is about taking people to their Inner Teacher.

Each Quaker Meeting grows in its own way.

Whatever we do must be theologically and geographically inclusive.

Meetings need families, and families need religious education.

Religious education is for children of all ages.

From infant to elder, all of us are teachers, and all of us are learners.

The way this collaboration came about was amazing. Last spring, four Friends were led to expand their discussions on religious education resources and networking by inviting others from across the country to conduct Listening Circles focused on religious education joys and challenges. In faith, they reserved space at Pendle Hill to gather a first meeting of an emerging Collaborative. By August, 33 Friends from Texas, Tennessee, Oklahoma, South Dakota, New York, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Maine, Massachusetts, and Washington, DC responded to the call to gather. Many more Friends added their voices from the Listening Circles. At Pendle Hill a steering group for the Collaborative was formed.

Our intentions going forward:

Continue to build an international online community of practice using a contact list that has grown to almost 100 names and represents 15 yearly meetings and three countries

Create an on-line repository of Quaker curricula and teaching/learning resources that could be freely available to everyone

Establish a fluid structure that would allow us to raise money to pay for a website

Support the set-up of small, virtual working groups around religious education topics

Gather the RE community of practice together again in 2015

Offer an RE Institute in the USA within the next four years

Interested in joining us or learning more about what is available for those in Quaker RE and the work of the Quaker RE Collaborative? Contact: quakercollaborative4re@gmail.com

Friends from four yearly meetings signed this, including Liz Yeats, of Austin Meeting.

Questions

Heather Barmore, a black woman, asks the following questions:

"Why is it that many of my White friends have no problem chiming in when global organizations need something but when it comes to discussing and speaking out on an event close to home - racism, in this case - you all remain silent?"

It makes me sad and a little upset but I really want to know. Is it fear? Is it because you don't know what to say? What's going on?"

What are we doing to dispel racism as it affects black Americans? Their history is a weight on their shoulders compounded by still existent racism. Recently the paper contained a headline,

“American Kidnapped in Nigeria.” In our (my) mind he (she?) was white. Why? Unconscious, embedded, racism.

More on FGC

Currently, we have few San Antonio families, but families in our past, at all ages, found Quaker gatherings good places to be.

The FGC Gathering, July 5-11, says FGC, is a great place for families. Each age group finds opportunities for spiritual growth and community AND there is plenty of family time as well. High schoolers spend most of the week in their own program and see their parents/sponsors briefly for daily check-ins. Read more about the Junior Gathering (Children’s Program), High School program, and opportunities for service in both.

Also, learn about optional pre-Gathering events.

Maximize your workshop and financial aid by registering between April 1 and 12.

Junior Gathering

Junior Gathering is a nurturing, Spirit-filled program for newborns to current 8th graders. We welcome children from all kinds of families. Read more about programming for specific age groups.

Junior Gathering groups meet in the mornings (while parents are in workshops) and in the evenings (during evening programs). During the afternoons, families may choose from a variety of activities.

The last day to register a child (birth through rising ninth grade) is May 31. Early registration is highly recommended!

Miscellany

Our Friends General Conference guests were near the end of saying their goodbyes after meeting on the first Sunday of February. Suddenly there was a thump. A bird had hit the window, hard. There were gasps around the room. The bird, probably a cedar waxwing, dropped to the porch floor and flapped helplessly, then became still. It lay there for perhaps ten minutes, then suddenly sat up. Meeting ended and we all went out to lunch. But some stayed and watched the bird. After another twenty minutes or so, we are told, it just flew away, to everyone’s relief and delight.

But how many birds, we wonder, hit that window during the week when we are not there to see them? And how many of them fail to fly away and are cleaned up by predators before we get there on Sunday?

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An old film, Philadelphia Story, with Jimmy Stewart, Cary Grant, and Katherine Hepburn, was shown recently on TV. In it, Jimmy visits a library and is looking for a book, when a librarian says, “What is thee wish?” That’s so you know it’s Quaker Philadelphia, we suppose.

Well, Quakers have used “thee” whether the subjective or objective is needed. But we thought this wrong. Apparently not. Some Quakers may have used it in this way,

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“After much buildup and very careful consideration over which city will host our 2016 Democratic National Convention, I’m pleased to announce that we’ll nominate the next President of the United States in Philadelphia -- the City of Brotherly Love.” Debbie Wasserman Schultz, Chair, Democratic National Committee.

Thankyou, William Penn, for giving it that ever-faithful name.

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Rabbi Lerner, chair of The Network of Spiritual Progressives, in response to opinions as to the values of free speech, etc., says, “individual human liberties is not our highest value. Our

highest value is treating human beings with love, kindness, generosity, respect and see them as embodiments of the holy, and treating the earth as sacred".

## Two Retreats at Quaker Hill

*What Canst Thou Say*, a Quaker magazine, will offer two retreats this year at the Conference Center at Quaker Hill in Richmond, Indiana. The first will offer spiritually experienced Friends an opportunity to share questions and concerns amid deep worship. The second retreat is intended for those who are beginning or desire to begin deepening their spiritual life .

1) Touching God Together: The Third Annual Gathering of Friendly Mystics is scheduled for June 12-17, 2015, at the Conference Center at Quaker Hill, Richmond, Indiana. This gathering, led by Elaine Emily, is for those who have lived a mystical relationship with God for some time and whose lives have been shaped by this experience. We expect there will be keys given how to live into this gift of mysticism honorably and with integrity; that we will feed and be fed; and that there will be opportunities to go back to the source. Rooted in source, we will experience mutual encouragement, take turns to both soar and ground, to the depths, heights, and widths of Holy Presence. We will explore where we have been uniquely led and how to join together to bring the kingdom into concrete reality. During our times for extended worship, God will be invited to be our facilitator. Let us come and experience touching God, together affirmed, accepted, cocooned, or stretched and unfurled to ride the current of Spirit.

2) The following weekend (June 19-21, 2015) the WCTS organizers will offer "Spiritual Sustenance: Supporting Early Steps on the Spiritual Path," which will gather people seeking to begin or deepen their spiritual life. Participants will be invited to examine their past and present spirituality and how they would like to grow. Time will be spent in small and large group worship and sharing. A number of experienced spiritual mentors will be available for support and questions.

Do you long for a deeper relationship with God?

Have spiritual things happened to you that raised questions or concerns?

Would you like to share what you've encountered on your spiritual path?

Are you open to hearing other's joys and struggles to deepen their spiritual life?

Deadline for registration is May 1, 2015. For more information, see the WCTS website

<[whatcanstthousay.org](http://whatcanstthousay.org)> or contact Michael Resman (815 9th St SW, Rochester MN 55902).

Registration forms for both retreats are attached.

## Destruction

"So, ISIS destroys priceless ancient works of art. Evidence of an extreme narrowness of mind.

But not unusual in revolutionary times. The Chinese Communists did it in Tibet. The Taliban destroyed the great 6<sup>th</sup> century Buddhist figures of Bamiyan. And during the Boxer revolution in 19th century China people overran the Forbidden City, the emperor's ornate compound, and looted it. We visited there in 1994 and I saw a large urn standing at the side of a courtyard. I looked closely. It had clearly once been covered with gold foil, but most of it was stripped off. Most people might not have noticed, but I taught about revolutions and riots, etc., and my eye was on the watch for such things. It linked me to a specific event in Chinese history.

A friend of mine felt drawn to be an Anglican priest. He became the priest for three small rural parishes in England. He showed me over an old church, perhaps 1,100 years old. The stone walls were very thick, perhaps 2-3 feet. Inside, there were alcoves in the walls, all empty. I asked what they would contain. He said that originally they had contained statues but "Cromwell's men destroyed them.". In the revolutionary era of the mid 17th century. So the English were not immune to this revolutionary narrowness.

At that time the Quakers were part of the revolutionary zeal, but in a more peaceful way. They did away with the "pagan" names of the days and months. So Sunday became First Day, March Third Month. The name Wednesday comes from "Woden's day," Woden being an Anglo-Saxon god. Thursday was Thor's day. Sunday and Monday were dedicated to the sun and moon. January was the month of Janus, a Roman god, March of Mars. July and August were named after Roman emperors. So the Quakers did away with them. We now have restored them, the old zeal gone. For me, they are verbal fossils, telling me of the gods of long ago. They have no other relevance now."  
Ken

## Google Peace

A message from AFSC: President "Obama and Congress have begun negotiations over the federal budget. Not on their agendas: moving away from militarism in domestic and foreign policy. That's why AFSC is hosting a conversation about real solutions for building peace in 2015.

Increased militarism seems to be U.S. policymakers' response to challenges and conflict, whether it be at the U.S.-Mexico border or in municipal police forces. Often, these decisions are driven by corporations pursuing profits instead of what is most effective or best for human rights.

>From the ground up, AFSC activists are working to shift the narrative and offer alternatives to violence through our vision of shared security and restorative justice.

Join AFSC staff members working on issues of mass incarceration, foreign policy, and border militarization as they respond to various budget proposals with analysis and recommendations for change.

Join our Google Hangout: Moving away from militarism - Pointing the way toward peace in 2015.

RSVP today and tune in:"

But we are now too late – it was in February at [afsc.org/hangout](http://afsc.org/hangout)

We note that the US contains only 5% of the world's population but 25% of the world's prisoners. Shocking. This is our image of dictatorial regimes.

## Answers to the Trivia questions

1. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, what were the Quakers' two main reasons for disownment?

The chief one was "marrying out," and the next by being married by a minister of another denomination, that is, by a "hireling priest."

2. Of the first five women to become doctors in the U.S., how many were Friends?

Five of the first five women to become doctors in the U.S. were Friends.

3. During the Quietist period, how did Friends study the Bible?

They didn't. It was considered a "creaturely activity."

4. Who was the first elected governor of East Jersey?

Friend Robert Barclay, who never set foot there, elected by a group of "proprietors" led by William Penn.

5. How did the Pilgrim Fathers welcome Quakers?

They forbade their meeting and, when they were obstinate in opinion, Governor Endecott hanged four on Boston Common.

6. What was the most noted achievement of Elizabeth Gray Vining?

During the Allied occupation of Japan, she was chosen by the emperor of Japan to be tutor for Crown Prince Akihito.

7. What Quaker of the 1700s preached from horseback?

Abigail Overman Pike, who preached in army camps during the Revolution, where she was not

allowed to dismount.

8. What Friend was given a government pension for help to the patriot cause during the Revolution?

Hannah Millikan Blair, who fed and nursed wounded soldiers.

9. How did a Friend honor George Washington?

Dolley Madison, actually an ex-Friend disowned for marrying James Madison, a non-Friend, saved Washington's portrait in 1814 by having it taken down from its White House wall mounting and hurried it out of town, when the British army approached.

10. What Friend was the first woman to be trained as a physician?

Elizabeth Blackwell, after being denied by many medical colleges.

11. What is Elizabeth Hooten best known for? On a "missionary journey," she was insulted by Governor Endecott, imprisoned in a dungeon with no food or water for 48 hours, sent into the forest to starve, whipped through three towns, sent into the forest again in the depth of winter, and she found her way out.

12. What Quaker merchant made a fortune from Quaker principles?

Rowland Hussey Macy, who stuck to the principle of fixed prices for his goods; no haggling, just the truth. Thus came about Macy's Department Store.

### This Month's Query

As Nature begins its yearly cycle of regeneration, how are we working to nurture ourselves, and our relationships with family, friends, and community?

Meeting for Worship is held on Sunday at 10 a.m., followed by refreshments and a Forum discussion at 11.30, usually lasting until about 12.45. Children are invited to join worship for the first fifteen minutes, after which they may go to join with the Young Friends program. Child care is available during Forum.

Clerk: Carol Balliet; e-mail: [clerk@saquakers.org](mailto:clerk@saquakers.org).

Newsletter Editor: Ken Southwood, (210)828-1513; e-mail: [jksouthwood@grandecom.net](mailto:jksouthwood@grandecom.net)

Website: <http://www.sanantonioquakers.org>

Donations may be made to Friends Meeting of San Antonio, P.O. Box 6127, San Antonio TX78209.

Meeting telephone for meeting times or to ask for other information: (210) 945-8456



