

FRIENDS IN SAN ANTONIO

7052 North Vandiver at Eisenhower

March 2016

Climate Change

In a two-part forum in February, the impact of climate change on the Earth System was discussed, based on scientific reports mainly from 2010 to 2015. The Earth System is comprised of a vast array of intersecting and interacting processes, geological, oceanographic, atmospheric, biological, all tied together by chemistry and physics. Although these processes are vast as viewed from a human scale, they are not limitless: there are boundaries. All animal life, including human, is totally dependent on the photosynthetic productivity of the planet, which provides oxygen, by removing the animal waste product carbon dioxide, and food, which is solar energy converted into chemical energy. Photosynthetic productivity cannot exceed the energy input, i.e., sunlight, and is also limited by area covered by plants, by plant type, by nutrient availability (including carbon dioxide and water), and by temperature. Plants also provide ecosystem services, that is, functions important to humans, such as flood and erosion control, temperature regulation of micro- and meso-scale climates, and nutrient recycling. Terrestrial plants are important to the hydrological cycle by evapotranspiration, returning precipitation to atmospheric water vapor. Changes to the climate, especially temperature and precipitation, impact photosynthetic productivity, which then feeds back onto the climate. Land use changes, e.g., forest converted to agriculture or urban areas, also affect global photosynthetic productivity and ecosystem services.

The effect of the composition of the atmosphere on its temperature and therefore on weather and climate, or Greenhouse Effect, was demonstrated in a lecture by John Tyndall in 1863 and elaborated on in a paper by Svante Arrhenius in 1896. Arrhenius later calculated that the burning of coal would, “over centuries”, result in global warming, which he thought beneficial as it would forestall a new ice age. Subsequent research has not changed the general conclusion, and the present discussion of anthropogenic global warming centers on details: on how much warming with a given concentration of “greenhouse gases” and what changes to the climate, i.e., long-term average weather, will result. The climate, and Earth System generally, is massive and responds to perturbations slowly, slowly as measured by the human attention span, or

Calendar

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

8. Tuesday, Quaker Study Group (see below)

13. Sunday
Forum – Where is the Quake in Quaker, with Suzanne Wright Crain.

20. Sunday..
Meeting for Business, 11.30.

27, Sunday
No Forum –South Central Yearly Meeting..

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

even lifespan. This inertia can be conveniently divided into three timespans. The transient, during which there is a net transfer of heat from the air to the oceans (and land to a lesser extent), covers a few decades to about a century. During the equilibrium period, the transfer of heat between atmosphere and ocean equalizes and the temperature stabilizes. This takes a century to a millennium or so. The third and slowest period, labeled Earth System Sensitivity, occurs over a few millennia to millions of years. The changes to the composition of the atmosphere that we humans have done since the beginning of the Industrial Revolution about two centuries ago and what we do in the next decade or two will alter the climate for millennia, perhaps even a thousand millennia.

In the shorter term, perhaps within the life of persons living today, abrupt (meaning a decade or three, given the inertia in the climate) transitions are likely. Abrupt transitions are an intrinsic property of so-called non-linear systems, and the climate is a non-linear system. For this we have evidence. About 6000 years ago, the Sahara transitioned from an East African-type savannah to the desert we see now in 200 years or less. At the end of the Younger Dryas, at the end of the last ice age about 11,700 years ago, storminess in the north Atlantic decreased markedly in about 20 years and southern Greenland warmed about 7°C (13°F) in 50 years. These tipping points are inherently unpredictable: we could today be in the initial phase of a tip but we will only be able to recognize it in hindsight.

Timescales are also important in thinking about the addition of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere and its removal by various processes, absorption by the ocean being quantitatively most important in the transient and equilibrium periods. Since 1950, the mass of carbon dioxide being added to the air per year has increased by about 3% per year. This is compounded, and acts just like compound interest in a bank account. Stopping the annual increase only slows the increase of concentration of carbon dioxide: stopping the increasing rate of water flowing into a bucket only delays the bucket getting full. It is necessary to turn off the water completely to keep the bucket from eventually overflowing. If the bucket has a small hole, to keep the bucket from overflowing, it is necessary to turn the water to a trickle no greater than the trickle out that hole. This analogy applies exactly to carbon dioxide and global warming: the only way to keep the world from warming further is to decarbonize almost totally. The sooner use of fossil carbon is eliminated, the less the warming and the less the climate change, and the less (cheaper) the necessary adaptation.

Projections of the effect of global warming are difficult and therefore highly uncertain, due to 1) the time period being considered, 2) the assumed rate of increase of atmospheric carbon dioxide, 3) technological advances, 4) adaptation strategies including migration, and 5) tipping points, whether climatic, technological, sociological or governmental, among other reasons. Projected effects on agriculture are mixed: longer droughts, which will decrease yields, are forecast for many regions. Along with droughts, more intense rain events with flooding are forecast, and yields will be reduced thereby. Carbon dioxide, an obligatory nutrient, will fertilize growth of some (but with little effect on other) crops (and weeds!), but higher temperatures can decrease yields thus forcing relocation (where possible). At least in the US, cold-related mortality, mostly due to influenza and pneumonia, is likely to decrease, but heat-related mortality, primarily among the very young and the very old, is likely to increase, although perhaps ameliorated by greater use of air conditioning. Increasing temperatures will reduce productivity of outdoor labor unless sufficient adaptive measures exist and are implemented. Extinction of a significant fraction of existing species seems probable. Indeed, without significant decarbonization, extinction of the human species cannot be ruled out. Many other outcomes have been studied, often with equivocal or contradictory results.

Personal action – photovoltaics panels on the roof, driving a high-mileage hybrid and then only seldom – is good, necessary even, but is not sufficient. The problem is global. Thus,

collective action –successful social movements, and effectively implemented regulations, laws, treaties – is obligatory.

Reported by Bill Sweet, who led the two February forums



Personal News

Recently, Gary has often been visiting his sister, who was ill with cancer in Dallas. She died, peacefully, in February, Our hearts are with you, Gary.

News from distant Ffriends: Craig says, “I’m back in Alabama. I’ll be taking Wally (my brother-in-law) to rehab three times a week. I will be here about a month. Ma is here and doing well.”

And Lee G says, “Hi. . . . Linda and I are still in the Clemson SC area and I am still at Clemson U, although Linda was working at healthcare jobs in western North Carolina (including for the Cherokee tribe) for about 6 years until last October. She is now working closer to our Clemson home.”

David and Lee are back, for a month, greeting Robin who has been looking after some of the immigrant issues.

Quaker Study Group

March 8 – Topic “To Hold Someone in the Light”

What does this mean? What is its substance? How does it affect the person being held? Or the person doing the holding? Is it the same as prayer? Why do we care?

Pot luck at 6:00, worship sharing from 7:00. Come when you can, stay as long as you can. At 623 Mission St., 78210. More information? jmhaynes@earthlink.net

Business Meeting

Meeting for Business in February commenced with an advice from Pendle Hill Pamphlet 305:

The development of discernment is one dimension of a lifelong ongoing conversation with God, in which we learn to listen to a profound and subtle language and to let our lives speak.

After the meeting opened in silence the treasurer gave his report. There is a dispute with CPS over thrice-large consumption readings since the installation of a digital meter. Childcare expenses include the Payment of Social Security taxes, paid annually. There were no unusual expenses otherwise.

The State of the Meeting Report for Yearly meeting was approved with thanks to Jim. The holding of another Quaker Fair, in May, was approved. The first, last year, was successful and raised funds for donations to RAICES for immigrants’ needs.

There was discussion of the need for an invigoration of First Day School with classes appropriate for all ages. And for the mentoring of new regular attenders.

The Property Committee report included necessary maintenance and repairs and a recommendation that we install a locked mailbox at the entrance, to substitute for the PO Box number which we have used until now. The advance of Meeting for Business by one week in April was approved.

Meeting closed in silence.

Immigrant Justice

Texans United for Families hosted a call-in day in February, ”for Francisca (the woman

who folks are visiting at Pearsall) and Maribel, who were sent to other detention centers in retaliation for participating in the #Hutto27 hunger strike last year. We are trying to get 100 calls this Friday to focus the pressure on ICE to release them! ICE has already rejected requests for parole from their attorneys and Rep. Doggett.”

David said, “Francisca is the woman that Val and I visited in Pearsall. She is a wonderful woman who has a husband, two daughters and a new grandchild living legally in North Texas. I do not know the other woman but with her medical condition and her only crime being seeking asylum against violence and then standing against inhumane treatment at the Hutto detention center, she should be released immediately.

I have received mail from Francisca while she
Is in prison and her spirits remain good.

Please . . . hold these women in the Light of a Great Love. ”

South Central Yearly Meeting

Yearly Meeting is at Greene Family Camp, as usual. It starts at 4.30 pm on Thursday March 24 and ends after lunch on Sunday the 27th. Friends from 5 states will gather for the program, “Living Water from the Well: Renewal in Quaker Community.” There will be three principal speakers this year, all from SCYM meetings: Lon Burnam of Fort Worth, Tina Coffin of Little Rock, and Val Liveoak of our own Meeting.

Indian Justice?

We live in homes constructed on land once within the territory of an Indian tribal nation. It is easy to forget. In February’s issue of *Friends Journal* there is an article on a Peace and Reconciliation Commission in Maine, concerned with the historical treatment of Wabanaki Indians in that state.

Arla Patch, a white Quaker who was led to take part, says she was “awakened to the degree of devastation our history has claimed and how I personally benefit from the fact that the Wabanaki were targeted for destruction.” Across this nation white people have benefited from this destruction everywhere.

The process of destruction included the seizure of Indian children and their being “raised” in residential schools away from the language and culture their parents would have given them. Some were housed in abusive foster homes to isolate them from Wabanaki culture. Janet and Ken adopted an Indian daughter from the Choctaw tribe in Mississippi at a time when this process was going on in Maine. They understood that Indian babies needed adoptive parents because no parents could be found in the state of their birth.

They accepted this explanation unquestioningly. In Singapore they had discussed adoption with Quaker friends and agreed that children should be raised within their own ethnic group but that if this was not possible, they should be raised by loving parents elsewhere. They gave their adopted children a loving home. But they could not provide a broader justice. Arla Patch says that she “had to embrace the truth that our behavior toward indigenous peoples fits the UN definition of genocide.” And we still profit.

Judith

On the evening of March 8, 2015, Judith Rosenberg passed away. A co-founder of Austin Tan Cerca de la Frontera, Judith dedicated her life to practicing the principles of solidarity, and in turn, inspired countless others toward similar practices. Many remember Judith’s strong will, her vibrant spirit, that mischievous sense of humor, and a brilliant intellect, but her

legacy reaches beyond the defining characteristics that friends, family, and community can recall. Judith also believed in the power of youth, in the emerging generations of leadership, and integrated them into her ideas of a better future. When Judith died, a star might have been extinguished, but she made sure in her lifetime that there were countless others to keep shining through the darkest of nights.

Austin Tan Cerca de la Frontera created The Judith Rosenberg Fund for the Future to honor Judith. This fund will strengthen ATCF programs with a focus on mentorship and leadership development for young people and students, a cause close to Judith's heart.

The Judith Fund will support ATCF programs to provide spaces for education and empowerment for young people, especially women, people of color, and the LGBTQ community. These initiatives may include:

- Delegation scholarships for students
- Internship opportunities
- Youth leadership development and mentoring

ATCF, you might remember, was a part of AFSC's Austin program before the AFSC office had to be closed for lack of funds.

Miscellany

Right Sharing of World Resources tells us: Mary, a woman in Kenya, thanks you for your generosity. With your support she has been able to open a market stand selling mangos and cabbages in her Kenyan village. She now earns enough to care for her family and pay school fees so that her two children can attend third and fifth grade.

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"I have no idea of submitting tamely to injustice inflicted either on me or on the slave. I will oppose it with all the moral powers with which I am endowed. I am no advocate of passivity."  
Lucretia Mott.

"Carry around some quiet inside thee." George Fox.

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Pope Francis told Austin bishops to "not lose heart or give up the fight" against the death penalty, auxiliary Bishop Daniel Garcia said Tuesday.

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"The only tired I was was tired of giving in." Rosa Parks.

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Cornell West, the modern civil rights activist, once said: "The quest for the truth, the quest for the good, the quest for the beautiful all require us to let suffering speak, let victims be visible and let social misery be put on the agenda of those with power"

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There are a lot of battles, direct and indirect, going on the Middle East and N. Africa, Iran with Saudi Arabia; Kurds with Turkey, Syria, and Iraq; Shia with Sunni; Sunni moderates with extremists, Hamas, Al Qaeda, and ISIL; Assad with alienated Arabs; tribes with each other; and now Russia, the US, and European nations have joined for their advantage, adding it to E. Ukraine and the Crimea. We must hope a spark does not light a larger conflict.

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A little over three years ago 20 children were killed in a rampage in Sandy Hook, Connecticut by a single angry young man. *The Economist* said after this. "If even the slaughter of 20 small children cannot end America's infatuation with guns, nothing will." That magazine has yet to be proven wrong.

Funeral Consumers Alliance provides excellent help when a member or relative dies. It has now told us how to prevent identity theft after someone dies. The spouse or executor of the estate should:

Obtain original copies of the death certificate and inform the three credit agencies..

Ask that a "Deceased Alert" be added and find what credit accounts are recorded as open.

Ask that the credit report state that credit should not be issued and give the phone number of the executor.

Notify all the companies operating the deceased's finances..

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"To be afraid is to behave as if the truth were not true." Bayard Rustin

But only if it felt just like that .

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Graham Garner and Jerimy Pedersen, of Quakerbooks, said to us, "We love books. Hopefully, you do too! QuakerBooks has books that make excellent presents to express your affection. QuakerGifts has Fair Trade crafts and goods if you're looking for that perfect Valentines Day gift. We hope these articles and reading lists bring you deep thought and strong connections as you consider the love that binds us all together, and also books."

So that's a message for Valentine's Day next year!

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And Stephen Knott, n *Foreign Policy*, tells us, "America Was Founded on Secrets and Lies. Espionage, kidnapping, and the dark art of spycraft is as American as George Washington." But we have come to believe the myth of openness and honesty in the nation's founding.

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In Britain, Friends stand for equality: The Housing and Planning Bill will make provision about housing, estate agents, rent charges, planning and compulsory purchase.

At Britain Yearly Meeting in 2015, Quakers spoke out strongly against the proposal to extend the 'right to buy' legislation to housing associations. This issue was raised in submissions sent by Quakers in Britain to the House of Commons and to the House of Lords.

And in the American Official FGC Account @fgcquaker:

"Do rightly, justly, truly, holily, equally, to all people in all things." - George Fox

Death by Execution

Since 2010 87 people have been executed in Texas. Texas has performed the most executions by far, but Oklahoma, a smaller state, has had (through mid-2011) the highest per capita execution rate. Twenty-eight offenders were executed in the United States in 2015. Thirteen of them were executed in Texas. Here are their names:

Arnold Prieto, Jr.; Robert Charles Ladd; Donald Keith Newbury; Manuel Vasquez; Kent William Sprouse; Manuel Fernando Garza, Jr.; Derrick Dewayne Charles; Lester Leroy Bower, Jr.; Gregory Lynn Russeau; Daniel Lee Lopez; Juan Martin Garcia; Licho Escamilla; Raphael Deon Holiday. (Texas Dept. Of Criminal Justice.)

Four of these were black, six were Hispanic, and three white. All were between 18 and 39..On February 18, 250 were currently on death row. Of these, six were female. Garcia had been executed two days previously. The use of the death penalty in the U.S. declined by virtually every measure in 2015. The 28 executions this year marked the lowest number since 1991, according to a report released today by the Death Penalty Information Center (DPIC). As of December 15, fourteen states and the federal government have imposed 49 new death sentences this year, a 33% decline over last year's total and the lowest number since the early 1970s when the death penalty was halted by the U.S. Supreme Court. (From the DPIC.)

Season for Nonviolence

We cannot feature all of the PeaceCenter's program on nonviolence. Here is the fourth week:

"During the fourth week of the Season for Nonviolence we will wrap up the personal ways we can carry the vision and move on to the interpersonal:

Day 22. Mission

"My life is my message," says Gandhi. Write down what you want to stand for in your life. Note at least one way you can show, through action, that you stand for your beliefs. Take this action today.

Day 23. Prayer

"Prayer from the heart can achieve what nothing else in the world can," said Gandhi. Begin and end the day with a prayer for peace. Let peace begin with you.

In order to create a peaceful world, we must learn to practice nonviolence with one another in our day-to-day interactions.

Day 24. Harmony

Choosing not to engage in any form of gossip today contributes to harmony. Today, choose to see the good in others rather than finding fault.

Day 25. Friendliness

To humorist Will Rogers, strangers were simply friends he hadn't met. View those you encounter today in that light. Make a new acquaintance.

Day 26. Respect

Gandhi taught, "Language is an exact reflection of the character and growth of its speakers." Today, respect yourself and others by choosing not to use any profanity or "put downs."

Day 27. Generosity

Mother Teresa said, "There is a hidden poverty more pervasive than lack of money. It is the poverty of the heart." Find three ways to generously give of your time, attention and resources to others.

Day 28. Listening

Today, stop what you are doing and take five minutes to listen to the feelings behind someone's words to you. Be fully present for the conversation and be interested in what the person is saying."

When refugees cannot return

"Their presence should not only be a burden for host countries; if given opportunities refugees can contribute to the development of local economies through their skills and knowledge. But, if they spend several years in camps without opportunities to contribute to improving their living conditions, they may resort to violence, cross-border crimes and/or join rebel or terrorist groups. This can undermine the consolidation of peace in the region."

This note, from research in Africa's Great Lakes region, summarized by Insight on Conflict, is given in its email distribution. It is surely relevant here in San Antonio. Research reported by AFSC years ago showed that immigrants improved the economy of a city. It has been found that only high school dropouts suffer lower pay because of the competition of illegal immigrants. Children needing ESL instruction increase the school's costs, and Medicaid costs can increase. But, detention costs. And two studies have found that illegal immigrants contribute more in taxes than they cost in services.

Yet they are still the source of much political argument.

New post on Quaker Mystics

Mystics Gathering Epistle, Berkeley, California, February 4-7, 2016 by Judy Lumb

“We mystics, twenty of us in all, write to you from the beautifully remodeled Berkeley Friends Meetinghouse in Berkeley, CA. We came together from Alaska, Washington, and Northern California for a What Canst Thou Say gathering . . . We began by honoring the Chocenyos, the native stewards of this land who are still here.

We worshiped for four days, at times in silence and also while eating, sleeping, playing, walking. Tears came. We were gentle with ourselves and tender with each other. We paid attention to our waking and sleeping dreams and made space for Spirit. We did not discuss theology. Rather, we shared our experiential faith with one another and we felt Love move among us.

We were thoughtfully placed in triads to share our stories as mystics. Some spoke this story for the first time; others have shared this story for decades. Elaine reminded us that the stories can be told again and again. Probably no two tellings will be the same, growing as the storyteller grows, changing as life changes. They need to be told. They bear what is essential for our life together, calling us to our source, our center, our core. In trying to find words to describe the ineffable, we join a long lineage of people trying to tell the story of God’s mystery. We are humbled and strengthened by the task.

Through journal writing and partner sharing, we answered these three queries:

What does it mean to live your life as a mystic? How has the mystical become (or not) habitual?

What hinders or blocks you from living fully into such communion?

What encourages or draws you into a fuller communion with Source/The One/ Teacher/ Core/Spirit?

Led by our pied piper with a clay flute and watched over by the sculpture “Ascension,” we celebrated the fruits of our journey in song, memoir, art, poetry, and video. In this trusted space we learned of each other’s experience with birth, death, heartache, being pushed by Jesus, growing deeply in unexpected ways.

Upon closing on the second day we entered a Great Silence that we brought home with us and carried it through worship the next morning. Some found this easeful and others were challenged to face what is there when outward sound ceases. We were taught that the brighter the light, the clearer the shadow. In shining the brilliant light we create together, we expose the shadow side, which can frighten and threaten to break us. But as we see what comes out, we turn it to the light over and over. In this turning we are healed. We are released.

We ended our time together on the third night by offering blessings and commissions to each other, with word, with touch, with energy. We sat across from each other, partnered with each member of the group in turn to experience what it is to give this gift and what it is to receive. Our final morning was spent in extended Meeting for Worship with Berkeley Friends Meeting. We settled in with their nine o’clock worship and stayed deep through the hour break and continued into eleven o’clock worship. The sun shone through the yellow glass, pouring over our gathered worship. Spirit covered us, allowing us to be both fragile and strong.

We will return from here to the tribes from which we came, those families and spiritual homes that make up our communities. But we, this particular group of mystics, have become a clan. We are each other’s people now. Across geographical separations we are connected by our stories and by the Spirit, which flows through all we do and all we are. We will continue to sit with the challenge of navigating the liminal space we inhabit while existing in a physical, seemingly rational world. We will continue to live into our bodies, listening for the wisdom found in our lived, visceral experience. We will pray and we will be faithful to the leadings of the Spirit, trusting the still small voice to guide our actions, big and small. We will be human and we will be Divine.

Deeply in Love,

Mystics Gathering”

We note here that these mystical Friends met the problem of naming what drew them by speaking of the “ Source/The One/ Teacher/ Core/Spirit.” Friends, with no creed and no set vocabulary, need to use such a group of words to express the variety among us.

They ended their message to all of us, “Deeply in Love.” This unites us. That Spirit, variously named, is one of Love.

Altruism?

David Brooks had an interesting column in the *NY Times*, wondering how much altruism the world could stand. “Radical do-gooders,” he says, often driven by rage or a need to be of pure service to the world. There are always people, suffering in the world, who need help. Altruists are driven to help.

But if somebody on the other side of the world is suffering, can you feel as deeply for him as for one in front of you?. If your mother and two strangers are drowning, whom would you save? Rational altruists would save the two men, as the greater good. Who would be saved by a loving saint? Can he or she feel pain as much as the sufferer? To make love universal is to denude it of its warmth and its texture. To be human is to have a multiplicity of desires, weaknesses, and loves, not a single driven pursuit.

Fanaticism in the relief of suffering, says Brooks, is still fanaticism.. It can lead to a draconian asceticism that invites suffering, and to an impossibility of a mutual relationship. Can you do more good by buying that lovely thing, giving a man in Bangla Desh work?

Supposing everybody became altruist and lived poorly, giving worldly goods away to charity. There would be noone needing or accepting charity and not much worldly goods anyway, a poor, poor, world?

But surely acting lovingly can be mutual and the sufferer and the altruist can be the same person at different times.

FCNL’s Call

FCNL told us: “As the elections start to dominate the news, I have a quick note on how FCNL works. We’re a nonpartisan organization, and we don’t endorse candidates. That’s for a lot of reasons, not least because we work by building relationships with everyone who is elected. So instead of discussing my or FCNL’s opinions of the candidates, we’re going to focus on how you can advance your top priorities this election season!

Chris Letts, Communications Associate”

Despite FCNL’s, AFSC’s, FPT’s, and RSWR’s, work, we’re nowhere near worldwide altruists’ jamming up love yet.

The Congressional Quarterly of last September 15, commented on the work of Kate Gould, of FCNL It said, essentially, that despite intense lobbying and millions of dollars on national television in opposition to the US government’s Iran agreement, Kate Gould helped mobilize “grassroots activists, nuclear nonproliferation experts and faith- based groups” to get the backing of 34 Senate Democrats.

CQ clearly thought it a significant achievement.

AFSC’s Birthday

AShan Cretin, of AFSC, notes AFSC’s birthday:

“I want to let you know that at this time next year, our organization will be celebrating its centennial — 100 years using the power of nonviolent action to build peace, overcome injustice,

and uphold the dignity of all people.

Since 1917, AFSC has been a catalyst for meaningful change, advancing peace and human rights. The importance of our Quaker service work continues today. As the U.S. prepares for the upcoming presidential election and the debates are taking place, we must all continue to take a stand for peace whenever we can.

For the last year, AFSC has been at presidential candidate events raising awareness, questioning candidates face-to-face and successfully urging them to speak out on issues from the immigrant detention quota to the U.S.'s nuclear arsenal to large corporations wielding too much political power."

Conscientious objection: 100 years on

World War I brought Quaker action on both sides of the Atlantic. In the midst of the war, in the UK, as conscription came into force, Quakers worked with parliament to ensure men had the right to refuse to kill.

In 1916, with the Military Service Act, Britain became the first country to give legal recognition to individual conscience, now enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Formal legislation to exempt objectors from fighting was first granted in mid-18th century Britain following problems with attempting to force Quakers into military service. In 1757, when the first attempt was made to establish a British Militia as a professional national military reserve, a clause in the Militia Ballot Act allowed Quakers exemption from military service.

In the United States, conscientious objection was permitted from the country's founding, although regulation was left to individual states prior to the introduction of conscription.

Query for March

How do we foster participation in the whole life of the Meeting? Do members regularly attend meetings for worship and meetings for worship with a concern for business? Do all participate in some way in fellowship and in service?

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.

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