

# The Friendly News

Easter Surprise for your children and grandchildren on Sunday April 1 at Friends Meeting. **DON'T MISS IT!**

## April 2018 Calendar

DATE	TIME	EVENT*
<b>Sunday, April 01, 2018</b>	<b>9:-:50 am</b>	<b>Spiritual Deepening, Library - all are welcome</b>
<b>Sunday, April 01, 2018</b>	<b>10:00:00 AM</b>	<b>Meeting for Worship – all are welcome</b>
<b>Sunday, April 01, 2018</b>	<b>11:15:00 AM</b>	<b>Pot Luck Lunch – all are welcome</b>
<b>Monday, April 02, 2018</b>	<b>4:30-5:30 pm</b>	<b>Yoga with Peggy – all are welcome</b>
Monday, April 02, 2018	6:30-9:30 pm	Insight Meditation
Tuesday, April 03, 2018	6:30-8:30 pm	Plum Branch Sangha
Wednesday, April 04, 2018	6:30-9:30 pm	Celebration Circle
Saturday, April 07, 2018	8 am-1 pm	Reformed Congregation of the Goddess
<b>Sunday, April 08, 2018</b>	<b>10:00:00 AM</b>	<b>Meeting for Worship – all are welcome</b>
<b>Sunday, April 08, 2018</b>	<b>11:30-12:30</b>	<b>Forum: THRIVE, help for LGBTQ youth</b>
Monday, April 09, 2018	6:30-9:30 pm	Insight Meditation
Tuesday, April 10, 2018	6:30-8:30 pm	Plum Branch Sangha
Wednesday, April 11, 2018	6:30-9:30 pm	Celebration Circle
<b>Thursday, April 12, 2018</b>	<b>6:00 – 8:00</b>	<b>Soup and ... followed by Worship at 7:00 - all are welcome</b>
<b>Sunday, April 15, 2018</b>	<b>10:00:00 AM</b>	<b>Meeting for Worship – all are welcome</b>
<b>Sunday, April 15, 2018</b>	<b>11:30:00 AM</b>	<b>Meeting for Business – all are welcome</b>
<b>Sunday, April 15, 2018</b>		<b>Deadline for Newsletter - all are welcome to submit</b>
<b>Monday, April 16, 2018</b>	<b>4:30-5:30 pm</b>	<b>Yoga with Greg – all are welcome</b>
Monday, April 16, 2018	6:30-9:30 pm	Insight Meditation
Tuesday, April 17, 2018	6:30-8:30 pm	Plum Branch Sangha
Wednesday, April 18, 2018	6:30-9:30 pm	Celebration Circle
Thursday, April 19, 2018	5 – 10 pm	Reformed Congregation of the Goddess
<b>Sunday, April 22, 2018</b>	<b>All Day</b>	<b>Earth Day</b>
<b>Sunday, April 22, 2018</b>	<b>10:00:00 AM</b>	<b>Meeting for Worship – all are welcome</b>
<b>Sunday, April 22, 2018</b>	<b>11:30-12:30</b>	<b>Forum: Jesus' Last Week</b>
Monday, April 23, 2018	6:30-9:30 pm	Insight Meditation
Tuesday, April 24, 2018	6:30-8:30 pm	Plum Branch Sangha
Wednesday, April 25, 2018	6:30-9:30 pm	Celebration Circle
<b>Wednesday, April 25, 2018</b>	<b>07:00:00 PM</b>	<b>Mid Week Worship, home of Gary &amp; Vivian</b>
		<b>* bold items are conducted as part of Friends Meeting, others are meeting in our facility</b>

# Friends Festival – Saturday May 12

International flavors mark the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Festival with food from Convergence Café [Spanish] and an Ethiopian menu. The talent tent features wood carvings from Malaysia. They join the ponies and puppy adoption for family fun. A new addition is games and toys for sale, as well as for children to play with. We depend on Friends to bring out the attic treasures for the rummage sale, and to bake up a storm to go with cold drinks and coffee. Books are always a big attraction, so clear your shelves for the browsers. Our neighbors will be invited to bring their arts and crafts to join ours. Set up volunteers need to arrive at 8 a.m. More volunteers need to come at 10 to staff the Meeting booths and arrange games for children's amusement while parents shop. You can be part of this community building event in any capacity that suits you. Everyone is welcome.

**Rummage Sale at the Festival** needs your unwanted treasures; items in good condition can be brought to the meeting house for the sale **beginning on Sunday, 6 May**. If you have someone who wants to donate good items and cannot wait to get rid of them, you may contact Gretchen, Marion or David B for possible alternative storage options; **REMEMBER**: no clothing, no electronics (ie, computers, peripherals, old TVs, DVD players, etc).

On Friday, 11 May, the day before the festival, we will be pricing Rummage sale items.

**Volunteers will be needed.** Its fun and you get a preview of what is going to be for sale! To help in any capacity just respond to [clerk@saquakers.org](mailto:clerk@saquakers.org) and we'll see you there.



# LOCAL NEWS

## Concert for Hope and Courage

*by Pam*



It was a dark and stormy night...which took most of us by surprise Wednesday night. The hope that spring brings with Easter was in the air the half hour before the concert and a nice little crowd of happy concert goers took their places in the Meetinghouse. Our own Rudi Harst from Celebration Circle was, as always, a delightful MC. Our musical guests, Annie and Peter provided an eclectic collection of singalong songs that ranged from folk and country to jazz and blues. The sounds of banjo, violin and guitar filled the air and made it easy to forget the storm raging outside overhead. The courage award for the night goes to Bill S who kept the walkway under the porch from flooding with his mighty broom (why didn't I take a picture of THAT!?) and stayed late to help restore the Meetinghouse back to normal!

The concert benefitted the Migrant Center for Human Rights and Thrive (see below for an article on Thrive) For more info on Peter and Annie and their books, go to their website:

<https://www.riseupandsing.org>

## The Butterfly Sanctuary at the Meetinghouse

*by Peggy*

The Butterfly Sanctuary is moving ahead as we await the Monarchs return from their winter habitat. Our Wildflower meadow is beginning to bloom. Bluebonnets and Mexican hats are showing their colors. The landscaping along our entryway path is being reworked to supply Monarchs with the nectar and shelter they need.

I have applied for Monarch Waystation certification for our grounds. In the application a

name for our habitat was required. I felt that the name “Sanctuary ~ Stewardship in Action” best represented our efforts.



*If we fall in love with creation deeper and deeper, we will respond to its endangerment with passion. Hildegard Von Bingen*

**Tai Chi** classes for SA Friends have been temporarily suspended until further notice. Stay tuned to the newsletter for updates!

**Vivian and Gary** report that their grandson, Nico, and his mother, Clara, will be flying in from Los Angeles to join their bustling San Antonio household. Meanwhile, Nico’s father, Matt, is driving all the family’s belongings cross-country to join the others in SA at around the same time! In addition, Vivian and Gary’s other grandson, Eben, tends to stay at home, while their eldest daughter, Amanda, helps run their clinic for chronic pain patients.

## MARCH FOR OUR LIVES SAN ANTONIO *by Pam*



Saturday, March 24, 2018 Friends met at the South corner of Dolorosa & Military Plaza (S. Flores St.)

at 11:45am. Our Quaker banner helped unite Friends, friends, family, and colleagues for participation in the march. The speeches ended at about 12:30pm and we walked to chants of “**Hey, Hey, Ho, Ho. The NRA has got to go**”, and “**This is what democracy looks like**” arriving just before 2pm at Alamo Plaza where students and other participants gathered in silence.

Stephen Shearer has met with both **Mom’s Demand Action** (<https://momsdemandaction.org>), who have been collaborating with the local organizers of the **March For Our Lives San Antonio**.



*San Antonio Chief of Peace!*

## **The Beatitudes, a summary of the forum of Feb. 25, 2018**

*by Gretchen H.*

George Fox said: Jesus has come to teach his people himself. Today we explored some of what Jesus was teaching, how important it was to Fox, and how important it still is for Friends today.

But first we need to review the world Jesus lived in. In the first century C.E., Israel was under Roman occupation, a Domination system with brutal suppression of any dissent. The Jewish establishment collaborated with Roman authorities, starting with Herod, the King of the Jews, the high priests of the temple in Jerusalem and in synagogues throughout the country. The conventional wisdom was: go along to get along.

Jesus was Jewish and lived his life as a Jew; he was a disciple of John the Baptist and had a life-changing spiritual awakening at the time of his baptism by John. When John was killed by the authorities, Jesus took up his ministry.

About 90 per cent of Israel's inhabitants were peasants or laborers who lived under the heavy oppression of the Romans. Jesus's family were landless laborers who knew injustice first hand. Thus, Jesus came to embody resistance to the political and social status quo; he sought to revive the prophetic Judaic tradition; his primary message was to follow a life centered in God.

He challenged the political and social norms and leaders, with an alternative social vision of inclusion of outcasts, compassion, and justice. He called his vision The Way and he taught by parables and short, pithy sayings that made people stop and think. What we have come to call The Beatitudes embody the central themes of his teaching.

Just a word about words. We grew up with the King James Bible, or the New Standard Version which uses the term "Blessed," while the translator we have cited uses "Blissful\*." David Bentley Hart explains: "with the connotation of divine or heavenly bliss....I have as well elected generally to translate many words from the Greek by their literal meanings in English, rather than in the forms consecrated by theological tradition.

Another detail of that time: peasants' life span was about 30-35 years. That means Jesus was nearing the end of his expected life. His ministry lasted about one year, according to the first three gospels and three to four in John. The Beatitudes we read were originally not given all at once, but delivered at various times and then collected in one place. They are recorded in the gospels of Matthew and in Luke, but not in Mark or John.

### **Matthew 5**

Now, seeing the crowds, he ascended the mountain; and when he seated himself his disciples approached him; And opening his mouth he taught them, saying, "How blissful\* the destitute, abject in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven; How blissful those who mourn, for they shall be aided; How blissful the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth; How blissful those who

hunger and thirst for what is right, for they shall feast; How blissful the merciful, for they shall receive mercy; How blissful the pure in heart, for they shall see God; How blissful the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God; How blissful those who have been persecuted for the sake of what is right, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven; How blissful you when they reproach you, and persecute you and falsely accuse you of every evil for my sake, Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in the heavens is great; for thus they persecuted the prophets before you.

In the following discussion, Janet raised the concern that it sounds as though only those who meet the test will be allowed in the Kingdom. Val said that the qualities named are the attributes of God to be a model for our lives, not a test of purity for individuals.

We can appreciate why Jesus was so important to Fox who also lived in an oppressive political and religious time. The Protestant Reformation was barely 100 years on, and Galileo was challenging religious authority from the scientific world. The 1600's in England were full of challenges to authority, culminating in the civil war, triumph of Oliver Cromwell and beheading of King James. Now, kings had died in battle, but never at the hands of their own people. Turmoil in Fox's time was the norm.

Fox preached a return to early Christianity, by shedding the layers and trappings of Church orthodoxy. He dismissed the "hireling ministers" by finding "that of God in all you meet," including women and children. Like Jesus, he sought an alternative social system of equality and justice, and the direct relationship with God.

Friends today can work for justice and equality in the wider society by participating with others in Friends Committee on National Legislation. Another forum will focus on priorities for the coming year and how each of us can make a difference.

Friends composed their own beatitudes, collected below.

Blissful in heaven will be those who resisted injustice, because they will find there a perfect justice. [ I have no faith in heaven, of course, but I'm using the mode of the other beatitudes. ]

[Here's mine after much thought. ] Blessings on the outcasts for they shall be find community. How blissful are those who seek the truth for they will find the Light.

Blissful are those who are with God.

No matter your path, no matter your suffering, within each one of you the light of all creation is eternal.

Blessed are those who know God.

How blissful are those who seek Truth for they shall find joy.

References: Jesus: Uncovering the Life, Teachings, and Relevance of a Religious Revolutionary, Marcus J. Borg, Harper, 2006.

The New Testament, David Bentley Hart, Yale Univ. Press, 2017.

# **LOCAL APRIL EVENTS WHICH MIGHT INTEREST YOU**

## **Latinx Shakespeare: A Borderlands Drama Symposium on April 6, 2018**

**at Texas A&M University-San Antonio.**

Enjoy a day of conversation, workshops, and theater aimed at exploring the intersections of Shakespeare and Latinx drama. The symposium, funded in part by Humanities Texas brings together scholars, teachers, theater practitioners, and activists to discuss the innovative ways Latinx artists are engaging with Shakespeare and how we can teach both Shakespeare and Latinx Drama in interesting, culturally relevant ways. Professional development credit will be offered to teachers. In addition to panels, the symposium will include a keynote by University of Southern California professor Carla Della Gatta, a pedagogy workshop, and a performance by Houston-based playwright Josh Inocencio. To find out more about the symposium (which is free!) and to register, please see our website: <https://latinxshakespeare.blog> (*Maggie*)

## **Native Plant Society of Texas (NPSOT) Spring Plant Sale on April 14**

**The 2018 Annual Spring Native Plant Sale will be held from 9am-noon at Phil Hardberger Park, located at 13203 Blanco Road.**

All proceeds from the plant sales go to fund the San Antonio chapter grants program which is open to chapter members for their local organizations. Pam is a member of NPSOT and hopes to find interested folks in the Meeting to help with a grant proposal to get us some funding for educational signage for our WONDERFUL native shrubs and trees. Debbie, who comes to our evening worship on 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday, was the city arborist and she gave Peggy, Stephen and Pam a brief tour of our wonderful native trees and shrubs. Labeling them would help to insure their preservation in the future and educate all who see them. We can help our butterfly population by insuring that we have a good selection of their preferred nectar plants and also their host larval plants (where they lay their eggs...yes! They are picky)



## **Religion and Climate Change: Taking our Planet Back**

**Friday - Saturday, April 13 -14 | Trinity University**

Concerned citizens will meet at the Chapman Center to examine the perils of climate change and how we can address them. Visit [events.trinity.edu](https://events.trinity.edu/event/religion_and_climate_change_conference) [https://events.trinity.edu/event/religion\\_and\\_climate\\_change\\_conference](https://events.trinity.edu/event/religion_and_climate_change_conference) for more info.

## **UTSA Sustenance & Sustainability Exposition 2018**

**Friday, April 13 | 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM UTSA**

Students and community are invited to learn more about San Antonio's role in a sustainable future. Read more here. <https://www.facebook.com/events/141195403362546/>

## **March for Science**

**Saturday, April 14 | 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM | Location TBD**

Check for updates about location and more: [facebook.com/MarchForScienceSA](https://www.facebook.com/MarchForScienceSA).

## **Earth Day at Woodlawn Lake**

**Saturday, April 18 | 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM | 1103 Cincinnati**

Activities include a raffle of 30 bicycles, CPS Energy tree adoption, entertainment, vegetarian refreshments, and conservation ideas. Free.

## **Viva Botanica at San Antonio Botanical Garden**

**Saturday, April 21 | 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM | 555 Funston Place**

Celebrate Fiesta® with us! Enjoy the colors of spring and take a plant home to nurture (while supplies last). Join us for a parade at noon. More information on their website: [sabot.org](http://sabot.org)

## **THRIVE YOUTH CENTER, INC.**

*By Greg*

### **LGBTQ YOUTH IN AMERICA**

It is estimated that there are 1.6-2.8 million homeless youth in the United States, with up to 40% identifying as LGBTQ. A study done by the Texas Education Agency in December 2016 found that Bexar County (San Antonio) had 8,802 homeless youth in all school districts, of which 1,112 were unaccompanied. The local branch of the national organization Stand Up for Kids estimates that in San Antonio, about 50% of the homeless youth are LGBTQ. Part of the reason stems from youth coming out at an earlier age as the nation becomes more accepting of the LGBTQ community in general. However, even as more and more states and regional governments make strides towards equality, families are not necessarily in step.

It is estimated that almost half of LGBTQ youth on the streets are there because they have been ejected from their homes, sometimes violently. At times, the situation at home and school becomes unbearable and they leave seemingly of their own volition. While solutions such as traveling to urban centers where there may be jobs, housing, and acceptance seem

reasonable, such things are not so easily obtained. Our goal is to reduce the number of homeless youth on the streets and help them work towards self-sufficiency and exiting homelessness.

## **THRIVE YOUTH CENTER'S MISSION:**

*Provide a safe, effective, and supportive center for homeless LGBTQ youth, so they may become productive, skilled, educated, and successful adults with the ability, opportunity, and possibility of achieving their dreams.*

## **THRIVE PROGRAMMING**

Thrive provides an affirming, LGBTQ-positive environment where residents experience support and belonging as they take steps to exit homelessness. In addition to providing safe and secure housing, our objectives include empowering residents to pursue their life goals. Thrive provides counseling, life skills classes, and other resources to help develop self-sufficiency, secure and maintain employment, pursue educational goals, and secure and maintain stable housing. Our Case Manager mentors and advocates for our young adults, and creates individually tailored plans to help them move forward. We have a close partnership with Workforce Solutions Alamo, who will pay up to \$7500 for residents to go back to school to obtain an in-demand trade and make anywhere from \$12 to \$25 an hour instead of minimum wage. For our transgender residents, we connect them to a medical provider and pay for their Hormone Replacement Therapy medications, and also help them through the process of obtaining a legal name and gender marker change. Almost all of our young adults were sleeping underneath bridges in San Antonio before arriving at our shelter, and for many of them, this is the first chance at success that they have been given.

**Volunteers are always welcome, and interested parties can email [chelsea@thriveyouthcenter.org](mailto:chelsea@thriveyouthcenter.org). Inquiries about donations can be found on our website, [www.thriveyouthcenter.org](http://www.thriveyouthcenter.org).**

Sandra Whitley	Executive Director/Founder of Thrive Youth Center, Inc.
Kate Meals	Assistant Director of Thrive Youth Center, Inc.
Chelsea Berkowitz	Program Manager of Thrive Youth Center, Inc.
Tamiyko Prince	Housing Program Manager of Thrive Youth Center, Inc.
Greg Casillas	Life Skills Manager of Thrive Youth Center, Inc.



# QUAKER SHIRT ORDERS

Here is the updated form for folks to order our shirts; a limited cotton option has been added.

For fun I looked up color meaning for blue:

Blue is the color of the sky and sea. It is often associated with depth and stability. It symbolizes trust, loyalty, wisdom, confidence, intelligence, faith, truth, and heaven.

Blue is considered beneficial to the mind and body. It slows human metabolism and produces a calming effect. Blue is strongly associated with tranquility and calmness. In heraldry, blue is used to symbolize piety and sincerity.

You can use blue to promote products and services related to cleanliness (water purification filters, cleaning liquids, vodka), air and sky (airlines, airports, air conditioners), water and sea (sea voyages, mineral water). As opposed to emotionally warm colors like red, orange, and yellow; blue is linked to consciousness and intellect. Use blue to suggest precision when promoting high-tech products.

## Quaker Shirt Order Form deadline April 15, 2018

Please fill in the form to order SA Quaker meeting shirts no later than Sun April 15. Shirts cost is \$12 for short sleeve and \$14 for long sleeve and can be paid in cash or check to Carol Redfield. Shirts can be paid for and picked up on Sun May 6 at meeting or at the Quaker fair from 8-10a on Saturday May 12, or other time by arranging it with Carol Redfield ([CRedfield@stmarytx.edu](mailto:CRedfield@stmarytx.edu)).

To include an article in the newsletter or to reach the newsletter committee (Mimi and Pam) email us at [newsletter@saquakers.org](mailto:newsletter@saquakers.org) Our deadline for Publication is 7 days prior to the first of the month.

This newsletter is a publication for the San Antonio Religious Society of Friends  
San Antonio Friends Meeting is located at 7052 N Vandiver Rd, San Antonio, TX 78209

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

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/San-Antonio-Quaker-Meeting-Friends-Meeting-of-San-Antonio>

## **Query for April:**

*Many wise sayings come down to us from Quaker history such as "Let your life speak", but do you also "Let your Life listen"?*