

The Friendly News San Antonio Quakers

July 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10 AM Meeting for Worship 11:15 Pot Luck Lunch	2 4:30-5:30 Yoga w/ Greg 6:30-9:30 PM Insight Meditation	3 6:30 – 8:30 PM Plum Branch Sangh	4 Independen ce Day	5 Rita Cleaning Day	6	7
8 Meeting for Worship 11:30 Forum: Preserving Native Plants on our campus, Debbie Reid	9 6:30-9:30 PM Insight Meditation	10 6:30 – 8:30 PM Plum Branch Sangh	11 5:00-6:00 pm Yogaia 6:30–9:30 PM Celebration Circle, Meeting & Community Rooms	12 Mid-week Worship 6:00 Soup Communit y room 7:00 Worship Meeting room	13	14
15 10:00 Meeting for Worship 11:30 Meeting for Business	16 4:30-5:30 Yoga w/ Greg 6:30-9:30 PM Insight Meditation	17 6:30 – 8:30 PM Plum Branch Sangha	18 5-6 pm Yogaia 6:30–9:30 PM Celebration Circle, Meeting & Community rooms	19 5-10 pm RCGSA Entire property	20	21
22 10:00 Meeting for Worship 11:30 Forum: Seeking Deep Worship, Jim Spickard	23 6:30-9:30 PM Insight Meditation	24 6:30 – 8:30 PM Plum Branch Sangha	25 5-6 pm Yogaia 6:30–9:30 PM Celebration Circle, Meeting & Community rooms 7-8 PM Mid- Week Meeting for Worship, Whiting/ Rule home *	26	27	28 12:00 Clerks & Conveners Mid-Year Review, Home of G Haynes

29 10:00 Meeting for Worship 11:30 Forum: Varieties of Quaker Religious Experience, Gretchen Haynes & Val Liveoak	30 6:30-9:30P Insight Meditation	31 6:30 – 8:30 PM Plum Branch Sangha	8/1 5-6 pm Yogaia 6:30–9:30 PM Celebration Circle, Meeting & Common Rms	8/2 Rita Cleaning Day	29	30
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** Please ask the clerk for directions to the last Wed. Mid-Week Meeting for Worship.*

Friends Meeting of San Antonio, 7052 N. Vandiver, 78209. 210-945-8456. saquakers.org

You are welcome here.

Friends Response to the Separation of Children at the Border

In response to the continuing administration policy of separating asylum-seeking parents from their children, as young as six months, Friends Meeting of San Antonio approved the following Minute on June 17, 2018.

Minute 2018.06-3: Friends Meeting of San Antonio finds the policy of the present administration of separating children from their families at the border to be shameful and contrary to American values. Further, using the Gospel to claim that “God has ordained” such actions is appalling to us as a people of faith. We also insist that our government follow international law and open our ports of entry for people seeking asylum. We call on all government officials, from the President, Attorney General, Senators, and Representatives, to the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection to cease and desist separating infants and older children from their parents. Compassion is called for in welcoming those who flee violence, seeking asylum in America. Val Liveoak & Gretchen Haynes, co-clerks

Jim Spickard, Elizabeth Pitts and Gretchen Haynes offered to distribute the Minute widely, to government officials mentioned in it, and to press and other interested groups. As a result, South Central Yearly Meeting circulated a copy as a template for other meetings to follow. As an example: Your thoughts have stimulated me to work a bit harder with our Meeting to generate our own thoughts about this issue. Not that it hasn't been a source of discussion in the last several weeks here in Kerrville. Jim Myers, Hill Country Friends. New York Y M did likewise when a Friend sent a copy there.

Friends Journal responded that they had posted on their Facebook an article written by David Bristol, Lee Teran and Gretchen Haynes from 2015, describing FMSA's activities in

behalf of asylum-seekers and included the Minute. Like ripples in a pond, our action has gone national.

The next step in FMSA's response was participation in a vigil called for Sunday, June 24 at San Fernando Cathedral. Ten F/friends gathered around the banner, or stood among the hundreds who answered the call of Interfaith Welcome Coalition. A series of calls to conscience was followed by silence in the Main Plaza. Speakers from several faiths reminded us that, in spite of the recall of the separation edict, what has happened amounts to child abduction and abuse.

Saturday, June 30 was a day of national rallies to protest the Zero Tolerance policy. More to come on this crucial subject and FMSA's response. GH

Protesting Immigration Policies

F/friends gathered round the FMSA banner once again to join a very large crowd at the Cathedral rallying to protest the administration immigration policies. They heard native American drumming and prayers, comments from Rep. Lloyd Doggett that if you want to change laws, you must change the law-makers. And Diego Bernal ask: Are you committed? Are you really committed? Will you be back here next week? And as long as it takes to reverse this policy? Gretchen H



July 8 Forum: Then and Now: Sustainable Greenscaping in Our Meeting's Back Yard

This looks like a blank slate, but was it? Debbie Reid talked to Friends and attenders about what she remembers as City Arborist about the property upon which our Meetinghouse is built. Some of you will remember well how the site looked when it was first acquired. I have been told the property was a real dumping ground, with lots of trash. Debbie and Melissa Miller saw what was under the trash in the form of native flora. The forum on 8 July to discussed a vision for the property that two naturalists had back before our current Meetinghouse was built. We have photos of the grounds that may bring back memories for some who are long time Friends and which will give some perspective to new attenders and Friends. We enjoyed a short walk with Debbie, who shows us some of the good natives still on the property that we need to try to preserve. (Pam S, Mimi)



Among the trees, watercolor, Joni

Query: How can seeking a balance in 'the right use of things' lead us toward more gentle lives that neither hurt nor destroy?

Notes from the June 10th Forum on Quaker Business Practices

Nearly 20 members and attenders met after Meeting for Worship to talk about Quaker business practices. We viewed a 4-minute video from the Quaker Speak series, “How Quakers Make Decisions (It’s Not Just Consensus!)” (<http://quakerspeak.com/quaker-decision-making-consensus/>). Then we shared our own experiences of Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, both good and bad.

After a rich discussion, we viewed a second (5-minute) video, “The Quaker Practice of Discernment” (<http://quakerspeak.com/quaker-practice-discernment/>). In this video, several Friends described how discernment works for them, both in Quaker business and in how they try to conduct their personal lives. We had time for a few comments. Two Friends described how hard it is to live out one’s discerned path. One Friend asked about the difference between the discernment called for in a Clearness Committee and that called for in a Threshing Session. Another Friend suggested that we had some collective discerning yet to do about how to carry out our own common business, particularly the large number of vacancies on our committees. We did not have time to talk about these issues in depth, but we will likely return to them as the way opens.

In the video, Edin Grace, the Global Ministries Director of Friends United Meeting, describes the Quaker business process as a system of sacred decision-making. It is not, she says, a matter of seeking consensus, which she describes as settling for what everyone can accept. The goal is beyond that. For her, It is to discern “the will of God” for the community. This is not easy. It calls on the community to “stick with it . . . through all of our sins and weaknesses and failings”, because sticking with each other helps us become the holy community that we hope to be. To use her analogy, even choosing the carpet for the Fellowship Hall is a sacred act. It makes us conscious, together, of the impact of our choices, both on the world and on each other – issues like off-gassing, toxic by-products, child labor, and so on. It asks us to find our role in the world as a spiritual community.

Our following discussion raised several issues. For example, not everyone uses theistic language. Others speak of “Spirit”, “the right Way forward”, “our true Leading”, and other, personally meaningful terms. Two young attenders spoke of how impressed they were with their first Quaker meeting in another state, which happened to be a Meeting for Business. They were impressed with the care and respect that Quakers had for each other and their ability to listen deeply. One experienced Friend described an early Meeting for Business he attended that had as long periods of silence between comments as in a typical Meeting for Worship. He noted that as much was accomplished there as is usually accomplished in a meeting where there is a lot of discussion. Another experienced Friend described clerking a Business Meeting that was so argumentative that she felt that “the Spirit had left it” – so she did too. A Friend



described her experiences at Yearly Meeting, where attendees often assist by “clerking from the floor” or “holding the Business Meeting in the Light”. (Jim S)



Discerning the Path, Mimi,
watercolor, 10" x 12"

Treasurer's Note

Bill Wilkinson brought up a topic regarding taxes that may be of interest to those who have attained the ripe old age of 70 ½ years. Many will know that if you happen to be fortunate enough to have a 401K or traditional IRA, you are required to take a certain amount out of that account per the IRS. This is called a 'required minimum distribution (RMD)'. You are required to pay taxes on this amount. HOWEVER, if you request that all or part of your RMD be directed to a charitable organization, like the Meeting, that portion will not be taxed. Sooo.... something to think about! You should always consult with your financial adviser before committing to this type of transaction, as the tax laws change regularly. Contact Bill Wilkinson for details or questions.

Threshing Session for Property Vision September 9 scheduled by M&O

This is a session to listen to our individual and collective visions about our property, our relationships with our neighbors and the various security issues we face.

- We want to give everyone a chance to speak, listen and reflect on these issues and hope that this will thereby give our committees guidance about the sense of the Meeting
- we think it important to listen to each other and the leadings of the Spirit before becoming attached to any particular outcome.
- Having this session on September 9th allows adequate time for preparation prior to the session.



There is a report available from a Working Group on Meetinghouse security from 2016 that might be of interest for reading prior to this session. Copies were given out at the June Meeting for Worship With Attention To Business.

Minute for the Children

Friends Meeting of San Antonio finds the policy of the present administration of separating children from their families at the border to be shameful and contrary to American values. Further, using the Gospel to claim that “God has ordained” such actions is appalling to us as a people of faith. We also insist that our government follow international law and open our ports of entry for people seeking asylum. We call on all government officials, from the President, Attorney General, Senators, and Representatives, to the border patrol to cease and desist separating infants and older children from their parents. Compassion is called for in welcoming those who flee violence, seeking asylum in America.

In an afterthought, George told of an incident in which his adult son was taken ill while driving across country with his four-year-old son. The child was taken by a local law enforcement officer to meet his mother, an hour and half drive distant. While in the best circumstances, the child was terrified. George compared this to the policy of separating children from their parents at the border in asylum cases. This incident was recalled in the Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business when the above Minute was considered and approved. Friends will distribute it widely to public officials, news outlets and other interested groups.



Coming up: International Peace Day Friday Sept 21

Meeting approved holding an event to celebrate International Peace Day on Friday Sept 21, 2018. Last year's concert was a great success, but also time and energy demanding. One suggestion is a Movie Night, needing just the equipment and publicity (assuming the movie is in the public domain). Friends will make a decision at the July Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business.



Friends visiting Friends



Peggy D and Stephen S visiting the Sandpoint Idaho Meeting on a trip to the Pacific North West



The Right to Health and a Healthy Planet: Ecological Devastation and Healthcare Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival is launching a massive movement, beginning with a season of sustained moral direct action, to address the crisis of poverty, racism, militarism, and ecological devastation. Every week for six weeks, people from across the country are congregating at over 30 state capitals to raise awareness about the unique and common ways they are affected by these 4 interlocking crisis.

Join the Network of Spiritual Progressives and so many others in nonviolent moral fusion direct action as we show our elected leaders we will no longer allow attention violence to keep poor and disenfranchised people down.

To find an event near you, click here [<https://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org/events/>]. And if you can't make it to your state capital, you can tweet and send posts on social media letting people know that the A National Call for Moral Revival IS a call for a New Bottom Line: A Loving and Just World.

(forwarded by Ken S)

Its legs up the wall at first Monday yoga.

Greg will be taking both first and third Monday sessions in July and August while Peggy



and Stephen are on vacation. Restorative yoga is really wonderful. Come try it!

Adopting Children

In 1966-7 four couples met in Ann Arbor Meetinghouse, led by Peter and Joye Forsythe and including Janet and myself. We formed an organization which issued the following information on a card:

The Council on Adoptable Children has been formed to help and encourage and children without parents to come together in the delightful experience of adoption. Throughout the United States there are children without parents who have been known as "hard to place." They are older children, children of minority or mixed race, or children with physical or emotional difficulties. Thousands of families have found that they are also beautiful children who have brought them all the joy and satisfaction that only a child can bring., often with the additional delight of seeing children of different race love each other as brother and sister, or of seeing a physically handicapped child developing confidence with the love of a mother and father, brothers and sisters and always with the knowledge that their son or daughter could well have lived without a permanent home and family, and the family without its child.

The members of the council know that there are still children, born and unborn, who may have to face this prospect.. They intend to help bring them together with loving

parents by sharing their adoption experiences, by, by making more people aware of the need and the opportunity, by offering their help to people and agencies, by advocating legal change where necessary, and by regular social and informational meetings, among themselves be obtained.s, with the public, and with other interested groups. Ken S.

A Letter Remembering Devon

My home was in Devon, in England. I still feel like a Devonshireman. I loved the country lanes, the woods, the coasts, the farmlands, the moors . . It is so peaceful.

But it was not that way always. The Romans conquered Britannoia and ruled it, over the Britons of the time. But the Romans left, facing their own conquest by barbarians, A couple of centuries later Angles and Saxons invaded, sweeping the Britons , calling them "West Welshmen," hating them, pushing them down through what is now Devon into Cornwall to Lands End and across the Channel to settle in what we now call Brittany, in France. I probably have Saxon inheritance. I am a conqueror.

My home was in Plymouth, a short distance from the little harbor from which the Mayflower sailed in the symbolic start to the conquest of North America. We live, and on Sunday sit, on land obtained by multiple conquests. We Friends did not fight for these but we are beneficiaries of them.

When is this cycle of conquest and reconquest to end? In 1954 Janet and I were co-presidents of the small Singapore Society for World Government. That Government is no nearer and must eventually be by consent of the people, not by conquest

A beneficiary. - Ken S.