

The Friendly News

May 2018

newsletter@squakers.org

DATE	TIME	EVENT*
Sunday, May 06, 2018	9-:50 am	Spiritual Deepening, Library - all are welcome
Sunday, May 06, 2018	10:00:00 AM	Meeting for Worship – all are welcome
Sunday, May 06, 2018	11:15:00 AM	Pot Luck Lunch – all are welcome
Monday, May 07, 2018	4:30-5:30 pm	Yoga with Peggy – all are welcome
Thursday, May 10, 2018	1-5pm	Baking for Festival
Thursday, May 10, 2018	6:00 – 8:00	Soup and ... followed by Worship at 7:00 - all are welcome
Friday, May 11, 2018	11am til done	Pricing for Festival Rummage Sale/sorting books (bring stuff!)
Saturday, May 12, 2018	8 am-2pm	FRIENDS FESTIVAL! Sales, ponies, puppies and more!
Sunday, May 13, 2018	10:00:00 AM	Meeting for Worship – all are welcome
Sunday, May 13, 2018		MOTHERS ' DAY
Sunday, May 13, 2018	11:30-12:30	Forum: tba
Saturday, May 19, 2018	9:00-3:00pm	Silent Retreat at FMSA
Sunday, May 20, 2018	10:00:00 AM	Meeting for Worship – all are welcome
Sunday, May 20, 2018	11:30:00 AM	Meeting for Business – all are welcome
Sunday, May 20, 2018		compiling begins for June newsletter: all welcome to submit
Monday, May 21, 2018	4:30-5:30 pm	Yoga with Greg – all are welcome
Sunday, May 27, 2018	10:00:00 AM	Meeting for Worship – all are welcome
Sunday, May 27, 2018	11:30-12:30	Forum: Conscientious Objection
Wednesday, May 30, 2018	07:00:00 PM	Mid Week Worship, home of Gary & Vivian

Friends Festival Update

New this year, expanding the farmers' market are Good Works Chocolate - bars & roasted coffee and Gloria's Glorious Eggs - free range and biotics-free also Happy Gut - kimchee and fermented vegetables. Returning by request: Urban Farm Stand with organic vegetables & garden plants, SoilNature with lotions and soaps and Munch On with vegan snacks.



Volunteers still wanted! Please spread the word about this event. See the last page for the flyer which you can print and post.

Bakers: 4 to prepare baked goodies at 1702 S. Presa from 1 - 5 Thursday, 10 May.

Rummage sale pricers: everyone welcome! May 11 at 11:00 am until finished

Setup: come at 8 to help set up

Greeters (2) from 8:00am direct traffic in parking lot to unload then park on the street.

From 10am, greet patrons, give maps and any directions to rummage, ponies, etc. collect maps as patrons leave

Rummage Sale: in the covered area outside of Meeting room

Kids games: have 2, could use 3 more

Take down and clean up after: everyone who can stay and help so that no one needs to stay very long

Wear your FMSA t-shirt!

CONTACT GRETCHEN TO VOLUNTEER: clerk@saquakers.org

Silent Retreat at Friends Meeting SA



“There is a principle which is pure, placed in the human mind, which in different places and ages hath different names; it is, however, pure and proceeds from God. It is deep and inward, confined to no forms of religion nor excluded from anywhere the heart stands in perfect sincerity. In whomsoever this takes root and grows, of what nation soever, they become brethren (and sisters).” John Woolman, 1762

Saturday, May 19, 2018: all are invited to join a silent retreat at the meetinghouse from 9:30 am-3:00 pm. There will be a silent brown bag potluck lunch.

Here is the schedule:

9:30-11:00 am	silent worship (cont. Page 3)
11-12:00	active silence*
12-1:00	silent lunch
1-1:30 pm	active silence
1:30-2:30pm	silent worship
2:30-3:00 pm	an opportunity to share

*"Active silence" is an opportunity to do anything that helps you focus on your soul-work and will not make it harder for someone else to do the same! If you have a soul-work task that requires a laptop, bring it along. Laptop users can work in the common room. Those who find the tappity-tap-tap distracting can enjoy active silence in the meeting room. Going for a silent walk around the grounds or in the neighborhood. so is writing, journaling, crocheting, needlework, watercoloring, all these will enrich our time together. Friends have spoken enthusiastically about how much they've enjoyed one another's companionship while meditating silently together.

“True worship may be experienced at any time, in any place – alone on the hills or in the busy daily life – we may find God, in whom we live and move and have our being. But this individual experience is not sufficient, and in a meeting held in the Spirit there is a giving and receiving between its members, one helping another with or without words. So there may come a wider vision and a deeper experience.”

New Signage Project Moving Forward

Designing a Quaker monument sign that addresses the wishes and needs of many individuals with a variety of tastes and that also reflects Friends' testimonies presents interesting challenges but also rewards.

After numerous committee meetings (two with a sign company representative), countless text messages and e-mails, and one scouting expedition down Broadway and around the Pearl neighborhood, we were ready to present three concepts in a forum on March 25. The concepts were a sign with a panned face on a grid that was similar to our courtyard gates; another, a sign with slats that resembled our meeting room's slatted walls; and finally, a sign on a low limestone wall that visually echoed our courtyard's wall. The Meeting's response was thoughtful and constructive with questions relating to cost, materials, scale, cleaning, the visibility of the information, and color.

After forum, the committee immediately met to discuss the forum surveys and based on those results, narrowed the concepts to two: the signs with the slats and the grid. We're now in the process of soliciting bids from three sign companies and will present those in a later forum.

Peggy's expertise and leadership skills and Joni's drive and enthusiasm were essential to the committee's progress, but what became the most important in our interactions was the respect that we had for each other and the sense of a shared purpose that motivated

our work. -Laura

How about Doug B, Who Is our Friend

With a slow computer, and broken eyeglasses, Doug cannot read emails, so no committee work. On the gorgeous day I reach him, Doug is thrift shopping with his son. The meeting and having family near are the most important, the easiest way to be happy, Doug says in this, his 70th year. Relaxing and doing what one wants are important.

It's such a nice day!

After cataract surgery, he is on his third pair of glasses, attempting to find the glasses to enable him to drive and read. He is looking forward to Potluck.

Doug appreciates the Quaker testimony of Simplicity, which has helped him through hard times.

He admires Mark H.'s poetry, and recommends Mark's new book for \$12: he's really evolved. Doug says the best way to keeping touch is with a personal phone call. -Mimi

OUR MEETING' S APRIL HIGHLIGHTS

Alfresco Meeting for Eating Hits the Spot

A delectable hot and sour soup accompanied by a fresh mixed salad and assorted breads preceded Meeting for Worship on the second Thursday in April. As you can see below, the setting was idyllic under a blue evening sky. What you cannot see is the wonderful scent of the jasmine that perfumed the air, but maybe you can sense the fellowship at the table which came before our communal silent worship. If you have not attended a second Thursday Meeting, you might want to give it a try. Its different each month, but ALWAYS nourishes the soul.(Pam)

Butterfly Sanctuary status achieved



Numerous species of butterflies were seen clapping their wings in gratitude! Thank you, Peggy and everyone who has been lending a hand!

Meeting for Weeding – May 5. 10:00-1:00

Get the grounds ready for our festival and have some fun

Another Successful Work Day

*in which the weather cooperated with a light mist before
confounding the weatherman who sits in a windowless room somewhere in mid-Texas.
Weeds flew out of the court yard and around the curving path,
sludge flew out of many gutters and errant twigs
branches hit the compost bucket. All in honor of Spring. Missed the fun?
Maybe there will be donuts.-Gretchen*

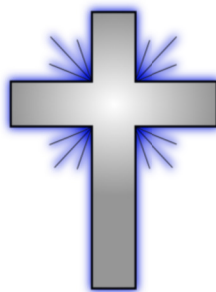
In case you missed it....

Forum/Seminar 4.22: The Last Week of Jesus' Life

Laura and Gretchen led an exploration of the events and significance of Holy Week and the Crucifixion as found in the Gospel of Mark, described in the book of that name by Marcus Borg and Dominic Crossan. Gretchen opened with a review of the Roman conquest of Israel in 63 BCE and the brutal domination system that resulted, also known as Pax Romano. Jesus was born, lived, taught and died a Jew who set out to challenge both the Roman occupation and the injustice of the Jewish elite collaboration, particularly the priests of the Jerusalem Temple. He followed this path, knowing it would lead to his execution.

Laura continued by placing Mark's community in the context of the 66-70 Jewish War against the Romans, and compared it to the turmoil and hostilities engendered today. She introduced quotes from the book to illustrate important events or concerns. They invited participants to share early memories of Easter and the context in which each learned about its significance. The general response was of Jesus being the sacrifice for our sins.

We then reviewed what is actually in Mark and found that the sacrifice is not mentioned, in fact that concept developed much later. Instead Borg and Crossan found the meaning in the transformation of one's life to follow The Way Jesus taught. Not a "belief in Jesus," but a willingness to learn from and follow the message that leads to the Kingdom of God in the here and now. The significance for Quakers echoes George Fox's teaching about the transforming power of living one's life in God.



And then came the Easter April Fools Day Surprise: children hiding easter eggs for adults!



Religion and Climate Change: Taking Our Planet Back.

An Interfaith Conference on Environment Issues was held at Trinity University, 13 and 14 April. Sponsors included Trinity University Departments of Religion, Political Science and Geosciences, National Religious Coalition on Creation Care, Muslim Student Association, St. Mary's University Ministry, SA Climate Action, City of San Antonio Sustainability and Interfaith Offices, Trinity Unitarian-Universalists, and others.

Friday's plenary was given by Sr. Linda Gibler, Ph.D (Sociology/Anthropology) (and at least 4 other academic degrees) on Pope Francis's encyclical *Laudato Si'*. I have read a small fraction in bits and pieces, finding the stylized formal Catholic theological language like slogging through thick mud, but, together with the presentation, it seems fairly standard Catholic Christian social teaching, with a strong emphasis on human responsibility to Earth - living and inanimate. I missed in the presentation any mention of application of these principles by the Vatican or the Archdiocese of San Antonio.

This was followed by a "Research Fair", a poster presentation by several Trinity students and others. I talked to a Trinity student who was establishing a community garden at an elementary school, to provide outdoor experience and education, and a bit of fresh food, for the students. Another presenter was an architect with a student project in converting a boat house to an efficient small residence. We talked much of embodied energy (energy in making, transporting, and installing the building materials), operational energy consumption, renewable energy with rooftop solar PV, and durability. She's also involved with the SA Fruit Tree Project, to get fruit and shade into SA neighborhoods. I mentioned I was a Quaker and she knew of, and admired, our Meetinghouse. This led to a discussion of the various esthetics - visual and fiscal/operational among them.

The next morning, Douglas Melnick, Chief Sustainability Officer, City of San Antonio, very briefly reviewed the evidence for anthropogenic global warming (AWG). Moving on to current and expected future impacts, he noted the lack of real resiliency planning, using if Hurricane Harvey had come 50 miles further inshore as an example. For the economic implications, he noted that both the DoD BRAC (Base Closure and Conversion) and Moody's bond rating analyses include climate resilience. In other words, if San Antonio doesn't have good plans (with implementation), military bases may be closed and interest rate on city bonds will increase. Population growth, urban sprawl, and unintended consequences must be factored into resiliency planning. The effort currently is the city's SA Climate Ready program, which focuses on energy and equity, i.e., environmental justice. A major issue is how to quantify value of actions, both immediate and delayed/future. He noted that actions will have costs, but that no action also costs.

Carol Fischer of Climate Action SA, a collaboration of several activist groups, was respondent. She noted that the Office of Sustainability is limited by being a bureaucracy, which Climate Action SA attempts to support by saying and doing what a bureaucracy can't. She firmly established environmental justice as a primary criterion, noting historical factors such as redlining that established and maintained environmental inequity. The goal is not tolerance and diversity but rather inclusion. I asked Mr. Melnick three questions. Although the City is a large fraction of the metropolitan area, it's not all. What is the relationship of SA Climate Ready with county and suburban governments. He replied that overtures have been rebuffed. There are climate impacts beyond the city, and county, limits, specifically food and agriculture. Yes, that's a climate impact, but not an issue the City can address. Water is necessary and more is needed for an exploding population. He more or less said that SAWS was handling that well.

A choice of breakout sessions followed. My first was on climate refugees, presented by two Trinity students in the Global Health Initiative “club”. Their major point was that the UN definition of refugees is restricted to war and political refugees; climate refugees are ineligible for UN assistance. Much of the resistance to expanding the definition is due to cost. However, efforts are underway to have “environmentally displaced persons” officially defined as a subcategory of refugee. My second breakout was titled “Interfaith Responses to Climate Change” but was a review of the scientific basis for AGW with essentially no mention of faith- or interfaith-based responses – adaptation, mitigation or anything else.

The first speaker of the afternoon was Len Hering, U.S. Navy Rear Admiral (retired), now with The Center for Climate and Security, with degrees in oceanography, meteorology and business, who called on us, and all Americans and all others, to have an adult conversation about climate change, that is, to face facts, not avoid them, so that we don’t leave our mess for following generations. His major concern was, unsurprisingly, national security, which he saw threatened by food and water, generating mass migrations. He noted that in 2050, a mere 32 years from now, the world will need to produce more food than has been produced in the last 10,000 years. For water, not only coastal flooding from sea level rise, but drought: 85% of the world’s current population lives on the driest half of the planet. Many of these people depend on aquifers, many of which are being irreversibly depleted on any human-relevant time scale. These factors combine to cause mass migrations, occurring now but increasing in the future. He recommended two movies: Human Flow and Thirty Million. Both are available online free.

The last speaker, Rev. Gerald Durley, Senior Pastor, Providence Missionary Baptist Church, Atlanta, one-time youth minister under Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr, and psychology Ph.D., spoke to “Caring for the Environment is a Moral and Civil Rights Issue”. Although I wouldn’t exchange the expectant silence of Quaker Meeting for sermons every Sunday, on this day the soaring cadences of a Southern black Baptist preacher spoke to the core of my soul. He proclaimed that we are in a moral situation: we have all the science we need. We have not connected the dots, because we...have...not...connected...the...dots! Now is the time. We – we! -have been called for a time such as this. There is a time to bless, and a time to blast! The civil rights struggle of the 1960s was successful because they Organized, Strategized, and Mobilized! He echoed Laudato Sí in the moral imperative of care for all creation, with equity for the poor and the voiceless. Who are the voiceless? All other living things, and all future generations of all species. -Bill Sweet

QUAKER SHIRT ORDERS

Shirts cost is \$12 for short sleeve and \$14 for long sleeve and can be paid in cash or check to Carol Redfield. The price on the new cotton versions may vary slightly from this price. **Shirts can be paid for and picked up on Sun May 6 at meeting or at the Quaker fair from 8-10am on Saturday May 12**, or other time by arranging it with Carol Redfield

(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

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

Other organizations use our facilities. Here is a calendar of their meetings:

Wednesday, May 02, 2018	5-6 pm	Yogaia
Saturday, May 05, 2018	8 am-1 pm	Reformed Congregation of the Goddess
Monday, May 07, 2018	6:30-9:30 pm	Insight Meditation
Tuesday, May 08, 2018	6:30-8:30 pm	Plum Branch Sangha
Wednesday, May 09, 2018	5-6 pm	Yogaia
Wednesday, May 09, 2018	6:30-9:30 pm	Celebration Circle
Monday, May 14, 2018	6:30-9:30 pm	Insight Meditation
Tuesday, May 15, 2018	6:30-8:30 pm	Plum Branch Sangha
Wednesday, May 16, 2018	5-6 pm	Yogaia
Wednesday, May 16, 2018	6:30-9:30 pm	Celebration Circle
Thursday, May 17, 2018	5-10pm	Reformed Congregation of the Goddess
Monday, May 21, 2018	6:30-9:30 pm	Insight Meditation
Tuesday, May 22, 2018	6:30-8:30 pm	Plum Branch Sangha
Wednesday, May 23, 2018	6:30-9:30 pm	Celebration Circle
Thursday, May 24, 2018	5 – 10 pm	Reformed Congregation of the Goddess
Monday, May 28, 2018	6:30-9:30 pm	Insight Meditation
Tuesday, May 29, 2018	6:30-8:30 pm	Plum Branch Sangha
Wednesday, May 30, 2018	6:30-9:30 pm	Celebration Circle

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

Facebook:

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

QUERY FOR MAY

***As we work for peace in the world, how are we
nourished by peace in and among ourselves?***

Pony
rides

Friends

FESTIVAL

Arts & Crafts
Baked goods
Food trucks

Herbs
Fresh flowers
Plants

May 12

10am to 2pm

7052 N Vandiver
at Eisenhower Rd.

Puppy
corral

Rummage
Sale