



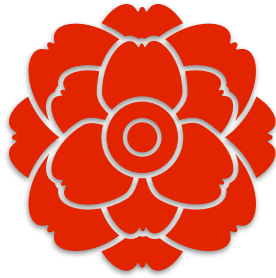
The Friendly News

October 2018 San Antonio Quakers

Events at Friends Meeting of San Antonio

MONDAY Oct 1	4:30-5:30 pm—Yoga with Peggy
SATURDAY Oct 6	10 am-1 pm—Meeting for Weeding (w/ lunch)
SUNDAY Oct 7	10 am—Meeting for Worship 11:15 Pot Luck Lunch
THURSDAY Oct 11	6 pm—Soup and ... 7 pm—Mid-Week Meeting for Worship
SUNDAY Oct 14	10 am—Meeting for Worship 11:30 FORUM: City Charter changes & other election concerns, w/ Reed Williams
MONDAY Oct 15	4:30-5:30 pm—Yoga with Greg
SUNDAY Oct 21	10 am—Meeting for Worship 11:30—Meeting for Business
SATURDAY Oct 27	9am - 3pm—Community Garage Sale (at Meetinghouse)
SUNDAY Oct 28	10 am—Meeting for Worship 11:30 FORUM: How do Friends view the Bible?, w/ Gretchen Haynes
WEDNESDAY Oct 31	7-8 pm—Mid-Week Worship at the Whiting/Rule home All Day—Halloween

October Query:



How do we share our convictions with others? Do we express our opinions with courage, mindful of the Divine Spirit within everyone?

Recent Events:

Free Movie Night

Our first offering, *Where to Invade Next*, a film by Michael Moore, drew about 30 viewers. Rudi of Celebration circle opened with a round of anti-war songs. The movie drew both laughter and thoughtful reflection. And in keeping with the theme of civic responsibility, Kellie set up a voter registration table. While the movie was free, we accepted donations for the Migrant Center for Human Rights and for Thrive Youth Center. We will consider holding other Free Movies and ask Friends what they would like to see. A happy coincidence: Michael Moore's newest film, *Farhenheit 11/9* opened in Los Angeles on Sept. 21.

Vigil for asylum seekers held in Bexar County jail

A group gathered by the People's Campaign, S.A. in front of the GEO jail on Laredo St., in the heart of San Antonio. Friends from Meeting joined others from Esperanza Center and RAICES and gave interviews to two television representatives. The message is that our city is now cooperating with ICE in detaining and processing for deportation both asylum seekers and local undocumented residents who have been picked up by S A Police. A brief period when police chief McManus declared San Antonio a sanctuary city is over, meaning that Mayor Nirenberg and the entire city council are now complicit with ICE and the administration's 0 tolerance policy. A vigil will be held every first Monday of the month, meeting at the corner of Dolorosa and Laredo at noon [next Nov. 5] and proceeding to various city and county buildings. You are welcome to join.

Memorial Meeting for Doug Balfour



Family and Friends gathered on Saturday, September 29 to celebrate the life of our dear friend Doug. Messages were many, deep and heart felt, describing how Doug had affected so many other lives.

We learned about Doug's life, his family, his musical skill, and his varied careers. He had a long history with Friends Meeting, having served as Clerk in the late 1980s and on Ministry and Oversight in recent years. We remember his caring, nurturing attentiveness to all he met. He was particularly skilled at deep vocal ministry in our Meetings for Worship.

Worship was followed by fellowship and a brief video of Doug speaking to his grandchildren from the hospital room, reminding them of the importance of living faithful lives. We will miss Doug's wisdom and gentle sense of humor.

Upcoming Events:

Meeting for Weeding – Saturday Oct 6 (10am-1pm)

And trimming and getting ready for winter. Bring cutting tools and gloves (and bug spray) if you have any, other tools will be provided. To be followed by a **Meeting for Eating** [Pizza for all the workers]. If you can't stay for the entire time, come for as long as you can.

Future Forums – Oct 14 & 28, 11:30am

Oct. 14: the upcoming city election is the subject. Former City Councilman Reed Williams will discuss the proposed Charter amendments and also the city's progress on various issues. Friends involved in city affairs have also been invited.

Oct 28: How Friends view the Bible responds to one of the Quaker Questions. Gretchen will review how Friends in the 1600's would answer, and how contemporary Bible scholarship has influenced Friends. Other Questions will be addressed in future forums. Anyone with a Question is asked to write on the paper provided and put it in the box on the piano.

Community Garage Sale – Oct 27, 9am-2pm

Sell your unused stuff! Participation is open to Friends and all members of the groups that gather at the Meetinghouse. Spaces will be laid out as they are at our festivals similar to our Festival, in the parking lot. \$10.00 donation per space. Personal items only, no businesses or food. Each space is responsible for its own tables, chairs, setup & break down.

The collected donations will go to the Migrant Center or another group in need. At the end of the day, all items left behind will be donated to Roy Maas Thrift. **Contact Peggy at [dialpsd \(at\) sbcbglobal.net](mailto:dialpsd@sbcbglobal.net)**

Silent retreat Lebh Shomea, December 6,7, & 8, 2018.

"When I am silent, I hear my true self and reach my soul.
When I am silent, I hear with a caring heart."

. . . . Thomas Merton



Lebh Shomea, means "Listening Heart. FMSA is again planning a retreat at Lebh Shomea, House of Prayer. The dates are December 6, 7, 8 leaving on Sunday the 9th. Normally, we arrive on Thursday and leave on Sunday. As has been stated, it is perfectly acceptable to have only a two-night retreat if that works best for you. We hope that participants might at least have 3 days, even if part days, of silence. For most of us it takes a day or more to unload from the noise of the world in order to settle into "true self" and into a silence that allows us to hear with a "listening heart."

"Lebh Shomea is an Ecumenical Catholic Silent Retreat Center near Sarita, Texas. Its beautiful grounds, peaceful wooded walking trails and coastal bay -- along with the work of the resident community -- create an atmosphere conducive to prayer and introspection. Silence is observed at all times, except in our group gatherings. Accommodation is in individual rooms or cabins with private bath; meals are simple and nourishing. Participants are welcome to borrow books from the extensive library and are encouraged to take part in the Center's daily morning service."

Throughout the ages, spiritual guides have spoken of the need to make time for inner reflection and self-knowing -- for retreat. This four-day, three-night retreat offers such a time, an opportunity to be attentive to the mystery of God's presence and explore core questions. What are the deep longings of the heart? And, how do they differ from superficial desires? What are the elements of an abundant, spirited life, --in touch with a Great Love, or the inner Light, with self, and others?

Often in silence our special needs surface and give us new perspective about life. This retreat is a spiritual journey that takes place both in solitude and in community with others." Folks from the resident community of Lebh Shomea will provide an orientation when you arrive, and they will show you your room or your cabin. After the meal on Thursday evening, we will gather to share Quaker silent worship together. We also will discuss any issues, concerns that others might have. For example, if you find yourself simply sleeping much of the first twenty-four hours of the retreat, don't worry it has happened to many folks. On Sunday, some folks leave after breakfast and some leave after lunch. Of course, you are welcome to stay and extend your silence.

Each person or couple going are responsible for making their own reservation at Lebh Shomea, phone #: (361) 294-5369. The cost is around \$60 per person per night which includes 3 meals a day. **Lebh Shomea needs a head count as soon as possible. This in no way commits you to going but only helps in holding rooms for the retreat.** Folks always add and drop out up to days before the retreat. Plans change,

For more information on Lebh Shomea Google "Lebh Shomea, House of Prayer".



Notes from our Meeting for Business:

Language

Friends at the Sept Meeting for Business considered the use of special Quaker vocabulary when addressing the general public. For example we can use “children’s program” instead of First Day School, and Thursday instead of Fifth Day. Early Quakers changed reference to days and months which are based on pagan gods [Thor for Thursday, Saturn for Saturday, Janus for January, Mars for March, etc.] FMSA literature and notices will now use the secular terms.

In a similar vein, Friends considered the practice of using only first names, and last initials when confusion might arise, in the official minutes. There has been a concern about privacy; however, such practice could create a sense of in-group and be unwelcoming to attenders. As this is the first time the idea has arisen, it was held over to the October Meeting for Business, hoping that Friends will continue to discern.

Shall We Have a Fall Festival?

An event in late October or November has been suggested to spread the activities of the May Quaker Fair. However, Friends did not express enthusiasm or energy for it this year. **Instead, the December 2nd Media Exchange can be extended to neighbors and the general public.** Books, DVD’s, CD’s and magazines are available during the usual pot luck lunch.

An opportunity to provide service to refugees

The Interfaith Welcome Coalition is looking for individuals and families to be available and on call one week a month to provide transportation from and to the airport or bus station and overnight lodging for a refugee family who is stranded in San Antonio for the night. Because of the unpredictable and sporadic nature of this need, it is important to recognize that such a call may or may not happen during the week on call. Some Spanish is useful and training will be provided. This is a hospitality ministry that will be shared by four different area congregations, under the auspices of the Interfaith Welcome Coalition. **For more information call Jo P. at 210.478.8867.**

Concern for late-comers to Worship

Ministry and Oversight has received concerns about the distraction created when Friends arrive after 10, particularly the opening and closing of the two doors. To address this concern, Friends approved a Minute that: FMSA will keep the doors closed for the first 10 minutes of Meeting for Worship. Late-comers can wait outside and come in together. FMSA will try this for a 3-month period, beginning October 14th and then revisit in M&O and then bring back to Business Meeting for further discernment. It is suggested that those who arrive before 10 leave the benches nearest the door for those arriving later.

Visit the new Website

While the address is sanantonioquakers.org, expect a new format that is easier to get around, with more pictures and features. The transfer was not without a few glitches, now being repaired. Eventually the Newsletter will be mailed via a secure list [now in formation.] We will report more fully as all the services come together.

News from Friends

Janet and Ken Janet had another fall, cracking her pelvis and requiring surgery. After her hospital stay, she transferred to a skilled nursing facility on Sept 19. Ken is suffering from a persistent cough, perhaps an allergy. If anyone wishes to send greetings, please contact [clerk\(at\) sanantonioquakers.org](mailto:clerk(at)sanantonioquakers.org) for their address or email.

Types of Meeting for Worship

San Antonio Friends is an unprogrammed Meeting, meaning that we meet in expectant silence, without a set ritual. Friends who are led by Spirit may rise to speak out of the silence. However, there are other kinds of Meetings, such as our Meeting with Attention to Business, which is held to hear the moving of Spirit on concerns we bring. A Memorial Meeting is held to celebrate the life of a departed Friend, and a Meeting for Marriage is a legal event joining a couple in matrimony. There is also a Meeting for Healing in which Friends hold people, situations, and relationships in the Light. In a more humorous vein, there are Meetings for Eating and Meetings for Weeding.

