

April 2019

The Friendly News

San Antonio Quakers

7052 N. Vandiver (at Eisenhower), San Antonio, Texas 78209

Message Phone: 210.945.8456

Website: www.sanantonioquakers.org

Facebook: @saquakers



April Calendar

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| MONDAY Apr 1 | 4:30-5:30 pm—Yoga with Greg |
| TUESDAY Apr 2 | 7-8 pm—"A Course in Miracles" discussion |
| SUNDAY Apr 7 | 10 am—Meeting for Worship 11:15—Potluck Lunch and Conversation 1:00pm—Quaker Reading Group in Library |
| THURSDAY Apr 11 | 4 pm—Meeting for Weeding 6 pm—Soup and Conversation 7 pm—Mid-Week Meeting for Worship |
| SATURDAY Apr 13 | 9am-3pm—Workday at the Meetinghouse. Come for all or part; bring a bag lunch. |
| SUNDAY Apr 14 | 10 am—Meeting for Worship 11 am—Children's Egg Hunt 11:15— April Birthdays!! 11:30— Meeting for Business (<i>note date change</i>) |
| MONDAY Apr 15 | 4:30-5:30 pm—Yoga with Peggy |
| TUESDAY Apr 16 | 7-8 pm—"A Course in Miracles" discussion |
| THUR-SUN Apr 18-21 | South Central Yearly Meeting, Greene Family Camp, Bruceville, TX |
| SUNDAY Apr 21 | 10 am—Meeting for Worship 11:30— Worship-Sharing on the Meaning of Easter, w/ Colin |
| WEDNESDAY Apr 24 | 7-8pm—Mid-Week Worship at Marian's home |
| SATURDAY Apr 27 | 9:30am-3:15pm—Silent Retreat at the Meetinghouse Come for all or part; bring a bag lunch. |
| SUNDAY Apr 28 | 10 am—Meeting for Worship 11:30 FORUM: "Alternatives to Violence: A Sampler" with Val. |

Note: Children may join in worship for the first 10 minutes then go to the children's program

Inside

p 2: April Query

pp 2-4: Upcoming Events:

- Yoga & Midweek Soup & Worship
- April Forums
- Ongoing Discussions
- Work Parties
- South Central Yearly Meeting
- Silent Retreat
- Thrive Youth Event

pp 4-5: In Coming Months:

- May Faire & Yard Sale
- AVP Workshop
- FGC Gathering

pp 6-7: Recent Events:

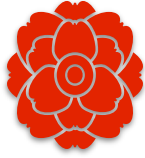
- Event Photos
- Forum on Public Health
- Forum on "The Nones"

pp 8-9: News from Friends

pp 9-11: Essays:

- Finding the Light in Lost Opportunity
- People's Marshall Plan for Central America

April Query:



**Do we make time in our day for silence,
solitude, spiritual reflection, and the growth
of our inner life?**

Upcoming Events:

Subscribe to our Announcements list at our website. This is a separate list from our Newsletter list. You can subscribe to both on the website: the 1st and 2nd items in the right-hand column of any page.



1st & 3rd
Mondays
of the Month

4:30 - 5:30pm



6pm - 7pm
Soup

&



7pm - 8pm
Silent Worship

2nd Thursday of the Month

Future Forums – Apr 21 & 28 11:30am

- Apr 21:** Worship-Sharing about Easter. How does each of us understand Easter? What have been our experiences of this holiday (holy day)? What does it mean for us now? Worship-sharing and conversation facilitated by Colin.
- Apr 28:** Forum on Alternatives to Violence, let by Val. This will be an introduction to the Alternatives to Violence Program. Val will introduce some of the experiential techniques that AVP uses to train people in non-violent ways to reduce conflict.

Ongoing Discussions:

Quaker Reading Group: Will meet on Sunday, April 7th at 1pm following Potluck, in the Library. All are welcome! Please direct questions to Margaret McA.

Course in Miracles: David H. will be facilitating a conversation about “A Course in Miracles”, open to Friends and others who are interested in the spiritual journey.



Work Parties at the Meetinghouse

The Property Committee has scheduled a “Meeting for Weeding” starting at 4pm on Thursday, April 11th, immediately before our 6pm Soup and Conversation and 7pm Midweek Worship.

There will also be a work party at the Meetinghouse from 9am-3pm on Saturday, April 13th. Come whenever you want and stay as long as you like. Please bring a bag lunch.

NOTE: the Saturday “Meeting for Weeding” will be the 2nd Saturday this month, not the 3rd. This makes room for Yearly Meeting

South Central Yearly Meeting: April 18-21

This is the annual gathering of Friends from our sister states; worship together, workshops, worship sharing “Home Groups,” singing, star-gazing, puzzles, books to buy, and occasional business sessions. At Greene Family Camp, Bruceville, TX.

This year's theme is “Knowing, Being, Doing”. Workshops will focus on Knowing and Doing while the overarching theme will be about Being (turning inward to the Light). We draw from the queries in the Home Groups, Epistles that are read, Worship Sharing as well as much attention to Worship in general. A good place for our children to meet other Quaker kids in supervised activities.

For details, surf over to SCYM.org and register. Financial assistance is available in the registration.

Silent Retreat, April 27

FMSA is sponsoring a Silent Retreat at the Meetinghouse on April 27th, from 9:30am-3:15pm. Come for all or part of the day. Bring something for a Brown Bag Lunch at noon. The schedule:

- **9:30 – 11: Silent Worship.** In the meeting room or on the grounds.
- **11 – Noon: Active Silence.** 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. Writing, walking, patching your jeans, knitting. We can do meditative things silently together.
- **Noon-12:45: Silent Lunch.**
- **12:45-1:30: Active Silence.**
- **1:30 – 2:45: Silent Worship.** In the meeting room or on the grounds.
- **2:45 – 3:15: Worship Sharing.** Reflecting together on the day’s experience.

Thrive Youth Center Event – April 27th

Thrive Youth Center will host **See One / Help One 2019** on Saturday, April 27, 2019 from 11am - 3pm at Maverick Park. This event aims to engage homeless youth by hosting community partner organizations (including HIV rapid testing, counseling services, and housing resources) that will be available to connect immediately with clients.

In addition, the event aims to educate individuals and families about ways they can assist in ending homelessness in San Antonio and bring awareness to organizations that need financial support, volunteers, and general donations of goods and services.

Starbucks will provide free beverages and snacks during the event. We will have a food truck, Malik's Philly Phamous Cheesesteaks, serving clients for free after they register for services and selling to the public at a reduced price. Come out and join us!



Maverick Park
San Antonio, Texas



In Coming Months:

Friends Fair and Jumble Sale: May 11

Our 5th annual neighborhood celebration of all things Quaker.

- Jumble Sale: Now's the time to begin clearing those storerooms of all that you no longer use, but others would be glad to take home – for a reasonable price of course. And your books ready to recycle. You can reserve a space in the parking lot for \$10 or donate to Meeting for the general sale. Bring your donations to Meeting from April 28.
- We'll feature a bouncy house, supervised, and children's activities while their parents meander with hearts and purses open.
- Also new this year is our bar-be-que, staffed by the Thrive Youth Center and offering vegetarian options as well as the standard fare. Our big seller has been "Home Baked Goodies," this year produced in a certified kitchen as per S A Dept. of Health.



- All this activity takes many hands, starting with set up at 8 am through take down at 2 pm. You can volunteer on the list posted in the Community room. Be a part of history!

Alternatives to Violence Workshop – June 7-9

There will be an AVP Basic Workshop on June 7th-9th. AVP is dedicated to reducing violence: on the streets, at work, in schools, in homes, and in relationships everywhere. The Basic Workshop is an interactive, intensive, 2-day experience that hones interpersonal conflict-resolution skills. It is fun and empowers personal growth. Experiential exercises, small groups, and one-to-one interactions build community and trust around the themes of:



- Affirmation & Self Esteem
- Communication & Cooperation
- Creative Conflict Resolution

Registration Fee: \$75.00. There is a sliding scale based on participants' ability to pay. The fee includes light meals (lunches on Saturday & Sunday) and snacks. There will be vegetarian options, and please let us know if you have any special dietary requirements. To be held at the Presentation Ministry Center, 2003 Ruiz, SA 78207.

Please register now. The workshop is limited to 20 participants. To hold your spot, we ask for a deposit of \$25.00. If you wish to attend, speak with Margarita McA. at 210-495-5669 or email her at margaritamcauliff@gmail.com

Friends General Conference Gathering, June 30 – July 6:

This year, the FGC international Quaker bash in Grinnell, Iowa – practically in our own back yard. Theme: Peace in Our Hearts/ Justice in the World. Registration begins April 1 for workshops at the [website \[fgcquakers.org\]](http://www.fgcquakers.org).

The 2019 Gathering has received a generous donation to support family and youth attendance this year! Children and Teen's Program Fee WAIVED. 50% of Children and Teen's Meals COVERED. MORE SCHOLARSHIPS



available to Families and Teens. For more details on assistance, workshops, etc.: [fgcquakers.org/gathering](http://www.fgcquakers.org/gathering) Funds are also available from SCYM and FMSA.

Recent Meeting Events:

Photo from March “Soup and Conversation”



Two Photos from March “Meeting for Weeding”



Forum on Public Health

Debbie P. gave a detailed talk on the state of the U.S. health system. She provided information about how that system is structured, why it is structured that way, where it works and where it doesn't, and possible alternatives. She also provided tips for health care advocacy: things we can do to help ourselves as well as those we can do to help others.

Public health workers promote and protect the health of people and the communities where they live, learn, work and play. They work to prevent people from getting sick or injured in the first place. They track disease outbreaks, prevent injuries and shed light on why some of us are



more likely to suffer from poor health than others. And they implement policies and interventions that improve population health

Among other texts, she cited the position of the World Health Organization:

“The right to health for all people means that everyone should have access to the health services they need, when and where they need them, without suffering fi-

nancial hardship. No one should get sick and die just because they are poor, or because they cannot access the health services they need.”

Forum: What about the “Nones”?

According to a recent survey, 43.6% of those in San Antonio answering said “None of the Above” when asked about their religious affiliation. The growth of Nones from 2000 to 2010 is 127% (city-data.com). Nationwide it is 23%, according to the Pew survey. Rick McClatchy presented startling results of his research on this phenomenon – growing by 1% a year in the last 10 years [U S Census data.]

Who are the Nones? Predominately young men, around 30% have had some religious affiliation in the past but have rejected organized religions. These, they believe, are more interested in preserving the past than reaching out to “nonconformists.” Instead Nones embrace awe and wonder and seek spiritual experiences – such as immersion in nature, silent meditation, or solitude. They are not atheists or even agnostics, by and large, but rather seek a cosmic spirituality. They reject certitude and embrace humility. They wish to be on a journey of growth and discovery, and they accept doubt and mystery. They believe same gender couples should be allowed to marry and abortion should remain legal.

Rick quoted several historical and contemporary spiritual leaders, including George Fox, who echoed the need for authentic religious experience rather than following church doctrines and rituals. He recommended a TED Talk by Leslie Hazelton, who reflects on the rise of Nones. He asked those attending the forum to list some words that arose when asked about Quakers. Stillness, Shared Intent, Waiting, Contemplation, Mystery, Peaceful, Experiential. These sentiments mirror the values of Nones.

News from Friends:

From Colette Blakely: It has been a busy winter for me. I live in Central Utah. The nearest Quaker Meeting is about 2 hours away. I have not attended that meeting with any frequency. My family and I do attend IMYM Yearly Meeting. We consider that a most important annual Quaker renewal for our family. We are planning to attend again this year at Ghost Ranch. One of my Utah grandsons attended the Quaker Camp in New Mexico last summer.

In my own community I host a small Sunday morning meeting in my home in winter and under the huge cottonwood tree in the summer. We have an interesting mix of faith traditions. Though I am the only Quaker, it is a special first day for all of us. I serve on the Sevier Valley Interfaith Council as "their Quaker representative". So as you may gather, I see myself as a Quaker.

Thank you for reaching out to me. I often center myself with a vision of the SA Meeting space and the adjoining greenbelt area. Many familiar spirits are around me. Peace to you all.

From Mel Zuck: I certainly do want to keep in touch with Meeting and a few old timers. Without Ruth Lofgren and now with Ken and Janet gone, I have lost two of my informal contacts.

Just a note about our Meeting in Greensboro. It seems that what goes around really does come around. Our Friendship Meeting has outgrown a converted residence, so a successful building fund was launched, and of course I was drawn into the fundraising. The new meeting room will soon become a reality. Y'all come visit us next year, hear?

I'll not repeat details because you already have records. However, you might make certain that Priscilla's date of death was October 19, 2016. I do deeply miss her after 73 years of marriage.

From Ginger & Jim Kenney: Thank you for a wonderful newsletter. I regularly share it with our meeting. It really thrills me to see how active and alive you all are.

Jim and I were members years ago. In fact, San Antonio was the first Meeting I joined. The values and suggestions of the Quaker Meeting are very much a part of us. Jim was a Presbyterian minister and CPA. We were in SA doing an audit for three years and the friends I made there will always stay with me. We are retired now and live in a retirement village, Lakewood Village. This truly is a village and we left our Quaker Meeting in KC, Penn Valley Meeting, and now worship in the non-denominational service here at Lakewood. We even sing in the choir. Jim is on oxygen full time so we cannot travel now. Please come and visit with us and enjoy KC temporarily. We miss you all and send loving greetings to you all. Thank you again.



From Ken Southwood: Our small group of Friends in Singapore was quite distinguished. We had the chairs of the university departments of Economics, Horticulture, and Pharmacology. The chairman of Horticulture told us this story:

An American from Hawaii was in Singapore and saw a profusion of one kind of orchid in stores, which he did not recognize. He inquired. It was a hybrid orchid, Vanda Miss Joaquim and was very easy to grow. He obtained a stalk and took it back to Hawaii. It is protected from drying out by a cuticle. He gave it to his gardener, who tended it carefully in a greenhouse, then, when unsuccessful, outside. Finally, confessing failure, it was thrown on the garbage heap. A while later they saw blooms on the garbage heap. It's that easy to grow. The New York Times says that Vanda Miss Joaquim is now the national flower of Singapore.

Essays:

Finding the Light in Lost Opportunity

By Kellie P.

"When you're on your path, the universe conspires to help you." --Brene Brown

I had recently applied for a promotion at work. The position came open unexpectedly, and I was one of several highly qualified candidates. I had about two months to meditate on every possible outcome, and Friends encouraged me throughout the entire process. I had expressed at one point that my biggest frustration was the waiting, feeling as though I was unable to move in either direction. A Friend suggested that I sit in silence with both outcomes and work through the emotions either way, which I did.

The day before the announcement, I got the feeling the Spirit was preparing me for the news. An audio book on resilience that I had put on hold months ago suddenly appeared on my phone. I began listening to it, and the first chapters were about coming back from disappointment. Then, the morning of, I had a dream that my colleague had gotten the promotion.

When the announcement came (and it was indeed my colleague), I was at peace. Instead of dwelling in feelings of disappointment, I was able to feel joy for my colleague and genuinely feel positive about this new development.

Throughout the process, I had repeatedly asked Friends to hold me in Light, and my prayer had been that the right person for the job be chosen, and that if it was not me, that I would be able to support that person fully. And that is precisely what happened. The experience helped me to trust in my path, even though I may not know the final destination, and to realize that sometimes prayers are answered in unexpected ways.



Create the People's Marshall Plan for Central America

By Val Liveoak*

For the last 16 years Friends and others have created and been nurtured by a project called Peacebuilding en las Américas (PLA), an initiative of Friends Peace Teams. We train local peace-makers in Latin America to lead Alternatives to Violence Project workshops and other workshops in Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, and other countries. We work with inmates, gang members, those protecting indigenous land rights, abused women, school students and many other groups who work hard to bring peace to their communities in spite of the vicious violence surrounding them.

Few of the people we work with are able or ready to flee the oppression and far too many suffer from unemployment, police and government corruption, cultures of violence and domestic abuse, national and international companies that lay waste to their land, and serious natural disasters caused, in part, by climate change. These countries are awash in guns and other weapons that came into circulation when the United States government funded the Drug War and campaigns against political opponents. Demand from the US population created a rush of dehumanizing drug and human trafficking cartels in the region. Lastly the extractive economic policy of the US not only depletes the local environment but also offers a vision of the American Dream that becomes a magnet that is so hard to resist for the victims of this oppression.

* Tom Martin helped with revisions of this article, a version of which will appear in the Spring edition of PeaceWays, the bulletin of Friends Peace Teams.

However, the US immigration policies do not address the dire economic situations, the lack of safety even within families, and the desperate human needs that abound, although many immigrants are indeed refugees. No one would leave home, walk thousands of miles carrying small children, and risk harm to their families if local conditions were not intolerable.

Let us not invest further billions of dollars in a wall. Let us stop adding to the local misery by stealing local natural resources and undermining their democracy by supporting corrupt and brutal local governments. Let us find ways to reduce the demand for illegal drugs and the lure of extremely cheap labor. Let us remedy the ills our country has laid upon Latin Americans. Let us work together with the locals and create

- The People's Marshall Plan for Central America
- Build a culture of nonviolence and justice
- Restore democracies
- Empower local citizens to rebuild the infrastructures
- Transfer the power of the multinational corporations to local cooperatives or community-based business.

For anyone concerned about US immigration policies in Latin America, Peacebuilding en las Américas has ongoing programs to empower local citizens and partner groups to create cultures of peace that will truly benefit all Central Americans. Let's do it. Let's start with financial donations to PLA. Please send checks to FPT/PLA, 1004 Park Avenue, St Louis MO 63104, or go to <https://friendspeaceteams.org/pla/> to make a donation.

