

August 2019

# The Friendly News

## San Antonio Quakers

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## August Calendar

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| WEDNESDAY July 31   | <b>7-8pm—Mid-Week Worship, home of Joni &amp; James</b>  |
| FRIDAY August 2     | 9 am—Tai chi in Courtyard ( <i>weekly</i> )<br>8:30-9:30pm—Night Shift Meditation ( <i>bi-weekly</i> )   |
| SUNDAY August 4     | <b>10 am—Meeting for Worship</b><br><b>11:15—Potluck Lunch and Conversation</b><br>12:30pm—Quaker Reading Group on porch<br>4:30-5:30 pm—Yoga with Greg<br>5:30-6:30 pm—Community Engagement Comm. |
| MONDAY August 5     | 7-8 pm—"A Course in Miracles" discussion ( <i>weekly</i> )   |
| TUESDAY August 6    | 5-6pm—Peace & Social Concerns Committee  |
| THURSDAY August 8   | 6-7 pm—Soup and Conversation<br><b>7-8pm—Mid-Week Meeting for Worship</b><br>9 am—Tai chi in Courtyard ( <i>weekly</i> )   |
| FRIDAY August 9     | <b>10 am—Meeting for Worship</b>   |
| SUNDAY August 11    | <b>11:30—FORUM: "Faith &amp; Play" program with Joni</b><br>7-8 pm—"A Course in Miracles" discussion ( <i>weekly</i> )   |
| TUESDAY August 13   | 9 am—Tai chi in Courtyard ( <i>weekly</i> )  |
| FRIDAY August 16    | 8:30-9:30pm—Night Shift Meditation ( <i>bi-weekly</i> )  |
| SUNDAY August 18    | <b>10 am—Meeting for Worship</b><br><b>11:15—August Birthdays!! Coffee &amp; Conversation</b><br><b>NO Meeting for Business in August</b>  |
| MONDAY August 19    | 4:30-5:30 pm—Yoga with Peggy   |
| TUESDAY August 20   | 7-8 pm—"A Course in Miracles" discussion ( <i>weekly</i> )   |
| FRIDAY August 23    | 9 am—Tai chi in Courtyard ( <i>weekly</i> )  |
| SUNDAY August 25    | <b>10 am—Meeting for Worship</b><br><b>11:30 FORUM: "Ethical Eating" with Oliver</b>   |
| TUESDAY August 27   | 7-8 pm—"A Course in Miracles" discussion ( <i>weekly</i> )   |
| WEDNESDAY August 28 | <b>7-8pm—Mid-Week Worship, home of Joni &amp; James</b>  |

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

## August Query



**Do we rejoice in the presence of children and young people in our meeting and recognize the gifts they bring?**

## August 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 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

*Last Wednesday Midweek at Joni & James' home this month*

## Future Forums – August 11 & 25 11:30am

**August 14:** Introducing “Faith in Play”, a Program for Children: Joni will present what she learned at the “Faith in Play” workshop in Dallas last month. She suggests that Friends may wish to use parts of it for our children’s program.

**August 28:** Ethical Eating: Our Food Choices: A forum/discussion on food, eating, and the social and environmental consequences of our choices. Led by Oliver G.

## Ongoing Events:

**Quaker Reading Group:** Will meet on Sunday, August 4<sup>th</sup> at 12:30pm following Potluck, on the Porch or in the Library (depending on the weather). We will be reading a Pendle Hill pamphlet, now available in the library. You are welcome to join the reading group even if you haven’t read the current pamphlet.

**Course in Miracles:** David H. facilitates a conversation about “A Course in Miracles”, open to Friends and others who are interested in the spiritual journey. Now meeting every Tuesday (August 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, & 27<sup>th</sup>) 7-8pm. In the Library.

**Work Parties at the Meetinghouse:** There will be no work parties in August. Too hot!!

**Tai Chi on Friday Mornings:** A group will be holding Tai Chi exercises in the courtyard from 9:00 am on Fridays. This is not a class, but rather a time for those who know a bit of Tai Chi to practice together. Led by Julie L. from Plum Branch Sangha. Check with Pam S. for more information. **Weekly**

**“Night Shift” Mindful Meditation:** Join us on two Friday evenings for a period of mindful meditation, walking meditation and ambient music, followed by tea and fellowship. This event helps us make the shift from a busy work week. Michael R. facilitates. [michael@morning-shift.com](mailto:michael@morning-shift.com) **August 2<sup>nd</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>, 8:30-9:30 pm**



*You are welcome to join any of these activities.*

## Updates from Business Meeting:

### Homeless Visitors

The recent spate of homeless visitors to our property has lessened. Some have been very quiet and kind. Others have not. To meet the concerns over our responsibility for their behavior, Friends approved wording for signs to be posted at the entrances and on the property. We wish to avoid overt invitation to occupancy while not barring occasional daytime visits for contemplation and prayer. The final wording states:

You are entering [OR This is] private property owned by Friends Meeting of San Antonio. It is a place of worship and contemplation. Camping, overnight stays, and weapons are not allowed.

We will continue to investigate what other Meetings and churches are doing for people without permanent housing in their areas. As a Meeting, we support the Catholic Worker drop-in center on Nolan Street.

## Lunch Ministry

Friends approved joining an ongoing project of the Interfaith Welcome Coalition: buying supplies and preparing 50 bag lunches for asylum seekers traveling to their families or sponsors across the country. Four or five volunteers will spend about 3 hours assembling two sets of lunches per bag – the first session is slated for early September. We are joining other area churches in this monthly support of migrants. The cost is estimated at \$125. per session and will come from the yoga class donations, with any shortfall covered by Greg and John. Watch for an announcement of the day and time if you wish to help with this project. Surf to <https://interfaithwelcomecoalition.org/get-involved/> to learn about other ways to help.



## Solar Panels



Meeting approved the purchase of solar panels through CPS Energy's latest Community Solar Initiative. They won't be installed on our property, as our roof is not efficiently oriented. They will be built over parking lots in another part of the city. That means they do double-duty. They generate energy and they lower city temperatures by reducing the amount of sun hitting asphalt. The panels will reduce Meeting's net energy consumption by 87%. Ours isn't built yet, so here's a photo of a similar project.

## We Have a New Treasurer!

Bill S. has agreed to serve Meeting as Treasurer, providing release to Bill W. who has served long and faithfully. Friends in Meeting for Business determined that enough notice has preceded this day's formal announcement to allow us to waive the traditional second reading of the Nomination. The new Bill will take on the responsibilities as soon as he returns from vacation.

We now need people to pick up some of Bill S.'s old jobs. If you would like to collect the calls from our answering machine, keep the Meeting directory organized, serve on Property Committee, or take over as FCNL representative, please see Bill or a Member of the Nominating Committee (Laura, Gretchen, or \_\_\_\_\_).



## Notes from Recent Events:

### August Meeting for Weeding

On a recent Saturday, about 15 Friends, friends, and members of the groups who meet here in the evenings set about the grounds to weed the butterfly garden and adjacent areas, carry the



offending plants to the creek, trim the trumpet vine arbor, and scrape weeds off the gravel in the courtyard. Others organized the table-storage closet and the children's books. Breakfast tacos with home-made beans and salsa, donuts, coffee, and tea were welcome sustenance and provided breaks from the labors [and the heat]. An offering of celery, cucumber slices and cold watermelon rounded out the culinary contributions.

### July Forums on Personal Environmental Stewardship and on Quakerism and Jungian Psychology

On July 14<sup>th</sup>, Greg C. led a discussion on what we can each do to live more simply and save our environment. We focused on practical changes we can make, both large and small. Examples included simple ways of saving water, minimizing trash, and living more lightly on the planet.

On July 28<sup>th</sup>, Gary W. led a forum on the mutual relevance of Quaker thought and Carl Jung's depth psychology. Gary talked about how Jung encouraged *individuation*: a psychological process in which people develop their own natural character and learn to follow their personal leadings. This parallels the Quaker testimony of integrity and the idea that we each have leadings from the divine.

Both forums were well-attended.



## Report from Friends General Conference

*by Gretchen Haynes*

South Central Yearly Meeting was this year's official sponsor for Gathering at Grinnell College, Iowa, with the theme Peace in our Hearts; Justice in the World. Three F/friends from San Antonio attended, along with over 800 from around the world. The opening worship led off with a request that F/friends begin with wordless humming. While it obviously calmed restless children in

the front of the chapel, some thought it went on too long and one expressed disapproval for a "contrived" event.



within FGC held a conversation with sought to redefine the term racism, to make recommendations for the followed with afternoon sessions in the various workshops, and the week.

Institutional



Each evening, all Gathering goers join in the chapel to explore a topic of interest with an expert in the field. The plenary Monday was on the climate crisis. The plenary on Tuesday set the tone for balance of the week: five members of the

Assessment of Systemic Racism [IA] each other, and with F/friends. They review the findings of the IA, and to organization. Ample opportunities devoted to exploring the issues, time informal conversations throughout

My workshop on Welcoming Newcomers was sensitive to how the best intentions can sometimes be hurtful to people of color, without our being aware of the results. These "microaggressions" can be in body language, tone of voice, dismissal of suggestions. Beyond considering this failure, the workshop offered many helpful ideas of inclusion.

Another plenary offered joyous and thought-provoking songs by John McCutcheon, many for children and many for all to join Fish illustrated the program he directs for Native Americans in reentering society from prison. And Friends Committee on staff and volunteers described their work in Congress to pass immigration laws and in the community to support immigrants.



performed in. Tony Oklahoma Legislation realistic



The Peace Place, an innovation this year, offered different slide presentations each day illustrating climate crisis, the Mid East conflict, African diaspora, and Central American asylum seekers. Viewers were encouraged to find ways to stay with the horrific images rather than turn away. Deep discussions followed each. The peace flags now hanging in our Meetinghouse (and featured on this page) were made after the various presentations.

## Coming Events:

### Quaker Orientation: Going Beyond Silence

*"8x6 @ 7-9 (9 & 10)"*

Are you wondering about the weird way Quakers seek spiritual renewal? Or how we get anything done with seemingly cumbersome procedures? Why all the numbers? We have inherited a rich reputation for social justice and peace activism. But what are we doing lately to deserve it? All these and more questions will be explored in a six-week series starting September 11.

This 6-week intensive series covers the main topics of Quaker faith and practice. We hope for eight participants. While we recognize that life can get in the way, we hope if you sign up, you'll make every effort to attend all sessions.

We'll start with how we gather in waiting silence, then look at what early Quakers discovered and its relevance today, the central concept of the Light, how Quakers live in the world [Testimonies], our unique decision-making process, and finally the wider Quaker world and tying up loose ends.

Each session will have about 2 hours of reading to prepare and will begin with a brief outline of the topic by the facilitator. We will then be open for discussion, ending with worship sharing on the ideas that have emerged.

Details: Wed. evenings from 7-9 in the Library starting Sept 11 & 18, continuing Oct 2, 9, 16 & 23. For more information, please contact Gretchen H. after worship or at [jmhaynes@earthlink.net](mailto:jmhaynes@earthlink.net). The signup sheet is in the Community Room, on the Religious Education board.

### Fall Yard Sale

We are looking forward to more community building, within the Meeting and with our neighbors. In that spirit, we approved another Yard Sale for late October or early November.

Since there is not a lot of preparation needed, an interest group will form closer to the actual date.

Here's a photo from the last one.





## Meeting Misc:

### The Little Tree on the Corner

*By Pam Spurgeon*

Maybe you never noticed that the Meeting sign at the corner of Eisenhower and N. Vandiver is sort of straddling a small tree. I never really paid it much attention myself until recently. When Peggy asked me and Debbie R. to think about landscaping around the proposed new Meeting-house sign, I figured I had best take a look at what was there.

I was surprised that the new sign would be perpendicular to Eisenhower. I learned from Debbie that the little tree, which I now think of as being hugged by the old sign, was slated for removal. I asked Debbie said it is a bluewood condalia, and rather rare. It's a native, and most of them stay shrubs rather than trees.

Well, I knew I wouldn't know a condalia if I ran right into one, so after reading about it on the Ladybird Johnson website ([https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id\\_plant=coho](https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=coho)) I hightailed it over to the meetinghouse to take a look. It seemed to be a pretty unique little tree and I



Photo by Joseph A. Marcus

figured if Debbie, the former City of San Antonio arborist, was sad to think of it being removed, then I would see if it really had to go.

I tested the waters with Michelle D. who immediately hugged our little condalia. That was all I needed to start a "Save the Condalia" quest. I set up a meeting with Peggy, Laura, and Debbie to see what could be done.

At the meeting, we learned that the current sign was laid out expressly to preserve the Bluewood Condalia by none other than Ruth Lofgren. Peggy and Laura agreed to try to

come up with alternatives to save the tree. They arranged another consultation with the sign maker. We can move the sign, but we'll need to get a survey of the property to see just where to put it. Property committee will handle this task

I hope you will take a look at this nice little tree. Read about it on the link. It's a good food source for wildlife and stays green most of the year. It's not spectacular-- just a plain tree doing its job of sequestering carbon and feeding the birds.



## Quaker Lobbying for a Response to Climate Change

*By Bill Sweet*



On 02 July, I lobbied Rep. Henry Cuellar, via his staffer Nadia Islam, at the regular monthly Neighborhood Office Hour.

The "ask", which basically repeated the last 8 months of lobbying visits, was to actively support and vote for H.R. 763, Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019.

The new wrinkle was the letter from 477 global institutional investors with over \$37 trillion under management that was sent to the recently concluded G20 conference in Japan. The letter decries the ambition gap between current actions and full implementation of the Paris Climate Agreement and states that this gap "is of great concern to investors and needs to be addressed, with urgency."

It also says that "countries and companies that lead in...enacting strong climate and low carbon energy policies will see significant economic benefits." These investment institutions include governments (e.g., Illinois), quasi-governmental organizations (e.g., CALPERS) and private companies based in many countries. These are not liberal snowflakes but very hard-nosed, bottom line-focused finance folks. This should impress conservative and business-oriented elected officials - or so I (and FCNL) hope.

My second point was a recent study by the Yale Program on Climate Change Communication which combined survey data with other information to estimate agreement with the statements: 1) "global warming is damaging my local community", 2) "fossil fuel companies are responsible for global warming damages", and 3) "fossil fuel companies should pay for those damages, at least partially". A fourth question asked the level of trust in fossil fuel companies.

The results were reported at the national, state, county, Metropolitan Statistical Area, and Congressional District level. At the national, Texas, and Texas Congressional District 28 (Cuellar) levels, a slim majority agreed with the first three statements. Roughly two-thirds of adults in these same groups did NOT trust fossil fuel companies. Unfortunately, Congress is presently focused on the appropriations process, to avoid another government shutdown, thus attention to H.R. 763 or much of anything else (except immigration) is close to zero.

*Bill will be on vacation for the next Neighborhood Office Hour,  
but he expects to lobby again in September.  
He welcomes anyone who wishes to accompany him.*