

June 2019

# The Friendly News

## San Antonio Quakers

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## June Calendar

SUNDAY June 2	<b>10 am—Meeting for Worship</b> <b>11:15—Potluck Lunch and Conversation</b> 12:30pm—Quaker Reading Group in Library
MONDAY June 3	4:30-5:30 pm—Yoga with Peggy 5:30-6:30 pm—Community Engagement Comm.
TUESDAY June 4	7-8 pm—"A Course in Miracles" discussion in Library ( <b>every week</b> )
FRIDAY June 7	10 am—Tai chi in Courtyard ( <b>every week</b> )
SUNDAY June 9	<b>10 am—Meeting for Worship</b> <b>11:30—FORUM: "What can we do to address climate change?"</b>
THURSDAY June 13	4:00 pm—Landscaping work party 5-6pm—Peace & Social Concerns Committee 6-7 pm—Soup and Conversation <b>7-8pm—Mid-Week Meeting for Worship</b>
FRIDAY June 14	8:30-9:30—Mindful Meditation ( <b>bi-weekly</b> )
SATURDAY June 15	9:30am-1 pm—Workday at the Meetinghouse. Come for all or part; bring a bag lunch.
SUNDAY June 16	<b>10 am—Meeting for Worship</b> <b>11:15—June Birthdays!!</b> <b>11:30—Meeting for Business</b>
MONDAY June 17	4:30-5:30 pm—Yoga with Greg
SUNDAY June 23	<b>10 am—Meeting for Worship</b> <b>11:30 FORUM: "Further Conversation on Long-Range Planning"</b>
WEDNESDAY June 26	<b>7-8pm—Mid-Week Worship at Marian's home</b>
SUNDAY June 23	<b>10 am—Meeting for Worship</b> <b>11:30 FORUM: "To be Announced"</b>

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

## June Query:



**Am I honest and truthful in all that I say and do, even when compromise might be easier or more popular?**

## 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 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

## Future Forums – June 9 & 23 11:30am

**June 9:** What Can We Do to Address Climate Change? Facilitated by Bill S.

Following South Central Yearly Meeting's formation of a Committee to Develop a Response to Climate Change, we seek involvement of individuals as well as Meeting. This forum will explore practical options on both levels.

**June 23:** A Conversation on Long-Range Planning: What' Next?

Last month's discussion was so rich that we have decided to continue it in June. See below for details about the May 12<sup>th</sup> Forum

## Ongoing Discussions:

**Quaker Reading Group:** Will meet on Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup> at 12:30pm following Potluck, in the Library. All are welcome! The group has grown from 4 to 10. It has read *Four Doors to Meeting for Worship*, by William Taber, and *The Burning Oneness Binding Everything*, by Bruce Birchard. The June selection is *Quaker Views of Mysticism*, by Margery Post Abbott now available in the library. You are welcome to join the circle even if you haven't read the current pamphlet

**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. June 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, & 25<sup>th</sup>, 7-8pm in the Library.

## Work Parties at the Meetinghouse

The Property Committee has scheduled a “Meeting for Weeding” starting at 4pm on Thursday, June 9<sup>th</sup>, immediately before our 6pm Soup and Conversation and 7pm Midweek Worship. **Help get the grounds ready for the Quaker Spring Faire.**

There will also be a work party at the Meetinghouse from 9am-3pm on Saturday, June 18<sup>th</sup>. **Please help us get the grounds ready for Katherine & Ben’s wedding!** Come whenever you want and stay as long as you like. Please bring a bag lunch.



Meeting  
for  
Weeding

2nd Thursday of the Month  
4:00 - 6:00pm

3rd Saturday of the Month  
9:00am - 3:00pm\*

\*check online calendar to confirm times

## Two New Events on Fridays in June

1. A group will be holding Tai Chi exercises in the courtyard from 10 am. 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**
2. “Night Shift” will meet from 8:30 to 9:30 pm on Friday the 14<sup>th</sup> and the 28<sup>th</sup>. It’s designed for anyone interested in shifting into a calmer mind frame to start the weekend. These guided and walking mindfulness meditations are coupled with incredibly grounding ambient music. 100% no cellphones allowed in the room. Michael Robinson will facilitate.  
[michael@morning-shift.com](mailto:michael@morning-shift.com) **Bi-weekly**

*You are welcome to join either or both of these activities.*

## Recent Events:

### May 11<sup>th</sup>: Quaker Spring Faire

Despite the threat of rain, our 2019 Spring Faire was a success. Friends gathered to bake cookies and cakes in Karen’s restaurant kitchen. We rented a bouncy house for the children (both young and old). People set up tables, sold crafts, distributed literature, and had a great time.

*Check out the photos on the next page!*



## Photos from the 2019 Quaker Spring Faire



## May 12<sup>th</sup>: Forum on Long-Range Planning

Carol R. & Joni M. facilitated a discussion of ideas about what's next for FMSA. We emphasized that this was about exploration, not decision making.

After opening with a brief history of the property, the first consideration was whether and why we would want to add another structure. Among the reasons mentioned were a visible street presence, more space for youth and teens, office space for other non-profit organizations, caretaker living quarters, and more storage. Completing the horseshoe along the south side of the courtyard is a possibility, but the focus was on the site along the upper parking lot. It has utility connections and construction would be less disruptive to habitat and Meeting activities.

Carol confirmed that we have enough funds for a multi-functional building. The question is whether a building the best use of our resources. Should we instead be supporting other agencies in the community? Among the many comments were:

- How can we best serve our growing membership, including our children?
- How can we best serve our community?
- Would a new building project Quaker values?
- A new building requires maintenance. The Property Committee is stretched now.
- If there is to be a building, we need a budget line to pay for building & grounds work.
- A tenant could help with the maintenance tasks.
- We provide an island for people around us to walk and rest.
- "If you build it, they will come." If we don't build it, they won't come (and we may not be able to serve our growing children). We must think ahead.

We ended the discussion with the intent of continuing the conversation next month (at the June 23<sup>rd</sup> Forum). We need to hear both everyone's hopes and hesitations.

## May 25<sup>th</sup>: Katherine & Ben's Wedding

Katherine, Ben, their daughters, family and many F/friends celebrated their marriage in the manner of Friends on May 25. After the Meeting settled into silence, Ben and Katherine rose from the simple wooden wedding chairs and exchange vows. They signed the marriage certificate, then the guests gave heart-felt messages of love and hope. At the rise of Meeting, the guests signed as witnesses and then enjoyed a potluck reception on the porch. The long tables were dotted with bowls overflowing with colorful fruit. The festive meal concluded with the three-tiered cake, baked by Ivory their daughter.



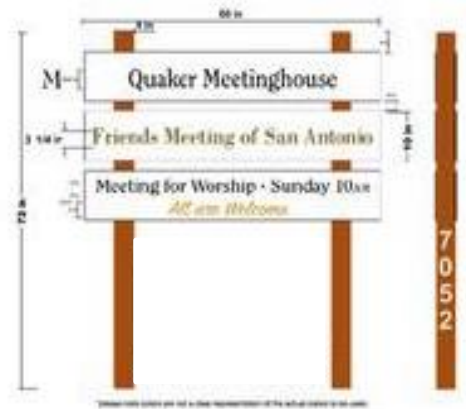
The wedding committee of Greg, Peggy, Stephen, and Jim worked with Katherine and Ben to bring their ideas of simplicity and harmony to reality. Joined by many others as the needs arose, the teamwork proved again just how powerful it can be in securing success for events.

## Other News:

### A New Sign for FMSA:

The culmination of many months of discernment, and several designs, the new sign for the Meeting was approved and purchase and installation will move forward. Thoughtful discussion cleared many reservations, but not all. One Friend found the designs unacceptable and preferred to improve the present sign. Following the full discussion, the Friend agreed “to stand aside and not go home mad.”

The life expectancy of 10 to 20 years of the new aluminum sign was a major factor in its favor and offset concern over cost. F/friends were reassured about the low maintenance and graffiti resistance of the new design. One F/friend will supervise re-landscaping the surroundings. The current sign’s rotting wooden legs can be shortened and then relocated to continue serving the Meeting. The lengthy decision-making process was a valuable learning opportunity for our newer F/friends.



## Aiding Migrants and Asylum Seekers

### The Interfaith Welcome Coalition Needs Volunteers at The Bus Station

Due to a policy of "coordinated release" along the border, there has been an increase in the number of people being released from Karnes and Dilley family detention centers. The IWC has assisted an average of 200 people per day travelling through the San Antonio bus station. The IWC has a need for volunteers, especially those that speak Spanish. Thursdays and Fridays tend to be the busiest days, Mondays and Tuesdays slower and the rest somewhere in between. If you can be available for any afternoons would really help!! Please contact the IWC at: sanantoniowelcome@gmail.com.

### Bus Station Lunches

Mobile Loaves and Fishes provides us with many lunches each week. Some weeks we don't have enough to get through the weekend. We are seeking groups to provide 50 bagged lunches (actually 2 per bag so 100 lunches) delivered to the bus station in a certain scheduled week. Each lunch would include: 2 sandwiches, tacos, burritos, or the like, 2 single servings of chips, 2 fruits, 2 baggies of mini carrots, and 2 dessert items. Please contact **Dawn Silvius** at dawnsilvius@gmail.com or **210-559-6453** if you have more questions or you have a group you would like to schedule for lunches.



## **Migrant Resource Center Open Downtown Next to Greyhound Station**

The City of San Antonio has opened a pop-up **Migrant Resource Center** at **400 N. St. Mary's St.**, across the street from the Greyhound Station. At this time, they are asking that all donations of new clothing, diapers, backpacks, bags, medical supplies, and toiletries be routed to the San Antonio Food Bank. All donations of gently used clothing should be routed to the Goodwill or Salvation Army. Donations of gift cards to offset the costs of prescriptions can be given to St. Mark's Episcopal Church. Volunteers should contact **Joe Van Kuiken** at **210-207-7827** or **Jenny Garcia** at **210-207-8256** at the Department of Human Services for shift scheduling.

## **Meeting Miscellaneous**

The [SanAntonioQuakers.org](http://SanAntonioQuakers.org) website will soon include brief descriptions of each of the local organizations that FMSA supports, along with a link to their sites. This will give visitors a better idea of our outreach. We will ask each of these organizations to give a forum on their mission and how our funds fit into their goals. We are also working on providing "Contact Us" links to our own committees for easier access.

The Meeting telephone (and thus the answering machine) has not been working lately. Investigation suggests that our wiring is at fault. A Friend will research alternatives and implications for adding WiFi. Our current phone costs \$65/month.

## **Coming Events:**

### **Alternatives to Violence Workshop – June 7-9**

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](mailto: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.



## Next Fall: A Quaker Orientation:

Friends are often reluctant to talk about faith, as we believe it is something to be experienced, to be lived. It is thus with some hesitation that we offer to examine and interpret our basic beliefs. However, we seek to affirm the meaning of our faith and to share it with others through readings and personal experience.

Designed especially for our newer F/friends, the “6x8 @ 7-9” series asks 8 people to commit to 6 weeks of study and discussion from 7-9 pm. Preparation will be pamphlets or articles from Friends Journal – about 2 hours each and cover the fundamental topics listed below. Various F/friends will facilitate. We are currently aiming for mid-September through mid- or late-October. The topics are:

- Week 1: The Origins of Quakerism
- Week 2: The Light Within
- Week 3: Meeting for Worship
- Week 4: The Testimonies, Outward Manifestations of Inward Transformation
- Week 5: Quaker Process and Meeting for Business
- Week 6: The Wider Quaker World and Tidying up Loose Ends

Details to follow.



## Quaker (and Other) Insights

“Worship for us means the act of listening, however accomplished, to that place beyond words, however named and conceptualized, with an open heart and mind.”

-- Hank Fay, Friends Journal September 2018

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“Hope is a dimension of the soul, and it’s not essentially dependent on some particular observation of the world or estimate of the situation. ... It is an orientation of the spirit, an orientation of the heart; it transcends the world that is immediately experienced and is anchored somewhere beyond its horizons.”

-- Vaclav Havel, Disturbing the Peace

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“In such a world as ours today, no light glib word of hope dare be spoken. ... Only if we look long and deeply into the abyss of despair do we dare to speak of hope. ... We dare not tell people to hope in God ... unless we know what it means to have absolutely no other hope but in God. But as we know something of such a profound and amazing assurance, clear at the depths of our beings, then we dare to proclaim it boldly in the midst of a world aflame.”

-- Thomas Kelly, speaking to German Friends in the late 1930s  
quoted by Catherine Whitmire in Practicing Peace.

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“The suffering of the world is a part, too, of the life of God, and so maybe, after all, it is a revelation.”

– Thomas Kelly, “The Richard Cary Lecture”,  
quoted by L. Roger Owens, Friends Journal September 2017.

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“There is no ‘suffering with all’ in general, only concrete commitments to this or that person, this or that situation.”

– L. Roger Owens, Friends Journal September 2017.