

May 2019

# The Friendly News

## San Antonio Quakers

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## May Calendar

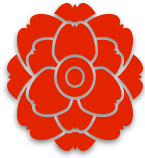
SUNDAY May 5	<b>10 am—Meeting for Worship</b> <b>11:15—Potluck Lunch and Conversation</b> 1:00pm—Quaker Reading Group in Library 4:30-5:30 pm—Yoga with Greg
MONDAY May 6	7-8 pm—"A Course in Miracles" discussion
TUESDAY May 7	10am-3pm: Baking for Fair at 1702 So. Presa
THURSDAY May 9	4 pm—Meeting for Weeding 6 pm—Soup and Conversation 7 pm—Mid-Week Meeting for Worship
FRIDAY May 10	1pm—Sort & price books and rummage for Fair
SATURDAY May 11	<b>10am-2pm: Quaker Faire: Yard Sale, BBQ, Cake</b>
SUNDAY May 12	<b>10 am—Meeting for Worship</b> <b>11:30—Long-Range Planning: What's Next?</b> 9am-3pm—Workday at the Meetinghouse. Come for all or part; bring a bag lunch.
SATURDAY May 18	<b>10 am—Meeting for Worship</b> <b>11:15—May Birthdays!!</b> <b>11:30—Meeting for Business</b> 4:30-5:30 pm—Yoga with Peggy
MONDAY May 20	7-8 pm—"A Course in Miracles" discussion
TUESDAY May 21	10:30am—Katherine & Ben's Wedding (Please RSVP)
SATURDAY May 25	<b>10 am—Meeting for Worship</b> <b>11:30 FORUM: "Worship Sharing Our Spiritual Journeys."</b> 7-8pm—Mid-Week Worship at Marian's home
SUNDAY May 26	<i>Note: Children may join in worship for the first 10 minutes then go to the children's program</i>
WEDNESDAY May 29	

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## May Query:



**Do we remind ourselves each day of our connections with people, other creatures, and all that sustains 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 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 – May 12 & 26 11:30am

**May 12:** Long-Range Planning: What' Next? The next step in our discussion of San Antonio Meeting's future. A 3<sup>rd</sup> building? Community outreach? What are we called to do?

**May 26:** Worship Sharing Our Spiritual Journeys. A facilitated sharing of our individual journeys. Listen or speak, as you are led.

## Ongoing Discussions:

**Quaker Reading Group:** Will meet on Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup> 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. May 7<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</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, May 9<sup>th</sup>, immediately before our 6pm Soup and Conversation and 7pm Mid-week 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, May 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

## Quaker Faire, May 11th 10am-2pm

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 Meetinghouse.
- **Help with baking!** Join us on Thursday, May 9<sup>th</sup> from 10am-3pm at 1702 South Presa. Cakes, cookies, etc.
- **Help with sorting!** Join us on Friday, May 10<sup>th</sup> to sort and price books and goods for the Fair.
- 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 BBQ, 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 kitchen certified by the 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!



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



Katherine and Ben are getting married!! They will celebrate their wedding on Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am at the Friends Meetinghouse. Their marriage is under the care of our Meeting. They describe this on their marriage website (<http://www.benandkatherine2019.com/>)

*To be married "under the care of the Meeting" means we have sought counsel and spiritual guidance from members of our Meeting whom we greatly respect and admire. We*

*have committed to seeking their support and guidance as we navigate the inevitable joys and challenges of marriage. In turn, they, along with the rest of our Friends Meeting, have committed to supporting and guiding us throughout our marriage. We have agreed to care for our marriage as a community, sharing our joys as they come, and seeking help when we face challenges that seem insurmountable. This has been a covenant of support which we have found to be especially meaningful.*

A Meeting on the Occasion of Marriage begins in silence, as do most Quaker events. When they are ready, Ben and Katherine will rise and exchange their vows. They will sign the marriage certificate, which the clerk will then read. The meeting then settles again into silence, out of which anyone who is led to do so may rise and speak words—or poems or even songs—of support, wisdom, reflection, and care. After each message, the meeting will settle again into a few minutes of silent reflection. When everything has been said, the Meeting for Marriage ends and the couple, family, and f/Friends move to the porch for a potluck supper. People are encouraged to sign the marriage certificate as witnesses.

All Friends are welcome to attend the celebration. Please RSVP so we will know how many to expect (at

<http://www.benandkatherine2019.com/>).

Check out that site to learn more about the wedding and about Katherine and Ben's honeymoon plans.

If you wish to bring something for potluck, please add to the list at <https://www.meal-train.com/potlucks/w38m8q>. There are still lots of slots open.





## Photos from Recent Events:



Easter at the  
Meetinghouse



## Our Kids at South Central Yearly Meeting

Greene Family Camp, Bruceville, TX  
April 18-21





## In Coming Months:

### 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](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.



## Lobbying in Austin

By Jillian Randles

As someone who is relatively new to the Quaker faith, one aspect I've been working on is realizing the Quaker Testimonies in my life, especially those that require me to stretch my comfort zone. Thinking about stewardship, and especially care of the earth, climate change has been a big source of worry for me. Rather than hand-wringing, I realized I should take some action! While our family does what we can to support the earth and limit our impact, that didn't quite feel like enough. I am so thankful to Bill Sweet for letting me come along with him for some lobbying this month. I am a very anxious person and talking to strangers takes a tremendous effort for me, so having his guidance has been invaluable.

For my first foray into lobbying, Bill and I attended the Neighborhood Office Hours of our U.S. House Representative Henry Cuellar. Bill has met with Rep. Cuellar's staffer on several occasions, and it was instructive for me to be able to meet her, see his interactions, and learn how I can advocate for change at the federal level. While I did not have anything specific prepared to say, I plan to go to next month's meeting with a letter about my concerns and requesting Rep. Cuellar's support for whatever climate-related legislation I can. The staffer referred me to an incredibly helpful website, GovTracker.org, which is a resource for seeing all the current legislation in the works as well as what individual congresspersons are working on.

On Wednesday, April 3, Bill and I attended the Climate Lobby Day facilitated by Texas Impact. After quite an adventure trying to secure a parking spot, we arrived at the tail end of the training session and hit the ground running. We were assigned to separate teams for drop-ins to various committee members, and I'm afraid my partner was left to shoulder essentially all of the talking points regarding the four House bills that we were championing. I was quite nervous, but I tried my best to at least be an encouraging presence to her, as well as being primary navigator of the (rather confusing) map and building. I then braved a meeting with an intern at my Senator's office - I felt abysmally unprepared but was able to go over a few of the bill highlights and requested that they be on the lookout and support the bills once they make their way into the Senate. To wrap up the adventure, Bill and I went together to our House Representative's office to give them our information packet and encourage them to be looking for the bills.

While my honest answer to the event coordinator's question of "did you have fun?" had to be "I'm not sure fun is the word...", I did leave the day with a feeling of accomplishment. Not that



*Jillian and Bill lobby in Austin*



I'd accomplished anything tangible... I know that our interactions with staff are merely a small factor in influencing any legislative change. But I did something wildly outside my comfort zone, I felt like I learned something, and I think I could do it again... though hopefully with a little better training / foreknowledge next time.

For the curious, here is a brief description of each of the bills we were advocating. They each have pros/cons to them but are at least a start. (That is, in my opinion. Bill can certainly speak more knowledgeably about them!)

- **HB 3616:** Establishes a faith-based task force to help state emergency managers coordinate with faith-based disaster response organizations.
- **HB 928:** Would establish a state climate change mitigation and adaptation commission.
- **HB 100:** Would require state agencies to plan strategically for anticipated changes in climate-related conditions.
- **HB 274 & HJR 145:** Would create the Disaster Reinvestment and Infrastructure Planning revolving fund. (Would require a constitutional amendment.)



*Sunset at Greene Family Camp, South Central Yearly Meeting, 2015*  
*Photo by Jim Spickard*