

November 2019

The Friendly News

San Antonio Quakers

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November Calendar

FRIDAY Nov 1	7:30-8:30pm—Night Shift Meditation (<i>bi-weekly</i>)
SUNDAY Nov 3	DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS 9:00 am—Religious Education Committee, Library 10 am—Meeting for Worship 11:15—Potluck Lunch and Conversation 12:30pm—Quaker Reading Group in Meeting Room 4:30-5:30 pm—Yoga with Greg 5:30-6:30—Community Engagement Committee
MONDAY Nov 4	7-8 pm—"A Course in Miracles" discussion (<i>weekly</i>)
TUESDAY Nov 5	9am-2pm—Major Landscape Planting; bring a lunch
SATURDAY Nov 9	10 am—Meeting for Worship
SUNDAY Nov 10	11:30—FORUM: "Getting to Know Me" a reintroduction to the organizations we support.
TUESDAY Nov 12	7-8 pm—"A Course in Miracles" discussion (<i>weekly</i>)
THURSDAY Nov 14	Noon: Carpool to Lebh Shomea for silent retreat (<i>lasts through Nov. 17</i>) 4-6pm—Meeting for Weeding 5-6pm—Peace & Social Concerns Committee 6-7 pm—Soup and Conversation 7-8pm—Mid-Week Meeting for Worship
FRIDAY Nov 15	7:30-8:30pm—Night Shift Meditation (<i>bi-weekly</i>)
SUNDAY Nov 17	10 am—Meeting for Worship 11:15—November Birthdays!! 11:30—Meeting for Worship w/ Attn to Business
MONDAY Nov 18	4:30-5:30 pm—Yoga with Peggy
TUESDAY Nov 19	7-8 pm—"A Course in Miracles" discussion (<i>weekly</i>)
SATURDAY Nov 23	9am-2pm—Faith & Play training; bring a bag lunch
SUNDAY Nov 24	10 am—Meeting for Worship 11:30— FORUM: "Gratitude" with Peggy
TUESDAY Nov 26	7-8 pm—"A Course in Miracles" discussion (<i>weekly</i>)
WEDNESDAY Nov 27	NO MID-WEEK WORSHIP
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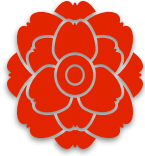
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Note: Children may join in worship for the first 10 minutes then go to the children's program

November Query



When modern life gives us too many options, are we to be able to say no to things, to say this is not my path, this is not my calling?

November Events:

Forums – November 10th & 24th 11:30am

November 10: Forum topic: “Getting to Know Me” – a reintroduction to the organizations FMSA supports

Friends Meeting donate about 10% of its regular budget to support other organizations. About half goes to Quaker organizations working in the U.S. and worldwide. The other half goes to San Antonio non-profits that further Quaker goals and with which members and attenders of our Meeting have some connection. This forum will introduce people to those organizations and what they do.

November 24: Forum topic “Gratitude”, led by Peggy.

We are thankful for all months, but this one gives us a good excuse to remember how grateful we are and can be. Peggy will lead us in a series of exercises that will raise our spirits.

No Last Wednesday Midweek in November!

Ongoing Events

Quaker Reading Group will meet on Sunday, November 3rd at 12:30pm following Potluck to discuss Robert Griswold’s article “No Creed is Not the Same as No Theology” (Friends Journal, 2001; readable online at <http://bit.ly/2pzT17F>) You are welcome to join the group even if you haven’t read it.



1st & 3rd
Mondays
of the Month

4:30 - 5:30pm



6pm - 7pm
Soup

&



7pm - 8pm
Silent Worship

2nd Thursday of the Month



Meetings for Weeding:

The Saturday Meeting for Weeding will be on the 2nd Saturday this month. The team is planning a major landscape planting session. 9am-2pm. Bring a bag lunch.

The Thursday Meeting for Weeding will be on November 14th, 4-6pm.

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 (November 5th, 12th, 19th, & 26th) 7-8pm. In the Library.

"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 November 1st & 15th, 7:30-8:30 pm

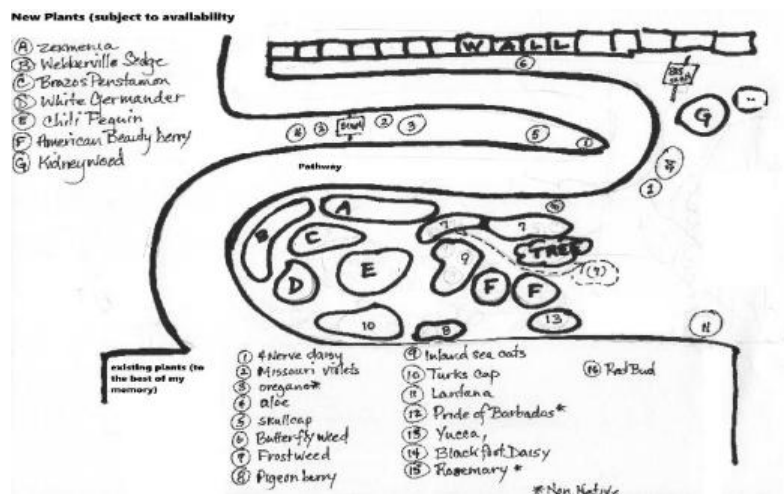
You are welcome to join any of these activities.

Other Upcoming Meeting Events

New Plants for the Walkway

Workday Saturday, 9 November (9am-2pm)

Come and celebrate the crisp fall weather and help get our new native plants in the ground. The barren look is not forever! Debbie Reid, friend of the Friends and former city arborist, has designed a plan for the walkway area. Her concept is based on positioning the low growing plants along the edge of the planting area and putting the taller ones toward the back so that all can be seen. Debbie is also procuring the plants through her wholesaler which will save us money and allow us to plant natives that may not be easily found at most nurseries in the area. Texas natives are adapted to our native pollinators and other wildlife. A possible future project might be to create signage which describes the native plants in the area with images to help educate adults and children what treasures we have growing on our property.



This workday will involve primarily the planting, according to the plan included here, of the newly acquired plants. The area is pretty well prepared, so it should not be too much heavy labor in the walkway area. We will also lay a temporary soaker hose to facilitate watering until the plants are well established. Workers should bring work gloves if you have them and a favorite hand tool for digging if you have one. We will have some gloves and some tools, but most of gardeners are happier when they have their own. We will work until all is planted.



If you do not feel up to the gardening side of the workday, our volunteers would appreciate sandwiches, veggies, fruit, or chips for lunch break. If you would like to bring by food for the workers, let the property committee know by emailing us at property@saquakers.org before Friday, 8 Nov. so we can be sure we have food available.

Click the names to see images and info on the new plants. (The letters show where each is placed on the plan.) A. [**zexmenia**](#) B. [**webberville sedge**](#) C. [**Brazos Penstamon**](#) D. [**White German-der**](#) E. [**Chili Pequin**](#) F. [**American Beauty Berry**](#) G. [**Texas Kidneywood**](#)

Making Lunch for Refugees – November 12

We will need about 4 people from 8 to 10 on November 12 to pack sandwiches, snacks and fruit for asylum seekers traveling from the bus station to their families across the country. Our children will make welcome cards to go with the lunches. Anyone wanting to help can just show up.

Silent Retreat at Leab Shomea, November 14-17

F/friends will gather for the annual retreat at Leab Shomea, the former Kenedy ranch near Sarita on the coast. It is a marvelous place for contemplation. Deer wander unafraid, wild turkeys congregate, smaller animals are everywhere, and it is a bird-watcher's paradise. Many marked trails lead to contemplative spots.

There will be Catholic worship daily and Quaker worship sharing every evening. Beyond those times, we are silent. We can use the extensive library, read and meditate in the big house sun-room or our cabins or the benches on the trails. There may be a trip to the Gulf shore, 20 minutes away and sun rise and set views from the tower.

If you want to go but have not registered, call Leab Shomea directly and see if there is space. Or contact David Bristol at deardavid14@hotmail.com or by phone at 210 831 3169. Our October Newsletter has more information about the retreat. <http://bit.ly/2NDBuDC>

Faith & Play Training on Saturday, November 23, 9am-2pm

The Religious Education Committee will lead a training for our new “Faith & Play” children’s program. Learn about story-telling and other techniques that helps our children learn by playing – and thinking, too. Bring a bag lunch.

More details will appear in the next few weeks. Speak with Joni M. if you have any questions.

Books/Media Exchange on Sunday, December 1

Just in time for Christmas, you can dust off the books, DVDs, and CDs for the exchange table, and make room for the ones you’ll find in exchange. Actually, you are encouraged to take home books, DVDs, and CDs even if you didn’t bring any with you. It’s a Friends Meeting tradition.

Meeting for Worship on Christmas Eve, December 24

Another Friends Meeting tradition is worship at 6 p.m. and shared tamales, beans, and rice at 7 p.m. It’s a time to bring family members and friends to gather in fellowship.

Notes from Recent Events:

Our Fall Yard Sale

Eight F/friends were joined by two neighbors selling handmade jewelry, decorative pieces, ceramics, jams, clothing, household items, and tools. Free coffee and tea lured many shoppers down to the Community room, where cookies and donuts were on sale. Some visited the Meeting house as well.

We thank everyone who contributed goods for sale, who sorted and prices these and staffed the two booths. Thanks, also, to all who hauled up and set up. And to Roy Maas Youth program which sent a truck and driver to collect the unsold treasures for their thrift store.





More photos on our website at
<https://sanantonioquakers.org/community-yard-sale-october-2019/>

Quaker Orientation 8X6

The series anticipated eight F/friends meeting for six weeks to explore the faith and practices of Quakers. We maxed at 16 and averaged 12 participants for lively and searching discussions of key concepts of our faith. Serious questions were raised and partially answered, eliciting more study and suggestions for follow up. We thank everyone who joined for one or more or all of the sessions. If you have more questions or suggestion, please contact someone on the Religious Education Committee. Members of that committee have contributed as facilitators, resources in the sessions, and finding relevant readings, quotes and video. We have learned and benefited as much as those who signed up.

WiFi at Last

This service runs from the parking lot to the Meetinghouse and can be disconnected temporarily by request. The new telephone service will use the same number but will allow remote pick-up of messages. Welcome, Friends, to the 21st Century.

People In Our Meeting:

Saying Sad Farewells

We have been blessed with the lights of several F/friends who are now moving elsewhere.

- Colin and Debbie have brought history, public health concerns and vegan cake to nourish body and soul and now have their sight fixed on Salt Lake, a new job and post-doctorate work.
- Jillian, Josh, and their sons Liam, Brendan, and Whitman have brought joy to us all. They will be leaving for North Carolina in mid-December, for new work, new schooling, and a new tiny-house.
- Finally, our dear Suzanne will be joining her mother on the farm in Kentucky [departure date still pending].

These Friends have enriched our lives and we wish them all the blessings of the Light as they continue their spiritual journeys.

Visiting the Southwoods

Stephen S. visited Ken & Janet Southwood in Minnesota. He writes:

“I was in Saint Paul last weekend and able to surprise Ken and Janet, with the help of their daughter and Marian. I attended the Twin Cities Friends Meeting, at rise of meeting they realized who I was. We spent several hours into the afternoon catching up. I was told my visit “was the highlight of the month”.



Food for Thought:

Thoughts about November 11

By Val Liveoak

101 years ago, on the 11th day of the 11th month at 11am, Europe and other countries celebrated the Armistice that ended the Great War, which became known to history as World War I when a greater war came about a little over 20 years later. As history showed, the Armistice ended the fighting, but did not bring about a just peace nor an end to war.

In 1954, the US began to celebrate Veterans Day on Nov. 11th. While having a somewhat different focus on the surviving warriors, like Memorial Day in May it celebrates war, and inspires militaristic displays in the name of honoring those who served in the military.

I believe that the best way to honor those who have fought, whether alive or dead, would be to work harder to end war, making similar sacrifices less necessary in the future. Friends have long worked to eliminate the "occasion of war", and I hope this year that Veterans Day reminds us of our commitment to seek ways to resolve conflicts nonviolently.

The toll of US militarism is not only abroad but also within our country. Not only in those killed or maimed by war, but also by those who suffer from their participation in it. And by all who sponsor and support the military-industrial complex, which is, in the end, all of us. It denies the value of life itself--others' and our own.

How does Spirit lead us this Veterans Day?

The Pendle Hill Quaker Institute: Practicing Our Heritage of Mysticism and Resistance



José Woss Vanessa Julye Stephen Angell Amanda Kemp Dan Snyder

HOW ARE WE LIVING OUR HERITAGE OF MYSTICISM AND RESISTANCE?

Answer this and related questions with Friends pictured above and below and with fellow Quakers for a Pendle Hill Institute: **Practicing Our Quaker Heritage of Mysticism and Resistance, December 12-15.** For more information and to register, <http://bit.ly/2NxqM1G>



Thomas Hamm Ingrid Lakev Dwight Dunston Eileen Flanagan Doug Gwyn

The Pendle Hill Quaker Institute is an experiential learning platform in which participants can worship, study, reflect, share, and explore the many gifts, challenges, and testimonies of our faith.

We invite all Friends to examine and renew our own experience of the Light as we explore our history and its many blessings and challenges.

Mysticism is the "immediate awareness of relation with God" awareness that is practiced among Friends as we wait upon the Light and answer to it with and in love.

As we live our faith, we realize that we cannot be indifferent to the many manifestations of injustice. We are called to exercise resistance to everything that distances us from love, and such resistance is a personal and social process that requires discernment, creativity, and constant

openness to the Divine. Such resistance evolves as an answer to the Truth rather than as a mere ideology. It is love in action that evolves and is nurtured by our prayers and worship.



Dear Friends,

I struggle to lead a peaceful life. It is the hardest work I have ever undertaken, in all my roles as a mother, wife, teacher, friend, and Friend.

As a mom of wild and energetic twin boys, I remember my most tired phrases during those early years of parenthood and cringe. “Just listen!” “Stop that!” “Leave your brother alone!”

I was frequently upset, tired, cranky, worried, and annoyed. I hung on to a misguided belief that I was maintaining peace in the household by operating from an “I know best” space. Over the years, however, I found that the times I was the best mother were when I was operating from an “I listen best” space and following my kids’ lead and concerns.

My children are teenagers now and they are still my favorite teachers. I treasure the ways motherhood has helped guide and inform my spiritual practice as a Quaker, both inside and outside of the home.

Today, we have a nation of children ready to teach us, asking us to wake up and address climate change. We must not ignore the calls of these young people. We need to make way for these young leaders and cultivate active listening, strength of purpose, and loving steadfastness to take on this work.

Our work right now is to listen and engage. We can follow the recent example of the middle schoolers from Tandem Friends School, who traveled from Charlottesville, VA to Washington, D.C. to lobby Rep. Denver Riggleman (VA-5) to join the Climate Solutions Caucus in the House. FCNL staff trained the students on how to include a legislative ask as they told their stories. After hearing their passionate testimony and reading their hand-written letters, Rep. Riggleman decided to join the caucus.

The message is clear: Any time you engage with the political process, you are making a difference. Whether you’re leading a local event or writing letters to your representative, your voice matters.

Our children need our presence and witness before Congress. It can be as simple as a commitment to write a monthly letter or make a weekly call, or it can be as profound as getting a cohort of Friends and friends together to lobby your member of Congress. No matter how you want to do your part, FCNL is ready with resources, lobby trainings, and a staff eager to help.

Stay in love, nourish hope, and let us follow the lead of our young.



Sincerely,
Christine Ashley
Quaker Field Secretary
FCNL

Actions You Can Take on Climate Please Share with Friends!

Get a Young Person Involved: At FCNL, we support the rising tide of climate activists by holding an annual Spring Lobby Weekend. We also offer paid internships and part-time organizing positions. Applications are open now! Find out more at <https://www.fcnl.org/about/young-adults>

Annual Meeting and Quaker Public Policy Institute (QPPI): Quaker advocacy challenges us to Love Thy Neighbor (No Exceptions) as we work together towards a world without war. Join FCNL Nov. 14-17, 2019 in Washington, D.C. Info at <http://bit.ly/34moJUP>

Take Action on Climate Change: Ask your members to pass a carbon pricing bill. Read FCNL's carbon pricing principles and deliver an FCNL Carbon Pricing handout to your local congressional offices. Info on carbon pricing at <http://bit.ly/2NvU3ts> and <http://bit.ly/36rL2KG> . The handout is at <http://bit.ly/2NxG0nf>

ButterCream Wants a Forever Home

ButterCreme: My foster mom has named me ButterCreme because she says I am fluffy and sweet. It's not my real cat name. That is for my forever person to discover. I am about three years



old. I was drinking water out of this concrete perch you see in my photo above when my mom first saw me. She felt really sorry for me because the big gray birds always poop in the water there. She gave me my own water bowl with nice clean water and dried out the perch so I could enjoy sleeping on it.

From my (temporary) Mom (Pam S.): ButterCreme has been chipped, but sadly I learned her chip was not registered. She has definitely been socialized. She was so easy to put in the carrier and take to the vet. I was amazed. Not a peep out of her. She stays right in my yard and my elderly next-door neighbor's yard because they have a good climbing tree. She loves being petted and groomed and usually comes when called (she IS a cat, after all). She meets me at the front door whenever I go out. My cat/house sitter cared for her while I was in Michigan and they quickly established a friendship.

ButterCreme is a longhaired dilute calico. She would love to come inside, but my cat Spritzel has announced that there is no more room in Calico Cottage right now. I have had her vaccinated and combo tested at Vetco. She tested (barely) positive for FIV – marginally enough that I would pay for retesting. I would really love to see her be an “only cat” in an indoor home. If you can take her, or know someone who could, please talk to me after meeting.