

January 2020

The Friendly News

San Antonio Quakers

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January Calendar

SUNDAY Jan 5	9:00 am—Religious Education Committee, Library 10 am—Meeting for Worship 11:15—Potluck Lunch and Conversation Special farewell to Suzanne
MONDAY Jan 6	4:30-5:30 pm—Yoga with Greg 5:30-6:30—Community Engagement Committee
TUESDAY Jan 7	7-8 pm—"A Course in Miracles" discussion (weekly)
THURSDAY Jan 9	5-6pm—Peace & Social Concerns Committee 6-7 pm—Soup and Conversation 7-8pm—Mid-Week Meeting for Worship
FRIDAY Jan 10	6-9:30pm—Forum Theatre training (for Poor People's Campaign)
SATURDAY Jan 11	11am-4pm—Forum Theatre training (<i>cont.</i>)
SUNDAY Jan 12	10 am—Meeting for Worship 11:30—FORUM: "Peace & Social Concerns for a New Decade"
TUESDAY Jan 14	7-8 pm—"A Course in Miracles" discussion (weekly)
SATURDAY Jan 18	7-9pm—Movie Night: "The Long Walk Home" – about the Montgomery bus boycott; part of Dream Week.
SUNDAY Jan 19	10 am—Meeting for Worship 11:15—January Birthdays!! 11:30—Meeting for Worship w/ Attn to Business
MONDAY Jan 20	10am—Meet at St. Philips College for Martin Luther King March
TUESDAY Jan 21	8-10am—Refugee lunch preparation 7-8 pm—"A Course in Miracles" discussion (weekly)
SATURDAY Jan 25	9:30am-2:30pm—Workday; bring a bag lunch 9am-1:30pm—Faith & Play training; bring a bag lunch
SUNDAY Jan 26	10 am—Meeting for Worship 11:30— State of the Meeting Report Preparation
TUESDAY Jan 28	7-8 pm—"A Course in Miracles" discussion (weekly)
WEDNESDAY Jan 29	MID-WEEK WORSHIP at Joni & James' home

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



January Query

How do we help each other face conflicts with patience, forbearance and openness to healing?

January Events:

Forums – January 12th & 26th 11:30am

January 12: Forum topic: “Peace and Social Concerns for a New Decade”, led by the Peace & Social Concerns Committee. Join with Friends in considering the issues you would like to learn about and act on in 2020.

January 26: Forum topic “State of the Meeting Report”, led by Ministry & Oversight Committee. Each year, we reflect together of the state of our Meeting. Where are we in our collective spiritual journey? What feeds us? What is working well? What challenges do we face? Please join us to help Ministry and Oversight prepare to write this year’s report to South Central Yearly Meeting.

Last Wednesday Midweek at Joni & James’ home – Jan 29th

Ongoing Events



1st
Monday
of the Month

4:30 - 5:30pm



6pm - 7pm
Soup

&



7pm - 8pm
Silent Worship

2nd Thursday of the Month

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

Meetings for Weeding:

There will be no Thursday weeding this month. The Saturday weeding will be on January 25th.

No Quaker Reading Group or Night Shift Meditation this month

Other Upcoming Meeting Events

Farewell to Suzanne on Sunday, January 5th after Meeting

Suzanne Wright-Crain and her husband Glynn have sold their house and are moving to Kentucky. We'll see them again, but perhaps not for a while. Let's give them a good send-off.

Forum Theater Introductory Training at the Meetinghouse: Friday & Saturday, January 10th & 11th

Forum Theatre is a theatrical tool/technique developed in Latin America for organizing people to work for social justice. This introductory training will equip participants with the ability, the support network, and the passion to create a Forum Theatre experience for their own community.

This training is connected with the San Antonio Poor People's Campaign.



OVERVIEW: "Forum Theatre is a theatrical game in which a problem is shown in an unsolved form, to which the audience, is invited to suggest and enact solutions. The problem is always the symptom of an oppression, and generally involves visible oppressors and [a] protagonist who is oppressed. The game is a form of contest between the audience, trying to bring the play to a different end (in which the cycle of oppression is broken) and the actors ostensibly making every possible effort to bring it to its original end (in which the oppressed is beaten and the oppressors are triumphant). . . Many different solutions are enacted in the course of a single forum - the result is a pooling of knowledge, tactics, and experience, and at the same time what Boal (the originator of this tactic) calls a 'rehearsal for reality'. The aim is always to stimulate debate (in the form of action, not just words), to show alternatives, to enable people 'to become the protagonists of their own lives.'" -- Adrian Jackson

Friday January, 10th 6pm to 9:30pm

Saturday January, 11th 11am to 4pm

Due to the nature of this training, both days are required. Late entry beyond the first 45 minutes is not suggested. Please wear comfortable clothing. Light meals and snacks will be provided.

Participants should pre-register online through Google Forms:

<https://forms.gle/UoR2RM9E7CdxpSoX8>

More Information about Forum Theatre can be found at <http://bit.ly/35hOllR>

Movie Night on Saturday, January 18th, starting at 7pm: “The Long Walk Home”

The Long Walk Home, starring Whoopie Goldberg and Sissy Spacek, relates the history of the Montgomery Bus Boycott and its effect on the community and eventually the nation.

This FREE showing is part of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Dream Week events. A discussion will follow exploring the historical significance of direct non-violent action. Bring your family, friends, and neighbors. *There will be popcorn.*

Parents: The film contains some violence. **See Gretchen for more information**



MLK Week Interfaith Worship Service, Sunday, January 19th at 4:30pm, Laurel Heights United Methodist Church

The 33rd Annual city-wide Interfaith Worship Service will be held Sunday Jan 19 at 4:30 at the Laurel Heights United Methodist Church. **Friends will be represented in the procession.** The guest speaker is Dr. Addie Lorraine Walker, and the event is hosted by the MLK Commission of San Antonio.

MLK March on Monday, January 20, starting at 10am

FMSA participates in San Antonio’s annual MLK March – one of the largest in the country. Join us at 10am at the St. Phillips College parking lot, where the buses leave for the march location. If you have a FMSA tee-shirt, please wear it. We’ll have our banner. **For more information, speak with Gretchen.**

Making Lunch for Refugees on Tuesday, January 21, 8-10am

Quakers prepared lunches twice in December: 40 lunches the first time and 60 the second. ICE is releasing more asylum seekers right now, meaning more need for travel meals. The team has experience now and can move more efficiently to complete the job. This month, we will be preparing 60 lunches, so more volunteers are needed from 8:00 to 10:00 am. **If you can help, please contact Petra.**

Faith & Play Training on Saturday, January 25, 9am-1:30pm

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. **Speak with Joni M. for more information.**

Workday at the Meetinghouse on Saturday, January 25, 9:30am-2pm

The Property Committee has organized a "Meeting for Weeding" at the Meetinghouse. Bring gloves and a bag lunch.

Notes from Recent Events:

Sharing Christmas at the Nursing Home

For the third year in a row, the Price family spent Christmas Day bringing cheer to the Legend Oaks West nursing home. Since 2017, the Prices have been taking up a collection to provide blankets and socks to each of the permanent residents of the nursing home, along with hosting a Christmas social with crafts, cookies, and cocoa. Starting last year, Friends have joined by donating time and money.

The response was overwhelming. Not only were blankets and socks given to the 80 permanent residents, but blankets were also given to every single temporary resident, and all of the staff. Pam, Gretchen, Kellie, and Saqqara's Grandma Carol hosted the Christmas social, decorating foam Christmas trees and serving cookies, while Carl and Saqqara delivered a whopping 160 blankets. The residents enjoyed decorating their trees while listening to Bing Crosby and other classic Christmas crooners.

The Price family is grateful to all Friends who donated their time or money, and for those who held this event in the Light.



Christmas Eve Worship & Concert

FMSA held its traditional candlelight worship on Christmas Eve, followed by a simple meal of tamales, black beans, and potluck. We were then treated to a concert by Val's son Edward, who teaches classical guitar in Houston.

Edward trains teachers to teach guitar in schools, and he runs a Summer Guitar Conservatory for students of all economic backgrounds. You can learn more about him at www.guitarinitiative.org.

From Friends:

Poetry by Mark Lee Hickman

1) For strange adventures
Use limerick ointment
And a high imagination

2) I am not the same Fellow
As the wind blew
Through my dreams.

A Letter from Debbie & Colin

Hello Friends

We are doing well. We are living in my sister's basement and helping to take care of our nieces and nephews. We have had a lot of snow since getting here. My sister lives up in the mountains near the mouth of Mueller Park Canyon. On Thanksgiving morning, we had at least two feet of snow on the ground! I grew up in snowy Utah, but this is the first time Colin has lived somewhere with snow. He is actually enjoying it. *[See photo of Colin on the next page. – ed.]*

I am working at the University of Utah in the Epidemiology Department, but my office is at the Salt Lake City VA medical center. I am working with a small team of researchers to develop and implement a program that will help veterans have better access to oncology therapy. Colin is defending his dissertation on January 8th at the University of Washington in Seattle. After he defends, Colin will be starting a post-doctoral fellowship at the Salt Lake City VA medical center. He will be working with a different group of researchers, but we will be able to commute to/from work together.

We have been attending the Salt Lake Friends Meeting, which has been an adjustment. The meeting is much smaller (usually 12-15 people) and is held in a small building that used to be a Methodist church. Sometimes during meeting for worship people will play guitar and sing. The meeting has an active subscription to The Western Friend, so we have been reading that instead of Friends Journal. The Salt Lake meeting is still very active, despite its small size. They have mid-week worship, a bi-annual community fair, and once a month the meeting hold a Quaker Peace

Ruth Lofgren's Grave

Colin and I visited Ruth's grave in the Salt Lake City Cemetery on a cold crisp day in December. There were a couple inches of snow on the ground.

The Cemetery is one of the oldest and largest city-operated cemeteries in Utah, with the first burial around 1848. Many religious leaders and politicians are buried there, particularly many leaders of LDS Church. It is nestled in the Avenues neighborhood and runs up toward the mountain.

Ruth is buried next to many members of her family, with her parents being next to her. The grave is higher up the hill in the cemetery and provides an excellent view of the mountains and the Salt Lake Valley. It is a very peaceful and beautiful place for her to rest.





Witness on the corner of 700 East and 2100 South in Salt Lake City. People come for an hour or so to hold signs and peacefully protest. Lately, the meeting has been collecting clothing and raising money for the homeless shelter.

We miss all of you at the San Antonio Friends Meeting. We hope everyone is happy and healthy. We wish all of you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Take care, Debbie

Transitioning Quakers

By James M.

In my experience, Quaker community is a tight knit group. The act of a group sitting in silence waiting to hear the whisper of Spirit heightens the individuals' state of awareness, which often makes spoken ministry feel like a sentence finished for us cinching our hearts closer together. The community is like a garden where individual lives are rooted together nourishing and keeping everyone healthy. We cultivate the individual realizing we are the garden.

The gardener takes extraordinary steps when pruning, grafting, or moving Her beloveds, paying attention to ensure the season is right, the soil is prepared, and She understands the transplanted one needs extra attention to help soothe the uprooting. The fussing speaks from the heart, understood by flora and fauna alike.

Understanding that communities are in constant flux does little to reduce the angst of transplanting, everyone is affected which creates empathy amongst all members, which is why everybody tries to help ease the transition. We offer our time, our understanding, and our presence to the transplant because we feel their pain, their shock, and share the disruption in life's routine.

For the individual that not only has to move but go to a different station in life, the matter is doubly hard. Many things are different; routines now taken for granted are now new again, conformity is required, limitations are inevitable and that can be challenging. A loving community throws their back into helping and nourishing as best we can. I am proud how our community helped Marion Carter transition, and I think we did a great job, for she blooms again blessing our community with her gratitude. It's no small thing to bloom where you are planted!



Meeting Business:

Message from the Treasurer

In my brief time as Treasurer, and even before, I have been asked about the Meeting and money. Obviously, we don't take up a collection of money during services as is usual among Protestant denominations. **So how do we keep the place running?**

In the briefest terms, people deposit cash and checks in the (small!) donation box to the left as you exit the Meetinghouse, above the fire extinguisher. They can also be handed directly to the Treasurer or mailed to the Meeting at 7052 N Vandiver, San Antonio, TX 78209. In this modern era, if your financial institution participates, you can use the Zelle app to send a donation addressed to treasurer@saquakers.org. Zelle sends a "do you accept \$X from person Y?" email to the Treasurer, who clicks "accept" and the transfer occurs nearly instantaneously.

Are there other, non-monetary, ways to contribute? Of course! You can:

- Participate in the children's religious education program.
- Pull weeds or do other landscaping tasks during announced workdays - or on your own!
- Bring snacks for social hour.
- Kitchen cleanup after social time is always needed and appreciated. The *menehune* (Hawaiian "leprechauns") have gone home, and we have to clean up after ourselves now.
- Sweep the walkway before Meeting.
- Serve on a committee.
- Write for the newsletter or the website or Facebook or Instagram.
- Organize the library. Etc., etc.

Don't know what to do? Ask! Offer your talents!

And whatever else you may do, pray/hold the Meeting and its people in the Light. Be demonstrably supportive and appreciative of the labors of others, just as you recognize that of God in them.

How, or for what, is the money used? Getting a bit into the weeds, there is an annual budget which is drafted by the Finance Committee from requests input by the several committees. The draft budget is presented at the December Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. After consideration and discernment of the vision, leadings and responsibilities of the Meeting and the resources of individuals, the budget is adjusted and approved at the January Business Meeting. Because Business Meeting is open to all, like all Meetings for Worship, the decision is a covenant among the community (the "Meeting") holding us all to fulfillment of budgeted income. The committees and officers expend funds to discharge their designated responsibilities, as shown, in part, in the budget. The Treasurer has no authority to expend funds other than for Treasurer duties, such as buying checks. All other expenses are paid at the direction of committees, other officers, or a minuted decision of Business Meeting. The Treasurer reports on the Meeting's financial status, including the approved budget, at every month's Business Meeting.

Now you know.

Short Notes

Last Wishes

Ministry and Oversight has been discerning this sensitive subject, particularly what and how to include in a form for F/friends to keep on file in the Meeting. They will present their recommendations in a forum on February 23.

Open, Set Up, Greet, and Close

As one Friends observed, the clean-up Fairy doesn't live in the Community Room. Neither does the door-key Fairy. So, you and I, Friends, are needed on a regular basis to keep Meeting functioning smoothly and not place an undue burden on a few. We can put our names on a Sign-Up Sheet in the Community room committing to one or more of these four tasks in the future.

The New Sign

This has been delayed because of buried electrical wires in the northeast corner of the property. They need professional assessment to find and disable them before foundations for the sign can begin. It's coming, folks, patience.

Quarterly Meeting on March 7th

Cielo Grande Quarterly Meeting will be held on Saturday, March 7th, at our Meetinghouse. Quarterly Meetings stand mid-way between Monthly Meetings (like FMSA) and Yearly Meetings – in our case South Central Yearly Meeting (SCYM: www.scym.org). Cielo Grande includes Friends from meetings in Dallas-Ft. Worth, Waco, Georgetown, Austin, San Antonio, Hill Country, and Coastal Bend. We usually meet every year, though it has been two years since our last gathering.

The Quarterly Meeting will begin with worship at 8:30 and offer a program on Quakers Building Community. We will have a Meeting for Worship with to Business and lots of worship and fellowship with Friends from Meetings. We plan to also have a children's program. The main program will end about 4pm. We will offer a simple breakfast and lunch to attendees. In the evening we may go out to a local restaurant with those visiting Friends who choose to join us.

As some Friends travel a distance to get here, FMSA hopes to offer hospitality to those who need it. There will be a simple meal and fellowship on Friday, the 6th. Some attendees may join FMSA for worship on the 8th.

Registration and further details will be announced in January. See Greg K. or Val L. for details.



FCG Gathering in Radford, Virginia Save the Date: June 28-July 4



Food for Thought:

Prisoner Visitation Service

By Katherine H-F

Prisoner Visitation and Support is an organization committed to “carrying forward the Quaker tradition of caring for prisoners.” When you go to the “Become a Visitor” page on the PVS website, the first line you’ll read is, “It takes a very special type of person to visit people the rest of the world has forgotten about.”

The keynote speaker at the PVS annual conference in October was Anthony Ray Hinton, author of *The Sun Does Shine*, a book about his wrongful conviction, and a key figure in Bryan Stevenson’s book *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption*, which is now a movie. If you know who these people are, or if you’re interested in restorative justice and criminal justice reform, you’re probably the very special type of person PVS is looking for.

PVS supports prisoners in federal and military prisons by sending volunteers to visit those who “do not ordinarily receive visits from family and friends, want or need visits, are in solitary confinement, are on death row, or are serving long sentences.” It requires a two-year commitment of one visit per month, along with a post-visit report submitted online. The closest federal prison to San Antonio is FCI Three Rivers, which is an hour and twenty minutes away, followed by FCI Bastrop, an hour and fifty minutes away. Ben and I hope to participate in the new year, though we are still reviewing our calendar. If you’d like to participate along with us, see us at Meeting, or email us at katherine.fitz@gmail.com. For more information, go to PrisonerVisitation.org.

What Are We Going To Do?

By Bill Cane

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www.integrities.com

It’s hard to know what to do these days. And not knowing what to do can lead to frustration—or even worse: to doing nothing! I remember a time during the Vietnam War when a group of us were at a loss as to what to do. At the time, Bernard Lonergan, a Canadian intellectual, was giving a talk at the University of San Francisco. I asked him to meet with us after his talk, and he agreed to do so. Bill Leininger, Clare Morris, and I sat down with Lonergan and began to vent our frustration at not being able to get anywhere in our struggles for peace, for the farmworkers, against the Vietnam War, and for change in the Catholic church. Lonergan listened patiently as we described our frustration and our struggles. But he let us talk and said nothing. Only at the end, when we stopped talking, did he say something, but it was not what we were hoping to hear. He said just one thing: “WELL, YOU’RE ALIVE. KEEP GOING.”

That was it. He didn’t point out any direction for us to take or any specific things we needed to do. Nothing. Lonergan’s talk at USF had just one theme: that the future would be determined by those who are fully alive. That was it. And it was only long after he had left us that his words “You’re alive. Keep going” began to make sense to me.

And they have a special impact now, when many of us are at a loss as to what to do. We cannot be sure that we are doing “the right things.” But we can be sure that we are trying to act on behalf of Life—and on behalf of a hopeful future.

Friends Meeting of San Antonio
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