

November 2020



The Friendly News

San Antonio Quakers

7052 N. Vandiver (at Eisenhower)
San Antonio, Texas 78209

Message Phone: 210.945.8456
Website: www.sanantonioquakers.org
Facebook: @saquakers

We have begun hybrid Meetings for Worship on Sundays

**We will meet both
by ZOOM
and**

in-person on the Meetinghouse porch

For now, we can accept up to 15 porch participants

***Please RSVP to Ministry@saquakers.org
if you wish to attend porch worship!!***

We continue our Zoom worship as usual

See how to join by Zoom on Page 2 or on the [Meeting Website](#)

**In-person porch worship will continue so long as the
San Antonio City Health Department COVID Risk rating is LOW**

***Check the [Meeting Website](#) on Saturdays to confirm that
the in-person portion of the Meeting for Worship we will be held.***

***Sign up to receive an email when this newsletter is posted at the Meeting website.
Write us at newsletter@saquakers.org if you wish a snail-mail copy.***



November Query

How have you been aware of the spirit of God at work in the ordinary activities and experience of daily life?

Weekly Events (by Zoom)

Here are the direct links for our weekly Zoom events. You do not need a Zoom account to join.

- **Meeting for Worship – Sundays 10-11am**, followed by check-in and discussion: [CLICK HERE to join by Zoom](#)
 - ID # 976 0522 6497; passcode: 194077
 - **We will hold hybrid Zoom and in-person Worship so long as the City Health Department's Risk Level is low. RSVP to ministry@saquakers if you wish to attend.**
- **Course in Miracles discussion – Tuesdays 7-8pm**; led by David
 - [CLICK HERE to join by Zoom](#)
 - ID # 988 3173 6394; passcode: 724708
- **Midweek Events – Wednesdays 7-8pm**
 - [CLICK HERE to join by Zoom](#)
 - ID # 991 4427 4366; passcode: 143247
 - November 11: "Quaker (Non-violent) Responses to Political Unrest" (*see below*)
 - November 18: **Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business**
- **Friday Morning Meeting for Worship – Fridays 8-8:30 am**
 - [CLICK HERE to join by Zoom](#)
 - ID # 921 1215 1035; passcode: 023644

For ALL Zoom Meetings: by telephone at +1 346 248 7799, then enter ID#

Special Events

- **Nov 12th: Friends Hatchback Party, Meetinghouse Parking Lot – See page 4**
 - **6:00-7:00:** Greet & Eat; **7:00-7:30:** Meeting for Worship; **RSVP to dialpsd@sbcglobal.net**

Midweek Forum Topics

- **Wednesday, November 11th: "Quaker (Non-violent) Responses to Political Unrest"** led by Oliver G. and Karen B.
 - a joint project between Religious Ed and the Friends who have attended the Choose Democracy training, this forum will educate Friends on what we can do to resist in the event of a coup following the 2020 election, being mindful of the pandemic as a backdrop. Oliver and Karen to facilitate, with Karen providing input on "Move to Amend."

Please share your ideas for future forums. See page 5.

Contents

- p 2: November Query
Weekly & Special
Events; Midweek Forum Topics
- p 3: Hybrid Meetings for
Worship
- p 4: Nov 12th Friends
Tailgate
- p 5: A Query on Forums
At the Meetinghouse
- p 6: Our Quaker Community
- p 7: An Essay on Quaker
Process
- p 8: Events at Pendle Hill
- pp 9-10: FCNL News

How Hybrid Meeting for Worship Works

Friends Meeting of San Antonio has begun to hold *hybrid Meetings for Worship*. These are meetings that include both in-person and virtual presence, giving each equal weight. They let us worship together, while giving everyone the opportunity to choose the method that suits them. This serves both those Friends who have adapted to Zoom worship and those who have not felt that online meetings speak to

their spiritual needs. Hybrid meetings minimize the chance that the in-person component could spread COVID-19 in the community. We hold them only when the San Antonio COVID risk level is LOW.

The Zoom participants meet as usual and appear on a screen in the porch circle. At present, we use a 31" monitor, though we may be able to work out something larger in the future.

In-person participants meet on the Meeting-house Porch: masked, suitably distanced, and with limited attendance. They sign in, so that we can trace contacts if someone becomes ill. They pick up their own chairs, placing them on blue tape set 6 feet apart. They come forward to a standing microphone to give ministry.

In our tests, both groups can see and hear each other. It's not perfect, but it is what we can do for now.

The instructions here are posted at the Meeting-house gate. Hand sanitizer is mounted on one of the pillars, and there are wipes (and more instructions) for using the restrooms.

Instructions for Keeping Meeting for Worship Safe for Everyone

We appreciate your attentive help **keeping us all safe from COVID-19** while **integrating both Zoom and in-person participants**. Please:

1. **Health:**
 - a. Do not attend Meeting if you feel ill, have a cough or a fever, or if you have been in contact with anyone exposed to COVID-19
2. **Masks and distancing:**
 - a. Keep your nose and mouth covered at all times, including when giving ministry at the microphone.
 - b. Maintain at least six feet distance from each other, including as you enter and leave.
3. **Sign in for potential contact tracing:**
 - a. Use the hand sanitizer
 - b. Take a pen from the jar marked "Clean"
 - c. Write your name and contact info on the sign-in sheet.
 - d. Put the pen into the jar marked "Used"
4. **Seating:**
 - a. Pick up a chair from the cart and carry it to one of the blue tape markers. *Please leave the markers near the cart free for those coming after you.*
 - b. Put the chair's front legs on the tape. *Couples may sit together with one front leg from each chair on the tape.*
5. **Giving Ministry:**
 - a. Approach the microphone. The host will unmute you.
 - b. Stand 1-2 feet from the microphone, facing it while you speak.
 - c. Speak loudly enough that those attending in person can hear you through your mask.
 - d. When you are done, return to your seat.
6. **At the end of worship,** we will not shake hands. Instead, we will raise both hands and wave.
7. **Please return your chair to the cart.**

Thank you for making this a safe and meaningful experience.

Unfortunately, we are unable to offer childcare.

Those wishing to join the porch portion of the Meeting should reserve a place by emailing ministry@saquaker.org.



Special Event : Hatchback Party #3!

FRIENDS HATCHBACK PARTY



When: November 12, 2020
6:00pm - 7:00pm Greet & Eat
7:00pm - 7:30pm Silence Worship

Where: Meetinghouse Parking Lot
7052. Vandiver Road

RSVP: REQUIRED for planning purposes

By Nov. 11, 2020

dialpsd@sbcglobal.net



The Plan

- Cars will be parked for appropriate distancing. You will be directed upon arrival.
- Bring your own food, drinks & tailgate setup.
- Meetinghouse & Rooms will be closed
- Bathrooms will be open
- MASKS are REQUIRED when not eating or drinking.
- Keep to 6' distancing at ALL times.

[A Query on Forums](#)

The Religious Education committee asks Friends to reflect on their wishes for future forums.

During these uncertain times, the committee wants to ensure that the forum topics on offer speak to the concerns of the Meeting. Do Friends want to learn more about the history of Quakerism? Do they want to study faith texts, like the bible, Friends' journals, or the Quaker book of discipline "Faith and Practice?"

Forums should provide a catalyst for growth, both personally and at a collective level. The best way to achieve this end is for the forums to meet unmet needs. It is difficult for the members of the Religious Education Committee to discern those needs when we are separated by distance.

Please submit requests for topics to either the clerks of Religious Education (religious_ed@saguakers.org) or Ministry and Oversight (ministry@saguakers.org) for consideration and action.

[At the Meetinghouse](#)

[New Trees at the Meetinghouse](#)

October 11th saw the planting of three evergreen sumac trees in the back of the property. Debbie Ried, Pam Spurgeon, Stephen Shearer, James Mize, and David Hayes completed the work. The big one is named Eva, another one is Elliot, and the baby remains unchristened.



Our Quaker Community

Contributed by Peggy Dial

get to know your Friends

Friends Meeting of San Antonio

Julia Hitz is an attendee of FMSA and is the Representative from Meeting to the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL). She has had an interesting life, including seven years at the Findhorn Foundation intentional community in Scotland. Most recently, she spent ten years in New York City, before moving back to San Antonio to share a house with her sister, Linda. Julia works with non-profit organizations as a grant writer.



What is the one thing you always have in your refrigerator?

HEB potato salad

How many states and/or countries have you lived in?

7 states ~ Iowa, Michigan, Washington DC, California, New Mexico,
New York & Texas

3 countries ~ Costa Rica, Scotland & USA

What was the last book you read?

The Splendid and the Vile by Eric Larson

Where did you attend your first Quaker Meeting?

I first attended Quaker Meeting with the San Antonio Friends back in 1982, when I was a student at Trinity.

Which of the Quaker testimonies speaks to you?

Simplicity ~ I always resonated with the sentiment of 'Live simply so that others might simply live'.

Name one positive outcome from your Corona experience.

"Getting to spend more time with my sister."

1

Modern or Vintage

VINTAGE

2

Coffee or Tea

TEA

3

Pancakes or Waffles

PANCAKES

4

Book or Movie

BOOK

An Essay on Quaker Process

By Gretchen Haynes

An interactive workshop explored problems that may arise within committees as we seek to do the Meeting's business. In three pre-recorded skits, members of Nominating Committee first acted as Ministry and Oversight considering the application for membership of a family. Then as Peace & Social Concerns with a budget surplus, and finally as Property with a proposal to bring a mike and speakers into worship.

Discussion followed each skit, first focusing on its lessons then broadening out to Meeting concerns. We noted that no one, not even a clerk, can veto the sense of unity of the other members, but can "stand aside" from the decision. Further, members can help by "clerking from the floor" to explore ways to move the process forward. In the second skit, we saw how a call for silence can move the focus from what individuals want to where Spirit can lead us as a group. Sometimes a third way opens. The final skit showed how the clerk can tenderly redirect a vociferous member, allowing more reticent ones to speak up. It also outlined the requirements of an action minute.

We noted that there are disadvantages to Quaker Process, notably how long it can take to come to a final decision. In some cases, years not months. Does this cause frustration? Yes, for many. Is the frustration related to generations? Some think yes, some no. Certain processes can be abused – such as calling for silence. It can derail discernment and shut off more discussion. Similarly, asking someone to stand aside can undermine a person's confidence and move a decision forward when more discernment would be helpful. However, the process can lead to unity eventually, leaving no disgruntled minority to form factions. This may be unlike our experience in the secular world, a welcome change.

Another drawback is depending too heavily on the clerk of a committee. When the clerk fails to function, the committee has no voice and fails to respond to issues that arise. We did not follow up on this crucial concern.

By continuing to return to the movement of Spirit, we are called to let go of our personal preferences for the good of the Meeting. By reconciling to the process, we can go beyond the immediate issue. And we can apply the principles to our personal lives. We wandered briefly into questions of attracting newcomers and building new relationships. These broader questions may form the basis of a future forum. But who in the structure will see that it happens?

Finally, the October issue of Friends Journal is devoted to Quaker Process, with excellent range of articles and an interview with George Lakey building on his Sept. article. I recommend it to everyone. I was particularly struck by the words of Kat Griffith: "I firmly believe in the same things that Fox did: that the Spirit can and does speak powerfully and authoritatively to individuals, that individuals can be deluded, and that checks on individual discernment are a good thing. Much of what we call Quaker process grows out of the tension among these paradoxical truths.

"But I wonder, could it be that our mechanisms of discernment are acting as overly powerful brakes on Spiritual impulses? Could it be (as one Friend put it) that we are deifying Quaker process: elevating the architecture of decision making over the call of Spirit to help heal the beautiful, bleeding world?" *Careful Discernment or Spiritual Timidity?* Friends Journal, Oct. 2020, pp 15-17

The Wider Quaker World

Online Opportunities from Pendle Hill

FIRST MONDAY LECTURE



Nov. 2, 2020, 7:00-9.00 p.m. Eastern Time, via Zoom.
With **Eileen Flanagan**.

Whoever wins the presidential election, whether or not the result is contested, we know there will be much work to be done. How do we prepare when we don't know what is coming? In November's First Monday Lecture, "What Happens Wednesday? Preparing Ourselves for the Work Ahead," award-winning author **Eileen Flanagan** will explore the possible scenarios and discuss what it will take to create a more just, sustainable, and loving world. [Read more and register](#)

SPIRIT IN THE STREETS SALONS

How does it feel to pray while in the streets in protest? And what power does it offer us? How do we stay grounded while afraid? What does it feel like to listen to Spirit when there is chaos and violence around you? How can collective discernment still support our faith in action when we must make quick and difficult decisions?

Explore these questions and more in four experiential salons with Education Coordinator **Lina Blount**, **November 5, 12, 19** and **Dec 3, 2020**. Noon-1:30pm Eastern Time; \$25 each or \$80 for all four.

[Read more and register](#)



NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER READING GROUPS

In November, we will discuss the latest Pendle Hill Pamphlet, [Race, Systemic Violence, and Retrospective Justice](#), by Dr. Hal Weaver. The date of the November Reading Group is **Wednesday, November 11** from 6:30-8:00 p.m. Eastern Time. You can sign up [here](#).

December's Reading Group is **Wednesday, December 9** from 6:30-8:00 p.m. Eastern Time. We will be reading Dick Taylor's 2013 pamphlet, [Nonviolent Direct Action as a Spiritual Path](#). Sign up [here](#).

Annual Meeting and Lobbying for FCNL

We received the following letter from Friends Committee for National Legislation, inviting us to join their Annual Meeting (online) and to engage in Quaker lobbying. Friends are invited to respond as they are led.



Friends Committee
on National Legislation
Lobbying with Quakers

If lobbying from a place of faith starts with the premises that civil authority is established to serve the people and that the people are not to be naïve or pushed into betraying God's way, it must always keep in the forefront the love of God, neighbor, and ourselves.

*-FCNL Friend in Washington Margery Post Abbott, from
A Theological Perspective on Quaker Lobbying*

October 19, 2020

Dear Friends,

Lobbying for effective public policies for peace, social justice, a sustainable environment, and good government is the heart of FCNL's mission. Our work has been critical in response to the suffering and crises experienced by many people this year. The support of thousands of individual donors, and hundreds of Quaker meetings and churches around the country, has sustained our persistent advocacy.

Today, I'm writing to ask your monthly meeting or church to make a gift to FCNL's witness and advocacy in Washington. Your meeting or church's financial support of FCNL not only makes our collective work possible, it is a reminder of why we exist as an organization – **to serve as a Quaker witness in Washington, D.C. and advocate for the concerns of Friends across the country.** Please keep a contribution to FCNL in your budget for 2021, and if you haven't made a gift this calendar year, there is still time to do so.

Since the pandemic began earlier this year, FCNL has stepped up our lobbying for policies that help protect the most vulnerable of our neighbors, especially people who are Black, Indigenous, and other people of color who have suffered disproportionately from both the virus and the economic downturn. We had a notable success just last month, when legislation to address the crisis of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls became law after many years of advocacy from FCNL and our allies in the Native American community. And, as we go forward, FCNL continues to push for the elimination of institutional racism and other forms of systemic discrimination in all of our work, from militarism to peacebuilding to gun violence to climate change.

Today, and in the months to come, your meeting's support will help FCNL to advance these critical issues:

- In addition to our other advocacy to bring about racial and economic justice, FCNL is working for COVID-19 relief that addresses systemic inequalities. As we mourn the over 200,000 people who have died in this country, we're dismayed by the disproportionately high mortality rates in the Black, Indigenous, and Latino communities, which expose underlying injustices. Systemic inequality also explains why people of color are suffering the worst economic burdens from the pandemic, potentially hurting families and communities for years to come;
- In domestic lobbying, working to address the racism inherent in the U.S. criminal justice system, including the reform of policing and sentencing laws. Our advocacy for voting integrity seeks to prevent voter suppression, which is often racially-based;
- In the area of foreign policy, co-leading a project with the Center for International Policy to shift the paradigm of U.S. foreign policy in order to dismantle racism and militarism as its foundational tenets.

I also want to invite you join hundreds of F/friends from around the country who will come together to learn, worship, and lobby Congress at FCNL's first ever virtual **Annual Meeting and Quaker Public Policy Institute, November 14-17, 2020**. Our theme is "Fierce Love" and our ask this year is lobbying Congress for strong action to address police abuse that results in murder and violence against Black people and the militarization of the police, and for legislation that begins to transform policing. You can find the details and registration information at fcnl.org/annualmeeting.

In these trying and uncertain times, in the polarized atmosphere of Washington, D.C., FCNL's faithful, nonpartisan voice of reason is more important than ever. Thank you for considering this request to support our work for peace and justice.

Sincerely,



Diane Randall
General Secretary

Friends Meeting of San Antonio
7052 N Vandiver
San Antonio, Texas 78209

Subscribe by joining the Newsletter list at SanAntonioQuakers.org and responding to the verification email.
