

October 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

Dear Friends,

We have several items of important business this month, which various correspondents describe inside the newsletter. Here are the bullet points and pages so you know where to turn:

1. **Zoom has changed its settings, so we have had to change the entry information for our online meetings. Please use the links and information on page 2 or on the website Calendar page:** <http://SanAntonioQuakers.org/Calendar/>
2. The spread of COVID-19 in San Antonio has lessened enough for us to begin **Hybrid Meetings for Worship**. These allow up to 15-18 participants to hold Sunday Meeting for Worship on the Meetinghouse porch, with others joining by Zoom. We will begin these when:
 - a. We hear from at least six people who wish to attend porch meetings regularly. Please write me at clerk@saquakers.org if you can commit to being a regular.
 - b. We have at least 3 volunteers per Sunday who can commit to arriving 1/2 hour early to help set up and take down the equipment twice a month. **See page 3 for details.**
 - c. Porch participants need to bring whatever blankets, wraps, or cushions they need. They will unload and place their own chairs from the chair carts. We will have hand sanitizer, wipes, and procedures for keeping the bathrooms safe.
3. We will have another **"Friends Hatchback Party"** in the Meetinghouse parking lot on Thursday, October 10th. (No one has cars with tailgates anymore.) Please RSVP. **See page 4.**
4. Gretchen H. will lead a **Workshop on Committees & Quaker Business Practices** during our Forum time on Wednesday, October 14th. It will be the only forum this month, on Zoom. **See page 2.**
5. Business Meeting will (as usual) be on Wednesday, October 21st, on Zoom.

— Jim Spickard, Meeting Clerk and Newsletter Editor

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.



October Query

During these times of social upheaval, what testimonies and acts of kindness have you found useful as a moral compass?

Weekly Events (by Zoom)

Here are the direct links for our weekly 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
- **Course in Miracles discussion – Tuesdays 7-8pm**; led by David Hayes **NOT OCT 6th THIS MONTH**
 - [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
 - October 14: “Workshop on Committees and Quaker Business Practices” (see below)
 - October 21: **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

- **Oct 8th: Friends Hatchback Party, Meetinghouse Parking Lot – See page 4**
 - **6:30-7:30:** Greet & Eat; **7:30-8:30:** Meeting for Worship; **RSVP to** dialpsd@sbcglobal.net

Midweek Forum Topics

- **Wednesday, October 14th: “Workshop on Committees & Quaker Business Practices”** led by Gretchen
 - Ever wonder how Quakers ever get anything done? No votes. No Robert’s Rules. Instead “Waiting on the sense of the Meeting”. What?
 - Now an evening devoted to exploring these questions, designed especially for those new to Friends. In three scenarios, we will illustrate major concerns of getting down to business, with plenty of time for questions and discussion. Quaker Process Revealed. Come and see.

Please share your ideas for future forums with Ministry and Oversight or with the Clerk

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Moving Toward Hybrid Meetings for Worship

By Val Liveoak, Clerk of Ministry and Oversight

As the level of COVID-19 transmission declines in San Antonio, and the city begins carefully to reopen, Ministry and Oversight (M&O) and our Meeting Clerk have been working toward resuming some form of in-person Meeting for Worship. I am writing this 'Op-Ed' to give you my perspective on this process.

At this point we are planning to hold *hybrid meetings*. These are meetings that include both in-person and virtual presence, giving each equal weight. They would let us worship together, while letting everyone choose the modality that suits them. They would serve both those Friends who have adapted to Zoom worship and those who have not felt that online meetings speak to their spiritual needs. We would minimize the chance that the in-person component could spread COVID-19 in the community.

For the time being, these hybrid Meetings for Worship would meet both on Zoom and on the Meetinghouse porch, the latter suitably masked and distanced, with limited attendance (15-18 people). They would have a central microphone for ministry, with Zoom participants joining via a large screen and speakers. We have the equipment to do this, though weekly setup and takedown will require some work.

At some later point, we can move into the Meetinghouse, though the ad-hoc technical committee convened by our Clerk indicates that this will require some equipment purchases.

Ministry and Oversight reported our progress at the September Business Meeting. We appreciated the thoughtful feedback we received. But we encountered a problem that stems from a lack of feedback from those currently not attending Zoom meetings and a lack of offers of help to set up the porch.

I was surprised to learn that almost no one came forward in response to the Clerk's August request to help with the hybrid meetings. We need 6 people who can work with the technical aspects of setup, 3 each on alternate weekends. (The Clerk can be one of these for the time being.) They would need to arrive by 9:30am on Sundays to sweep the porch, set up the Zoom connection, set up a small table to hold hand sanitizer, bathroom cleaner, and wipes, and pull out two of our chair carts.

Additionally, we need to know how many people would attend the in-person part of hybrid meeting, since it would not be efficient to set up an in-person meeting for fewer than 6 to 8 people.

Friends, we understand that this has been a difficult time. For some it has meant extra work, while for some it has meant figuring out how to fill suddenly empty time. I'm hoping that we have all adjusted to some degree by now, although parents of school-age children face potential changes still.

But if ever there was a time for people to come together and figure out how they can support Meeting, this is it. A very small core of dedicated Friends has kept Meeting going, some of them doing much more than they should have done. We are tired. We are not sure Friends want the various things we are working hard on, because we have not heard from you. We need feedback and active participation for a Quaker Meeting to function adequately.

Over the next week, please let Ministry & Oversight know what you would like to see as we work to return to whatever our 'new normal' will be. We would also like to know what you personally can commit to doing for the Meeting, so that the Meeting can continue to be a spiritual home for yourself and others. You can reach us by email at ministry@squaker.org.

Special Event

FRIENDS HATCHBACK PARTY



When: October 8, 2020

6:30pm - 7:30pm Greet & Eat

7:30pm - 8:00pm Silence Worship

Where: Meetinghouse Parking Lot
7052. Vandiver Road

RSVP: REQUIRED for planning purposes

By Oct. 6, 2020

dialpsd@sbcglobal.net



The Plan

- Cars will be parked for appropriate distancing. You will be directed upon arrival.
- Everyone will bring their own food, drinks and tailgate setup.
- The Meetinghouse & ALL facilities will be closed including bathrooms.
- MASKS are REQUIRED when not eating or drinking.
- Keep to 6' distancing at ALL times.

At the Meetinghouse

Tailgate supper and worship on September 10th

We circled the [station]wagons in the Meeting parking lot and, wearing face masks, greeted each other enthusiastically. Folding tables and chairs were set up and supper emerged. But the greeting was too much fun for any meals to interrupt. Eventually, we did retreat to our own tailgates and when the gentle rain began, we moved farther back into the vehicles. The meal over, we packed everything back into the wagons and headed for the porch for our worship. We were twelve, spaced out in front of the Meetinghouse in grateful, silent worship.



*The next 'tailgate' will be a 'hatchback' party on Thursday October 8th.
(No one has real tailgates anymore.) See page 4.*

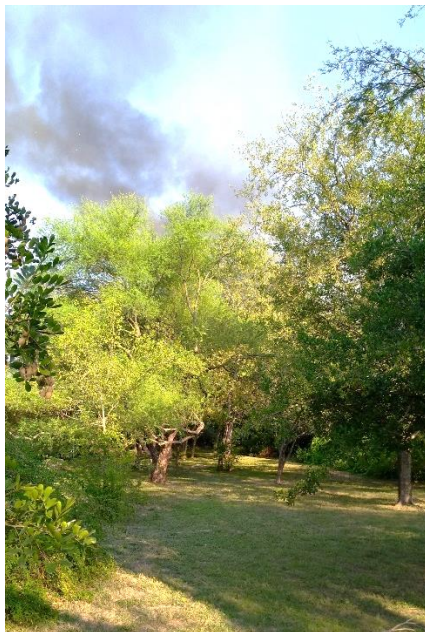
Cleaning the Courtyard

The Property Committee hosted a gardening work party at the Meetinghouse on Saturday, September 26th. Among other things, they pulled weeds from the Meetinghouse courtyard. David found and photographed a small assistant. It's a green lynx spider. We suspect that it hunts bugs.



A Fire Next Door

2020 strikes again! Pam was working in the Meetinghouse garden on Friday when she noticed smoke and embers. Here's her story:



"I had been watering in the front ... when I saw the first burning ember smoking at my feet. I thought, 'This is weird. How can something be smoking right here where I am watering?' About then I noticed the smell, so I started looking for smoke and FREAKED OUT when I saw flames three stories high that looked like they were right behind our building. I just happened to be standing in front of that big aloe and from that angle I thought our building was on fire. I had a brief moment of fight or flight, walked over to see from the south side of the garden near my car and realized where the fire was in the abandoned building [across the gully] and then grabbed my phone and called 911. ... A ton of birds came over and landed in our courtyard elm and the mountain laurel by the wall. They were very upset. I noted cardinals and wrens, but I did not see

our thrasher. ... I talked to a couple firefighters, ... and they told me they would bring in equipment to turn the debris and make sure it was all completely out."



Our Quaker Community

Contributed by Peggy Dial

get to know your Friends

Friends Meeting of San Antonio

David Hayes is an attendee of FMSA and is a member of two committees, Property and Peace & Social Concerns. He has been a practitioner of A Course in Miracles since 2014 and facilitates an ACIM group at the Meetinghouse. David is a licensed massage therapist in private practice. He enjoys working out at the gym, bicycling, caring for a patio full of plants and going for long walks with his two dogs. David is a political activist. He has run two City Council campaigns, served in the Ethics Review Board for the city of Converse and volunteered for Democrats up and down ballot. His proudest achievement has been as a state and national convention delegate for Bernie Sanders in 2016 and 2020. David strives to be the best form of himself. He feels he is at the crux of an internal and external transformation.



What was your favorite childhood toy?

A wooden telephone with wheels that I carried with me everywhere!

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

2 states ~ California & Texas

2 countries ~ Mexico & USA

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

Cucumbers & Watermelon

Where did you attend your first Quaker Meeting?

Friends Meeting of San Antonio

Which of the Quaker testimonies speaks to you?

Peace ~ To me, if we can practice and attain peace, it allows for everything else to unfold. Peace is sorely needed in this world, a peace which begins and stems from us as individuals.

Name one positive outcome from your Corona experience.

"To see how much of our society is based on 'smoke and mirrors' that do not hold up in the midst of a humanitarian crisis then to be with myself and uncover the aspects of my life which themselves were 'smoke and mirrors'. This time has offered me the opportunity to choose new ways to live, new ways to be,"

1

Coffee or Tea

COFFEEEEE!

2

Dogs or Cats

DOGS

3

Chocolate or Vanilla

VANILLA

4

Book or Movie

BOOK

get to know your Friends

Friends Meeting of San Antonio

Kellie Price is a member of the Religious Society of Friends and serves as Recording Clerk. She is an appellate attorney for the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services and is board certified in child welfare law. She is an active bullet-journaler, dabbles in art, and has discovered a passion for crafting during the recent quarantine. Kellie and her husband, Carl, coordinate an annual Christmas celebration at a nearby nursing home with crafts, music & presents for all the residents. Her youngest daughter, Saqqara, attends FMSA's children's program. Not to be forgotten are Kellie's dogs, Nibbles and Brock.



What was your favorite childhood toy?

A stuffed yellow rabbit named Skippy

What is your favorite room in your house?

The living room; it's where we connect as a family

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

3 states ~ North Carolina, Virginia & Texas

Where did you attend your first Quaker Meeting?

Friends Meeting of San Antonio

Which of the Quaker testimonies speaks to you?

Equality ~ The equality testimony brought me in the door, and equality and community have kept me coming back. It was very important that my spiritual community be LGBTQ+ affirming and be committed to anti-racism and racial justice. To me, equality and community speak to those concerns.

Name one positive outcome from your Corona experience.

"Exercise. I have exercised every single day since April 28."

Roses or Daisies

1

ROSES

Ocean or Mountains

2

OCEAN

Modern or Vintage

3

MODERN

Winter or Summer

4

WINTER

A Poem

Like sodden fleece
on gathered sheep
clouds trundle, dark and low.
Across the sky,
and sun's white eye,
they flock where seagulls go

I kneel ashore
where dune meets moor,
the wind beneath my scarf.
With pen in hand,
I sketch the land
and, on its pall, remark:

This autumn day
of crabs and clay
yawns grey and baleen wide.
It makes me miss
spring's briny kiss
and summer's sequined tides.

But as I mourn
and brace, forlorn,
for winter's coming wight,
my soul is soothed
by nature's truth:
'Day always follows Night.'

-- Oliver Gerken



Photos by Jim Spickard

The Wider Quaker World

On Voting

Gretchen writes: "If, like me, you requested a mail-in ballot for the November election and then changed your mind, deciding to vote in person, you can do so." Quoting the The Texas Tribune:

"The process will be more streamlined if you bring your mail-in ballot with you to your polling place so you can surrender it before casting your vote. If you don't have your ballot or never received it, you can still cast a provisional ballot. Your vote will be counted once the county determines it never received your mail-in ballot."

News from South Central Yearly Meeting

Istra Fuhrmann and Gil Sanhueva presented an excellent workshop on "Young Adults Leading on Immigration Reform!" (Istra recently moved to San Antonio from Atlanta to work with FCNL's Advocacy Corps.) They described several effective ways to lobby our elected officials for laws that treat immigrants justly, especially the "Dream and Promise Act", which would give DACA recipients – who have lived in the U.S. most of their young lives – a path to citizenship. It has passed the House of Representatives but is stalled in the Senate.

Here are some take-aways from their workshop:

- If you want to take action by sending an email, you can access the FCNL Action Center by just typing in <http://fcnl.org/congress> or <http://fcnl.quorum.us>. On the right-hand side of the page, you may scroll down to see many possible issue areas to choose from, such as "No War with Iran," "Stop Over-spending on Immigrant Detention and Border Militarization," etc.
- Click on your topic of choice and FCNL will provide information on one or two policy asks we support on that issue. On the right, enter your address and it will auto-populate your elected officials. You can send a pre-written email from this page or, as we recommend, personalize it first with your own story to send to your elected officials!
- If you're feeling fired up and want to learn how to lobby from home, take action by going to <https://www.fcnl.org/updates/lobby-congress-from-home-2666>. This page has many resources that teach advocacy skills. Under "Take Action Now", you can fill out a form to get in touch with our organizing team. If you are a Texan constituent interested in advocating on immigration, you can write to me directly [at istrafuhrmann@gmail.com] and I would love to have you as part of my next lobbying visit!

A further word from Istra:

"During our workshop, we spoke about the Advocacy Corps, which is 20 young adults across the country organizing their communities to advocate for this year's policy ask: The Dream and Promise Act for undocumented immigrant youth. To learn more about this legislation, [write me to get a] 1-page leave-behind information summarizing H.R. 6, the Dream and Promise Act. If you lobby an official on immigration reform, you will attach this leave-behind in a follow-up email.

"Lastly, if the Advocacy Corps has piqued your interest and you know a young adult who may be interested in learning FCNL's lobbying tools to mobilize their local communities for social change, [write me for the] info for how to apply!"

An Online Workshop from Right Sharing of World Resources



Dear Friend,

Are you seeking to simplify your life and take personal steps to create a right relationship with our world? If so RSWR will be offering a workshop entitled "The Power of Enough" via Zoom, on Thursdays from October 22nd to November 19th, 2020 from 7:30-9:00 PM Eastern Standard Time.

Participants will experience new perspectives through queries, storytelling, sharing, and singing. Attendees will leave with a deeper sense of self and connection to how our personal choices ripple forward to others.

If you are interested please register below. Attendance is limited to 24 participants and the fee for the workshop is pay as led. These workshops are funded by everyone's contribution and is costs \$150 per participant to run this program, please give as you are able.

Registration is at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf-Lljx1PG4hf4qpak3juGI3iDn46eX_01v6Pz3FH9VfxRkDA/viewform

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