

August 2021



The Friendly News

San Antonio Quakers

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Dear Friends:

It's hot outside and the mosquitoes do not believe in social distancing! Hopefully you're reading this newsletter in front of a fan. And as you wipe the sweat from your brow, let's jump into the news.

- First, **FMSA now holds TWO Meetings for Worship each Sunday!** Both are in the Meeting Room, which we have rearranged for safe seating.
 - The first Meeting for Worship is from 8:30 to 9:30. It is a traditional Meeting with no electronics.
 - The second, blended Meeting for Worship is from 10:00 to 11:00 in the Meeting Room and via Zoom.

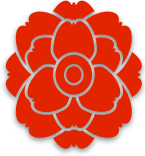
If you are attending either Meeting in person, please remember to wear your masks and maintain social distancing until the COVID variants are under control.

- This month will be **a month of remembrance and reflection**. Our Ministry and our Peace Committees have arranged blended (in-person and Zoom) forums for each of August's five Sundays. See page 4 for details.
- Read ahead to prepare for two **upcoming forums** on Doug Gwyn's book "A Call to Radical Faithfulness" (page 5).

Remember to send newsletter contributions to newsletter@saquakers.org. Thank you to Friends who contributed to this month's edition.

-- Kellie P., 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.*



August Query

As we return to in-person Meeting for Worship, how can we both grieve our losses and celebrate our reunions -- including our reunions with parts of our inner selves that have wandered away or become isolated?

Regular Events (by Zoom)

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

- **Early Meeting for Worship – Sundays 8:30-9:30am**
- **Blended Meeting for Worship – Sundays 10-11am**, followed by check-in and discussion: *Zoom and In-Person*
 - **On Zoom and in the Meeting Room** (*masked and distanced*)
 - [CLICK HERE to join by Zoom](#) ID # 976 0522 6497; passcode: 194077
- **Forums after Meeting for Worship – Sundays 11:15-12:30**
 - **On Zoom and in the Meeting Room**
 - [Same Zoom address as above](#)
- **Course in Miracles discussion – Tuesdays 7-8pm**; led by David
 - [CLICK HERE to join by Zoom](#) – ID # 988 3173 6394; passcode: 724708
- **Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business – No Scheduled Business Meeting in August**
- **Friday Morning Meeting for Worship – Fridays 8-8:30 am**
 - [CLICK HERE to join by Zoom](#) – ID # 976 0522 6497; passcode: 194077

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

Special Events

- **Meeting for Weeding (and other activities) at the Meetinghouse:** August 7th, 8am-noon

Send September events to newsletter@saquakers.org

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*check online calendar to confirm times

Meeting News

Updates from Ministry and Oversight

Friends Meeting of San Antonio committees are on task with good work. Our new sign was installed, the ad hoc survey was completed and a report with proposals went to the called Meeting for Worship with attention to Business on Sunday, 18 July when it was accepted. Ministry and Oversight worked with the ad hoc and Religious Education committees as we prepare for returning to in-person worship. The Peace and Social Concerns committee requested a time of remembrance in August and Spirit has led M&O to take that idea to heart.

Recently in an email about the queries for July and August, James G. wrote,

"Reflecting on the opening of the meeting house, unexpectedly I found myself becoming very emotional. I felt a surge of grief imagining the separation and the losses that have occurred in the last year. This was followed by a sense of hopefulness and even some joy anticipating a return to normal and a reunion with some folks that have been distant. This includes parts of myself that have wandered away or became isolated."

This Friend speaks to something so important. Recent years and months have, at times, felt like something was unraveling. Now is the time for knitting ourselves together again, as individuals and as community. M&O calls on Friends to commend the month of August as a time of **Remembrance and Reflection**. Please join us for five worship-sharing forums on this topic after 10am Meeting for Worship each Sunday this month. *(See the next page.)*



Photo by Saqqara P.

[August: A Month of Remembrance and Reflection](#)

Following meeting for worship each week, we shall gather to reflect on a topic, to remember and to mourn what has been lost. We will use Worship Sharing* and deep listening to respond to each query. This will be a blended gathering.

Each person will speak out of the silence, with silence to follow. Each person will speak only once until everyone who wishes has spoken. We will not comment on each other's messages, although they may stir our thoughts. We will not give information about a topic but we will speak from the heart and our own experience.

The call is to "Say Their Names," whether a person, place or event.

- August 1, The many losses of the Pandemic
- August 8, The victims of U S atomic attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, past and current wars
- August 15, The legacy of racism and white domination
- August 22, The assault on nature by human activity
- August 29, A candlelight vigil at Meeting and at home to reflect on how our Remembrances have stirred us to become living candles

*Friends General Conference has posted a good description of Worship Sharing at: <https://bit.ly/3ibb50t>



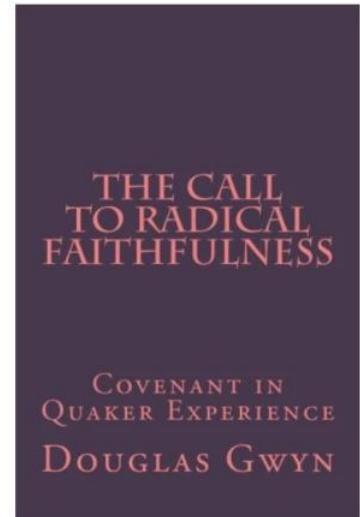
This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY

[Subscribe to the Newsletter and the Announcements Lists](#)

You read that right: Lists. San Antonio Meeting has TWO mailing lists. One is for those who want our monthly newsletter. The other is for those who want our weekly announcements of local Quaker events. You are welcome to subscribe to both. Though everyone got the weekly announcements during the height of the pandemic, we are now cutting back our mailings. Please sign up for one or both lists at our website. You can manage your existing subscriptions at <https://bit.ly/3fgttmX>

[Quaker Forums on Radical Faithfulness](#)

On Sunday, September 5th, and Sunday, October 10th, the Religious Education Committee will be holding forums after we have read a short booklet by Douglas Gwyn, [The Call to Radical Faithfulness: Covenant in Quaker Experience](#). These forums will be held after Meeting for Worship, from 11:30-12:30, and they will be a hybrid gathering with Zoom participation made available, as we are doing in our Meetings. These discussions will be led by committee member Gary Whiting, and he will have copies of the book available through the month of August at our Meetings, or you can order your own copy through FGC Quakerbooks for \$10 (<https://bit.ly/3jcHiUz>). The book is written in two parts, and we will follow that format in our discussions, with Part I discussed in September.



First, a bit about Doug Gwyn. He states that he grew up in a "large, mildly liberal pastoral Meeting in Indianapolis" with little that inspired or motivated him. Then, while in college, he felt a distinct calling to a Christian ministry among Friends, though "something more prophetically Christian and more seriously Quaker than I had received in my youth". He enrolled in Union Theological Seminary in 1971, and since then has been a prolific writer on Quaker history and thought.

Gwyn is not casual in his use of the word "radical" in the title. He is very intent on addressing an often unacknowledged schism in both our little Society and our larger society, between the insistence on a Christocentric orientation and a love for the unity brought about by universalistic sensibilities. This is no small issue, though Gwyn feels that the story of our Society embodies the solution. Part I is made up of stories of early Quakers and the peril they underwent, and he feels that knowing these stories is essential "because Quaker faith is experiential rather than creedal, our theology is narrative in character". He feels that our roots run deep into these early narratives, and that these sensibilities must be absorbed for our Society to blossom into a healing force in the modern world.

The committee is encouraging Friends to fully experience these narratives and come ready to share what moments were illuminative for you. Doug Gwyn is so conversant with the best of who Quakers are, that time and again there will be a phrase or a section that serves as an "opening". Personally, I am still working through p. 17 as a whole new perspective. Thank you, Friends, and hope to have you join us.

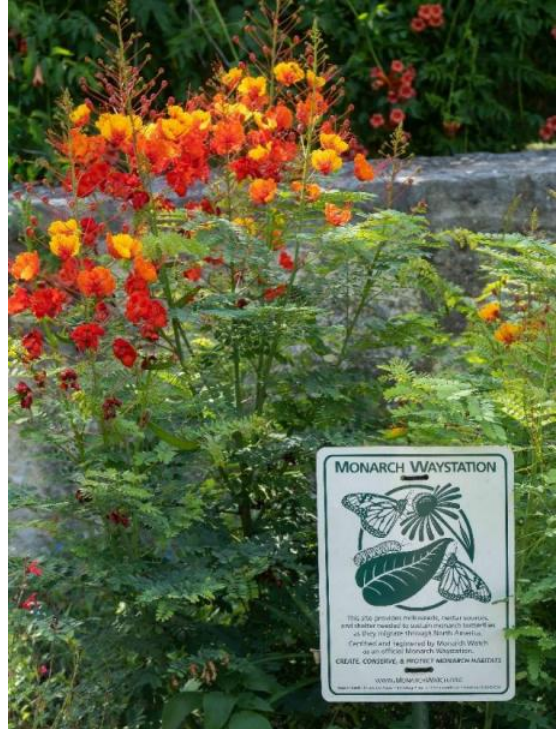
-- Gary Whiting

[Directory Info](#)

The Meeting maintains a directory of participants. Because of concerns about privacy in this age of virtual and physical actions by malevolent actors, distribution is more restricted than, say, 25 years ago. Contact Community Engagement, comengage@saquakers, for contact information for an individual or for a copy of the directory. Please help keep the directory up to date by providing change of address, email, or phone to the same address.

August Workday

Please join the property committee members (all 4 of us) for our August workday on Saturday, August 7 from 8:00 until noon. If you like playing in the dirt we can find a spot for you - weeds are abundant and we may also be transplanting some plants to the fence line at the back of the property. We may start some work on clearing the corner near the new sign in preparation for fall planting. If you are dirt phobic we have an inside project: polishing plexiglass with plexiglass polish to allow us to repurpose part of the old meetinghouse sign. We may also be doing some painting in one of the storerooms. So many fun things to do, and they ARE fun when we are working together! We hope you will come for all or part of the workday.



Wider Quaker World

FCNL Information

August 6 – 9 #CranesForOurFuture On the 76th anniversaries of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, join communities from around the world to make clear that advocating for peace is more important than ever before. Learn to fold a paper crane, pledge to participate, and share the effort with others in your community! Be sure to use the hashtag #CranesForOurFuture.

Contact Your Representatives: While the American Rescue Plan (P.L. 117-2), passed in March 2021, provided a critical pandemic relief, more is needed to put us on the path toward a just economic recovery. The economic stratification in our country is a result of sustained efforts to shape policies that benefit the white elite. Reversing this trend will require the same level of consistent commitment. For instance, by making the expansions to the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit permanent, lawmakers have the power to cut child poverty in half. Congressional leaders are working now to advance a pandemic recovery bill through the budget reconciliation process. In a few weeks, they will decide its priorities, and how to pay for them. Putting the United States on a path towards equality is possible, and Friends can help guide Congress toward that transformation. Send an email to your representatives here: <https://fcnl.quorum.us/campaign/32994/>

[San Antonio and Beyond](#)

[Interfaith San Antonio Alliance Update](#)

ISAA along with University of the Incarnate Word and other wonderful sponsors invite you to join in **any or all sessions** of a three day, online institute sharing San Antonio stories of compassion and transformation!

When: Aug. 4-6, or any portion that fits your need!

Where: On-line

Who: Anyone seeking the best for San Antonio

This extraordinary gathering of faithful folks will share their stories of inspiration and transformation from a kaleidoscope of perspectives.

In particular, note the session on Thursday Aug. 5, from 1-1:50 p.m.,

"Interfaith Peace Building: One Story at a Time" hosted by Wyndee Holbrook and Dawn Martin with Lisa Epstein, Damaris Cavazos Fike, and Fulya Seker

We will share stories from the past year as faith leaders came together, not only responding to needs but growing together as people of compassion.

Most of you know of "The INTERSECTION" which is now part of our Thursday routine. The INTERSECTION is anchored by The City of San Antonio's Faith-Based Initiative, led by Rev. Ann Helmke, keeping us aware of the greatest needs and organizing for action. ISAA is a vital partner in this effort as ISAA Director Wyndee Holbrook works along side Ann to help bring the weekly briefings to the community.

Reflecting on efforts initiated through the Intersection and beyond, the Aug. 5 conversation will include stories from the Raindrop Foundation of San Antonio, the Jewish Community Relations Council, and City Church proving we are stronger together!

[Racism in Policing: An ACLU Guided Course](#)



Image from ACLU

[WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT POLICE, RACE, AND THE CALLS TO DIVEST?](#)

The systemic issues inherent in American policing are nothing new. While everyone deserves to feel safe in their own community, we know Black people in our country have been terrorized and killed at the hands of the police for

centuries. It's a reality that has led millions to finally follow the lead of Black organizers and Black-led grassroots groups by calling for change that goes beyond mere reform: to divest from police as an institution and invest in community-based, life-affirming programs and solutions.

These are the issues the ACLU invites you to explore in our inaugural email course, "Racism in Policing" – a four-lesson series taught by our experts and sent to your inbox every week.

What Will You Learn?

In four weekly emails, you will gain a foundational knowledge around the critical issues of U.S. policing, its inseparable ties to systemic racism, and solutions for change. Here's a lesson breakdown:

Week 1: What is police divestment?

Week 2: Why is police militarization prominent in the U.S.?

Week 3: Who disciplines police in the U.S.?

Week 4: Why are communities over-policed – and can it change?

At the end of the course, expect to come away with answers to these questions – as well as historical context, learning resources, and the insight needed to take action. Download the full syllabus.

Who Are Your Teachers?

Paige Fernandez (she/her/hers) is the Policing Policy Advocate in the ACLU's National Political Advocacy Department. Paige develops and implements comprehensive strategies that advance the ACLU's affirmative vision for reducing the role, power, presence, and responsibilities of the police in U.S. communities. She also develops and leads nationwide advocacy around police practices. She has co-founded and directed multiple chapters of Together We Stand, a nonprofit aimed at dismantling racism, discrimination, and police brutality, and has a master's degree in Public Policy from Oxford University and a B.A. from Sarah Lawrence College.

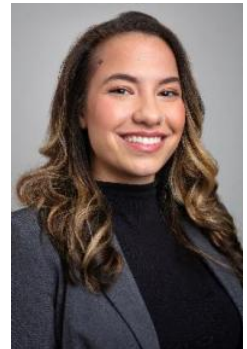


Image from ACLU



Carl Takei (he/him/his) is a senior staff attorney at the ACLU's Trone Center for Justice and Equality where he litigates police practices, advances the ACLU's affirmative vision for reducing the role, power, presence, and responsibilities of police in communities, and coordinates policing-related litigation and advocacy across multiple fronts. Carl has served as a staff attorney/Tony Dunn Foundation law fellow at the ACLU of the Nation's Capital and a law clerk for the U.S. District Judge Paul Barbadoro in the U.S. District Court for the District of New Hampshire and holds a J.D., magna cum laude, from Boston College Law School and an A.B. from Brown University.

Image from ACLU

Ending on a Lighter Note

How to Stay Happy!

Author Unknown; Submitted by Pam S.

1. Never be without a project that you can work toward.
2. Do not let an emotional problem sit there on your shoulders. Talk it over with a friend or counselor.
3. No matter how bad things seem, learn to count your blessings each morning.
4. Tell yourself that you can survive all life's problems.
5. Every time you find yourself guilty of negative thinking, take the same thought and reword it into a positive statement of how you are going to handle a problem.
6. Form the habit of becoming useful to others.
7. Have a physical checkup at least once a year.
8. Take one vacation each year. Enjoy life. Learn to laugh.
9. Be sensible about the number of hours you work. Write out your schedule everyday and provide entertainment and self-rewards.
10. Always be involved with two books—one that you are reading and one that you are going to read.
11. Make self-improvement a lifetime goal.
12. Never stand aloof from people. Never hesitate to strike up a conversation with a stranger. All friends were strangers before they were friends.



Photo by Saqqara P.

Two final thoughts:

Do not wait for others to lead you by the hand or make you welcome. Make yourself welcome.

“You cannot prevent the birds of sorrow from flying over your head, but you can prevent them from building nests in your hair.”



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