

December 2021



The Friendly News

San Antonio Quakers

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San Antonio, Texas 78209

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Janet Southwood Memorial Meeting

Saturday, December 4th at 11:00am

At the Meetinghouse and on Zoom



You are invited to celebrate the life of Janet Southwood, a beloved member of our Meeting for over 20 years. She and Ken moved to St Paul in 2018 to be near their daughter and family. Janet will be remembered for her gentle hospitality and welcome to visitors. A Hospitality Fund in her name has been established by Meeting open for donations.

You can join the Memorial in person at the Friends Meeting of San Antonio, or by zoom, see link below. We will offer a simple lunch of soup, sandwiches, and fruit after the memorial worship. Friends attending in-person are invited to bring a dessert item.

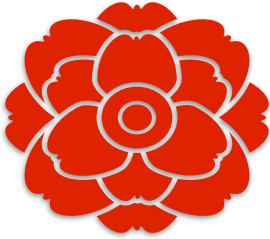
**If you cannot attend in person,
you are welcome to join us by ZOOM**

Zoom ID #976 0522 6497

passcode: 194077

To join by phone: +1 346 248 7799, then enter ID#

December Query



December holds the promise of miracles and the coming Light. How do we learn to embody what we believe?

Regular Events

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

- **Sunday Meetings for Worship**
 - **8:30-9:30am**, in-person in the Meetinghouse.
 - **10-11am**, in-person in the Meetinghouse AND on Zoom.
 - **[CLICK HERE to join by Zoom](#)**
ID # 976 0522 6497; passcode: 194077
 - **Course in Miracles discussion – Tuesdays 7-8pm**
led by David
 - **[CLICK HERE to join by Zoom](#)** – ID # 988 3173 6394;
passcode: 724708
 - **2nd Thursday Simple Meal and Meeting for Worship – Thursdays 6-7:30pm** at the Meetinghouse
 - **SPECIAL EVENT: Talk by Jerry Knutson on “Spiritual Discernment” at 7pm (see page 3; Zoom option for the talk)**
 - **3rd Saturday “Meeting for Weeding”**
 - 9am-1pm at the Meetinghouse (**see page 4**)
 - **Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business**
 - **Sunday Dec 21st 11:30-1:00** in-person in the Meetinghouse AND on Zoom.
[CLICK HERE to join by Zoom](#) – ID # 976 0522 6497; passcode: 194077
 - **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

- **Memorial Meeting for Janet Southwood (see page 1)**
- **Christmas Eve Meeting for Worship** at the Meetinghouse (**see page 4**)
 - 5pm: Pre-meeting fellowship with snack, conversation, & set-up
 - 6pm: Meeting for Worship
 - 7pm: Simple meal & fellowship

Send December events to newsletter@squakers.org

Contents

- p 2: December Query
Regular & Special Events
- pp 3-5: News from San Antonio
Meeting:
 - Clerk's Corner
 - 2nd Thursday Simple Meal & Forum
 - Christmas Eve Meeting
 - Meeting for Weeding
 - Restarting the Children's Program
 - Sad News
 - Tech Clerks
- pp 6-7: Wider Quaker World
 - AFSC: “What Do Your Investments Do?”
 - FCNL Messages & Opportunities
- p 7-8: Inspiration:
 - Our Life is Love

News from San Antonio Meeting

Clerk's Corner: Moving to the "New Normal"

Over the last month, we have developed a "new normal" for Friends Meeting of San Antonio.

1. We have resumed in-person Meetings for Worship in the Meetinghouse. We have two Sunday Meetings for Worship: at **8:30am (in-person only)** and at **10am (in-person and on Zoom)**.
 - Zoom allows participation by those who are distant or have health or other issues. We appreciate their presence.
 - We encourage those who can attend in person to do so. This lets us build community by interacting with other Friends and by welcoming our visitors.
2. We have learned how to run blended in-person-plus-Zoom forums and business meetings.
 - It helps to have as many people attend in person as possible. But it is also good to have Friends join us on Zoom, bringing their insights and wisdom.
3. We have resumed our **2nd-Thursday meals-&-conversation** events, followed by a half-hour Meeting for Worship. We have also begun regular **"Meetings for Weeding"** each **3rd Saturday** and continue our **8:00-8:30am Friday Meetings for Worship** over Zoom.
4. We have begun planning how to reopen the Children's Program, with a January target. **See page 5 for how you can help!**

We are glad to be back!

-- Jim Spickard, Meeting Clerk

2nd Thursday Simple Meal & Special Event

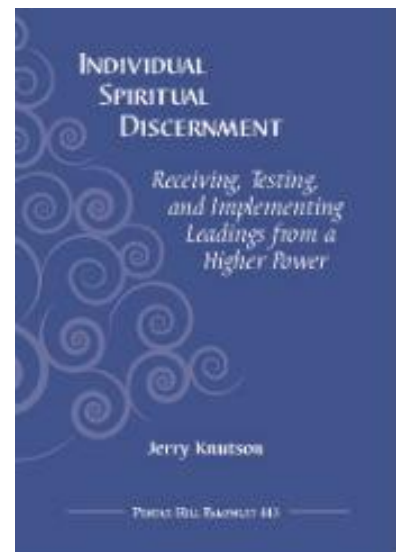
Workshop on "Individual Spiritual Discernment" *(6:00-8:30pm at the Meetinghouse)*

This month, our 2nd Thursday hatchback/porch/worship event will be a little different. As we have done before, we will each bring our own food and eat together on the porch if weather permits or in the community room starting at 6 p.m.

At 7-8:30 p.m., our guest, Jerry Knutson will offer a workshop based on his Pendle Hill Pamphlet #443 "Individual Spiritual Discernment".

This workshop will focus on secular decision making, practicing a method of discernment, testing, and implementing the discernment, and practicing spiritual disciplines. Participants are requested to bring a question, issue, situation that they would like to discern.

You do not need to have read the pamphlet in advance, but Jerry will have copies available if Friends want them.



[Join us for Christmas Eve Meeting for Worship and Simple Meal](#)

Before COVID, we held an in-person candlelight Meeting for Worship on Christmas Eve, followed by a simple meal of tamales, beans, and whatever desserts people could bring.

Last year we had to cancel this long-standing tradition.

COVID has faded and we have improved our ventilation system. We will restart our tradition!



NEW SCHEDULE: Friday, December 24th

- 5:00-6:00 pm: set up the candles and food PLUS snacks, fellowship, and conversation. This gives us social time with Friends who can't stay for the simple meal.
- 6:00-7:00 pm: Candlelight Meeting for Worship. In-person and masked; vaccinations highly recommended. *(There is not enough light to offer a Zoom option.)*
- 7:00 on: Simple meal, fellowship, and conversation.

We can be COVID-aware without being paranoid. Please stay home if you have symptoms.

[Meeting for Weeding: Dec 18th \(9:00am-1pm\)](#)

Join us at the Meetinghouse for a morning of planting, weeding, minor repairs, and community fun. Bring gloves, water, and your favorite tools. Don't like gardening? There are other chores. There are good people to talk with!

Last month, David planted the baby cedar-elm (below left). We hope it will become as majestic as the one in our courtyard.



Photos by Jim S.

Restarting our Children's Program: Step-by-Step:

Friends Meeting is committed to restarting the program for families with children. The first step was a forum 11/28 to explore our options. The age span seems to be 4 to 12 years old. This suggests two groups for parts of the program. For example, reading a story together then splitting for the reflection and activities.

It is important to devise activities that engage children at every age, but do not suggest any dogma. There is no shortage of appropriate materials, and we can explore the range of world religions and emphasize ethical values, as well as Quaker history and practices.

The Children's Program will take place during the 10:00 worship, hopefully starting Jan 2.

The key is recruiting Friends who do *NOT* have children in the program to volunteer one Sunday a month. This lets parents attend worship and gives them a needed break. We will need a minimum per day of two adults, one of whom may be a professional childcare person. We will need a third adult when there are enough children to split into age groups. We will provide training for volunteers.

Gretchen Haynes has offered to act as initial coordinator to recruit and schedule volunteers. She will engage with parents in developing the curriculum.

If you have questions or are ready to sign up, please contact jmhaynes@earthlink.net. Thanks!



Sad News:



Our long-time Friend Mark Hickman died suddenly in late November. We will hold a memorial celebration for him after consulting with his brother and sister-in-law.

Mark was unique. Extremely shy, he would occasionally give ministry through song or poetry. He was close to several of our older members. *Vale* Mark. We will miss you.

We Need Tech Clerks:

Now that we are holding blended 10am Meetings for Worship, Business Meetings, and Forums, we need people to monitor the Zoom screen and switch participants from Gallery to Speaker view when they give ministry. Our current small crew is stretched too thin. **Please write Jim at clerk@saquakers.org if you can help.** We provide training (and it's not a hard task).

Wider Quaker World

AFSC Asks: “Do You Know What Your Investments Do?”

The Quaker-based American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) has identified 60+ major companies that profit from the militarization of the U.S. border and the surveillance and criminalization of immigrants. It urges Friends and others to divest from these companies in support of immigrant justice. The divestment list includes household names like Microsoft, Motorola, IBM, Salesforce, Google, and Amazon.

"These companies build border walls and so called 'smart' borders, hacking into our phones and tracking all our movements, hunting down immigrants and caging families," said Dov Baum, AFSC's director of economic activism. "Let's call on our city, college, faith organization, endowment, union, pension fund or bank to divest for immigrant justice, to cut our ties and withdraw from any partnership with these surveillance and security industries. It is time for us to divest from these harmful business activities, and invest in our communities instead."

AFSC is the first institution with a comprehensive immigrant justice investment policy; with a decision to divest from the prison-industrial complex as a whole, not just from private prison companies; and with a policy that addresses Israeli apartheid. The policy guides AFSC's approximately \$240 million investment portfolio.

AFSC's Investigate Database allows investors to scan their stock portfolios and mutual funds to see if they are invested in companies that are involved in state violence. The database lists over 200 company and industry profiles.

More info at <https://www.afsc.org/newsroom/afsc-helps-investors-divest-immigrant-justice>

FCNL Messages and Opportunities:

Help end child poverty: support the extension of tax credits for children.

Unless the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and the Child Tax Credit (CTC) expansions are extended, these two highly effective anti-poverty programs will expire by Dec. 31. Extending these expanded programs in the Build Back Better Act could cut child poverty in half and lift 4.1 million children above the poverty line, including 1.2 million Black children and 1.7 million Latino children. If Congress fails to extend these credits, tens of millions of low-income parents would no longer receive the full CTC, and fewer families would qualify for the EITC. The consequences for our society's wellbeing would be immense. You can use this information to compose letters, emails and phone calls to your senators and representative.



Other opportunities for involvement:

December 8, 2021, 7 – 8 pm CST, Online. Join a conversation with FCNL about exciting opportunities to move legislation in the new year, and find out how you can take strategic action with FCNL in the months ahead. Register here: <https://www.fcnl.org/events/prepare-drive-change-new-year>

December 15, 2021, 5:30 – 6:30 pm CST, Online. What does it mean to live our faith in public? What's the connection between Quaker leadership and ministry? These are just some of the questions we'll discuss in our final Quaker Changemaker event of 2021, when FCNL Director of Quaker Leadership Alicia McBride is in conversation with outgoing General Secretary Diane Randall. Register here: <https://www.fcnl.org/events/faith-ministry-and-leadership-public-friend>

Inspiration



Our life is love

and peace, and tenderness;
and bearing one with another,
and forgiving one another,
and not laying accusations
one against another;
but praying one for another,
and helping one another up
with a tender hand...

– Isaac Penington



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San Antonio, Texas 78209

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