



# The Friendly News

## San Antonio Quakers

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Dear Friends:

This is my first month as newsletter editor, and I am still learning my way around. I appreciate patience and understanding as I learn the formatting. This month's newsletter will be a little shorter than usual, because I am getting my bearings. That said, there is news!

- First, **the FGC Gathering**, will take place virtually June 27 through July 3. See page 8 for details.
- Second, the **Hatchback Party** returns in June! As CDC guidance continues to evolve, many are eager to interact with people while still remaining safe, and the Hatchback Party is the perfect vehicle (pun intended) for safe socialization. See page 5 for details.

Please do not hesitate to send newsletter contributions to [newsletter@saquakers.org](mailto:newsletter@saquakers.org). Thank you to Friends who contributed to this month's edition. And thank you to Jim S. for his service as the previous newsletter editor (and for showing me how to work this thing).

-- Kellie P., Newsletter Co-Editor



## June Query

**How can our meeting be a channel  
for God's love and forgiveness?**

### Regular Events (by Zoom)

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

- **Hybrid Meeting for Worship – Sundays 10-11am**, followed by check-in and discussion: *Zoom and In-Person*
    - **In-Person on the Meetinghouse Porch**  
(masked if unvaccinated, distanced)
    - [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
  - **Midweek Forums – Wednesdays 7-8:30pm**
    - June 9: Religious Education Forum (tentative)
    - [CLICK HERE to join by Zoom](#) – ID # 976 0522 6497;  
passcode: 194077
    - Check for forum updates on the Meeting Calendar:  
<http://bit.ly/3rK61CV>
  - **Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business – Wednesday June 16<sup>th</sup> 7-8:30pm**
    - Please review the agenda at <http://bit.ly/2BoFt4Y>
    - [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

- **June 10<sup>th</sup> Hatchback Party**: Meetinghouse Parking Lot 6:00-7:30 pm. *See p 5*
- **June 23<sup>rd</sup> FCNL Changemaker Event**: “Talking Through Political Disagreements: Is it Even Worth It?” A national event with our own Val L. *See p 6*

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## *Reflections on the Meeting Room*

By Kellie S.

This week I had the opportunity to reflect on what the Meeting Room means to me. I first attended meeting for worship in February 2018. My aunt had just been diagnosed with stage four lung cancer and given a prognosis of months to live. At that point in my life, I had not attended religious services regularly since my best friend, Maurice, had passed away three years earlier. I felt lost and my world felt chaotic. After researching Quakers a number of times, I decided to finally go ahead and visit.

In that first meeting, I sat near the doors. I had already read about verbal ministry, but did not expect to feel moved to speak in my first visit. But in the middle of worship, I ended up sharing a tearful ministry about what brought me through those doors. During fellowship following worship, James M. told me that Quakers do not offer eternal salvation, but the Meeting Room is a place where I can lay down my burdens. My journal entry from that day reflects that I felt a sense of peace and belonging afterwards, and that I did indeed feel as though my burdens were lessened.

In the two years between walking through those doors and the pandemic, I have fond memories of the Meeting Room. I loved sitting near the window on the left side (if facing the window) so that I could look outside during worship. I loved the way the light filtered in and the sounds of the birds singing. Every Sunday, I would hear a sound that made me believe it must have started raining, but it was never rain. Perhaps it was tree leaves tapping the roof in the wind? I still don't know what made that sound, but I heard it every Sunday.



shake my hand. I remember feeling at home.

But most of my memories are about the people who make up the Meeting. I remember little Whitman R. opening up the door in the middle of worship, full of joy and trying to be as quiet as a toddler can be. I remember Ken's ministry about the beauty of life's interruptions when a cell phone rang. I remember being comforted following the deadly shooting in my hometown. I remember smiling after opening my eyes at the rise of meeting and realizing a beloved Friend was sitting next to me and ready to

For these reasons, I volunteered for the ad hoc committee on reopening the Meeting Room. I am hopeful and optimistic that we will be able to transition back to life at the Meeting House in a transformative way that somehow allows us to get back what we've lost while also keeping all that we've gained.



## *Saying Goodbye to the Old Sign*



Do Friends even recall when we originally approved the new marquee sign? This month, we move another step closer, as the old sign finally came down. We will likely be without a sign for a while until the new one goes up.

Much gratitude to the Property Committee and all Friends and attenders who have worked towards getting our new sign ready to go!

## *Two Metaphors From the Sildent Retreat*

By Gretchen Haynes

**Birds.** A mockingbird is pouring her heart out – What a glorious day I can sing. I’m alive and full of hope. Then silence. Then another bird begins – raspy, repetitive. Silence again. A mourning dove sound in the distance, soft but insistent. Again silence.

**Stones.** I see a shiny patch on a tiny stone, and several more. Then the sun light fades and the shininess disappears. I can’t tell one stone from another until I notice a tiny speck of blue paint on a stone – probably left by one of the children’s projects. Then another and several more scattered about. The light does not change or affect these stones.



## Coming Events

# FRIENDS HATCHBACK PARTY



**When:** June 10, 2021

6:00pm - 7:00pm Greet & Eat

7:00pm - 7:30pm Silent Worship

**Where:** Meetinghouse Parking Lot  
7052. Vandiver Road

**RSVP:** REQUIRED for planning purposes

By June 9<sup>th</sup>

[clerk@saquakers.org](mailto:clerk@saquakers.org)



### 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
- Bring masks, wear them if not vaccinated.
- Maintain safe distancing.



## *June FCNL Quaker Changemaker Event*

### "Talking Through Political Disagreement: Is It Even Worth It?"

Does talking to people who don't agree with you feel like an exercise in futility? During FCNL's June Quaker Changemaker event, we'll discuss the value of engaging with differing views and present some techniques to have those conversations faithfully and effectively. Drawing on theoretical, strategic, and spiritual frameworks from Quaker tradition, this event will showcase new skills for communicating across political divides, seeing that of God in people we disagree with, and building relationships to make change in Congress and other contexts. Our own Val L. Will be part of this panel discussion.

**WHEN:** Wed Jun 23, 2021 5:30pm – 6:30pm (CDT)

**Zoom link to join:** <https://fcnl.org/qwc-stream>

## *Recent Events*

### *Cielo Grande Quarterly Meeting*

#### Planning for Yearly Meeting, April 2022

Maybe you knew, or maybe you didn't: Quakers organize ourselves into Monthly, Quarterly, and Yearly Meetings. These are named for how often they meet for business and for conviviality. Each covers more territory and unites more Friends.

FMSA is part of Cielo Grande Quarterly, which also includes Austin, Dallas, Coastal Bend, Hill Country, and Rio Grande. Together with Arkansas/Oklahoma Quarterly, Bayou Quarterly, and a few unaffiliated Monthly Meetings, we comprise South Central Yearly Meeting, which meets for three (or more) days over Easter weekend.

This year, our Quarter is responsible for planning the SCYM Program. Sixteen of us met by Zoom on Saturday morning, May 29<sup>th</sup>, to share ideas about possible themes and to have a chance to get to know each other better. Theme ideas revolved around social change and how Quakers can help improve society (and ourselves) in a new era. Specific suggestions included:

- "Doing the Next Right Thing"
- "Where Are We Going?"
- "Bringing Our Threads Together"
- "Time for Change?"
- "Supporting Change"
- "Changing to Meet the Moment"
- "What is the World Telling Us to Do?"
- "How is the World Telling Us to Change?"
- "Comfortable Evils, Uncomfortable Goods"

A popular (and more general idea) was hearing from young Quakers and learning how we can support them in their social change efforts. The issue of supporting people as they make change came up in several places.

After a Meeting for Worship and much discussion, five people stepped forward to winnow these ideas and propose details. They will bring these back to a second Zoom meeting on Saturday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, from 9am-noon. **All Friends are welcome to attend.**

## The May Quaker Fair

Quakers are nothing if not persistent. As you remember from our April newsletter, we had planned a Quaker Fair for May 1<sup>st</sup> in the Meetinghouse parking lot. It rained. We postponed the Fair until May 15<sup>th</sup>. It rained again. We postponed it another week to May 22<sup>nd</sup>. By Thursday evening, the forecast was for rain, so we sent out a notice cancelling the Fair for this year.

Then hope arrived! The forecast hadn't changed, but the Fair Team bravely said, "Let's do it anyway!" So they set up some (slightly holey) awnings, moved the furniture sale to the Meetinghouse porch, spread out books, pottery, kitchen goods, plants, and the donated food to keep things as dry as possible, and prepared to have a good time despite the weather.

And we did! We drew a moderate number of guests, had great conversations, and sold a bunch of things. We all agreed that it was more than worthwhile. **Many thanks to Gretchen for organizing and to all who chose to persist.** Here are some photos, with more on our website at <https://bit.ly/2R5muUQ>







## *News from Friends*

### *Please Test the 'Last Wishes' Form*

(Reprint from May 2021.)

We are all getting older. Though that beats the alternative, it means that we need to plan for death. Most of us have wishes, though fewer of us have written them down and fewer still have stored those writings in a place where relatives and friends/Friends know to find them.

A couple of years ago, Ministry and Oversight held a series of discussions on 'Last Wishes', to give Friends a chance to think about the topic. Out of that arose a direction to provide a form on which Friends could record their wishes, that the Meeting would either store (securely!) or return in a nicely formatted paper document. This would include such things as:

- Whether you want San Antonio Meeting to hold a memorial service and, if so, whether you have specific wishes about it.
- Things you would want in a memorial minute or an obituary. (E.g.: parents' names, birthplace, family members, a short life-history, work & accomplishments, favorite pastimes, your history with Quakers, etc.)
- Who will be handling your affairs, notifying others of your death, etc.

**We have posted a draft form on our website at <https://sanantonioquakers.org/last-wishes-form/> We request that you test it, to see where it needs improvement. Then send your comments to us at [ministry@saquakers.org](mailto:ministry@saquakers.org). You are welcome to use fake names, information, etc.; at this point, we are just testing the form. Thanks!!**



## [Friends General Conference Gathering](#)

*Please read all about The Gathering at:* <https://www.fgcquaker.org/connect/gathering>

**What is the FGC Gathering:** The Gathering is a week of Quaker worship, workshops, and community for all ages. Friends come together from across the US and Canada (and sometimes further) to deepen our connection to one another and the Spirit. The Gathering is typically held on a college campus in late June/early July, and location changes from year to year. Attenders range from new-borns to elders in their 90s, and include both long-time Friends (mostly from the unprogrammed, liberal tradition), and those newer to Quakerism. In structure, it's part conference and part family camp. In content, it provides an abundance of opportunities to learn about Quakerism and to foster your spiritual life – and to have fun together.

**When Is the FGC Gathering:** June 27- July 3

Registration dates and deadlines here: <https://bit.ly/3yNBDLy>

**Where Is the FGC Gathering:** Virtual Gathering events are held on **Zoom**, a video conferencing platform. Each event during the Gathering has its own link, which you will use to join the event at the set time. Events are held as Zoom meetings, rather than webinars, so you will be able to see other people attending the event.

Join from a computer, tablet, or smartphone. If you don't have any of these, there are a number of events that you can join by calling in from a landline or cell phone. Note that some workshops require that you connect from a device with a screen. [Check workshop descriptions for more information](#) FGC will be offering optional Zoom Basics training sessions to registrants before the Gathering begins.

Most event links will be available on Sched, a protected website where you can browse the Gathering event schedule and keep track of what you plan to attend. Daily event links will also be emailed to registered Gathering participants each morning of the Gathering.

You will choose how much of the Gathering you want to attend. While many Friends register for the whole Gathering, some might be interested in only attending certain events, such as evening programs or workshops. [Learn more about events at the Gathering](#). You can register for different event packages ([see event package descriptions](#)), which will give you access to those specific programs. The fees for each event package are on a Pay as Led sliding scale. [Learn more about Pay as Led](#).

Like an in-person Gathering, you can register in advance for a multi-session workshop, or even more than one. Because most workshops are interactive, there are capacity limits on them, so some may fill up.

## *Wider Quaker World*

### *FCNL Action Item*

The Defending the Human Rights of Palestinian Children and Families Living Under Israeli Military Occupation Act (H.R. 2590) was recently introduced by Rep. Betty McCollum (MN-04). This legislation would prohibit the use of U.S. funds to support the military detention of children, the demolition of Palestinian homes, and further annexation of Palestinian territory.

These practices violate Palestinians' safety, dignity, and human rights. They are also inconsistent with international law and longstanding U.S. policy. Together, with the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) and Quaker communities across the country, FCNL calls on Friends everywhere to urge Congress to protect the rights of Palestinian children. Get connected to your elected officials here: <https://fcnl.quorum.us/campaign/32951/>

### *There is No Excuse for Anti-Semitism*

By Diane Randall, General Secretary, FCNL (read online at: <https://bit.ly/3c4NISJ> )

The recent surge in violent attacks against members of the Jewish community is a shameful reminder that centuries of antisemitism continue to poison our nation and our world. Antisemitic violence has been on the rise globally for several years, but since the latest outbreak of conflict in Israel and Palestine, hundreds of incidents have been reported across the United States.

Like the wave of hate crimes against Asian Americans that followed a rush of anti-China rhetoric, the torrent of assaults on Jewish Americans arises in the wake of widespread criticisms of the Israeli government. No matter one's views on Israel's conduct of the war with Hamas or its treatment of Palestinians, antisemitic rhetoric and harassment, intimidation, and abuse against Jewish people is abhorrent and unacceptable.

As Quakers, we have both a long history of working for peace and justice in the Middle East and a deep moral commitment to nonviolence. We see "that of God" in all people and act in solidarity with those who have been marginalized, excluded, mistreated, and deprived of human dignity. Our belief that all creation has equal worth and dignity has led us to support protections for the human rights of all Palestinians and Israelis, and to reject systems of oppression and discrimination that result from occupation.

But opposition to policies of the Israeli government is not the same as, and must not be converted into, bigotry and rancor against Jewish people. We must stand with both Israelis and Palestinians in the region working in coalition to end the occupation of Palestine and build a just and peaceful future.



We must acknowledge the right of all Americans to conduct legitimate foreign policy analysis and debate that neither advances antisemitic tropes nor dehumanizes those who disagree with them.

Each one of us has a responsibility to speak out against acts that threaten Jewish individuals and families, businesses, neighborhoods, community centers, and places of worship. Each of us must stand with and for people who have been harmed.

Unfortunately, this has not always been the case, as criticism of Israeli policy in the Quaker and other faith communities has at times contributed to discrimination against Jewish people. Further education and commitment are required to recognize how our conversations can and do perpetuate antisemitic stereotypes.

Throughout history, Jews have endured enslavement, persecution, scapegoating, ethnic cleansing, expulsion, and genocide. But these most egregious and visible forms of violence were made possible by the normalization of hatred and prejudice.

Antisemitic incidents have risen exponentially in recent years, including in the Charlottesville, VA rally, where attendees chanted “Jews will not replace us” and the mass shooting in the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh. During the Jan. 6 Capitol riot, some insurrectionists were seen wearing the slogan “6MWE,” (“6 million wasn’t enough”), referring to the 6 million Jews murdered in the Holocaust.

The recent spate of beatings, vandalism, verbal abuse, online hate, and other forms of intimidation against all members of the Jewish community is despicable. Like all forms of white supremacy, extremism and hate, antisemitism divides and diminishes us as a nation. This must stop. It is wrong and harmful.

We call on all members of our network and other people of faith to unequivocally condemn these disturbing antisemitic attacks.

### *Book Musings: Nurturing the Spirit*

From Audrey Greenhall, Manager of Quaker Books

The FGC Gathering always brings new books and pamphlets to our attention while renewing interest in classics. We look forward to a pop-up store at the next onsite Gathering, but until then we offer a collection with workshop materials, books written by Gathering speakers, and other titles particularly relevant to this year's Gathering theme, Way Will Open.



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