

November 2021



The Friendly News

San Antonio Quakers

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San Antonio, Texas 78209

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Dear Friends:

We have returned to our Meetinghouse! COVID-19 is still an issue in San Antonio, but it is now spreading much more slowly. Over 90% of eligible residents have received one shot of vaccine and 76% are fully vaccinated. Plus, we have installed high-grade filters that clean the Meeting Room air quickly, so we meet CDC air quality standards for indoor activities.

We now have TWO Meetings for Worship each Sunday:

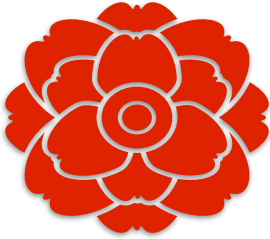
- **We hold in-person Meetings for Worship from 8:30-9:30am and from 10-11am.** We require people to wear masks and we recommend vaccination.
- **The 10-11am Meeting welcomes Friends and attenders to join by Zoom.** This allows those who live far from the Meetinghouse and those with health issues to join us.
 - Meeting ID: 976 0522 6497; Passcode: 194077 (or use the link at our website)

We have some special activities this month:

- **Porch Party and Meeting for Worship, Thursday Nov 11th, 6-7:30pm** (see page 4)
 - Meet, greet, and eat on the Porch, then Meeting for Worship in the Meeting Room.
- **Forum: Sunday Nov 14th, 11:30-12:30** (see page 3)
 - On Part II of Doug Gwynn's book "A Call to Radical Faithfulness" led by Gary Whiting
- **"Meeting for Weeding": Saturday Nov 20th 9am-1pm** (see page 4)

Other important news inside!

November Query



As Friends bear witness to and acknowledge the chaos and suffering in this world and in our lives, how do we seek (and/or find) comfort and peace?

Regular Events

- **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
- **Forums after Meeting for Worship – Sundays 11:15-12:30**
 - **Nov 14: “A Call to Radical Faithfulness”**
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 – on Zoom
 - [CLICK HERE](#) to join by Zoom – ID # 988 3173 6394;
passcode: 724708
- **Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business**
 - **Sunday Nov 21th 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** on Zoom
 - [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

- **Quaker Porch Party** at the Meetinghouse followed by Meeting for Worship in the Meeting Room:
 - Thursday Nov. 11th, 6-7:30pm – see page 4
- **Work Party at the Meeting Meetinghouse:** “Meeting for Weeding” and other activities
 - Saturday, Nov 20th, 9am-1pm – see page 4

Please send December events, announcements, and articles to newsletter@saquakers.org

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Important Announcements

On Resuming In-Person Meetings for Worship

The COVID-19 Delta variant continues to decline in San Antonio, so we have resumed in-person Meetings for Worship in the Meetinghouse. We expect this to be a permanent return – and we pray that we are right! We have taken precautions to prevent spreading the virus to others, both inside and outside our Meeting community.

1. We have installed high-grade (MERV 17) HEPA filters in the Meeting Room and will have one in the Children’s Room when that program begins again.
2. We ask Friends and attenders to wear masks and we recommend vaccinations for those who can take them.
3. We continue to provide Zoom access to our 10-11am Meeting for Worship, to forums, and to Meetings for Worship with attention to Business.
 - Zoom allows participation by those who are distant or have health or other issues.

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. Meeting for worship is only part of the Quaker experience. Our conversations over coffee, tea, and snacks after Meeting build community and welcome others whose journeys have brought them to our doors.

-- Jim Spickard, Meeting Clerk

Celebrating the Life of Janet Southwood

We will celebrate the life of our Friend Janet Southwood, who died on October 6th in Minneapolis. She and her husband Ken were pillars of the San Antonio Meeting from the time they moved to San Antonio in the late 1990s until their recent ‘second retirement’ to live near their daughter Jane. They each served the Meeting in almost every capacity. Janet was Clerk of the Meeting, Clerk of Ministry and Oversight, and a sustainer of Meeting hospitality to all. She was so impressive and welcoming that one visiting activist began a “Quaker Lady for President” campaign – thinking her way of being would help heal our country’s divisions.



Our service will be held at 11am on Saturday, December 4th, in person and on Zoom. (That is the best time for Ken and Jane to attend.) The celebration will be followed by a simple meal of soup and sandwiches for those able to attend in person.

You can find photos of them at our August 2018 farewell party on our website at <http://bit.ly/2IA3SY3>

Coming Events

Porch Party: Thursday, Nov 11th (6:00-7:30)

Join us for our 2nd-Thursday “Porch Party” on the Meetinghouse porch. We aren’t quite ready to resume our potlucks yet, but we can talk together, eat (bring your own food, utensils, etc), and hold Meeting for Worship in the Meeting Room.

- 6-6:30 Greet/talk
- 6:30-7:00 Eat
- 7:00-7:30 Meeting for Worship

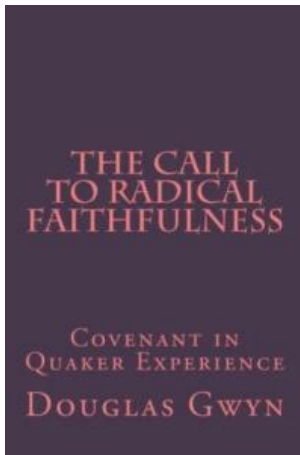
Please bring/wear masks and respect each other’s distancing needs.



<https://bit.ly/3BvohDL>

This is a safe, fun way to build community!

Forum on “The Call to Radical Faithfulness”: Nov 14th (11:30-12:30 after Meeting for Worship)



This forum is Part II of a series based on a short book: Douglas Gwyn: The Call to Radical Faithfulness: Covenant in Quaker Experience.

Gary Whiting will lead the discussion. We will have copies of the book available at Meeting for Worship until mid-November. You can also buy a copy for \$10 at FGC Quakerbooks <https://bit.ly/3GR6XqC>

Gwyn addresses 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 of the book consists of stories of early Quakers and the peril they underwent.

Part II of the book shows how Quaker faith and practice through the centuries has expressed and enacted a covenantal life in the changing circumstances of a modern world.

Meeting for Weeding: Nov 20th (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!

As you make your way up or down the garden path, keep your eyes open for our winged friends. Bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds have turned the Meetinghouse grounds into a lively buffet this Autumn.

A special thanks to all our hardworking Friends who have dedicated so many hours to the cultivation of this garden. We are grateful!

-- Pam S.



Photos by Pam S. & Diana B.

Other Meeting News

*“Maintaining Spiritual Connection while in Pursuit of Service”:
a Follow-up to our Oct 24th Forum*

Are you in need of spiritual support as you commit yourself to service in the world? The Peace and Social Concerns Committee is here to offer that support.

“Peace and Social Concerns Committee has long considered the possibility of helping Friends develop mutual support groups. When issues involving our work lives arise--whether our work is professional, vocational, or volunteer—these groups can provide a way to deepen our spiritual connection and our connection with one another as a community.

On October 24th, we held a forum to consider what participating in a mutual support group might involve and develop a plan for ongoing mutual support groups for activism, professional life, or other aspects of our work in the world.”

~ Val Liveoak

Friends can find the guidelines and example queries used in during forum on the Meeting website: <https://bit.ly/3CDeuwl>. The P&SC committee hopes these will be of use to Friends seeking to carry on the work of maintaining mutual support/affinity groups. **Please reach out to Peace and Social Concerns if you would like help connecting with or maintaining a support/affinity group.**

Faith and Play – A Call to Return Materials to the FMSA Library

All copies of “Faith and Play” training materials are currently absent from the library. If you have a copy of this book, the Religious Education Committee asks that you return it to the stacks as soon as you are able. These materials are needed to support the rejuvenation of our Children’s Program.

If you checked-out a copy of this text and believe it to be lost or stolen, please reach out to the Religious Education Committee so that they know to replace it.



A Call for Solidarity

Hate groups have recently targeted local Jewish communities and events in San Antonio and Austin. As described in a recent article in the San Antonio Express News (<https://bit.ly/3BBQb18>). Events include picketers carrying signs denying the Holocaust and chanting anti-Jewish slogans near an event at the San Antonio Holocaust Museum, a dozen men clad in Nazi t-shirts protesting outside Cornerstone Church's annual "Night to Honor Israel," and similarly clad men hanging an anti-Semitic sign from an Austin overpass that is the main route to the Dell Jewish Community Center during Shabbat.

I urge Friends and others to express our solidarity with our Jewish brothers and sisters and our opposition to hateful speech of all kinds. Though speech is protected, harassment is not. Jews, Muslims, and others have endured far too much hatred in the United States, including in San Antonio in the last half-decade.

-- Jim Spickard
Meeting Clerk

Wider Quaker World

A message from Karen Takemoto, SCYM Clerk

Dear Meeting Clerks,

I hope you and your Meeting are doing well in these strange Covid times. My own Fayetteville Monthly Meeting had a few lovely weeks of meeting in-person this summer before retreating once again to meeting on-line, and now possibly a hybrid meeting. But we carry on and value worship even more.

Representative's Meeting will once again be on-line. We will meet Friday, November 19 & Saturday, November 20.

Yearly Meeting Planning Committee has been meeting regularly so will be able to present their full proposal of theme and schedule at RM. We are hoping and planning to have an in-person Yearly Meeting at Greene Family Camp in 2022, but we know Covid will be the determining factor. The planning has been considerable, and I know you'll be eager to hear their proposal.

So I hope you or someone from your Meeting will join us that weekend. The zoom link will go out a few days before RM and more information can always be found on our website: www.scym.org

Blessings,
Karen Takemoto
South Central Yearly Meeting clerk



FCNL Messages and Opportunities

Attend this year's virtual Annual Meeting and Quaker Public Policy Institute, Nov 17 – 21

This meeting will bring together hundreds of Quakers and friends. **The theme is "Choose Hope. Work for Justice."**

We'll work to advance a more just and peaceful world, practice advocacy skills, and join in fellowship and worship. FCNL General Committee members will make critical organizational decisions to guide FCNL's work in the years ahead. Join us online to:

- Lobby to advance peace and justice.
- Hear from exciting and inspiring speakers—including policy experts and faith leaders—about what you can do in the year ahead.
- Worship together and be part of a community of committed people from across the country.

More information and register here: <https://www.fcni.org/events/annualmeeting2021>

Support the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the United States Act

In the 19th and early 20th centuries, Christian churches collaborated with the government to create hundreds of boarding schools for Native American children. The conditions at these schools, more than 30 of them run by Quakers, were unspeakable. As people of faith, we call on Congress to push the Truth and Healing Commission forward. It is vital to ground our advocacy efforts in an honest history of Quakers' oppression of Indigenous people.

The bipartisan legislation, introduced by Sen. Elizabeth Warren (MA), Rep. Sharice Davids (KS-3), and Rep. Tom Cole (OK-4), would establish the first formal commission in United States history on Indian boarding schools. The commission would investigate and document policies, assimilation practices, attempted termination of cultures and languages of Indigenous peoples, and human rights violations that took place at hundreds of faith-run institutions.

Act now: Urge your senators and representative to support the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the United States Act (H.R. 5444/S. 2907). Email link here. <https://fcni.quorum.us/campaign/35660/>

Inspiration

*If we fall in love with creation deeper and deeper, we will
respond to its endangerment with passion.*

-- Hildegard von Bingen



Silence Is ...

Silence is a very important condition for the great inner action we call worship.

So long as we are content to speak our own patois, to live in the din of our narrow private affairs, we shall not arrive at the lofty goal of the soul's quest. We shall hear the noises of our outer universe and nothing more.

When we learn how to center down into the stillness and quiet, to listen with our souls for the whisperings of Life and Truth, to bring all our inner powers into parallelism with the set of divine currents, we shall hear tidings from the inner world at the heart and center of which is God.

But by far the most influential condition for effective worship is group silence – the waiting, seeking, expectant attitude permeating and penetrating a gathered company of persons. We hardly know in what the group-influence consists, or why the presence of others heightens the sensitive, responsive quality in each soul, but there can be no doubt of the fact.

There is some subtle telepathy that comes into play in the living silence of a congregation which makes every earnest seeker more quick to feel the presence of God, more acute of inner ear, more tender of heart to feel the bubbling of the springs of life than any one of them would be in isolation.

Somehow, we are able to 'lend our minds out' as Browning puts it, or at least to contribute toward the formation of an atmosphere that favors communion and cooperation with God.

If this is so, if each assists all and all in turn assist each, our responsibilities in meetings for worship are very real and very great and we must try to realize that there is a form of ministry which is dynamic even when the lips are sealed."

Rufus Jones: Inner Life, 1916, p. 103-104.



Photo by Jim Spickard

Friends Meeting of San Antonio
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