

October 2021



# The Friendly News

## San Antonio Quakers

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San Antonio, Texas 78209

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Facebook: @saquakers

Dear Friends:

San Antonio is making progress against the COVID-19 Delta variant. Case levels are still high but dropping. We have thus again made some changes:

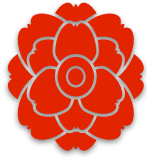
- **We have begun in-person Meetings for Worship on the Meetinghouse porch at 8:30am on Sundays.**
- **We will continue to meet on Zoom on Sundays at 10am.**
  - Meeting ID: 976 0522 6497; Passcode: 194077 (or use the link at our website)
- **We hope to resume indoor Meetings for Worship on either October 10th or 17th.**
  - 8:30-9:30am in-person only
  - 10-11am blended: in-person AND on Zoom
    - We have added two more high-efficiency filters to increase ventilation.
    - Masks required. Vaccinations highly recommended for your safety and ours.
  - ***Please check our website for the announcement!***

We have other activities this month as well:

- **October 3<sup>rd</sup> Forum** on World Quaker Day.
- **Meeting Hatchback Party** on Thursday, Oct. 14<sup>th</sup>: 6-7pm Greet and Eat; 7-7:30pm Meeting for Worship (*page 4*).
- **Meeting for Weeding** at the Meetinghouse: 9am-1pm on Saturday, Oct 16<sup>th</sup> (*page 5*).
- **October 24<sup>th</sup> Forum** on "Maintaining Spiritual Connection while in Pursuit of Service" (*page 5*).

Jim Spickard, Substitute Editor

*Sign up to receive an email when this newsletter is posted at the Meeting website.  
Write us at [newsletter@saquakers.org](mailto:newsletter@saquakers.org) if you wish a snail-mail copy.*



## October Query

**Change is inevitable even within the Religious Society of Friends . In the next two years, what changes would you welcome in our meeting, and what things would you definitely strive to preserve?**

### 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 on the Meetinghouse porch.
  - **10-11am**, followed by check-in and discussion.
    - **Zoom only on October 3<sup>rd</sup>.**
  - [CLICK HERE to join by Zoom](#) ID # 976 0522 6497; passcode: 194077

*Check the website for possible*

*indoor and blended Meetings starting Oct 10<sup>th</sup>.*

- **Forums after Meeting for Worship – Sundays 11:15-12:30**
  - Oct 3: “World Quaker Day” – see page 3
  - Oct 24: “Maintaining Spiritual Connection while in Pursuit of Service” – see page 5
  - [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
- **Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business – Sunday Oct 17<sup>th</sup> 11:30-1:00**
  - *We hope it will be blended: in-person in the Meeting Room 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

- **Quaker Hatchback Party** in the Meetinghouse Parking Lot: Thursday Oct. 14<sup>th</sup>, 6-7:30pm – see page 4
- **Meeting for Weeding** (Garden & Meetinghouse Workday): Saturday Oct. 16<sup>th</sup>, 9am-1pm – see page 5

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  - “I Learned So Much This Summer” by Eileen Flanagan

Send November events to [newsletter@saquakers.org](mailto:newsletter@saquakers.org)

## Update

### Future Schedule for Meetings for Worship

The COVID-19 Delta variant is finally declining in San Antonio. We hope to be able to resume in-person and blended Meetings at our Meetinghouse later this month.

**On October 3<sup>rd</sup>, we will have in-person Meeting for Worship on the porch at 8:30am and a Zoom-only Meeting for Worship at 10:00am.** Please check our website for October 10<sup>th</sup> and beyond.



When we do resume in-person and blended Sunday meetings, they will follow our late-July schedule:

- In-person only Meeting for Worship from 8:30-9:30am
- Blended Meeting for Worship (in-person and on Zoom) from 10-11am
- Blended forums, Meeting for Business, etc. (in-person and on Zoom) from 11:30-1:00

**Please make sure you are on our Announcements list so we can inform you when in-person and blended Meetings for Worship, forums, and other indoor activities resume.** You can sign up for that list on the right side of (almost) any page of our website.

We hope you can join us however we meet.

-- Jim Spickard, Meeting Clerk

## Coming Events

### Forum on World Quaker Day: Oct 3<sup>rd</sup> (11:30-12:30 after Meeting for Worship)



Oct. 3 is World Quaker Day! Val will lead a discussion and Q&A about Friends around the world after Meeting for Worship on Zoom. This is an opportunity to learn about Friends outside of San Antonio. To whet your appetite:

- The Friends World Committee for Consultation Section of the Americas has a lot about Friends in this hemisphere: [FWCCAmericas.org](https://fwccamericas.org/wp/event/world-quaker-day-2021/)
- View the 2016 QuakerSpeak video: How many Quakers are there in the World, and Where are they? [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zn\\_Yqo-HOL4M](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zn_Yqo-HOL4M)

*The planned 2<sup>nd</sup> October 10<sup>th</sup> forum on Doug Gwynn's book "Radical Faithfulness" has been postponed until November.*

Hatchback Party: Oct 14<sup>th</sup> (6:00-7:30)

# FRIENDS HATCHBACK PARTY



**When:** Oct 14, 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 Oct 12<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.

*Meeting for Weeding: Oct 16<sup>th</sup>*  
*(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. And there are good people to talk with.

Here's a photo from our September work day: Diana, Pam, Nick Bill, James, David, and Hannah (with Greg K. behind the camera).



*Forum on “Maintaining Spiritual Connection while in Pursuit of Service”:*  
*Oct 24<sup>th</sup> (11:30-12:30 after Meeting for Worship)*

By Val L.

How do we maintain and renew our connection with Spirit in our work life? Sometimes it's hard to know what we are being led to do in situations that are difficult or involve conflict with other people or our values.

Quakers have long used discernment within the community of worship to deal with decision-making, seeking guidance, and supporting one another. Sometimes we need support, to be held in the Light by others, to be heard, to be understood, to help with our discernment. Even those who don't feel they need support benefit from supporting others' work.

While we know that Spirit is always with us, it can be helpful in specific situations to seek Spirit together in worship.

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 will have 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.



## Meeting News

### Small Visitor



You never know who's going to come visiting. (Photo by Pam S.)

### Climate Change Lobbying

By Bill S.

Did you read the passage in last month's newsletter on lobbying Senators and Representatives to put a price on carbon? Did you take the available actions? If yes, GREAT! If not, here's another chance.

The legislative vehicle currently is the reconciliation bill. Ask President Biden to support this provision. It's easy: personalize the couple of sentences with a few word changes, and hit send. It could take less than 2 minutes. Start here: [www.citizensclimatelobby.org/white-house/](http://www.citizensclimatelobby.org/white-house/) .

## FCNL Messages and Opportunities

1. The FCNL community has persistently advocated for an end to endless war—and we are seeing results. The Senate is poised to join the House in voting to repeal the 2002 Authorization for the Use of Military Force (AUMF), which authorized war against Saddam Hussein’s regime in Iraq. The 2002 Iraq AUMF is unnecessary for ongoing military operations, but it continued to be used to support other military action. In January 2020, it was used to justify the assassination of Iran’s Maj. Gen. Qassem Suleimani.

Sens. Tim Kaine (VA) and Todd Young (IN) introduced S.J. Res. 10 to repeal this outdated and dangerous authorization. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee passed it by a bipartisan vote in early August. Its passage followed the House’s bipartisan vote to repeal the 2002 AUMF, as championed by Rep. Barbara Lee (CA-13).



**Now the full Senate needs to act. Contact your senators and urge them to support repeal of the 2002 Iraq AUMF!** Please act using the accompanying email template. Add 2-4 sentences letting your legislators know why you are personally concerned. Then, call the U.S. Congress at 202-224-3121 and ask to be connected to your representative’s and senators’ offices. Leave a message if they do not pick up or if you are calling after office hours. Find the email template here: <https://fcnl.quorum.us/campaign/31277/>

2. Words like “security” and “safety” are commonly used to justify U.S. government actions. But whose security and safety are we really talking about?

Between November 2020 and April 2021, FCNL and the Center for International Policy convened a group of advocates, organizers, faith leaders, and scholars to look at these questions. They examined the roots of U.S. foreign policy, naming the racist and white supremacist underpinnings of our government's pursuit of global military supremacy.

The resulting report, “[Dismantling Racism and Militarism in U.S. Foreign Policy](#),” released this week, lays out a vision for transforming the U.S. role in the world. Calling on an approach that centers equality, justice, shared wealth, and sustainability, the report points us towards a world that does not yet exist, even as we sense a Divine call to bring it into being. Please read and reflect on this important report.

## Wider Quaker World

### I Learned So Much This Summer

By Eileen Flanigan

*Eileen is a Philadelphia-based Quaker environmental activist, author, and teacher. She is the author of [The Wisdom to Know the Difference: When to Make a Change—and When to Let Go](#) (2009 and [Five Steps to Avoid Discouragement While Changing the World](#), the latter of which you can download at <https://bit.ly/3uxl8jX>.*



*This essay is reprinted by permission from her blog at [www.Eileen-Flanagan.com](http://www.Eileen-Flanagan.com). It recounts her experiences at the Red Lake Treaty Camp in northern Minnesota, where a pipeline company is drilling near treaty-protected tribal waters and without allowing First Nations monitors access to the site. Friends can subscribe to her (monthly) blog by filling out this form: <https://forms.gle/qiPYX74L2shs7GAv6>.*

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Thanks to everyone who sent prayers or funds for my two recent trips to Minnesota. I felt very supported and grateful for this community! I'm also grateful to the community that took me in, the Red Lake Treaty camp, founded by Sasha Beaulieu and her partner Roy.

So, what did I learn? One of the most moving things to me was how the spirituality of the Anishinaabe leaders and other Indigenous people didn't feel separate from their activism, or from anything really. Of course, there were explicitly spiritual practices — like the sweat lodge, smudging people with sage, and singing and drumming prayerful songs in action. But their worldview of interconnection was also expressed in everyday conversation through the terms “relations” or “family,” referring to Indigenous from other nations, non-Indigenous people, and members of the animal world.

One nonviolent direct action really exemplified this. Indigenous people planned to pray, sing, and drum on rafts on the part of the Red Lake River where Enbridge had already installed the pipeline, while a few of us went up onto Enbridge property. As we headed toward the river, an eagle flew overhead. As we boarded the wooden rafts, we saw an otter bobbing just ahead of us and a turtle perched on a rock. Several of us saw spiders right next to or on us. By this time, I had been camping near the Red Lake River for nearly three weeks but had never seen this confluence of animals. When I told a Red Lake Nation elder later, she nodded unsurprised and explained that the eagle, the otter, and the turtle were three of their clan animals. Later I heard that a hummingbird had flown into the tent where the young Indigenous leaders were planning the action and was told that the speedy bird was known to travel back and forth to the spirit world.

In Citizen Potawatomi author Robin Wall Kimmerer's beautiful book *Braiding Sweetgrass*, she relates that she often asks her botany students how many love the Earth. Every hand goes up. Then she asks how many believe that the Earth loves us back. They squirm awkwardly. They were taught to think of the Earth as passive, just as I was, and that conditioning goes deep. The idea that the Earth loves us back blew me away when I read it, and it came back to me after the action on the river (the only one



on that Enbridge site where no one was hurt). Only the day before I had reread Kimmerer’s account of the Anishinaabe prophesy for this time, which says that humanity will have to choose between the green path and the cinder path. Kimmerer asserts that beings from the more than human world will help us in this choice, since they want to live, too. I had somehow missed the significance of this assertion the first time I read the book, but after the action with animal participants I felt both humbled and encouraged. I thought of myself as pretty open to mysticism; I am a Quaker after all. But really my understanding of what’s possible has been narrowed by a worldview that sees the rest of Creation as inanimate.

The more general lesson from this is that there is more available to us, especially those of us who are involved in faith-based activism. Although I’ve experienced profound spiritual grounding in action before, including in interfaith settings, I think that we sometimes invoke our faith more for the PR benefit, the moral authority it conveys or the striking visual of having clerical garb in the photos. After my experiences on Line 3, I find myself wondering how our activism might change if we really embodied the deepest teachings of whatever tradition we come from, if we acted as if a greater spiritual force had our back and might part the sea for us. I think we’re going to need this kind of faith to make the major changes needed in the next ten years, as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change says we must.

Humility was another lesson for me this summer. It’s one of the seven major teachings of the Anishinaabe, and by my second trip, I had figured out that doing a job with humility was just as important as getting it done. This was a helpful learning, since there are a lot of jobs at camp, from cooking and doing dishes to cleaning the pit latrines and sitting at the camp gate to welcome and screen newcomers. I could feel in myself and in other white people the desire to prove ourselves, to make sure everyone knew we were doing our fair share, to seem knowledgeable, even when we weren’t. This energy, of course, was not actually helpful. When I got sick on my second trip and had to schedule in rest time, I became more aware of this desire to be valuable through doing. In retrospect, I think my most helpful roles at camp in August were not on the jobs board, but had more to do with being a calm presence during moments of conflict.

There’s so much more that I’m still processing, especially around what it means to prioritize the common good in community, but all of it feels very much aligned with the book I’ve been writing, which I’m working on again, even as I try to stay connected to the Line 3 campaign and encourage others to do the same.



One place I plan to show up is the People vs Fossil Fuels week of action in DC from October 11-15. Let me know if you plan to be there.

<http://facebook.com/RedLakeTreatyCamp>

Friends Meeting of San Antonio  
7052 N Vandiver  
San Antonio, Texas 78209

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