

September 2021



# The Friendly News

## San Antonio Quakers

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San Antonio, Texas 78209

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Website: [www.sanantonioquakers.org](http://www.sanantonioquakers.org)

Facebook: @saquakers

Dear Friends:

While some Friends say that *all* days are holy, for me there is no better time than Fall. On September 1, I will let a faux pumpkin patch explode in my living room, because I cannot abide by the testimony of simplicity when it comes to Fall decor. It's almost as though I'm calling the cooler temperatures to come to San Antonio with each string of Autumn leaf garland I put up. But I *will* put down the pumpkin spice latte long enough to jump into the news.

- First, the COVID-19 Delta variant is still spreading in San Antonio. FMSA had to retreat to Zoom-only Meetings for Worship in mid-August. **We will continue to meet at 10am on Zoom through at least mid-September. Join us at 10am!** (*page 3*).
  - Meeting ID: 976 0522 6497; Passcode: 194077 (or use the link at our website)
  - Sign up for our weekly Announcements at our website to learn when we'll return to our two-meeting format.
- We do have other activities:
  - Plan to attend two **upcoming forums** on Doug Gwyn's book "A Call to Radical Faithfulness" on Sept. 5<sup>th</sup> and Oct. 10<sup>th</sup> at 11:15am after Meeting for Worship (*page 3*). The first will be on Zoom; we hope the second will be blended (on Zoom and in person).
  - We will have a **Meeting Hatchback party** on Thursday, Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>: 6-7pm Greet and Eat; 7-7:30pm Meeting for Worship (*page 4*).
  - **Cielo Grande Quarterly Meeting** 9-noon on Saturday, Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> by Zoom (*page 5*).
  - **Meeting for Weeding** at the Meetinghouse 8-noon on Saturday, Sept 18<sup>th</sup> (*page 5*).

**And there is lots of other news!**

-- 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](mailto:newsletter@saquakers.org) if you wish a snail-mail copy.*



## September Query

**How do we keep hope alive – both in ourselves and in others?**

### Regular Events (by Zoom)

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

- **Meeting for Worship – Sundays 10-11am**, followed by check-in and discussion: *Zoom only until at least mid-month.*
  - [CLICK HERE to join by Zoom](#) ID # 976 0522 6497; passcode: 194077
- **Forums after Meeting for Worship – Sundays 11:15-12:30**
  - Sept 5: “A Call to Radical Faithfulness”
  - Sept. 12 & 26 TBA
  - [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 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday 11:15-12:30**
  - [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 Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>, 6-7:30pm – **see page 4**
- **Cielo Grande Quarterly Meeting** on Zoom: Saturday Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>, 9am-noon – **see page 5**
- **Meeting for Weeding** (Garden & Meetinghouse Workday): Saturday Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>, 8am-noon – **see page 5**

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

### Contents

- p 2: September Query  
Regular & Special Events
- pp 3-5: Coming Events:
  - COVID updates and Meetings for Worship
  - Quaker forums on “Radical Faithfulness”
  - Sept. Hatchback Party
  - Cielo Grande Quarterly
  - Meeting for Weeding
- pp 6-7: Meeting News
  - Workday photos
  - Update on Marian
  - FMSA on the Web
- p 8: The Wider Quaker World:
  - FCNL Information
  - World Quaker Day
- pp 9-11: San Antonio and Beyond:
  - How Much is Enough?
  - Lobby for our Climate
  - Our Community Bulletin Board
  - Texas Coalition Against the Death Penalty

## Update

### On COVID and Meeting for Worship

The COVID-19 Delta variant is still active in our community, so San Antonio Quakers have paused our in-person Meetings for Worship until at least mid-September. Even vaccinated people can catch and transmit this variant. We wish to protect immunocompromised people, children, and others who are unable to be vaccinated. We are being especially cautious because of the state government's opposition to needed public health measures.

We do not know how long our Zoom-only sojourn will last. **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 do have some outdoor activities this month, most notably a Hatchback party on Thursday, Sept 9<sup>th</sup> in the Meetinghouse parking lot (page 4) and a Meeting for Weeding on Saturday, Sept 18<sup>th</sup> (page 5). We hope you can join us for these.

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

We hope you can join us: on Zoom now and in-person or on Zoom later.

-- Jim Spickard, Meeting Clerk

## Coming Events

### Quaker Forums on Radical Faithfulness: Sept 5<sup>th</sup> & Oct 10<sup>th</sup> (11:30-12:30)

On September 5th, after Meeting for Worship (11:15-12:30AM) we will be discussing Part I of Douglas Gwyn's book of essays, A Call to Radical Faithfulness. Copies can be ordered from Quakerpress FGC for \$10 (<https://bit.ly/3jcHiUz>) or Greg Koehler has generously offered to work to get one in your hands.

Part I contains a number of stories from early Friends, and Doug does a wonderful job of articulating how these events speak to the spirit of our Society. He believes that Friends are on to something unique and vital which is not easily discerned, and that this is even more true in our modern times.

Friends are encouraged to take note of which of these readings speak to their own experience and to hopefully share what insights have been gained.

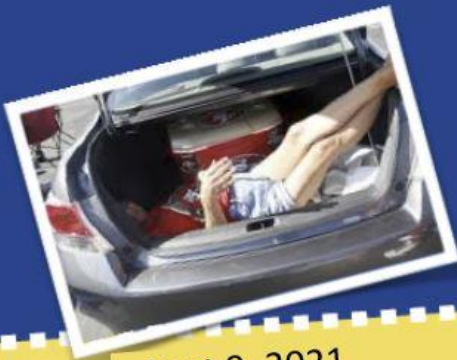
The Forum on October 10th will focus on Part II, where Doug discusses the Quaker idea of a "Covenant of Light" and how this perhaps helps heal the schism between Christocentric and universalistic sensibilities.

-- Gary Whiting



Back by Popular Demand: Sept 9<sup>th</sup> (6:00-7:30)

# FRIENDS HATCHBACK PARTY



**When:** Sept 9, 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 Sept 7<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.

### *Cielo Grande Quarterly Meeting: Sept 11<sup>th</sup> (9:00am-noon)*

Please join us for Cielo Grande Quarterly Meeting on September 11<sup>th</sup> from 9am to noon. We will meet on Zoom with Quakers from around Texas for worship, fellowship, and to plan next spring's South Central Yearly Meeting program.

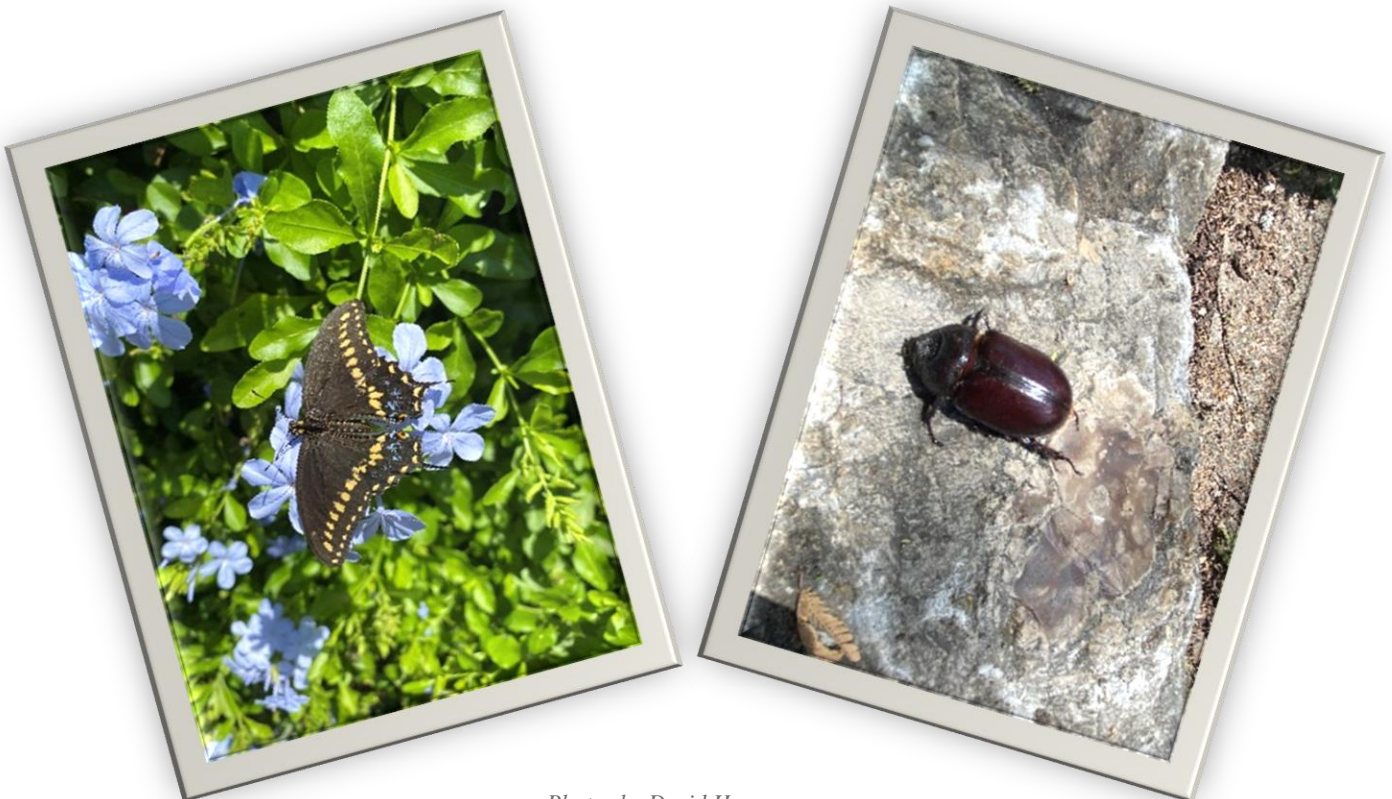
For those of you who don't know, Quakers are organized into Monthly, Quarterly, and Yearly Meetings. It's a peculiar naming system, as only the Yearly meetings actually meet on a yearly schedule. 'Monthly' Meetings meet weekly for worship but monthly for business. Cielo Grande Quarterly meets once or twice a year. But each level coordinates activities among wider groups of Friends. In our tradition, it's a bottom-up system of organizing rather than a top-down one. The Quarterly and Yearly groups remind us that we aren't alone in the Quaker world.

**We'll post the Zoom info on our website as soon as we get it. Please come meet other Friends.**

### *Meeting for Weeding: Sept 18<sup>th</sup> (8:00am-noon)*

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.

You can even take a break from gardening to search for bugs like the ones that David H. found at our August workday – pictured below. Who knows what you'll find under the leaves?

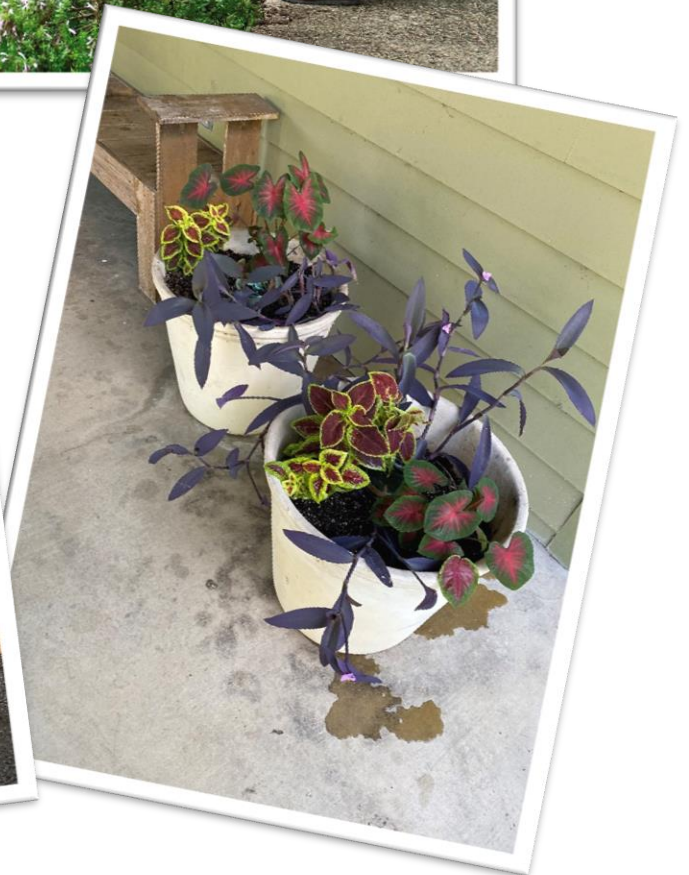


*Photos by David H.*



## Meeting News

More Photos from our July & August Meetinghouse Workdays



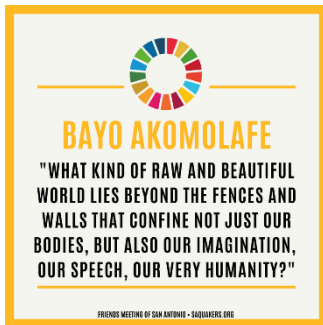
## Update on Marian C.

By Gretchen H.

Marian relaxes in her newly donated armchair. She has settled in to her a two-room apartment, partially furnished by donations from Friends, at Brookdale adult living. She finds the staff friendly and helpful and the other residents also friendly. There are programs almost every day, including chair yoga, and singing. Visitors are welcome at any time without a reservation, and Marian is planning to have a meeting for worship when the visitors; room has been painted. The address can be obtained from Gretchen.

## FMSA on the Web

Suzanne C.S. has been hard at work maintaining FMSA's online presence. Here are some of the most recent beautiful images and thoughtful commentary shared this month, in case you missed it.



"There is so much to say about abolition in all its forms, and I'm also deeply aware that many Friends are not in unity about what abolition feels like or means or does. But it feels equally important to push the conversation into the realm of dreaming as a way of creating connection to our dreamed-for future and between our current, very human communities.

Nigerian trans-public thinker and philosopher Bayo Akomolafe invites us to consider the beauty first: "What kind of raw and beautiful world lies beyond the fences and walls that confine not just our bodies, but also our imagination, our speech, our very humanity?"

Abolition is not just about doing away with prisons or border walls or detention centers. It is also stripping away the fences and walls we have built inside our hearts that allow us to use punitive behaviors on ourselves and inside our own hearts. Dear Friend, you deserve the freedom in your heart that you desire for the world!" *From August 26.*

"You ever feel just...overwhelmed by everything? Kinda like a wave is about to crash on the beach where you are a little crab, just trying to do your little crab things?

Maybe that's just me. But Rufus Jones spoke to that condition when he wrote about transformation: "I pin my hopes to quiet processes and small circles in which vital and transforming events take place."

Even the smallest crabs in our smallest ways are making vital and transformative tasks happen. Keep scuttling, Friends." *From August 25.*



## Wider Quaker World

### FCNL Action Information

In March, the House passed the **George Floyd Justice in Policing Act** (H.R.1280). Now, lawmakers in the Senate are negotiating a package that both sides can agree on.

We need to ensure that these negotiations produce a strong Senate-version of the Justice in Policing Act—one that would ban chokeholds and no-knock warrants, limit the transfer of military grade equipment to state and local law enforcement, raise the use of force standard, and reform qualified immunity. It is imperative that Congress keep these reforms in the bill.

Act now: Write your senators today and ask them to advocate for passage of a strong Justice in Policing Act. <https://bit.ly/3yBjQpO>

### World Quaker Day – October 3rd

From Friends World Committee on Consultation <https://bit.ly/3ky4oFM>

Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) invites every Quaker meeting and church from around the world to celebrate WORLD QUAKER DAY (WQD) on October 3, 2021. As the sun rises in each area of the world, we want to remember that Quakers are worshipping through every time zone, celebrating our deep connections across cultures and Quaker traditions. We are united in love and can accompany each other on this special day that draws us together. As we worship, let us hold each other in prayer and thanksgiving, and let our hymns of praise resound across the world. It is a chance to celebrate our wonderful diversity of expression, whilst at the same time offering an important opportunity to learn about Friends' experiences of climate breakdown in other parts of the world.

We hope you will share your WORLD QUAKER DAY experiences with FWCC. It can be very simple — a description, a poem, a few photos, or even a short video taken via a mobile phone. We will post it for other Friends around the world to see.

Our vision is for Friends to have access to a montage of activity of all sorts via FWCC's websites and the FWCC World Office Facebook page. Email any items to us with WQD as the subject.

In loving Friendship,  
Gretchen Castle  
General Secretary FWCC World Office

In collaboration with Section Secretaries:

Job Bikokwa  
Africa Section

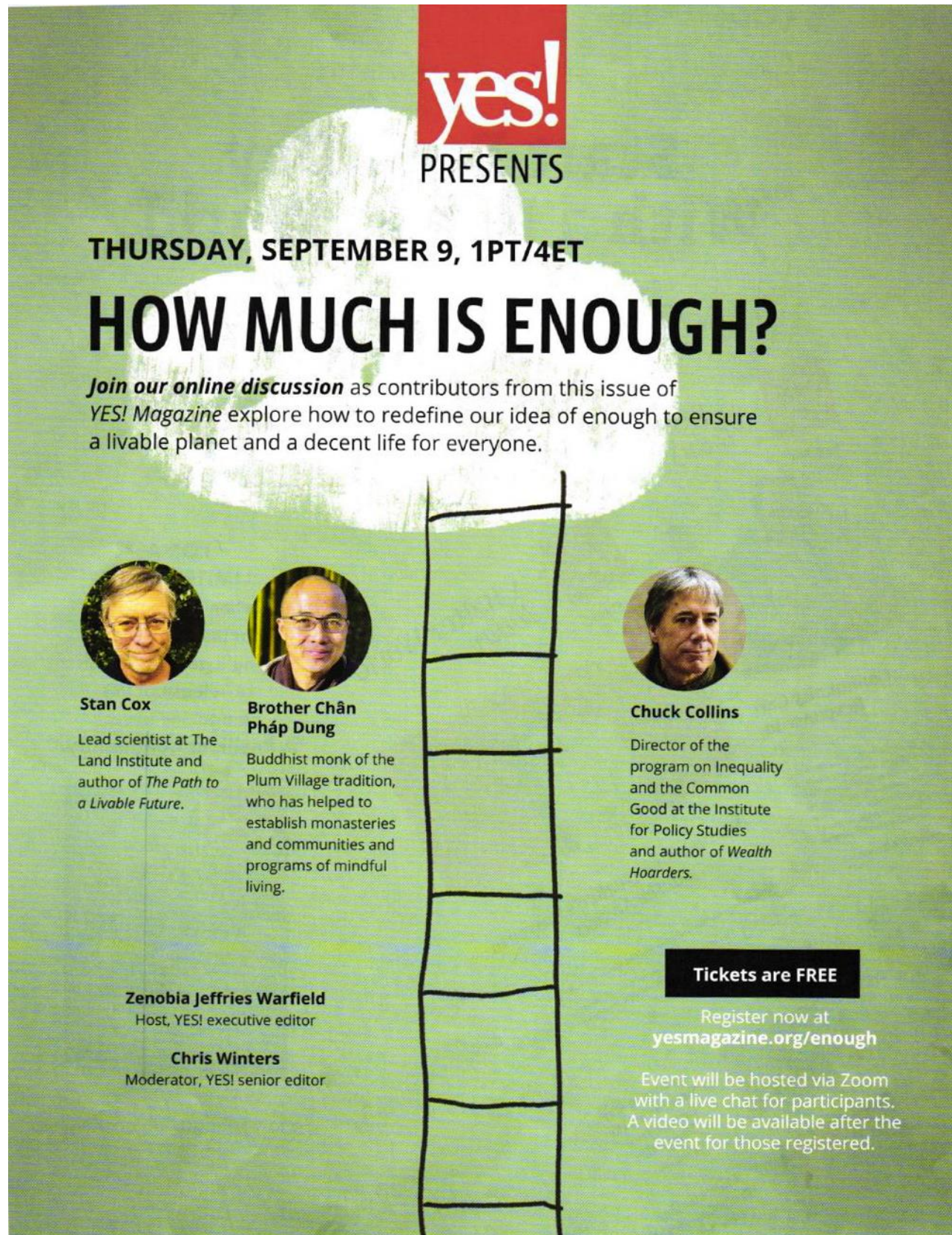
Ronis Chapman  
Asia-West Pacific Section

Michael Eccles  
Europe and  
Middle East Section

Robin Mohr  
Section of the Americas



## San Antonio and Beyond




**yes!**  
PRESENTS


**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1PT/4ET**

# HOW MUCH IS ENOUGH?

*Join our online discussion* as contributors from this issue of *YES! Magazine* explore how to redefine our idea of enough to ensure a livable planet and a decent life for everyone.



**Stan Cox**  
Lead scientist at The Land Institute and author of *The Path to a Livable Future*.



**Brother Chân Pháp Dung**  
Buddhist monk of the Plum Village tradition, who has helped to establish monasteries and communities and programs of mindful living.



**Chuck Collins**  
Director of the program on Inequality and the Common Good at the Institute for Policy Studies and author of *Wealth Hoarders*.

**Zenobia Jeffries Warfield**  
Host, YES! executive editor

**Chris Winters**  
Moderator, YES! senior editor

**Tickets are FREE**

Register now at  
[yesmagazine.org/enough](https://yesmagazine.org/enough)

Event will be hosted via Zoom with a live chat for participants. A video will be available after the event for those registered.



## [Lobby to Save our Climate](#)

By Bill Sweet

I noted in the San Antonio newspaper this Friday morning, 27 August, two articles: “Earth’s health at worst levels on record”, about NOAA’s “State of the Climate in 2020” report, just released, and “Shifting winds prompt new alerts as fires rage on”, mostly about the wildfires in California (over 1414 sq. miles in just 3 of 14 large fires as of today), plus 34 sq. miles in Minnesota’s nearly pristine Boundary Waters Canoe Area. None of these are more than 50% contained – mostly far less. Climate change is, now and increasingly, degrading our quality of life (not just human life). What to do? Here are two options.

### OPTION ONE:

Citizens’ Climate Lobby has a quick and easy way to lobby your U.S. Representative. Simply log on to <http://citizensclimatelobby.org/house/>. On the right side, in a green box, click on “Email and Call My Representative”. Enter your address so that you’re connected to YOUR Representative – you don’t have to know! Personalize slightly (or to taste) the prepared text and click send. That will lead you to calling, with script, which you can/should personalize. (The staffer isn’t able to have a long conversation. Keep it to the point.) You’re done in less than 5 minutes! Don’t know enough about the ask, carbon tax and dividend? The CCL website has loads of easy-to-understand information. No, you don’t have to be a member/participant in CCL. Everyone is welcome to this effort.

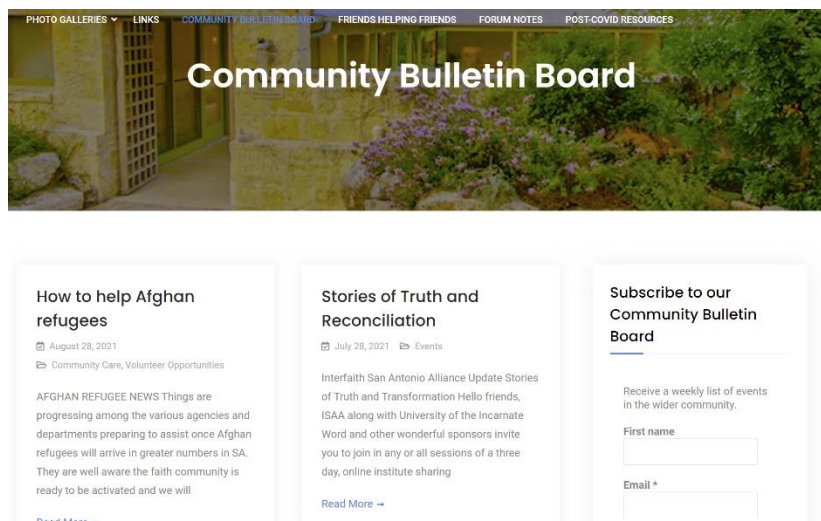
### OPTION TWO:

FCNL’s [http://fcnl.quorum.us/campaign/34603/?utm\\_source=fcnlaction](http://fcnl.quorum.us/campaign/34603/?utm_source=fcnlaction) functions similarly to CCL’s link. It is for both Senators and your Representative and has a wider scope than just carbon fee (or tax) and dividend. Of course, there’s lots of background information elsewhere on [fcnl.org](http://fcnl.org) should you want more.

In yesterday’s (26 August) Thursdays with Friends webcast ([fcnl.org/thursdayswithfriends](http://fcnl.org/thursdayswithfriends)), the guest speaker noted that the rule-of-thumb in Congress is that one call from a constituent represents 200-300 similarly-minded constituents. Speak up for those silent folks.

## [Contribute to our Community Bulletin Board](#)

Did you know that FMSA has a Community Bulletin Board? It’s a place on our website where we post things happening in the wider community that connect with Friends concerns. These include civic events, local volunteer opportunities, and ways to support the organizations to which we contribute.



Check it out at [SanAntonioQuakers.org](http://SanAntonioQuakers.org). Subscribe to get a weekly digest of postings.

## *Texas Coalition Against the Death Penalty*

### **Scheduled Executions in September**

#### **John Ramirez: September 8, 2021**

Although COVID cases are once again surging across the country, the State of Texas appears determined to move forward with seven scheduled executions over the next three months. On September 8, 2021, the State is scheduled to execute John Ramirez. It is the third execution date he has faced in recent years. Ramirez was convicted in 2009 of killing and robbing Pablo Castro in Corpus Christi in 2004. He was 20 years old at the time of the offense.

Ramirez has requested his spiritual advisor, Pastor Dana Moore of Second Baptist Church in Corpus Christi, accompany him in the execution chamber. He also asked that Pastor Moore be allowed to lay hands upon him and pray aloud at his moment of death in accordance with his religious practice. After these requests were denied, Ramirez filed a federal complaint alleging the violation of the free exercise of his religious beliefs. The complaint remains pending.

#### **Take action now!**

Ramirez has filed an application for clemency with the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles in which he requests a commutation of his sentence to life imprisonment, a 90-day reprieve from execution, and a hearing.

**We need all concerned Texans to email the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles to urge the members to recommend clemency and a reprieve for John Ramirez**

(you must include his TDCJ #999544 and DOB 06/29/1984 in your appeals).

- Share your concerns with Governor Greg Abbott.
- You'll find talking points, a sample email, and contact information for the Board and Governor here.
- Take action by Friday, September 3, 2021.

#### **Rick Rhoades: September 28, 2021**

The State of Texas is scheduled to execute Rick Rhoades on September 28, 2021. He was convicted in Harris County in 1992 and has spent nearly 30 years on death row. We will provide more information about his case soon.

To date in 2021, the State of Texas has put two people to death: Quintin Jones and John Hummel.

Only Texas and the federal government have carried out executions this year. Texas also is the only state with multiple executions scheduled at this time, although the Attorney General of Oklahoma recently asked the Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals to set execution dates for seven individuals, starting with John Grant on October 7, 2021 and Julius Jones on October 28, 2021. A petition for Jones, who steadfastly maintains his innocence, has secured more than 6 million signatures.

*Information and sample letters available from the  
Texas Coalition Against the Death Penalty*

<https://tcadp.org/>



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

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