



# The Friendly News

**San Antonio Quakers**

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**This edition of the Newsletter is dedicated to the people of Ukraine who are suffering and resisting the invasion of their country, to the people of Russia who are protesting the aggression of their government, and the people of Russia who are misled by the lies of their government.**

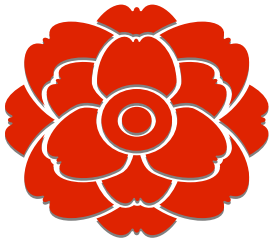
"I live in the virtue of that life and spirit that takes away the occasion of all wars." George Fox

## **Discernment on Covid Restriction**

Friends considered the risk factors in lightening the precautions, both indoors and out. Should masks be required for some, at some times, in some locations? The public health index is low right now, what if goes up later? How can we best protect those who are most vulnerable?

Friends found unity in the face of such daunting conditions. Anyone who chooses to wear a mask is welcome to do so, without stigma. Anyone who is comfortable not wearing one is also welcome. We ask that everyone wear a mask while in their Community Room because of the close quarters there. But not in the Meeting Room or any place outdoors. This will remain as long as the CDC and city statistics remain low. Two Friends will monitor the weekly threat levels and post low, medium or high level notice every Friday. A sign will be constructed along the lines of – For the safety of yourself and others, please wear a mask when in the Community Room. An alternative sign will be prepared for medium risk. We have consulted with parents regarding masking the children while indoors.

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## April Query

How can we work actively to bring about peace and sustainability, by removing the causes of conflict?

## 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
  - **Sunday Forums: 11:30-12:30**  
April 24:  
[CLICK HERE to join by Zoom](#)  
ID # 976 0522 6497; passcode: 194077
  - **Tuesdays 7-8pm: Course in Miracles discussion –**  
led by David
    - [CLICK HERE to join by Zoom](#) – ID # 988 3173 6394;  
passcode: 724708
  - **1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Pot Luck on the Porch - 11:15**
  - **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business CHANGE DATE**
    - Sunday Apr 10 - 11:30-1:00 in-person in the Meetinghouse AND on Zoom.
  - [CLICK HERE to join by Zoom](#) – ID # 976 0522 6497; passcode: 194077
  - **2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday Simple Meal and Meeting for Worship**
    - Apr 14: 6-7:30pm at the Meetinghouse
  - **3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday “Meeting for Weeding”**
    - Apr 16 9am-1pm at the Meetinghouse
  - **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

- **Apr 3: 11:00: Pot Luck Lunch & Three Sisters Soup**
- **Apr 10: 11:30 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business**
- **Apr 17: Easter Egg Coloring & Hunt**
  - **Apr 24: 11:30 Forum:**

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Please send May events by 4/27/22 to [newsletter@squakers.org](mailto:newsletter@squakers.org)

## World-wide Meeting with the Ukraine

Because many of us have awoken at night to pray with Ukraine, you may want to join one of two world-wide Meetings for Worship on Sundays. These are offered via Zoom, at both early and late times, to reach out to Friends in all time zones. **Note that the times below may change at the end of March when Ukraine also moves to daylight savings time.**

The Early Meeting/First Prayer meets at 0915 Kviv time. Central Daylight Time is 7 hours earlier, so that is 2:15 am San Antonio time. Although scheduled to allow those in the Pacific Rim to join, you are welcome to join if you so wish. Friends from New Zealand have helped organize prayer for up to 500 people.

Zoom Link for early meeting is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82024585770...>

Meeting ID: 820 2458 5770

Passcode: 823028

Or, join the Late Meeting, which is scheduled to accommodate those in the US, Canada, South America, Africa and Europe. This Meeting runs about 45 minutes since the account has not been updated to "unlimited" version. The "Late Meeting" starts at 20:00 (8pm) Kviv time which is 1300 (1 pm) Texas CDT.

This link allows for 100 participants: [zoom.us/j/718459680](https://zoom.us/j/718459680)

Passcode: 002873

If this Meeting is full, you can also attend by using the back-up link (which also allows 100 participants, although last week and this there were about 40 or so).

Back up link to "Late Meeting" <https://zoom.us/j/9557336111>

Passcode: d02uNj

**Diana B wrote:** have been able to get onto the "overflow" session (now beginning at 1 pm CDT and running 45 minutes) both weeks. There have been others from the USA as well as Great Britain, South America, and Europe. Maybe others from SA friends would be interested? I find it life-giving to be in silent worship with others from around the world during this most difficult time

**The Monthly Meeting** considered what measurers it could take as a whole, and as individuals to support the Ukrainian people and government. David and Lee are arranging to make contributions to individuals via Air B & B system. The funds to directly to Ukrainians without a commission to Air B & B. Humanitarian assistance is available through our PSC funds and that committee is asked to follow up. AFSC did not have a list as of this writing, but we are exploring that option. It was noted that non-Ukrainian refugees are not receiving an equal welcome in the refugee system and that the U S government is not allowing anti-war Russian refugee status here.

## **News from San Antonio Meeting**

**The State of the Meeting report** was approved in the second reading and will be forwarded to Year Meeting. The final text is available on the website.

## **April Forum**

### **April 24: To be Announced**

## **Book Exchange**

To celebrate May Day, everyone is invited to bring books, CDs, DVDs to the May 1 Pot Luck. Bring a book, take a book. Or more. Children's games are welcome.

## **Children's Program**

April is a special month with Earth Day, Easter and Yearly Meeting. We are illustrating Sustainability and respect for Native Americans. April 3, Oliver will explain whose land we are meeting on and a short history of these tribes, geared for our age group. This will take place while children are making Three Sisters Stew for the Meeting. Three Sisters are named this because Native Americans interplanted corn, beans and squash in the same mound. The three thrive together because corn provides a natural pole for the beans to climb, the beans fix nitrogen in the soil, and the squash leaves shade the ground to prevent the growth of weeds.

On April 10 James Mize will explore the panting of the Three Sisters and children will take home seeds to plant and care for in their own mounds. April 17, Easter, finds us coloring eggs in a most unusual way with Oliver leading the event. Children will then hide the eggs around the property for the adults to find. April 24 will celebrate Earth Day with a story about planting trees in Africa.

Parents are requested to confirm that they intend to attend by the Thursday prior to Meeting. We realize that no intention is firm because life can intervene.

## **Shall we have a Quaker Fair, May 7 ? NO**

No Friends stepped forward to take up the key tasks.

**Technology** has been installed in the Meeting Room: speakers, microphone, camera and a sound/video control system [on loan until a permanent one is available]. This will improve the quality of sound for zoom worshippers and remove the need for a mike in the middle of the room. It does not enhance the sound of those in the room itself, but four assisted listening devices will be available for those who are hard of hearing. Meeting expresses our thanks to Jim who has spent uncounted hours and days researching and consulting to achieve these results.



## Covid Restrictions, continued from page 1

This decision leads to several outcomes. **Pot luck** lunch will resume, outdoors, on April 3. A few Friends are needed to set up tables on the porch from 9:30 each first-of-the-month Sunday.

The toilets will retain the disinfectants and hand sanitizers, but not the procedural signs.

### Meet the Meeting

It all started with Zoom Worship

**Diana Beardsley** is not new to the Meeting Room; she was introduced to our Meeting by the Yellow Dog Sangha which uses our Meeting House. Her spiritual journey started with liturgical Christian churches (Methodist, Lutheran, Presbyterian, and Episcopal) but she wanted to go beyond words. From the Sangha, she was led to Quakers and the deep silence was what she needed. That was the beginning of the Covid lock downs and experiments with zoom worship. Diana lives in New Braunfels, and found this connection to worshipping Friends met her needs.

Diana's career life began with the ROTC in college (to help pay for her degree) where she majored in International Studies; that led to 22 years in the Air Force. After the military, she earned a Masters in Counseling. Licensed in Texas as a professional counselor, she has previously been in private practice with a focus on "life transitions" as well as employed by the state in vocational rehabilitation, working with all kinds of disabilities – psychological, social and physical. She also was a hospice volunteer, providing grief support to families. For the last decade or more, she facilitated spiritual formation groups within a church setting.

Her connection to Friends moved beyond worship when she volunteered to handle the technical side of zoom worship once a month. Her love of nature extends to the monthly Meeting for Weeding and her garden at home, hiking and kayaking. Just as we are getting acquainted, Diana is packing up to live near Columbus, Ohio where her family lives. She will be able to zoom worship with San Antonio Friends until she finds another meeting there. She is committed to the listening process and grateful for the silence, the intention to listen deeply and shake off all externals.

God's speed, Diana, we will miss you.

Zoom worship led to reuniting

**Linda and Lee Gugerty** also had Air Force connections as Lee ... an Air Force research laboratory in the 1990's. They moved to Clemson, South Carolina in 1998, shortly after marrying under the care of Friends Meeting of San Antonio. Marian Carter and Janet Southwood were on their clearness committee, and Janet was presiding clerk at the wedding, which took place at the Mission of San Juan. The Meeting was just in the planning stage of buying the property on Vandiver. Lee remembers Priscilla Zuk saying, "Be sure to get the mineral rights!"

Since their move, Linda has travelled to work with Native Americans, including the Sioux in        and Cherokee in        . She is retired now and has finished a course to become a Spiritual Director with the Hadan Institute, an Episcopal program based on Jungian dream work.

Lee has continued his interest in research at Clemson University where he is a professor of psychology working with graduate students on causal reasoning as influenced by political biases. Currently he is studying why people do or do not take the Covid vaccine. The parallels with Diana abound, since Lee will retire at the end of term, in May. They will probably move elsewhere

eventually, but not sure in which direction. Since it was Lee's decision to settle in Clemson, it is Linda's turn to decide the next move.

The zoom worship has been great for them, to reconnect with S.A Friends. Quakers do not have a significant presence in South Carolina and no other religious community met their needs. They have been faithful in worshipping and interacting since December, 2021. They do not find the zoom feature to be a barrier to involvement.

## Retrospective Justice: William Penn

Friends considered the complex history of this "leading Quaker" of the 17<sup>th</sup> century and his relevance to us today. A champion of democracy and gifted writer on spiritual matters, he was also an aristocrat who owned and traded enslaved Africans. While he was not the only wealthy Quaker to do this, there were Quakers who published the Germantown "Petition Against Slavery" in 1688.

We wondered what future Quakers would say about our actions today. What obvious truths are we not seeing, or ignoring? Penn, as well as we, suffered from a blind spot, a lacuna, in the view of the world. For him, the "holy experiment" of building Pennsylvania depended on a source of cheap labor. He told his overseer, "It was better they was blacks for then a man has them while they live."

Harold D. Weaver Jr offers a three-step plan to assess the past. Our wide-ranging discussion covered 1) formal acknowledgement of an offense, 2) commitment to truth telling, but not time enough for 3) making amends. We decided this was an important topic to continue and will re-convene May 22. Val suggested that we include the pamphlet by Eric Ambler, *What is Experiment wit Light?* as a way to approach difficult subjects. These will be available in the Library.

## Wider Quaker World

### Led by Faith to Work for Justice

#### South Central Yearly Meeting, April 10 – 17, 2022

To encourage as many Friends as possible to attend the annual sessions in person, Yearly Meeting is paying the costs of room and board for the Greene Family Camp stay. A modest fee of \$50 is needed to meet administrative costs. Safety precautions will be in place for Friends and all the Camp staff; housing will be in the Health House, the Motel and Family Cabins. A test will be administered to every one arriving, Thru – Sunday, so it would be wise to self-administer a test the day before arriving to avoid disappointment. **Registration** is at [scym.org](http://scym.org) and **closes 12 am on April 4** so that preparations may be made with the Camp staff. When filling in personal information end by clicking the blue box re attenders, then fill in all the pertinent information.



The schedule begins with the **Peace & Justice Forum**, Sunday 4/10 from 2:15 – 4:00, followed by a workshop from 7:30 – 8:45 CST: offered by **Kallan Benson**, a young Friend engaged in environmental activism who accompanied Greta Thunberg during her many meetings with U.S. young people. The alternative workshop, 7:30 – 8:45, is offered by **Walter Long** of Austin F M on his collaboration to end the death penalty. Online only.

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**Tuesday, April 12, 7:30-8:45 pm Workshop Session 2 (online only)**

1. *Environmental Justice – Shelly Tanenbaum, V Quaker Volunteer Service (QVS)*
2. *Sovereignty is a Nonpartisan Issue: What Unites Us When Advocating in Solidarity with Tribal Nations, Portia Kay Anthos Shenandore-Wheelock, V Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)*

**Friday April 15, 2:00:45-4:00 (In-Person at Greene Family Camp & Live Stream Online)**

2:45-4:00 Keynote Panel: How Faith led to Justice Work

*Friends Oliver Gerken V, FMSA; Istra Fuhrmann I P, QVS now FCNL: Paula Palmer, V Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples; and Barb Adams, V Quaker Earthcare Witness, Richmond, VA Friends Meeting. They will relate their personal activism, what support they needed and what they received. (Liz Wolff V, Moderator)*

4:15-5:15 Workshop Session 3

1. *How Faith led to Environmental Work – Kallan Benson I P [see above] Theater, live stream, in person responses only*
2. *Multigenerational Spiritual Relationships with Friends in Justice Work – Claire Hannapel I P, QVS (in person only, recorded for future use)*

**Saturday April 16 11:00-12:15 Equipping Ourselves to Go Forward (live stream)**

*Friends Jerry Knutson and Val Liveoak on how Friends can support with tools for justice work on the local level. (moderator TBA)*

2:45-4:00 Workshops 4

1. *How Faith led to Environmental Work – Kallan Benson I P [see above] Theater, live stream, in person responses only*
2. *Multigenerational Spiritual Relationships with Friends in Justice Work – Claire Hannapel I P, QVS (in person only, recorded for future use)*

The yearly Meeting will include the traditional worship, home groups, and business meetings in both online and in person formats. The Children's Program will also be available, mornings and afternoons, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The Easter Sunrise Service will be from 7:00 to 8:00 on Sunday. The complete schedule is available at [scym.org](http://scym.org)

## **FGC Gathering July 3 – 9**

The 2022 FGC Gathering will have both an [in-person](#) and a [virtual](#) track.

All Virtual Gathering events are held on [Zoom](#). Each event during the Gathering has its own link, which you will use to join the event at the set time. For the 2022 Gathering, workshops will be held as Zoom meetings so you will be able to see and interact with others. The evening programs and bible half hour will be available via livestream so virtual participants will be able to attend without video interaction or live chats.

[Sign up for email updates about the Gathering, and/or to receive the 2022 Advance Program.](#)

The 2022 Advance Program will be published and downloadable in mid-March, 2022.

**Early Registration starts April 11, 2022** around 10:00am (Eastern Daylight Time.) All full-time registrations completed during this time have equal access to workshops and housing options, and priority consideration for financial aid. Early registration closes April 21, 11:59pm EDT.

**Registration will temporarily close from April 22–28:** Lotteries will occur for any oversubscribed workshops & housing choices. All early registrants will be informed of their workshop & housing assignments.

**Standard Registration starts April 29:** Workshops and financial assistance will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Beginning June 1, there is a late fee for all full-time and half-Gathering registrations. Late fees will not be charged for part-time registrations.



**TAKE ACTION**

### **Tell President Biden: Restore the right to claim asylum!**

The Biden administration has made many changes to the immigration system. But the right to claim asylum at the U.S.-Mexico border still needs to be restored. Over the last two years, hundreds of thousands of people, including children, have been deported back to dangerous conditions.

The Biden administration has also expanded the harmful "Remain in Mexico" program (also known as the Migrant Protection Protocols, or MPP). This forces migrants to wait out their asylum proceedings on the Mexican side of the border. Today, thousands of migrants are stranded in makeshift camps and other unsanitary conditions. They lack access to adequate support or legal services. And they face high rates of kidnappings and violence.

### **Tell President Biden: Reopen our borders to asylum seekers and ensure that they can seek safety in the United States!**

It's time to end Title 42 expulsions and stop the expansion of the "Remain in Mexico" program. We need to protect the health, safety, and human rights of all who seek refuge at the southern border.



April 2022

## Pendle Hill Offerings in April

### *How Did We Get Here? An Exploration of Ripples from Nineteenth-Century Quaker Parenting*

Apr 4, 2022

A First Monday Lecture with Emma Lapsansky-Werner. How did nineteenth-century American Quaker parents go about raising Quaker children? This talk, which expands on some themes Emma Lapsansky...

### *Experiment With Light: A Guided Quaker Meditation Based On Historical Practices*

Apr 7, 14, 21, and 28, 2022

A series of online workshops with Barbara "Shulamith" Clearbridge. The "Experiment with Light" is a practice that can help people deepen their spiritual lives by exploring what it means...

### *Café Darkness In-Person Writing Workshop for People of Color*

Apr 18-22, 2022

With K. Melchor Quick Hall, Joanne Daley, and Danie "Ocean" Jackson. Pendle Hill is committed to maintaining a safe environment in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. As part of that...

### *Hope and Witness in Dangerous Times Online Workshop*

Apr 22-24, 2022

An Online Weekend Workshop with Brent Bill. As political polarization rises and legislation continues to perpetuate injustice and harm, what's a person of faith to do?

Learn more at [pendlehill.org](http://pendlehill.org), pictured below.



## Worship Sharing on the Peace Testimony

Quaker House is hosting a second Worship Sharing session on Saturday, April 2 at 4:00pm EDT. Friends are invited to join to share their thoughts and discernment about the Peace Testimony of Friends and how the events in Ukraine have affected them. The Worship Sharing will be unprogrammed and we will wait for messages to rise from the silence. As a time of worship, we will not record the session.

If you wish to participate, send an email to [wayne.finegar@quakerhouse.org](mailto:wayne.finegar@quakerhouse.org) or call 910-323-3912 and the connection information will be sent to you. This will allow us to have a sense of how many will be joining in worship. After the time of worship, we will discuss next steps in this discernment. Some options already suggested include:

1. Additional worship sharing opportunities. 2. More formal presentations from Friends who have written or spoken on these topics (suggestions of names with contact information are very welcome). 3. Discussion groups (probably with smaller numbers) focused on topics of interest. These might well include materials for review prior to the sessions. 4. Activism sharing with a focus on how to achieve real change in an era of social media. Friends are encouraged to bring other suggestions for consideration.

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## Other News of Interest

**VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED.** The **Interfaith Welcome Coalition** provides assistance to immigrants who have been released from the border or from nearby detention centers. IWC Volunteers assist with transportation arrangements, delivering snacks and meals from Haven for Hope, providing backpacks filled with toys and travel supplies, and arranging for temporary housing and rides as needed. To join in the effort, please go to <https://interfaithwelcomecoalition.org>