



# The Friendly News

**San Antonio Quakers**

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## Finding Our Shared Intent in Worship

"Be still and cool in thy own mind and spirit from thy own thoughts, and then thou wilt feel the principle of God to turn thy mind to the Lord God, from whom life comes; whereby thou mayest receive his strength and power to allay all blusterings, storms, and tempests. That is it which works up into patience, into innocency, into soberness, into stillness, into stayedness, into quietness, up to God, with his power..."

---- Letter from George Fox to Lady Claypoole, 1658

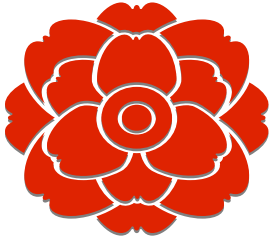
A few years ago, Gary asked a Friend his thoughts on worship. "It seems like a bunch of people each doing their own thing." Gary has been provoked and troubled since then. He has often used the phrase **shared intent** to describe what he thinks is lacking in our silence. On July 24, Friends joined him to consider:

*Is there a truth which we all share in, that is redemptive and gives guidance?*

Gary asked us to go deep and deep we did go. We gave examples of times when we have felt lifted up by Friends in worship, finding a sense of **unity, support and love**. Thus we have experienced the Spirit, not held to a list of requirements. There are many contrivances in practicing religion, yet Quakers seek to remove them to get to the nub of truth, which is love.

One Friend asked, what if you come to worship with a heart full of **anger**? Can you speak from that place? The answer came, yes, that anger is your truth at that time. Your

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## August Query How has that truth shown itself in me In my life, and can I find a way to share that in Meeting?

Here are the direct links for our weekly account to join.

- **Sunday Meetings for Worship**
  - **10-11am**, in-person in the Meetinghouse AND on Zoom.
  - **Children's Program 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays during the summer**
    - [CLICK HERE to join by Zoom](#)  
ID # 976 0522 6497; passcode: 194077
- **Sunday Forums: 11:30-12:30**  
[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
- **Friday Morning Meeting for Worship – Fridays 8-8:30 am**
  - [CLICK HERE to join by Zoom](#) – ID # 976 0522 6497; passcode: 194077
- **1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Pot Luck on Hold during the Increase in Covid**
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday "Meeting for Weeding" also on Hold during heat wave**
- **3rd Sunday Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business NOT held in August**  
[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

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- **Aug 14: 11:30 Shared Intent in Worship, part 2**
- **Aug 28: 11:30 Shared Intent in Worship, part 3**

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Please send July news, pictures & events by 8/26/2022 to [newsletter@squakers.org](mailto:newsletter@squakers.org)

"Right is right, even if everyone is against it,  
and wrong is wrong, even if everyone is for it."  
— **William Penn**

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expectation is to find your own truth and that is that anger is not your nature. Your passion makes you vulnerable and it takes bravery to express it in authentic terms. But it is valid.

Another Friend asked about when anger may grow out of our decision-making process. That, too, is valid and the answer is found in seeking unity through the practice of love.

We considered how experience is unique to each of us and that silence is the vessel, not the goal. We ended as we had begun, with another example of being surrounded by love in a time of need. We give each other hope. On that note, we found that we had not exhausted the possibilities and agreed on our intention to continue this valuable searching **August 14 and 28**, in person and by zoom. Anyone who missed the July session is welcome to join in the next ones.

## *News from San Antonio Meeting*

### **FINDING A PATH TO FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE**

- Lee Teran and David Bristol

Recently we read a survey that reported over 50% of our youth believe they have no future due to the degradation of the environment. It is no wonder that our youth are losing hope. Our earth warms as greenhouse gases continue to grow in the atmosphere. Each year we experience severe weather events, record high temperatures, massive forest and range fires, a rise in sea levels, and a loss in arable lands to grow crops. Degradation of the environment is prompting massive migration changes within the U.S. and around the globe. However, despite the considerable danger to life and livelihood, governments of the most wealthy and technologically advanced countries in the world, including our own, have utterly failed to provide leadership to protect and restore our environment.

The survey has made us think of our children and grandchildren. We take what seem to be small steps to reduce our carbon footprint - recycling, composting, driving a hybrid vehicle, etc. Now we are determined to do all we can to give our children and grandchildren hope for a future. We began looking to Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW) in search of a project and became interested in the Earth Quaker Action Team (EQAT) working to challenge Vanguard Investment Group. Vanguard has \$8 trillion in managed assets, and is the world's largest investor in coal and one of the largest in oil and gas. We looked at our retirement accounts and found that both of us have Vanguard investments. Then we read "Vanguard Customers Have an Important Role to Play, so Don't Move Your Money (Yet)!" by Eileen Flanagan (Quaker Earthcare Witness, Feb. 22, 2022). We have signed up with the EQAT team, and we look forward to working with others to pressure Vanguard to divest from fossil fuels.

We hope that in our own Meeting we can soon organize and take action together on a local or state wide environmental project.

## The Giant Stirs - 1 Locally

**July 10** The continuation of discernment begun in June opened the door to Friends' concerns for many issues.

Vanguard, an investment giant, is the focus of Quaker Earhtcare Witness [QEW] and Earth Quaker Action Team [EQAT] following their success in the five-year campaign to end PNC Bank's investment in mountaintop removal. Vanguard is the world's biggest investor in coal and one of the two biggest in gas and oil. Lee Teran and David Bristol learned that their pensions are administered by Vanguard and will use their leverage in stockholders' meetings to protest the policy. Friends are encouraged to check out their own pensions and investments.

Kirstin asked us to consider the U S military as the greatest contributor to the climate crisis through its bases around the world, the need for vast resources, and use of heavy equipment. Bill Sweet cited the energy needed to move the massive navy and air force. He added that manufacturing is by far the second largest contributor to pollution.

Donna cited an NPR report on data-mining operations for Bitcoin components that are unregulated and use vast quantities of power. Other remedies for the crisis are planting trees – but it would take enormous amounts to make a significant dent in pollution. A Carbon Tax would be the single most effective measure, but it may be far in the future.

Gretchen pointed to gun violence as a continuing threat, in spite of the recently passed national legislation. Others concerned include MonsRising.org. Bill reminded us of the FCNL Advocacy Team that has been launched here as a vehicle for our activities.

Val stressed the need to form ourselves as a community in order to perceive and test our leadings. We intend to keep meeting. She summed up our discernment, and advocated for the widest lens at this point to see how eventually to narrow the focus, to find an issue Friends can unify behind to conduct spirit-led action. Those in attendance, and on Zoom, are willing to set up an exploratory committee, in person and by Zoom. Val will facilitate at this time.

## The Giant Stirs - 2 Nationally

The **Urgent Call to the Religious Society of Friends** concerns the current extensive threats to our U S democracy. Nineteen Friends are led to speak out against the lies, extremist movements, and anti-democratic actions that are the opposite of our Quaker understands of integrity and Truth.

As an ad hoc group of Quakers, they believe in the power of Truth and have faith in the witness of Friends. They know that the individual and collective actions of Friends and friends can have a powerful impact in our communities and in our individual faithful journeys. They propose a series of national conversations on these issues to be hosted by the Earlham School of religion. The exact details of this will be sent out in the FMSA weekly announcement. Friends can find more at <[info@quakercall.net](mailto:info@quakercall.net)> Queries: What, if anything, is the Light Within calling Friends to do in response to the unprecedented rise of domestic extremism, white supremacy, and authoritarianism that is threatening the destruction of our democracy a home and abroad? How can I/we respond with resolute love even while I/we may be struggling with fear, anger, apathy, or hate?

## Both, And, And....

So, there is the group that has coalesced around Val's forums and concerns about the climate crisis, **and** the group that has committed to the FCLN's Advocacy Teams which Hannah is convening, **and** individuals who have responded to the Urgent Call. There are overlaps from one to another to another. Is that competition for attention? Or an indication of the rising of social/peace concerns among us.

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Is this an indication that our dormant Peace & Social Concerns Committee needs to reconstitute itself, or that this ferment can be part of the Meeting-as-a-Whole? It is reminiscent of the way candles are dipped by hand – in a series of strings lowered repeatedly into hot wax.

## Pot Luck Lunches are on Hold as Covid # is High

We do have limited refreshments after Worship on the porch, but a sit-down lunch is postponed until the local Covid numbers are on High Alert. July and probably August. Friends are asked to wear masks and stand at a distance to prevent the possible spread of the virus. The weekly announcements will let us know the status. Workdays are also on hold due to the very high temperatures.

## Meeting Considers Hosting a Wedding

We have received a request to hold a small wedding in the fall. Friends considered the request and determined to follow up. As a result, the policy of non-Friends being married in our facility is under re-evaluation. As a matter of community outreach to those who wish a simple ceremony in a spiritual setting, an ad hoc committee formed to explore the possibilities and limitations.

## Help Wanted!!

Our thanks to those who have volunteered to OPEN and CLOSE. However, we do need others to take care of the technical operations. We have committed to serve our wider circle of Friends on Zoom and that takes some one[s] to step up. You will have support and the gratitude of Friends near and far.

## How to Contribute to FMSA

There are three ways to contribute. 1) Cash or a check to the Treasurer [by hand or by mail to 7052 N Vandiver, San Antonio TX 78209] or into the Donation Box, cleverly hidden on a shelf next to the entry door. 2) Zelle: send to Treasurer@saquakers.org / Frost Bank, to make a one-time or scheduled periodic donation. 3) Auto deduction from one's bank account: contact the Treasurer at the above email for the required information for Electronic Funds Transfer. ]

***What we need is here.***

## More Quaker Jargon Revealed

“At the rise of Meeting...” means that the worship part of our gathering is finished and now we are moving into fellowship. Members of the Ministry, Care and Guidance committee will be available to answer any questions that Friends might have. A box of books on the bench in the foyer offers reading on a range of subjects, and a trip to the library is always in order. [G. Haynes]

## Newsletter Process

Thanks to everyone who sent items for the newsletter. Your contributions make a difference.





Children's  
Program



to  
blossoms. The acorn pair seems to be the farthest along, with the spaghetti growing up the support rod. A climb up the mulch pile brought needed protection to the tender roots.



## **Meet the Meeting**

### **- Kirstin Munro**

Kirstin doesn't rest on her laurels for very long. She has finished a book on eco-conscious families with young children which will be published by Bristol University Press this winter. Enjoying the summer with family in Seattle, she applied for a fellowship with Woodbrooke, a Quaker study center in Britain. And was successful with the Eva Koch Award.

As an Eva Koch Scholar this coming fall, she proposes studying the pro-environmental activities of members of the historic peace churches: Quakers, Mennonites, and Order of the Brethren. Her focus will be on the environmental activism of the 1980's and 90's, as the precursor to contemporary concerns.

This project will be balanced with her full-time job as Assistant Professor of Political Science at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. Kirstin and her partner, Chris O'Kane, chose to move to the border from Queens, New York, where they were teaching at St. John's University in the Department of Economics. They were looking for students from historically excluded backgrounds, and found a blend of migrants and children of local business people at UTRGV.

Kirstin came to Friends through her partner, who is from an activist Quaker family going back four generations. She was particularly interested in the decision-making process in use in daily life. She had been using something like it, more informally, and now sees it as spirit-led discernment. Beyond that, it is more powerful doing things together, as in the FCNL Advocacy Teams approach to social and environmental change.

Although at this stage, her career has been almost all-consuming, she found time for political prisoner correspondence and fund-raising for reproductive health. The latter is on hold with the recent anti-abortion developments. Her question: "What is the next thing I am supposed to be doing?"

## **August Forums**

### **August 14 Finding Our Shared Intent in Worship, Part 2**

**"How is that truth best described or characterized to help make it more accessible?"**

### **August 28 Finding Our Shared Intent in Worship, Part 3**

**"How do I deepen my daily participation in that truth, and what is it to grow in such a fashion?"**



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## **Marian Remembers**

Marian Hedleston Carter grew up on a ranch in Coleman County, south west of Dallas. When she was born in 1930, the population was 23,669 and 63% of agriculture was by tenant farmers. By 2020, the population was 7,684.

Marian's family owned three rangelands, one for Hereford cattle raised for beef, one for sheep raised for their wool and another for goats, also for wool. When the cattle were ready for market, they were loaded on trucks and taken to the stockyard.

When the sheep and goats were ready, a team of shearers would arrive. In the early days they used hand-held shears and needed strength to complete the day's work. Later, they went "up town" with electric shears that would take hours what had taken days to complete. The wool was placed in big bags and Marian and her sister, Dot, climbed into the bags to tamp down the wool. What fun!

There were three houses on the ranch, beside the big house. Two were for families, more or less long term, and the third for single men who took care of the animals. Some had their own horses. In busy times, many day labors came who had sleeping bags in the barn, or they would catch a ride into town. Marian remembers her Uncle Jim at his desk figuring out what he owed the workers.

Across from the ranch gate, on the county road, was a country store with basic groceries and a filling station. To the side was a cotton gin that got really busy in October. Uncle Jim leased a large plot of good land for cotton growing, which was profitable for everyone. To be Continued

## **Wider Quaker World**

### **Friends Committee on National Legislation**

Native communities have been sharing the truth for years; Christian—including Quaker-run—Indian boarding schools in the late 19th and early 20th centuries caused long-lasting devastation to Native peoples and cultures. The Department of the Interior confirmed this with the release of the first volume of a Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative Report on May 11. Now, momentum is building to establish a Truth and Healing Commission on Indian boarding schools.

Both the House and the Senate have introduced legislation that would begin to seek truth and healing for the communities still affected by this trauma. Friends today are working with tribal nations to advance congressional efforts to formally investigate boarding school policy and develop recommendations for the government to take future action.

Urge your members of Congress to support and co-sponsor the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the United States Act (S. 2907/H.R. 5444).

Every day, more members of Congress sign on to cosponsor this legislation. Your action can help continue the momentum to make this commission reality. While the wrongs committed at these boarding schools can never be made right, this truth and healing commission can begin a process of working to right the relationship with tribal nations. Find the email template here: <https://fcn.quorum.us/campaign/35660/>





Quaker teachers with Indian families and children, Ottawa School, 1872. See Friends Journal, Archives, Oct 1, 2016, Facing our History and Ourselves, Paula Palmer

**“Let us then try what love can do to mend a broken world.”  
— William Penn**

## Friends Journal

“As Quakers, we have testimonies of truth and equality. Adhering to these values would seem to suggest that we have a responsibility to examine and face up to the uncomfortable truths of the past, with all their awkward and painful implications.

They may require us to change—in fact, they almost certainly do.”

*(from "Flawed Quaker Heroes")*

### **Our Top Five Articles of 2022 (So Far)**

compiled by *Friends Journal* editorial staff

### **Hope and Witness in Dangerous Times by J. Brent Bill**

reviewed by Max L. Carter

Prolific author and “public Friend” J. Brent Bill draws on his extensive experience among the different communities of the Religious Society of Friends in writing about “lessons from the

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Quakers on blending faith, daily life, and activism.” His book not only shares some of the timeless wisdom Quakers have to offer, but it is timely as well.

Beginning with an observation on “thoughts and prayers” vs. “activism” in response to the latest tragedies, Bill offers the response of “It’s not either/or but both/and.” He goes on to cite William Penn’s familiar statement: **“True godliness doesn’t turn us out of the world, but enables us to live better in it, and excites our endeavors to mend it.”**

## Pendle Hill Offerings



- ***Friends and Sabbath in the Time of Climate Change***
- **Aug 1, 2022**  
A First Monday Lecture with Cherice Bock
- Though keeping the Sabbath is one of the Ten Commandments, Friends historically and today have a variety of perspectives on... [Learn More](#)

## **Other News of Interest**

### **10 Foods Your Dog Should Never Eat**

My beloved Fiore lies just at the thresh hold of the kitchen waiting for me to drop something on the floor. Hoover is her second name and peppers [except green ones] are her favorite. Not to mention apples and cucumbers. Out of curiosity, I looked up what she should NOT eat. I share the partial list with others with voracious pets.

- Chocolate contains a very toxic substance called methylxanthines, which are stimulants that can stop a dog's metabolic process. ...
- Avocados. ...
- Onions and Garlic. ...
- Grapes and Raisins. ...
- Milk and other Dairy Products. ...
- Macadamia Nuts. ...

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- Raw dough [it can expand in the gut and cause problems]
- Sugary foods and drinks. ...
- Caffeine. ALSO
- Mushrooms
- Rhubarb
- Walnuts
- 

## Good For Dogs

Apples, Bananas, Blueberries, Cantaloupe, Carrots Cheese [in moderation], Chicken – cooked, no bones, Green Beans, Kiwi, Mango, Oatmeal, Peanut Butter, Potatoes & Yams cooked, skins removed, Pumpkin, Rice, and Yogurt

## Foods Cats Should not Eat

- Onions and Garlic. ...
- Raw Eggs, Raw Meat & Bones. ...
- Chocolate and Caffeinated Drinks. ...
- Alcohol and Raw Dough. ...
- Milk and Dairy Products. ... Surprise! \*
- Grapes and Raisins. ...
- Dog Food. ...wrong formula for cats.

\*Most cats are only exposed to lactose from their mother's milk when they are kittens. Because kittens only drink from their mother's milk for a few weeks, their digestive systems are often not equipped to handle a reintroduction to lactose.

If you notice or suspect that your cat has eaten one of these foods, take her to your veterinarian immediately. While some of these foods may only cause your cat slight discomfort, others can be far more hazardous to her health. If in doubt, ask your vet for guidance. [Have you noticed, cats are female, dogs are male. GH]

## On the Lighter Side

Official Guide to Quaker-Speak [from *Quaker Lite 2 ½* by Stan Banker, p. 41]

It occurs to me...means *"I've been stewing about this since the last meeting we had."*

I respectfully state that I cannot approve...means *"Over my dead body."*

I'm sure our Friend who disagrees will step aside... means *"Over your dead body."*

[See, it pays to read all the way to the end. GH]