

February 2022



# The Friendly News

**San Antonio Quakers**

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## **Assessing the State of the Meeting**

Friends gathered in person and on zoom to respond to queries about our experience of the past year. This is a sampling which will be refined and presented to Meeting for Business, Feb. 20. Please send your comments on them to <clerk@ saquakers.org>

### **Worship:**

The spirit was strong in people's attempts to keep meeting alive.  
Zoom made possible a vital connection to meeting and the wider world for me.  
Being able to go to meeting via zoom in a period of extreme isolation, on top of a move to a place where we have not found a Friends Meeting, was a lifesaver.  
The silent retreat and worship in the community room have held us together.

### **Meeting community:**

Connecting with far flung friends is considerably significant.  
The care of the meetinghouse and the care to keep things growing reflects a commitment to developing our own spiritual lives/worship experience  
There was resistance to hybrid meetings and zoom but Friends adjusted to the changes. Even though the tech impinges on the worship, over all it is a boon.

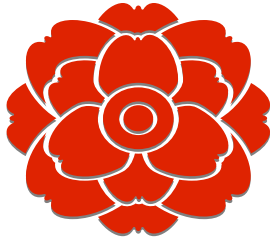
### **Religious Education:**

Last year was challenging with the children gone. We had a lot of activities, forums and others (Course in Miracles).

Course in Miracles was very valuable; access to spirit, and its importance in daily life. Gary's talks deepen my faith. [Continued on page 7]

*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.*



## February Query

2/1/2022

**What could you do to improve or deepen your relationship with Friends at meeting?"**

### 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**
  - February 13: FCNL with Julia Hitz
  - February 27: State of the Meeting Draft Discussion  
[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
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday Simple Meal and Meeting for Worship**
  - Feb 10: 6-7:30pm at the Meetinghouse
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday "Meeting for Weeding"**
  - Feb 19 9am-1pm at the Meetinghouse
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business**
  - Sunday Feb 20 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**
  - [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#***

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### Special Events

- Feb 5 10:00: Memorial Meeting for Mark Hickman
- Feb 27: Forum: State of the Meeting Draft Discussion (*see page 7*)

Send March events by 2/23/22 to [newsletter@squakers.org](mailto:newsletter@squakers.org)

## *Memorial Meeting for Mark Hickman, February 5, 10:00*

Mark Lee Hickman, 77, passed away on Tuesday, November 23, 2021 in San Antonio, Texas. He was born to proud parents C. Addison and Dorothy Hickman on November 10, 1944 in Sioux City, Iowa. Family was very important to Mark. His brother Paul remembers twin paper routes with Mark, and family contests of scrabble and bridge. Paul and his sister Mary also remember family vacations in the summer, to many parts of the country. Mark always kept in touch with family members, including his cousins and his nephews and niece.

San Antonio became Mark's home throughout his adult life. He did regular volunteer work at that food pantry and also worked at the San Antonio Zoo as a guide at the butterfly exhibit, explaining about the kinds of and the lives of butterflies. He also loved learning, and was a tutor at the San Antonio Community College and spent much time at the public library. He was one of the first members of the local Quaker Meeting and followed their progress from gathering in a local doctor's office to the building of their own Meetinghouse. Mark would ride his bike to Meeting despite the distance involved or even the weather, and was particularly fond of riding through his old neighborhood in the Monte Vista and Tobin Hill area. He loved nature, and also frequently took long walks. He loved the trees and the animals he met along his walks. He loved watching the changing of the seasons.

These stories all reflect on the fact that Mark was a true poet. He wrote constantly and would share his poems with family and friends, usually written in pencil and torn from a page in his notebook. He loved attending poetry readings, both as a reader and a listener. He finally had a collection printed and bound, titled "Spirit, Please Come Stay" which many of us cherish. His poems could be simple and direct, like a haiku, and would reflect his love for being in nature:

cypress points to starry  
winter sky. I walk.

Or, as those who knew Mark will recognize, they could reflect the pain he often felt:

God feels far away.  
I walk twilight streets  
and cannot feel. Beauty sings  
not so strong as lonely.

Though often there is a triumphant theme, even if found in a dark place:

Jesus arose on a foggy night.  
Fear danced where I lay bound.  
His light held my mind.  
My fear had no name  
and its long hair  
wound through my brain.

Laughter roared:  
I am not the one  
to arise and make such claims.

Jesus lay bound in my deepest tombs  
and a white song sang my name  
I knew no peace  
but my terror ceased  
and I wept where he had lain.

## **Thich Nhat Hanh**

The International Plum Village Community of Engaged Buddhism announces that our beloved teacher Thich Nhat Hanh has passed away peacefully at Từ Hiếu Temple in Huế, Vietnam, at 00:00hrs on 22nd January, 2022, at the age of 95. We invite our global spiritual family to take a few moments to be still, to come back to our mindful breathing, as we together hold Thay in our hearts in peace and loving gratitude for all he has offered the world.

## **News from San Antonio Meeting**

### **Temporary Replacement for Clerk Jim Spickard**

Jim needs a hiatus to deal with family matters, starting in January. Bill Wilkinson is filling in as presiding clerk, and other responsibilities will be filled as needed. If Friends have questions or concerns, please use [clerk@saquakers.org](mailto:clerk@saquakers.org) which will be answered by Bill.

### **Children's Program: Up and Running [literally]**

The shouts and laughter of children filled the air following worship. So far four families have come, bringing joy to us all. Hannah and Gretchen are working on a curriculum, and are joined by Lee and Renata. The focus in January was on Dreaming – first a story about a boy who dreamed of having a bike.

This led to Martin Luther King, Jr. – first his childhood and encounters with racism, then his famous Dream speech. This was followed by how he departed from his prepared speech to speak the famous words, Then the influence of Bayard Rustin, the black Quaker who was the primary organizer of the 1963 March on Washington. The children made their own banner, “We Have a Dream.” We introduced the idea of Integrity, the Quaker Testimony for the month.

February is Black History Month, leading off with George Washington Carver and his experiments with peanuts as an alternative to growing cotton, Children will make peanut butter soup for the Meeting. Friends can show their support for the children's program by



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attending in person and having a bowl of soup on Feb. 6. Equality will be the Testimony of the month.



### *Friends Consider the Problems of Burn Out*

by Val Liveoak

Queries about Burnout

A small group of Friends met on Jan. 24<sup>th</sup> in a worship-sharing process to consider how they and our community experience burnout. The topic and experience have been brought up frequently at Ministry, Care, and Guidance meetings and also arise in our daily life—perhaps especially exacerbated by the additional pressures we are experiencing from the Covid pandemic. Worship-sharing responses are confidential, but it seemed to me that each of the attenders at this session has (and some of us now are) experienced burnout. Understatement alert! Probably we aren't the only ones.

We considered the following queries:

- How has burnout affected our spiritual lives?
- What can we do to avoid or respond to burnout?
- How does burnout affect our community?

I found that reflecting on these queries gave me more insight on my own experience and reactions to my burnout, and invite Friends to consider them if they seem useful.

A useful resource is the essay, "The Simplification of Life" by Thomas Kelly:

[https://www.fgcquaker.org/system/files/cloud\\_attachments/A%20Testament%20of%20Devotion%20the%20Simplification%20of%20Life.pdf](https://www.fgcquaker.org/system/files/cloud_attachments/A%20Testament%20of%20Devotion%20the%20Simplification%20of%20Life.pdf)

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## *The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Quaker Fair? Saturday, May 7?*

The Quaker Fair was becoming an expected event when Covid hit and we pulled back. Then we took a chance in 2021 and held a scaled back affair. Tents went up. Baked goods donated by stores lined the tables. Neighbors came out to greet us.

We are considering the possibility for this year. Is the Fair worth the effort? Will Friends step up to fill the essential jobs? 1) Coordinator: keep track of what needs to be done and who has volunteered to do it. 2) Publicity: contact the list 2 to 3 weeks in advance. 3) Street Sign Monitor: collect past signs, up date them, make new ones; one week prior, get volunteers to post them and keep a list so they can be collected. Other jobs are needed on the day.

The Fair is a wonderful community builder within the Meeting, and outreach into the greater community. Think about it. Can we rise to the occasion of the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Quaker Fair?

## *February Forums*

We will have two forums this month after our 10 am Meeting for Worship. Forums start about 11:30am.

### *February 13: Forum / Discussion on Friends Committee on National Legislation, led by Julia Hitz*

Every two years, Friends Committee on National Legislation asks Friends and their meetings, churches, and other groups all over the country to discern **which public policy issues they feel are most pressing for the next Congress**. These groups highlight legislative priorities from the many topics and questions identified in FCNL's Policy Statement, "The World We Seek."

The overall structure of the Policy Statement includes the following facets:

Part I: We seek a world free of war and the threat of war.

Part II: We seek a society with equity and justice for all.

Part III: We seek a community where every person's potential may be fulfilled.

Part IV: We seek an earth restored.

During the forum, the San Antonio Friends Meeting will discuss specific legislative actions that could be taken under this framework, and prioritize the issues to be submitted to FCNL.

## *FCNL Letter Writing*

The United States is complicit in the Saudi-led coalition's war and blockade in Yemen, which has created the worst humanitarian crisis in the world today. After seven years of

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war, roughly 16 million Yemenis are at risk of famine, and over two million children under the age of five are severely malnourished.

The United States remains complicit through continued intelligence sharing on airstrikes and by enforcing the air and sea blockade of Yemen—despite President Biden’s promise in early 2021 to end U.S. support for the Saudi-led coalition. This month, we ask you to urge your members of Congress to reintroduce and pass a Yemen War Powers Resolution!

Over the last few years, bipartisan majorities in both chambers of Congress have supported ending U.S. support for this war. Act now: Urge your members of Congress to introduce and pass a Yemen War Powers Resolution to end U.S. participation in the Saudi-led war on Yemen. Find a draft email template here: <https://fcnl.quorum.us/campaign/37146/>

### **February 27: Considering the State of the Meeting Report, led by Val Liveoak**



A summary of Friends’ reflections on the past year is on page 1 of this newsletter. We can review the points, expand or add to them in the Forum. The final draft becomes part of our institutional history, as well as part of the Yearly Meeting’s history.

We have faced unprecedented challenges in this Covid year, and found innovative solutions, while keeping our unity in this beloved community. Everyone is encouraged to read the summary and participate in the evaluation,

### **State of the Meeting Notes, Continued from page 1**

#### **Testimonies:**

Meeting is a touchstone for what Friends are doing in their professional & volunteer & daily lives.

A portion of our budget goes to groups involved in advancing justice.

#### **Decision making:**

The 8:30 no-Zoom meeting is very good for some Friends.

Meeting offers options, invests in technology (filters, audio-visual tech), all examples of Meeting for Business finding a way forward.

#### **Intervisitation and Outreach:**

We continue to attempt to warmly welcome visitors via Zoom and in person.

We have a presence on Facebook and our website, and we monitor the FMSA telephone.

We are part of the Quarterly Meeting, and we have shared worship and forums with other meetings.

Our new sign lets people know we are here but we could do more.



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Don't underestimate the value of Friends out in the community, modeling our testimonies.

We get a fair number of inquiries/messages on our Facebook page.

### **Membership changes:**

Deaths: Janet Southwood, Mark Hickman. We are still connected with Friends who have moved away but still continue to worship with us on Zoom.

We take our excellent newsletter for granted. We use technology and have made use of technology that was in place

Friends helped a member move to a facility better suited for her care; her health improved after this. Friends continue to visit and care for her.

I am grateful for the Christmas Eve worship and meal; even though attendance dwindled, the experience was enriching. ]

### **Concerns that have not been adequately explored:**

Participation in work days has gone down but is steady. Even though people had reduced means, our contributions met our (reduced from previous years) budget. The sense of community is not diminished.

We continue to be concerned about burnout.

There are two worship tracks, zoom and in person; there is concern that these not become silos.

Grateful for Friends' concerns during a Friend's recovery.

Concerned about the country's slide into fascism, voting rights, the Big Lie.

## ***Newsletter Going Forward***

While Jim is on sabbatical, the Newsletter will be edited by Gretchen, this month with the welcome aid of Jim, Julia, Julie, Karen Sara and Val. You can help, too: send March into to <newsletter@saquakers.org





## Living with Covid – Installing Sound and Camera

**Experts** predict that the Covid virus will be with us for many months, perhaps even permanently, just as the 1918 Spanish Influenza became part of the world-wide health scene. Friends Meeting is adapting to this reality by incorporating technology into worship. Our zoom worship has reached Friends afar who are now attending regularly.

We have talked for years about bolstering the sound within the Meeting Room for those who are hard of hearing. Now, at last, that will be accomplished, while letting those at a distance hear messages from the benches, without the speaker having to stand at the microphone. And those in the room will hear messages from those on zoom.

A discrete camera and not-so-discrete video screen will enhance the experience and let everyone in both modes to participate fully.

The equipment is on order and will be installed soon. We are moving into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### **Report on a Bid for Installing Microphones & Sound**

*(revised version)*

(prices include installation)

#### Part I: Assisted Listening

1. Ceiling-mounted microphone & control hub



\$2,500

2. Cabling, router

\$ 600

3. Assisted listening Bluetooth WAP with 4 receivers

\$ 2,230



\$ 5,330

#### Part II: Zoom Integration

1. Pendant speakers \$ 550 ( for 2)



2. Adjustable video camera

\$1,220



\$ 1,770

Parts,  
shipping,  
& training

\$ 685

\$ 7,785

## Opportunities to Learn about Quakers & Quaker Traditions

Pendle Hill and Ben Lomond Quaker Centers are two of the major unprogrammed Quaker retreat centers in the U.S. Both provide opportunities for online learning

### Upcoming at Pendle Hill

<https://pendlehill.org/>

1. **New Years: Creative Playfulness and Prayer:** A New Year's Arts and Spirituality Online Retreat with Jesse White. Begin the New Year with creative renewal! Experience creative playfulness, childlike wonder, and visual prayer in this experiential and restorative retreat. We will create ourselves anew while deepening our sense of connection to God and to one another. Together we will explore, learn, listen, discern, create, reflect, pray, and share in wonder. All are welcome. No particular artistic/creative experience or skills are required. A cleared space to work, and a computer, tablet, or phone with a webcam/camera are recommended for this online retreat. **Tuesdays from 5-7pm (Central Time), January 4<sup>th</sup> through 25<sup>th</sup>.** Register at <https://pendlehill.org/events/new-years->

[creative-playfulness-and-prayer/](#)

**Three Workshops at Ben Lomond Quaker Center**     **[www.QuakerCenter.org](http://www.QuakerCenter.org)**

1. **The Heart of the Quaker Way:** four 90-minutes sessions with Ben Pink Dandelion (one of England's foremost Quaker scholars). This course will look at the essential elements of the Quaker way, outlining the ideals of Quaker community life as well as its challenges. We'll have plenty of time for questions and discussion. Equally suitable for newcomers or for those with many years of experience. **Tuesdays at 1pm (Central Time), January 18<sup>th</sup> through February 8<sup>th</sup>.**
2. **Spiritual Deepening Approaches:** four 75-minutes sessions with Jeanne Haskel & Susan Wilson. Come learn & play at this spiritual development and creativity workshop! This is an opportunity to build compassion and understanding of yourself and others using wisdom from the Enneagram and creative expression through SoulCollage. There will be time for sharing and deep listening in a safe and affirming environment. **Fridays, February 4<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>, time TBA.**
3. **Clerking with Joy and Confidence:** six 90-minute sessions, led by Barbara Babin and friends. *A Spiritual Practice in Worship, Service, and Leadership*. New to Friends, or want a touch-up? All are welcome in this clerking workshop. Each Thursday, Barbara will facilitate and bring in guest presenters on the basics of clerking, seeking Unity, dealing with challenges, and modern-day clerkships in our evolving Meetings. **Thursdays at 8:30pm (Central Time), March 3<sup>rd</sup> through April 7<sup>th</sup>.**
4. to Friends, or want a touch-up? All are welcome in this clerking workshop. Each Thursday, Barbara will facilitate and bring in guest presenters on the basics of clerking, seeking Unity, dealing with challenges, and modern-day clerkships in our evolving Meetings. **Thursdays at 8:30pm (Central Time), March 3<sup>rd</sup> through April 7<sup>th</sup>.**

**Foundations and Future of Quaker Changemaking**

Six intergenerational conversations designed by young Quakers at Woodbrooke, U.K. will explore the foundations and future of Quaker change-making. Feb 1 to Apr 13, 2022.  
<[woodbrooke.org.uk/our-courses](http://woodbrooke.org.uk/our-courses)>

**SCYM 2022 E-News**

**2022 SCYM Annual Sessions** will take place online and at Greene Family Camp from Sunday April 10 to Sunday April 17. The Theme: ***Led by Faith to Work for Justice***. A special lowered fee of \$50. is intended to bring as many people as possible in person. to 2022 SCYM Annual Sessions so that we can celebrate joyfully our ability to be together again. Because some workshops will be via Zoom, presenters can come from coast to coast See this space in March for names of workshop & panel presenters

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- ***The Minutes and Documents of Fall Representative Meeting 2021 are now posted at:*** <https://scym.org/2021.fall.rm>.
- ***Friends are invited to join in Representative Meeting, Part 2 on Saturday, February 26, 2022 at 10am online.*** The major agenda item for the meeting will be determining if we can have an in-person annual session this April 2022. The Zoom Link for the meeting will be emailed the day before and will be available on the website that morning.
- ***Caminando con la Biblia / Walking with the Bible***  
4th Saturdays of Jan-March, 2022 at 4pm Eastern Time  
Info/registration at <https://scym.org/walking-bible-winter-2022> and <https://bhfh.org/caminando-con-la-biblia>

### **Pen Pals Needed for Death Row Ministry**

Thanks to many Friends and others who have begun this ministry, there are only 7 requests remaining. Contact Joanna Vaughn, <[joannaredfield@gmail.com](mailto:joannaredfield@gmail.com)> for more information. See also *Advice for Corresponding with Texas Death Row Prisoners* found here: <https://austinquakers.org/qnut/documents/1312>

**The Black Quaker Project** challenges Quakers on Racial Justice: Retrospective/Reparatory Justice and a Justice Testimony -- Necessary Steps for Peace and Equality in the Society of Friends  
More information at: <https://www.theblackquakerproject.org/>

**SCYM Online Opportunities** **Click on these links for SCYM Opportunities and News.**

**[SCYM Friends on Facebook](#)**

**[Join SCYM Wednesday Midweek Worship](#)** - 7:30pm

**[Find SCYM Sunday Worship Opportunities](#)**

**[Find News of SCYM Friends challenged by illness and other hardships](#)**

**[View SCYM Videos from Fall 2020 and Spring Sessions](#)**

## **Wider Quaker World**

### **Welcome to the 2022 FGC Gathering!**

The Gathering is a week of Quaker worship, workshops, and community for all ages. Friends come together from across the US and Canada (and sometimes farther) to deepen our connection to one another and the Spirit. The Gathering is typically held on a college campus in late June/early July, and location changes from year to year. Learn more about what the Gathering is, including a video. Go to the FGC website, including registration information.

The week of the Gathering is packed with programs and events, from small group workshops to evening plenaries, and programs for children, teens, and young adults! You can register to attend the full event, a Half Gathering, or solely events that will be virtual.

On behalf of the 2022 Gathering Committee, we invite you to join us for a Spirit-filled week of workshops, plenaries, worship, music, fun, fellowship and more as we come together both in-person in Radford, VA and online for FGC's annual Gathering July 3-9, 2022.  
**The 2022 Gathering will be held at Radford University, in Radford, VA**

## **Got Questions? Get Answers at QuakerSpeak**

"The hard part about faithfulness is it actually takes courage. We wouldn't talk about it unless it took some work." In this interview from 2014, Traci Hjelt Sullivan shared a personal story of how she overcame her own misgivings and hesitation to follow a leading.

This is one example of the rich library of views and interviews of Quakers from many backgrounds. Each video is about five minutes long and may be an individual or several who examine a particular topic. Find them at Friends Journal – Quaker Speak.

### **Pendle Hill online Program**

Janaki Spickard-Keeler is leading an online reading group on Feb 9th, based on a Pendle Hill pamphlet "Invitation to a Deeper Communion.". Details at their website.