



The Friendly News

San Antonio Quakers

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May we look upon our treasure, the furniture of our houses, and our garments, and try to discover whether the seeds of war have nourishment in these our possessions. **John Woolman**

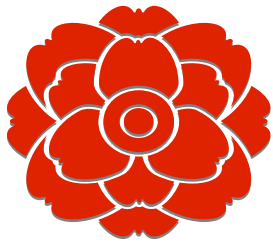
Waking the Sleeping Giant

June 19 FMSA action has been dormant in the recent past. Now a stirring of concern for environmental and justice issues. Val led a forum featuring a QuakerSpeak video on Quaker Earthcare Witness action to convince PNC Bank to end its financing of mountaintop removal [a particularly devastating coal mining technique]. It took five years and 125 different action to achieve the goal. Disinvestment in mining. It is an inspiring model.

The ensuing discussion raised many questions, and the suggestion that any action we might take should be together with other concerned groups to amplify our voice. Several Friends offered to begin research and all agreed to bring the concern to the next Meeting for Business. Many have signed up for the FCNL workshop the next Saturday to learn about successful; lobbying techniques.

June 25 The three-hour workshop had seven in person, two on line and two committed but unable to attend. We learned about the history and successes of FCNL spirit-led lobbying and how our personal experience fit in to the model. We shared our stories, and practiced relaying information about the Saudi-led war in Yemen. We took facts and wrote letters to our legislators. At the end of the time, ten had agreed to form an Advocacy Team in San Antonio, and seek others to join. There will be three more one-hour sessions for specific lobbying techniques.

Quakers, speaking truth to power, have had significant success in moving society to more justice. This is the Giant that is shaking off its dormancy and is calling us into action. The next step is the continued **Forum, July 10**, when we can discuss what goal to focus on, how to find and join others with the same goal and how to **Do Something**.



July Query How do we know that the truth within each of us is true and not just a personal fantasy?

7/1/2022

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**
 - [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
- **1st Sunday Pot Luck on the Porch - 11:15**
- **3rd Saturday "Meeting for Weeding"**
 - July 16 9am-1pm at the Meetinghouse
- **3rd Sunday Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business**
 - [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

- **July 3: 11:00: Pot Luck**
- **July 10: 11:30 Forum Next Steps as Friends challenge the Economic Power - Val Liveoak**
- **July 24: 11:30 Shared Intent, Gary Whiting**

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Please send July news, pictures & events by 7/27/2022 to newsletter@saquakers.org

Do Something

July 2022



News from San Antonio Meeting

Meeting under Wraps

See photo

Our Financial Situation

Friends reviewed our finances during the June Meeting for Business. It was a sobering exercise as we learned that our current operating budget is behind in income even when not including the major expense of the termite extermination. And all indicators are that expenses, particularly insurance, will continue to increase in the coming years.

Some budget items, like our donations to other organizations, may be viewed as discretionary but are not something we would want to cut. Others, like utilities and insurance need to be paid. In order to live within our means, now and in the future, we have two options, cut expenses where prudent and increase income.

We currently receive "rent" from several small organizations that use our space. They are in similar circumstances, so any increase from them would be nominal. We are open to allowing our space to be rented for weddings, but we do not wish to become a wedding "factory."

Quakers find it easy to give money to others, but find it hard to ask for money for ourselves. For example, one Friend asked where on the website instruction for donations could be found. [Someone will look into this.] We learned that historically, about 80% of our income has come from about 10 or 12 individuals or families. Clearly, increasing the number of Friends who contribute would help our situation.

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. [Gretchen Hayes, Bill Sweet, Bill Wilkinson].

Do Something

Rethinking our Structure

Are we trying to cover all the bases with too few players? Are there other ways to accomplish the essential work of the Meeting besides the traditional committees? Could we rotate the Clerk? What might a different structure look like? Stay tuned.

Back to the Memorial Garden

Members of the Property Committee are charged to offer a plan to implement the Minute on our Memorial Garden. Currently, the suggestion is to remove the present stone path to the stone circle

and re-grade it to be accessible up and down by wheelchair. No simple task. After considerable discernment, and history, the Clerk suggested that Meeting set aside no greater than \$20,000 to proceed with this project. The clerk of Property did a little dance of joy, joined by enthusiastic approval of Friends.

What would a Quaker game look like?

Pam asked the other day. "There's Monopoly, that's for capitalism. And there's Risk; that a war game. And Clue about murder. But what are Quaker children supposed to play?

So, we ask you to think about that on a hot summer afternoon. Maybe like Snakes and Ladders, getting from the Ocean of Darkness to the Ocean of Light. Only you hit a snag and slide back [all the way, part of the way?] And what would be a snappy one-word title?

Maybe the game answers would spell out the Testimonies. You win a round and get an E. Now you need an I and ... Maybe a Quaker Quiz. Name two of the Valiant 60. [That's too hard for kids. I couldn't even answer that one.] What is the second C in FWCC?

Come on, Friends, we need a Quaker board game. Send your games to <newsletter@saquaker.org>

Children's Program



The program will be offered on the first and third Sunday in July & August. We will not be making soup during the summer. The squash plants are hanging in there, in spite of the heat. But the blossoms do not set for fruit. Any suggestions?

More Quaker Jargon Revealed

I am a potter, and the first lesson is how to center the clay on the spinning wheel. I don't look, just let the clay run through my hands, a little pressure here and there. I can feel it smooth out, stop wobbling, until the spinning clay is a single motion. I can almost hear it hum. Learning to center in

worship has been about the same for me. I let my spinning mind flow on, a little nudge here and there until it is seamless and smooth and calm. To build on my metaphor, my centered mind can now sink into the comfortable darkness of expectant waiting. The silence all around me is almost like a distant hum. I have left thoughts behind. At some point, I begin to rise back into my self, to feel the bench, hear my breathing, sense others in the room. I am back from beyond, sometimes with the answer to a question I didn't know I had. Sometimes with a deep sense of peace. Always with gratitude. . [G. Haynes]

Newsletter Process

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

ARCTIC CIRCLE

BY ALEX HALLATT



Meet the Meeting

Donna Dickerson has led a complicated life which I will attempt to summarize here, working backwards. She retired last year after 10 years as chaplain at the San Antonio State Mental Hospital. She responded to patients in spiritual crisis, often linked to their early religious life. They would fantasize about seeing and hearing demons. Donna's calling was to listen, not to confront their reality. The last few years become even more stressful when there were more forensic patients from the jail system, who were often not open to spiritual avenues, compounded by many changes and restrictions in the hospital environment due to the Covid pandemic. Previously she worked doing crisis and end-of-life ministry with the Christus Healthcare system. Her education included "all but dissertation" towards a PhD in anthropology, a master's degree in religious studies, and a 2 ½ years hospital chaplain residency.

Jumping back, Donna was a systems manager and hardware engineer mostly in Silicon Valley for 25 years. One night she had a series of vivid, horrifying dreams which woke her with the strong smell of smoke. She got up to investigate but found no source so went back to sleep. Donna woke again several times to the smell of smoke, but every time she fell asleep, the dream picked up right where it left off. She finally decided to just get up and turn on the TV even though it was well before 6:00am. Just in time to see the first plane plunge into the first Tower. It was September 11, 2001.

July 2022

The dream was a medieval setting with priests and men in armor driving peasants down from a mountain fortress to a field below, where they were burned alive. The dream baffled Donna since it had nothing to do with her personal experience or religious background. (Donna was an active synagogue member at the time.) She began prolonged research seeking historic references to medieval parallels in a similar mountainous setting. She found the Cathars of southern France, a large proto-Protestant sect who were persecuted for their anti-clerical and other beliefs antagonistic to the Catholic Church. They became so numerous that Pope Innocent III, proclaimed a crusade against them and an estimated one to two million were burned at the stake for their heresy. Very few survived. The first historic genocide and holocaust.

In 2002, Donna spent a month in the Languedoc region of southern France, looking for sites of the persecution, which were numerous and vast, most with ruins still standing and still bearing their medieval names. When she returned, to the States, she found that her company had a major downsizing of about 20% and had fired her entire staff. She was offered a new position but decided it was a sign and quit instead. She sold her house and moved to San Antonio to begin a major midlife career change.

Almost 20 years later, she learned of a pilgrimage along the path of the Cathars and joined it. Most of the 20 people were older women and most were Quakers, as was the male organizer of the pilgrimage, all drawn to the similarities with Friends beliefs. Every morning began with 30 minutes of Quaker worship, which captivated Donna. They traveled to many of the Cathar sites she had found in her earlier experience. Returning from the pilgrimage in the fall of 2019, she sought out Friends in San Antonio and has been with us ever since.

July Forums

July 10 Friends challenge economic conditions will continue the discernment on taking action to address the climate crisis or other justice issues, using the techniques gathered from the FCNL training and other sources. In particular, what goal we should focus on, and what other groups we might join to further our goals. Val Liveoak Please view before the forum:

<https://quakerearthcare.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/BFC3501-4.pdf> p.7

Describing the EQUAT's current project taking on Vanguard Funds.

July 24 Shared Intent Any question of any depth goes to the basic seeking of our Society. Here are some we might ask ourselves.

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

“How is that truth best described or characterized, to help make it more accessible?”

“If that truth is found within each of us (our basic premise), how do we know it is true rather than a personal fantasy?”

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

“And most importantly, how has that truth shown itself to me in my life, and can I find a way to share that in Meeting?” Gary Whiting asks us to go deep.

Do Something

Wider Quaker World

Friends Committee on National Legislation

For the first time in more than two decades, lawmakers have passed significant legislation to address gun violence. After a late-night vote in the Senate yesterday, and following House passage today, the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (S. 2938) now heads to President Biden's desk, where he's expected swiftly sign it into law.

This bill is not everything, and there is far more work to be done—but it is a noteworthy act of bipartisanship in a polarized political climate. And more importantly, after the tragedies in Uvalde, Buffalo, Tulsa, and so many other communities, it's an impactful piece of legislation that will prevent bloodshed.

Friends General Conference Gathering

The 2022 Gathering will be held online July 3rd through 9th.

The Gathering is a week of Quaker worship, workshops, and community for all ages. About 1000 Quakers (mostly from the unprogrammed, liberal tradition) come together from across the US and Canada (and sometimes further) 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. Attenders range from newborns to elders in their 90s, and include both long-time Friends (mostly from the unprogrammed, liberal tradition), and those newer to Quakerism. In structure, it's part conference and part family camp. In content, it provides an abundance of opportunities to learn about Quakerism and to foster your spiritual life – and to have fun together.

Pendle Hill

We continue to hold Meeting for Worship every day, both in person (for staff, sojourners, and conference groups) and online via Zoom (for everyone else). For more information, see: <https://pendlehill.org/mfw>.



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Other News of Interest

James Turrell Quaker Artist Speaks

In an exclusive interview filmed back in 2001, Turrell spoke to Art21 about his quest to harness light, which is informed in large part by visiting Quaker meetinghouses at a young age. In the interview, the artist recalls asking his grandmother what they were meant to do inside the meetinghouse, to which she replied: "We're going inside to greet the light." That notion, he says, "to go inside to find that light within, literally as well as figuratively," has been part of his artistic quest ever since.

Watch the video, which originally appeared as part of Art21's series Art in the Twenty-First Century, below. Detailed ticketing information for the Green Mountain Falls Skyspace is available at Green Box Arts. From artnet news

On the Lighter Side

Official Guide to Quaker-Speak [from *Quaker Lite 2 ½* by Stan Banker, p. 40]

The committee decided... means "We managed to chat with a few folks right before we were to give our report,"

The Monthly Meeting explored all possible angles of the situation... means "Everybody at the meeting talked way too much."

The Monthly Meeting's discussion was inclusive... means "Nothing was accomplished."

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