



The Friendly News

<p>San Antonio Quakers 7052 N. Vandiver (at Eisenhower) San Antonio, Texas 78209</p>	<p>Message Phone: 210.945.8456 Website: www.sanantonioquakers.org Facebook: @saquakers</p>
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In Memoriam for the innocent children and teachers of Uvalde, for the innocent victims of Ukraine, for the soldiers of Ukraine and Russia. For the victims of tyranny and injustice everywhere.

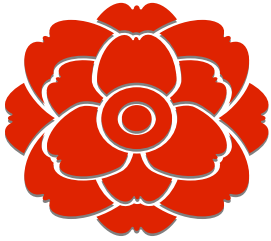
Exploring our Shared Intent in Worship

A member of our Meeting has shared these thoughts and these queries as part of his ongoing concern regarding the life of the Meeting, particularly as involves our time together in silent Worship. The Ministry, Care and Guidance Committee feels we might do some deeper work around these leadings, perhaps a retreat and some guided workshops. First, however, Gary would like to do a forum after Meeting in July for some initial exploration with Friends. Please consider putting this on your calendar!

Dear Friends,

I have a desire to explore some basic issues pertinent to our Society of Friends. This desire is based on a comment that a Friend made years ago, which has both provoked and troubled me since that time. We were talking about our silent Meeting time, and when pressed to give his perceptions told me that it “seems like a bunch of people each doing their own thing”. Which probably has some accuracy, though is certainly at the other end of the spectrum from what we would call “a gathered meeting” which is our ideal. Since that time, I often use the phrase “shared intent” to describe what I think is lacking in our silence.

So, what would it be to have “shared intent”? Our Society of course has worked to articulate this. Friends General Conference tends to emphasize the sense of “waiting to be the mouthpiece of the Lord” in various forms, and I am not sure how much access to a shared experience that provides. If being “gathered” translates to a sense of unity (which Fox felt was a primary gift of the Spirit), then waiting for one of us to be “chosen” is by definition an individual setting-apart. Page 3



June Query

How do I deepen my daily participation in the truth? 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**
 - 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**
- **2nd Thursday Simple Meal and Meeting for Worship**
- June 9, 6-7:30pm at the Meetinghouse
- **4th Sunday Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business June ONLY**
[CLICK HERE to join by Zoom](#) – ID # 976 0522 6497; passcode: 194077
- **3rd Saturday “Meeting for Weeding”**
 - June 18 9am-1pm at the Meetinghouse

For ALL Zoom Meetings: by telephone at +1 346 248 7799, then enter ID#

Special Events

- **June 3: 11:00: Pot Luck Lunch & Six-Month Birthday Celebration**
- **June 19: 11:30 Forum - Friends challenge the economic underpinnings of fossil fuel extraction and sale, Val Liveoak**
- **June 25: Training Workshop for FCNL Advocacy Team**

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Please send July news, pictures & events by 6/28/2022 to newsletter@saquakers.org

Shared Intent, continued from page 1

In contrast, when a query is spoken into the Silence, we are all “set to work” on an answer. In the same way, when we do have vocal ministry, we have all experienced how one message sets another in motion, and at that point we are again working together. This is my sense of “shared intent” and much like a query it would involve framing a question. And any question of any depth goes to the basic seeking of our Society:

“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?”

The last query seems to me to open the door to a ministry which has us all adding to our shared trove of collected insights and shared seeking, rather than “waiting upon the Lord” during our silence. This may seem like “programming,” and I know that it is a rule of sorts that ministry should not be prepared ahead of time but should be that lightning bolt from on high. But I WANT to hear from every single soul who is gathered with us over time. And I want to learn from them what this (supposedly) objective and shared truth is that does unify us, despite the infinite variation in our individual experiences. If it exists, it is the task of our Society to articulate it: “What canst thou say?” and I think that right now we have a paucity of tools for digging down to that bedrock, together.

Gary Whiting

Meeting has determined that we want to explore these ideas in depth. We suggest a forum in July led by Gary to begin the digging.

News from San Antonio Meeting

Training Workshop to become a FCNL Advocate – June 25

Enough San Antonio Friends have indicated interest in learning the approaches to advocacy to hold a three-hour training session. The goal is experiencing successful methods of interacting with the staff of Senators and Congress people around specific issues. While many of us have had such meetings in the past, most have not had the benefit of time-tested methods. There are five congressional districts and a constituent is expected in each visit. Teams are not limited to Quakers, so if you have someone in mind, please invite them to join us for the day. See p 6 for more.

End of 8:30 Worship

Because of low attendance, the early worship will end with May 29. Friends will continue to meet for blended worship at 10, with the children’s program at that time.

Call to Service of the Meeting

We arrive for worship and the doors are open. The coffee is made. The air purifiers are humming. How can this be, we ask. Ahh! Someone else got here first. And when we leave, someone stays behind to reverse the process. An Opener. A Closer. YOU could be one of these invaluable Friends who provide these essential services. It takes about 30 minutes for one person [we need more on Pot Luck first Sundays]. But what to do, you ask. Ahh! There are step-by-step instructions in the

Community Room. YOU can sign up for a monthly rotation and earn the undying appreciation of The Meeting. Just ask Val or Gretchen. Also needed are more people to work the technical side of worship, forums & M/B. Ask David or Jim about this. And thanks.

Meeting Under Wraps

The drywood termitate infestation will undergo Fumigation after being entirely wrapped from worship room to library. The process will take three days but will leave no residue harmful to man nor beast. The subterranean termites will be treated May 30, the whole building complex will be wrapped and fumigated from May 31 to June 2.

Children's Program

A change up from soup, at the June Pot Luck the Young Friends produced a Birthday Cake big enough to feed the hungry adults. They continued to tend the raised bed now sprouting six squash plants and onions. A friendly neighbor who walks his dogs here volunteered to water the plants during the week. Also James Mize. Hope is the theme for June.



More Quaker Jargon Revealed

Who put the Quake in Quakers? It is said that George Fox and the early Friends of Truth were so moved by the Spirit that their whole bodies would shake. The name Quakers was not a friendly gesture. But we embraced it. We are supposed to enter the time of worship [wherever it might be] with no intent to speak, *give vocal ministry*, or not to speak. We are supposed to come with *expectant waiting* to see if we are *moved by the Spirit*. When a deep hush falls on everyone, it is said to be a *covered or gathered meeting*. There are many kinds of ministry, and speaking in worship is just one. Caring for others and for nature can be a ministry, visiting other Meetings is known as *traveling in the ministry*, and there is the *ministry of soup* . [G. Haynes]

Newsletter Process

Our monthly communication grows out the events past and future of interest to Friends. And Friends send items and pictures to include. The more of each the merrier we are. The preferred deadline is usually the last Thursday of the month. If you have something later than that, please let us know and we'll reserve a space for you. <newsletter@squakers.org> It takes a village to make a community.

Meet the Meeting

Emme Lopez and Jet

Emme Lopez and her family originally came to San Antonio in 2000. Her husband, Andy, was with the army medical corps and they returned about 8 years ago. Andy has since separated from the corps, but the family really enjoys the city and decided to stay here. Her sons are Joseph [Jet] and Jameson, both in public school.

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As an Academic Medical Librarian, Emme is liaison with the U.T. School of Nursing to find the best sources of medical information to assist in clinical decision making. She also teaches the process of finding such references. Since the Covid outbreak, she has worked from home all but one day a week. This worked very well for the students as well, no one had to drive to campus and she was able to meet with students outside of regular office hours.

Emme was looking for a youth program for Jet that presented a moral and ethical framework. She stumbled onto Friends and saw the reinforcement of these values. She read up on Quakers and became comfortable with the principles. She found the Meeting a good place to be, staying quiet and waiting together. Jet enjoys the other children, calling them "his club." He is a kind person, very active and exploring. He does not have living grandparents, so getting to know older people has become an important side benefit. He can learn by seeing how others work through issues. He turned 7 in May, but explained "I've been 7 for years."

Serendipity, again

Hannah Evans

In a similar life move, Hannah also came to San Antonio to be with her fiancé who is training to be a physicians' assistant with the U S Army. Prior to 2021, they were at Fort Hood. Before that, the pattern is broken as she was with FCNL in Washington, D C for 6 years working in the Immigration program. On arriving here, Hannah started in the international education program at UTSA, which continued until last week when she switched to being a paralegal with employment-based immigration law firm.

Hannah and her fiancé, David, are planning a wedding on New Year's Eve at a state park in Tennessee, near where her father grew up. David has family from another part of the state and Hannah has relatives in nearby Pennsylvania, so this will be a two-family reunion as well.

Quakers have been Hannah's life for a long time; she grew up in Baltimore Yearly Meeting and attended Westtown, a Friends boarding school. For many years she was active in both the Westtown School and BYM summer camps where she focused on the Ropes Course and hiking with 8 to 14-year-olds. So it was a natural connection to the FMSA children's program.

Hannah is exploring the Testimonies with our children and building their sense of community within the meeting and with each other. She finds it helpful to be flexible to their spirit and she gains new perspectives on many issues from listening to the children.

June Forum

June 19 Friends challenge the economic underpinnings of fossil fuel extraction and sale

I'm fired up! This week I canceled my United Airlines card from Chase Bank that gives me free miles for later travel. It seems like a small thing to give up, and I told the person who asked me why I was giving it up my reasons which are Chase is one of the largest investors in fossil fuel among US banks. I had read before that someone was promoting a campaign against those Banks, and I wanted to join it. Val Liveoak

Wider Quaker World

Friends Committee on National Legislation

Advocacy Teams

Quakers have worked to bring the Kingdom of God to earth since their beginnings some 370 years ago. That work included petitioning, or lobbying, the government for better conditions in prisons, hospitals, abolition of slavery, women's rights, and more. In this country, out of this work there was a felt need, a calling perhaps, for more consistent and focused effort afforded by an organization, an institution. Thus, Friends Committee on National Legislation began operating in 1943, making it the oldest, and arguably the most persistent, religious lobby in Washington DC.

To the work of the professional lobbyists, for many decades, FCNL supported Quakers across the country in their individual lobbying with analysis papers, weekly letter writing updates and more. There's the internet and information readily available at one's convenience. As useful as this grassroots lobbying was, staff realized that adding a somewhat more organized approach could be productive. So the Advocacy Team program was started about seven years ago.

The goals are for Team members to build an ongoing relationship with members of Congress, work with media such as letters to the editor, and foster a network of advocates in the community - non-Quakers welcome! - to support the legislators towards becoming champions for peace and justice. There are 125 Advocacy Teams in 44 states totaling over 1500 participants. There are currently three teams in Texas: Austin, Houston and Waco.

Quakers and Cultural Assimilation

"Native organizations are not asking us to judge our Quaker ancestors. They are asking, 'Who are Friends today? Knowing what we know now, will Quakers join us in honest dialogue? Will they acknowledge the harm that was done? Will they seek ways to contribute toward healing processes that are desperately needed in Native communities?'" - Paula Palmer, Friends Journal

It is long overdue for our country to acknowledge the trauma inflicted by Indian Boarding Schools in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Christian churches often collaborated with the government to create hundreds of these schools around the country with the goal of assimilating Native children into white society. Quakers were among the religious bodies that ran these boarding schools, causing unspeakable harm to Native children and communities.

Today, Congress can pass legislation that would begin to seek truth and healing for the Native communities that are still affected by this trauma. Friends today are working with tribal nations to advance this congressional effort to formally investigate boarding school policy and develop recommendations for future action.

Act Now! 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). Send an email here: <https://fcnl.quorum.us/campaign/35660/>

More Letter writing

Big news: Thanks to the work of advocates like you, Congress voted to extend a program compensating nuclear testing victims. This two-year extension is an important first step to preserving

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and expanding the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA), which was set to expire in a matter of months.

But our work is not done. While Congress has agreed to provide restitution for some victims of nuclear testing and uranium mining, many others remain unjustly excluded.

Urge your representative to support nuclear testing survivors and expand RECA now.

The RECA Amendments of 2021 (H.R. 5338) would extend this lifeline program for 19 years and add eligibility for communities harmed by nuclear fallout in New Mexico, Idaho, Montana, Colorado, Guam, Utah, Nevada, and Arizona.

U.S. nuclear weapons testing is estimated to have caused tens of thousands of cases of thyroid cancer alone. The human cost of testing has been especially devastating for women and Indigenous peoples. Victims of nuclear testing and uranium mining are still here and deserve restitution and recognition. Tell Congress to deliver justice for the communities whose lives and health were sacrificed to build and test these horrific weapons. The email link is here:

<https://fcnl.quorum.us/campaign/36985/>

Friends General Conference Gathering

The 2022 Gathering will be held online July 3rd through 9th. At a virtual Gathering, you can choose how much of the conference to attend. When you register, you will select one of the event packages, and “pay as led.” During the Gathering, you will only have access to the events in the package that you registered for. See the website for details and to register.

Here is a sampling of the daily workshops. See the website for the complete list.

[Climate Change Journey: Awakening to Hope](#)

Our workshop will journey through the science, impacts, and causes of climate change to hope for addressing it. Slides will present information and prompt discussion. Queries will invite reflection. Past workshop participants ranged from Friends with basic questions to some who have taught climate change. All are welcome! **Leaders:** Emily Northrop

[Finding Your Purpose – Encouraging Way to Open](#)

Using reflection, journaling, exercises and small & large group discussion we will work together to discover our individual “purpose”. For anyone feeling stuck, anticipating or going through a period of transition, or just wanting to encourage way to open to a new leg of your journey.

Leaders: Chiyo Moriuchi

[Forgiveness as a Spiritual Practice](#)

Anger, fear, grief, and pain hinder us from feeling connected with the Spirit and our own healing energies. Transformation occurs when we practice forgiveness, opening to a more peaceful way of being with self and others. This workshop focuses on tools and techniques for doing forgiveness work, not on therapy. **Leaders:** Sue Regen, Lu and Kenn Harper

Spiritual Companion Groups

Spiritual Companion Groups help us discover or revitalize the essence of Quaker practice: why we are Friends and how we embody Quaker faith and practice in daily life. Because Quaker practice is both individual and communal, our faith and meetings are strengthened when we practice with companions. **Leaders:** Nadine Hoover, Joann Neuroth

The Three A's of Anti-Racism

Awareness, Action, Accountability. Feel stuck or spiritually frustrated by anti-racism work? Don't know where to start or what to do next? We'll move along the path toward accountability using discussion, instruction, meditation, self-care activities, and journaling. Together we'll each develop a travelogue ...and follow me to a more just society. **Leaders:** Melissa Preast, Ellie Troutman, and Abby Zukowski

Nontheism Among Friends

We will use activities and discussion to explore Quaker

life not centered on belief in God. What is spirituality for nontheist Friends? What are our challenges? How can all Friends grow from theological diversity within Quakerism? All seekers will find a safe space to celebrate and deepen their spiritual lives. **Leaders:** Robin Mallison Alpern

Pendle Hill Offerings



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Claiming Our Collective Power: Social Witness Among Friends

Wednesday speaker series June 1, 15, & 22, 2022 culminating in a weekend workshop Friday, June 24 - Sunday, June 26, 2022

- An online collaboration between Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre UK & Pendle Hill USA

Wednesdays, June 1, 15, & 22, ~ 1:00pm-2:30pm EST

• **Experiments in Spiritual Grounded Abolition**

- Jun 3-7, 2022 Pendle Hill’s annual conference for young adults (18-35)
- Continuing Revolution is a space of collective exploration...[Learn More](#) at the website



• **Illuminating Our Paths to Abolition**

- Jun 6, 2022 A First Monday Lecture with Lewis Webb, Jr. [AFSC]

Akin to the beacon to true north and freedom, there is a light above and within that illuminates our individual and collective journeys towards abolition of the prison industrial complex; this is our North Star. Together, we will chart our paths to healing and restoration while dismantling systems of harm and punishment.

Other News of Interest

Interfaith Welcome Coalition

While we have many critical volunteer needs, we have a particularly pressing need for volunteers to help with the following:

Food Coordinator We need a Food Coordinator to lead the coordination of Mobile Loaves and Fish and the Food Bank Haven for Hope sack lunch. Duties are:

- Delivering lunches to the Greyhound Bus Station for the migrants we serve
- Helping to stock supplies for the Bus Station(1-2 times a week, requiring some physical strength)

Logistics Coordinator We need a Logistic Coordinator to lead the moving of items such as backpacks, water, food, and blankets.

– **Volunteers** are needed on Mondays 10 am-noon to move backpacks from El Divino Church to Travis Park Church

– On Thursdays, we need volunteers to move food and water to our storage room at Travis Park Church <https://interfaithwelcomecoalition.org>

On the Lighter Side

Three Proofs that Jesus was Hispanic

- His first name was Jesus
- He was bilingual
- He was always being harassed by the authorities

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

Three Proofs that Jesus was Black

- He called everybody “brother” and “sister”
- He like Gospel music
- He couldn’t get a fair trial