



The Friendly News

San Antonio Quakers

7052 N. Vandiver (at Eisenhower)
San Antonio, Texas 78209

Message Phone: 210.945.8456

Website: www.sanantonioquakers.org

Facebook: @saquakers

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

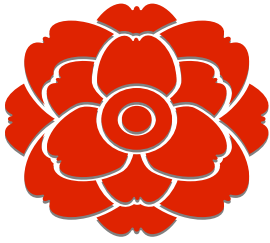
Led by Faith to Work for Justice South Central Yearly Meeting

Quakers participated on line in the first days and in person at the Camp, with smiles behind the masks, elbow bumps and occasional hugs. Everyone attending tested negative for the virus, but precautions were observed. The focus was unified around the theme in the Workshops, Panels, Home Groups and even the Saturday evening Talent Show. This writer found it interesting that the personal stories of several activists showed that for them, the work for justice came first. They found allies among Quakers and Quaker meetings that drew them in to eventual participation and membership. So, the theme might be reconsidered: Work for Justice led to Faith.

Kallan Benson, the 18 year-old environmental activist, and Walter Long, Austin advocate against the death penalty, led off the workshops following a lively Peace & Justice forum on Sunday. The examples of such work were broadened by workshops Tuesday on justice for indigenous peoples and environmental justice. Both stressed the need for systemic change to meet systemic problems and seeking allies among other concerned groups.

The keynote panel blended Istra Fuhrmann, San Antonio in person, with Paula Palmer, Oklahoma and Barb Adams, Maryland, on line. They described how their early activism led them to seek allies and support for their issues. Paula reminded us of the Doctrine of Discovery, which formed the basis of ongoing colonization and white privilege. All three challenged Friends to examine our history for

Continued on page7



May Query

5/1/2022

How am I open to the many ways that Spirit speaks to me?

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**
[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**
- **May 12: 6-7:30pm at the Meetinghouse**
- **3rd Sunday Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business**
[CLICK HERE to join by Zoom](#) – ID # 976 0522 6497; passcode: 194077
- **3rd Saturday “Meeting for Weeding”**
 - May 21 9am-1pm at the Meetinghouse

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

Special Events

- **May 1: 11:00: Pot Luck Lunch & BOOK, DVD & CD EXCHANGE**
- **May 8: 11:30 "How would you solve the climate crisis?"**
- **May 15: 11:30 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business**
 - **May 22: 11:30 Forum: Retrospective Justice, William Penn, Continued**
 - **JUNE 5: 11:00 Six-Month BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION**

Contents

p 1 Yearly Meeting

p 2 April Query
Regular & Special
Events

p 3 Aid to Ukraine

p 4 News of San Antonio
Meeting
Forum May 8, 22

p 5 Book Exchange
Children’s Program
Breathing Life

p.6 Holocaust Remembered
Quaker Jargon
Meet the Meeting

p 7 Y.M, continued

p 8 Wider Quaker World
FCNL

P 9 FGC, AFSC

p. 10 Pendle Hill Programs
Protect Birds

p 11 Threshold Choir

p 12 Memorial Day Poem

Please send June events by 5/26/22 to newsletter@saquakers.org



Bucha is the new Guernica (Painting by Pablo Picasso, 1937)

Humanitarian Aid to Ukraine

mercy Corps.org provides access to clean water, sanitation, food within Ukraine and to refugees in surrounding countries.

World Central Kitchen

Not-for-profit organization

World Central Kitchen is a not-for-profit non-governmental organization devoted to providing meals in the wake of natural disasters. Founded in 2010 by celebrity chef José Andrés, the organization is on the ground in Ukraine. wck.org

International Rescue Committee: Your gift will help provide food, medical care, and emergency support services to families whose lives are shattered by conflict in countries like Ukraine, Afghanistan, Syria, and Yemen. rescue.com

United Nations Refugee Agency is on the ground to provide assistance and ensure those displaced in Ukraine find safety in welcoming arms in this moment of crisis. unrefugees.org

News from San Antonio Meeting

Meeting in Jeopardy

Our beloved Meeting House is threatened by a drywood termite infestation. The entire complex is involved because of the connecting roof structure, from worship room to library.

Two remedies are possible; each with serious consequences. First is enveloping the entire complex in a tent and pouring in poisonous fumes. Once the pests are declared dead, the tent is removed, the buildings aired and there is no human threat. However, these chemical residues have an effect on warming the atmosphere equal to many times carbon dioxide. The cost is \$16,480.

The second remedy involves heating the meeting room to 180 F degrees for 10 hours. This cooks the termites, the electronic equipment we have just installed, the molding around the windows, and scorches all the wood. The estimate covers only the meeting room and leaves the rest of the facility untouched. The cost is around \$12,000.

Speaking for the Property Committee, James Mize asked that the entire congregation take on the responsibility for making the decision. This is a tremendous burden for the members of the committee to carry alone. Without hesitation, Friends in attendance agreed to go forward with option one. "We will find the money," said Bill Wilkinson.

Time to reawaken?

While the life of the Meeting was severely restricted due to the pandemic, the work of three committees was put into "hibernation." Their tasks were shifted unto Ministry, Care and Guidance. The Nomination Committee now asks us to consider "reawakening" Religious Education, Community Engagement and Long-Range Planning. Friends suggested contacting members of the three to discover their interest and commitment to picking up the work. We do not want to further burden those who are currently involved, but to ask for help in getting back to "normal,"

Bill Wilkinson offered an interesting suggestion that we examine the needs of sustaining a viable Meeting with a different working structure. This idea requires an extensive examination, to cover our needs while not risking burn out of a few.

Friends asked Nom Com members to write up an appeal to reawakening with a view of September as the expected date. Stay tuned.

Lights Out?

At this link, you can sign up to get email notification of when there are large numbers of migratory birds expected at night in your specific city in Texas so you can turn off exterior lights.

Wouldn't it be neat if LOTS AND LOTS of us did it and we could really see the stars at night during migrations! <https://alert.birdcast.info/lightsout>

Interfaith Welcome Coalition

We are waiting for word about restarting immigrant lunch preparation at the Meeting.

May Forums

May 8 "How would *you* solve the climate crisis?" The primary presenter: Dr. Stuart Birnbaum, UTSA geology professor, retired, assisted by Bill Sweet. EN-ROADS is a climate solutions model developed at MIT that shows the results of various actions proposed to solve the climate crisis. This is a group-

May 2022

interactive presentation. You may also independently explore the effects of your favored solutions - bring your laptop.

May 22 Retrospective Justice, Continued

Our discussion of the legacy of William Penn was broad and deep. We named the problem and determined the truth about his blind spot regarding owning and trading enslaved Africans. We did not have time to consider making amends as present-day Quakers. We decided this was an important topic to continue and will re-convene May 22, including the pamphlet by Eric Ambler, *What is Experiment with Light?* as a way to approach difficult subjects. This introductory booklet is available to view or download from Rex Ambler's [Experiment with Light UK website](#).

Book Exchange

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

Children's Program

The program is gathering momentum with the return of the four Fitzgerald-Hernandez children and the continued participation of Jet, Sage, and Freya . the latter two enjoyed Yearly Meeting, including swimming, hiking and a star turn at the Talent Show. In May, they will continue exploring the Testimonies, with stewardship as the focus. Soup-making has become a tradition, now part of the first Sunday Pot Luck. May 1st will be a chance to exchange books and games.

Breathing Life Back into the Meeting Through Nominating

To "adapt" means to make something suitable for a new use or purpose, or to modify. When the pandemic made it impossible for us to meet safely for worship and other Meeting activities, Friends Meeting of San Antonio certainly adapted. We had hatchback parties and porch worship. We scaled back the work of the Meeting to its core functions. We expanded Ministry, Care, and Guidance while recommending other committees "hibernate" until such time that we could safely resume the work of the meeting.

As the pandemic continues to trend in the right direction, we are seeing more Friends returning to the Meetinghouse for worship, forums, business meeting, and committee meetings. At the last business meeting, Friends agreed it was time to start "waking up" the committees with a goal to get back to something that resembles pre-pandemic normal by September. The nominating committee is ready to help move the Meeting towards that goal.

The Meeting flourishes when we all embrace the Quaker testimony of community and ask ourselves how we can strengthen the life of the Meeting. We each have our own interests, talents, expertise, and callings, and Nominating Committee wants to help Friends deepen their relationship to the meeting in ways that provide meaning and satisfaction to individual Friends. Nominating recognizes that burnout happens when Friends serve too long, in too many capacities, or in the wrong capacity. As members of the Nominating Committee, we are not looking to simply "fill vacancies on the roster," but to help Friends realize their own spiritual leadings as they pertain to participation in the Meeting.

Do you want to be more involved in the life of the Meeting, but you aren't sure where to start? You can email nominating@saquakers.org and just tell us how you feel led to be involved. If you're not sure what options there are, our website has a simple description of our standing committees

May 2022

here: <https://sanantonioquakers.org/our-structure/> . Committees themselves can also reach out to Nominating to let us know of the committee's needs. We also recognize that while some Friends will feel led to reach out and tell us how they want to be involved, other Friends may feel that volunteering is too forward or assuming, but they would certainly be happy to help if asked. Accordingly, you can also reach out to Nominating about Friends who you believe want more involvement, but will never ask.

We know that all Friends will feel more connected to the life of the Meeting when each Friend or attender is involved in ways that they find fulfilling. It is our sincere hope that we can find a balance so that no Friends or attenders feel overwhelmed by Meeting. We look forward to visiting with Friends over the coming months.

Kellie Price, on behalf of the Nominating Committee

Holocaust Remembrance Day

Yom Hashoah. Do you recognize that subject? I didn't. It's Jewish Holocaust Remembrance Day. And I just discovered that there is a Jewish Museum in San Antonio (how could I not know?), where the Day is celebrated. I wonder if Friends know this and, if so, what Meeting might do about it? I'm ashamed to say I didn't know all this. I was alive and active when the Nuremberg trials were held.

Regards and my love to the Meeting., Ken Southwood

Holocaust Remembrance Day (Yom HaShoah) 2022 in Israel will begin in the evening of Wednesday, April 27 and ends in the evening of Thursday, April 28.

Quaker Jargon Revealed

If you are new to Quakers, you may have wondered about some of the phrases used in conversations and Meeting. For example, Quaker decision-making, or Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, or *M/B* for short. Unlike the secular consensus, in which people negotiate various points of view – give a little, take a little – until they can agree, Quakers seek the Spirit to lead them. Clerks of committees and presiding *M/B* clerk listen to the various points of view, then reflect back their understanding, with guidance of Spirit. If the gathered Friends agree, they have *come to unity*. If not, the clerks ask for more input and then reflect their new understanding. If one person *has a stop*, [is still not in unity], but believes the Meeting should be free to *go forward*, s/he can *stand aside*. The matter is *approved*. However, if the objection is very strong, the Friend can *stand in the way*. This is serious action and never taken lightly as it halts further action until the Friend comes back into unity with Meeting. If there is tension in the room, clerks may call for *silent worship* under guidance of Spirit. There is no majority/minority, or trying to convince another person in this process. [G. Haynes]

Meet the Meeting

It all started with Covid

Rachael Cundey

Before moving to San Antonio, Rachael attended Macon Quakers Worship Group under the care of Atlanta Friends Meeting, so she is familiar with Quaker faith and practices. She began worshipping with us during the covid pandemic and heard a report on how Friends could support the Meeting by

filling positions. Rachael answered the call and volunteered to become Recording Clerk. She has enjoyed the forums, both in person and on line, and talking to Friends after worship. Rachael is in the first year of medical school at University of Texas Health Science Center and plans to specialize in neurology, an interest first encountered in undergrad studies at Georgia College & State University. She is interested in research into Alzheimer's disease. She attended many sessions of Yearly Meeting on line, including three workshops and several Meetings for Business. It was her first experience of a yearly meeting. Recently she took part in the Pride Families Spring Celebration community health fair. Rachael is co-president of the UTHSA Pride group. Friends welcome another newcomer in the wake of the pandemic.

Covid was the nexus

Hector Cruz

Hector stumbled upon Quakers when reading the introduction to *The Gospels, a New Translation* by Sarah Ruden. [2021] She commented that being a Quaker gave her an advantage in translating the Bible. Hector was intrigued. How would being a Quaker help in a scholarly task? He had heard about Quakers and the inevitable breakfast cereal. He turned to the internet and followed references. Wondering brought him to the San Antonio website and zoom worship in the middle of the pandemic. He found the silence, again, intriguing - the silent waiting to see what would happen. The blended worship was a gateway to in-person experience. He has found much to search for. Another appeal has been the commitment to social causes from the beginning.

Hector is used to other types of religion, some of which market their themselves with tele-evangelists and a cult of personality. He compares this with what he experiences with Friends' worship – no creed to repeat, no preacher with a sermon where you can see the lesson coming. Instead, it comes together as we collectively search for the Light. No one is turned away; the LGHTQ community is welcome. He teaches Moslem children from Afghanistan which includes this group. He is fasting for Ramadan.

The concept of sin is important to Hector in the sense of assuming responsibility for past actions leading to racism, for example. This is not to castigate anyone, but to see how to atone for past wrongs. It is empowering for him to right such wrongs; part of spiritual growth.

The pandemic has caused a nexus between his teaching career with special education and now Islamic children; traditional religion and now Quakers. He is open to the challenge of examining spirituality in this new context.

Led by Faith to Work for Justice, continued from page 1

the times Quaker principles led to harmful outcomes: prison reform to solitary confinement, and Friends boarding schools to "Christianize" indigenous children. The panelists told of who they got support from local meetings, although it was often hard for them to ask.

Two workshops followed immediately: Kallan explored how her Quaker upbringing led her to work for environmental justice from an early age and the support her family gave. Claire Hannapel of Quaker Volunteer Service led an inquiry into what both young people and Quakers look like today. The first are experiencing climate disruption and economic disparity, leading to distrust of all institutions. The latter seem to be more individualistic, following their issues and looking more for community than faith. The meetings exhibit a lack of young people and racial diversity. Claire asked what tensions and opportunities arise from these two groups and what tools we can use: listening intensely, no

May 2022

attempt to fix or advise others, Quaker process of decision making and seeking clearness, asking questions without judging the answers. Truth All Day.

The panel and workshops on Saturday provided insight into equipping ourselves to go forward as individuals and meetings. Val Liveoak and Jerry Knutson, in person and on line, suggested how to test leadings and how to bring the needed support, whether financial or spiritual. Anchor groups have proved helpful in accountability.

The blended program worked well, in spite of initial technical problems. We in person were often reminded of “those not in this room,” as questions and comments came from the zoom Friends. There were 77 adults, four children and 33 on line Friends. Meetings for Business flowed so smoothly that the one on Saturday afternoon was not needed. The traditional early and late worship was held out doors in cool but pleasant weather. The book table was almost totally emptied as books went home with Friends instead back to FGC. Egg dying with only four children allowed eager adults a crack at the eggs. The Talent Show, led by Crystal and Neil Redfield, was a highlight, with the younger children taking an active, though improvisational part. Clerk Karen Takemoto gave a traditional Hawaiian dance, others sang, and the Quaker Geezers were joined by Evan, 15, on the penny whistle.

The final Business Meeting Sunday heard one wedding, one birth, six memorial minutes and two family deaths. The epistle is available on the SCYM website. Concluding worship was profound after so much joy in reuniting of Friends.

[Wider Quaker World](#)

Friends Committee on National Legislation - Letter Writing

When members of Congress get back to Washington, D.C., from their April recess, they'll consider legislation that could invest in clean energy, environmental justice, and programs like the expanded monthly Child Tax Credit, which expired at the end of 2021. With rising energy prices and cost of living increases stretching family budgets to the limit, these measures could be a game-changer.

Act Now! Urge your members of Congress to pass a reconciliation package that invests in clean energy and expands the Child Tax Credit. The window to weigh in is short, and the stakes couldn't be higher. If Congress doesn't pass this so-called reconciliation legislation before the August recess, it will almost certainly fail in the political disputes around the mid-term elections. Members of Congress will also be under pressure not to include “controversial” provisions in this budget bill, including the policies that FCNL is advocating most strongly. Your advocacy with congressional offices this month is crucial. For your convenience, the email template letter is

<https://fcnl.quorum.us/campaign/37304/> .

Friends General Conference Gathering

- The 2022 Gathering will be held online July 3rd through 9th.
- Registration for the virtual Gathering will open in May. Details are coming soon.
- **YAY!**, an in-person Young Adult and Youth event for children, teens, and young adults (ages 0 – 35) is in discernment. More soon! FGC is committed to both online and in-person, all-ages Gathering events in the future. Planning for the 2023 Gathering in Oregon is well underway.



Join AFSC in sending a message today!

Reopen the border to asylum seekers immediately: Everyone deserves to live in safety and peace. But for the past two years, immigrants have been stopped from crossing the U.S.-Mexico border to apply for asylum in the U.S. The Biden administration has finally announced that this policy, known as Title 42, will end May 23rd. However, Republican members of Congress are trying to reinstate it using an upcoming COVID-19 relief bill and other legislation. **[Send a message to Congress today: Protect and restore the right to seek asylum!](#)**

Pendle Hill Offerings in May

The Light Within and the Rebirth of Conscience May 1-6, 2022

A Quaker Wisdom School with Cynthia Bourgeault, Paulette Meier, and Marcelle Martin invite you to join them at this Quaker Wisdom School at Pendle Hill, open to Quakers and Wisdom Seekers of all faiths. We will explore how the Light of God within not only illuminates divine reality but shows the ways that individuals and society are living contrary to God's Way. The Light in our conscience reveals truth to us, then sends us forth to witness to that truth with integrity and inner force.

May 2022

Reflecting with Quakers about “These Walls Between Us”: A Memoir of Friendship Across Race and Class

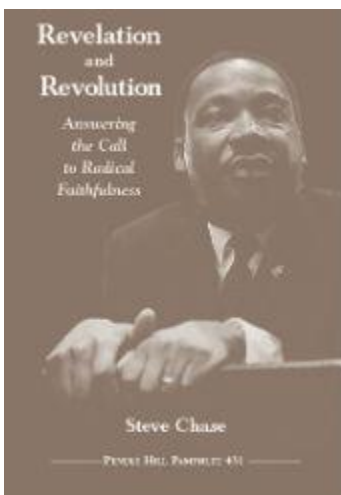
May 2, 2022

Mary Norman and Wendy Sanford, co-creators of *These Walls Between Us: A Memoir of Friendship Across Race and Class*, will talk with K. Melchor Quick Hall about the book’s themes and possibilities. They invite you to reflect with them on how Quaker values might lead us to break down the institutional and cultural walls that continue to separate racial groups in the US.

Pendle Hill’s Reading Group (May)

May 25, 2022 Hosted by Anna Hill 6:30-8:00pm Eastern Time (US & Canada) via Zoom.

Free and open to the public! Register to reserve your spot. 610-566-4507 EX 137



In May, we will be considering Steve Chase’s June 2015 pamphlet, *Revelation and Revolution: Answering the Call to Radical Faithfulness* (PHP #431). You can purchase a copy below:

[PH pamphlet](#) (printed edition)

[Amazon Kindle](#) (e-book)

[Barnes & Noble Nook](#) (e-book)

Other News of Interest

Protecting Birds

Most of us have seen or heard a wild bird fly into a glass window either at home, at work and even at the Meetinghouse. In fact, on Sunday 24 April 2022, it happened right after Kellie spoke during Meeting about her experience with a blue jay fledgeling when she was a child. You may think, since the bird seems only stunned for a minute and then flies off, its ok, but actually, it’s similar to head collisions in football. It’s not okay and we can help prevent these injuries and deaths. There are some ways we can help: suggestions from Audubon. See the full report at

https://m.box.com/shared_item/https%3A%2F%2Fnationalaudubon.box.com%2Fs%2FImf7vijbohuds6j92igzl1dzy8398ckj

Birds need strong clues on or around glass to warn them that it’s there.

Reducing reflective surface collisions

Create patterns on reflective glass surfaces

- Install external screens on windows
- Close blinds or curtains
- Move plants away from windows
- Place bird feeders directly on windows

Timing

Bird-building collisions can happen at any time of the day and year but tend to increase during migration and when young birds start flying. Therefore, the most crucial times for these measures are during spring and fall migration and in the breeding season in your area.

Windows (you can paint designs on the glass outside)

Create patterns on the outer surface

Place dense patterns, such as stripes and dots, on the outer glass surface using commercial products designed for this purpose, or create your own design using craft paper, tape, stickers, paint, and markers designed to be used on glass.

Physical barriers

Place physical barriers like screens, netting, or hanging cords in front of the glass. As long as the physical barriers do not contain open spaces that are larger than 2 x 2 inches, or the hanging cords are spaced no wider than 4 inches apart, they can effectively discourage most birds from trying to fly through them into the glass.

Close blinds or curtains

Blinds can help discourage birds from flying into windows by creating the appearance of a series of barriers. Closing curtains windows that appear transparent from the outside; however, they are best used on windows where collisions are being caused by the appearance of transparency.

Move interior plants away from windows

Plants directly visible within windows and atria can be a danger as birds perceive them as habitat and may try to fly towards them.

Place bird feeders directly on windows

Research has shown that feeders closer than three feet prevent birds from building up enough momentum to harm themselves if startled.

Change the color of lighting

White, red, and yellow light attracts birds migrating at night much more than blue or green light. Making external lighting blue or green at night should attract fewer migrating birds. Pam S.

Threshold Choir Presents Walking Each Other Home: A Bilingual Choral Remembrance Event for Losses of the Covid Pandemic

May 1, 2022 – The Threshold Singers of San Antonio, part of an international choir with more than 200 chapters around the world, will hold a bilingual choral remembrance for those lost in the COVID-19 pandemic, their families, and anyone who wants to participate from the San Antonio community. “Walking Each Other Home” will be held from 2 to 3 PM on May 1, 2022 in Brown Hall of Episcopal Church of Reconciliation, 8900 Starcrest.

Threshold Singers offer gentle songs of comfort, in both English and Spanish, to people at the thresholds of life. These include hospice and palliative care patients, and anyone struggling with difficult challenges. Songs are written by members across the globe and are messages of peace and

grace. Threshold Choir's mission is to sing for those at the thresholds of life. Our vision is a world where all of life's thresholds are honored with compassion shared through song.

Members of the San Antonio Threshold Singers sing vigil for a patient at Abode Contemplative Care of the Dying.



A Poem for Memorial Day

Euphemism

An innocuous substitute for
a dangerous term:

i.e. shock and awe,

to camouflage carpet bombing that
imitates the destruction of Dresden.

Or friendly fire, to disguise the fact
we just slaughtered our own.

Or Defense Department instead of
War Department, proving you can
fool some of the people some of the time.

Or collateral damage, concealing the mangled bodies
of women, men and children, done not on purpose.

Or, worst of all, PTSD, shell shock -
good speak to hide walking destruction,
the pulverized minds of men and women,
maimed in our name.

Special Military Operation.

Enough! Enough of Euphemisms!

Name the horrors, the results of horrors,
so that we may own them.

Take them to heart.

Perhaps then we may come to a real word:

Peace.

Gretchen Haynes