



The Friendly News

San Antonio Quakers

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What FMSA Needs To Do, and How To Do It

Friends Meetings have no paid staff; we depend on volunteers to do the tasks that keep Meetings running and to provide the collective discernment of the right path forward. To do this, we have traditionally relied on formal committees. Recently, this has not worked well. September 11 Forum focused on the following:

- Identifying the things to which we must attend, no matter what size meeting and how many resources we have, and
- Noting which of these our current structure fails to address adequately.

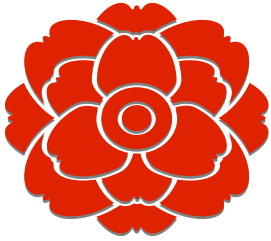
We divided the things we need to address into four groups: *Spiritual, Pastoral, Physical, and Other*. These are areas, not solutions. (E.g.: we might deepen group spiritual life through formal retreats, through forums, or in another way.) See page 4 for the breakdown.

September 25 Forum focused on:

- Confirming and adjusting the lists, and
- Brainstorming creative ways to reorganize ourselves to accomplish the tasks.

The [yearly] meeting may establish or lay down committees according to the need for the conduct of particular functions of the meeting....it must determine and approve a statement of its purpose and function and provide adequate funding.

New York Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice 1998



October Query As a meeting, how may we grow together in faithfulness?

10/12/2022

We have built our Meeting House on Payaya People's land.
Here are the direct links for our weekly activities.

- **Sunday Meetings for Worship**
 - 10-11am, in-person in the Meetinghouse AND on Zoom.
 - **Children's Program 1st & 3rd Sundays**
 - [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 Lunch**
- **3rd Saturday "Meeting for Weeding"**
- **3rd Sunday Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business**
join by Zoom – ID # 976 0522 6497; passcode: 194077
- **For ALL Zoom Meetings: by telephone at +1 346 248 7799, then enter ID#**

Please send November news, pictures & events by 10/24/2022 to
newsletter@squakers.org

Special Events

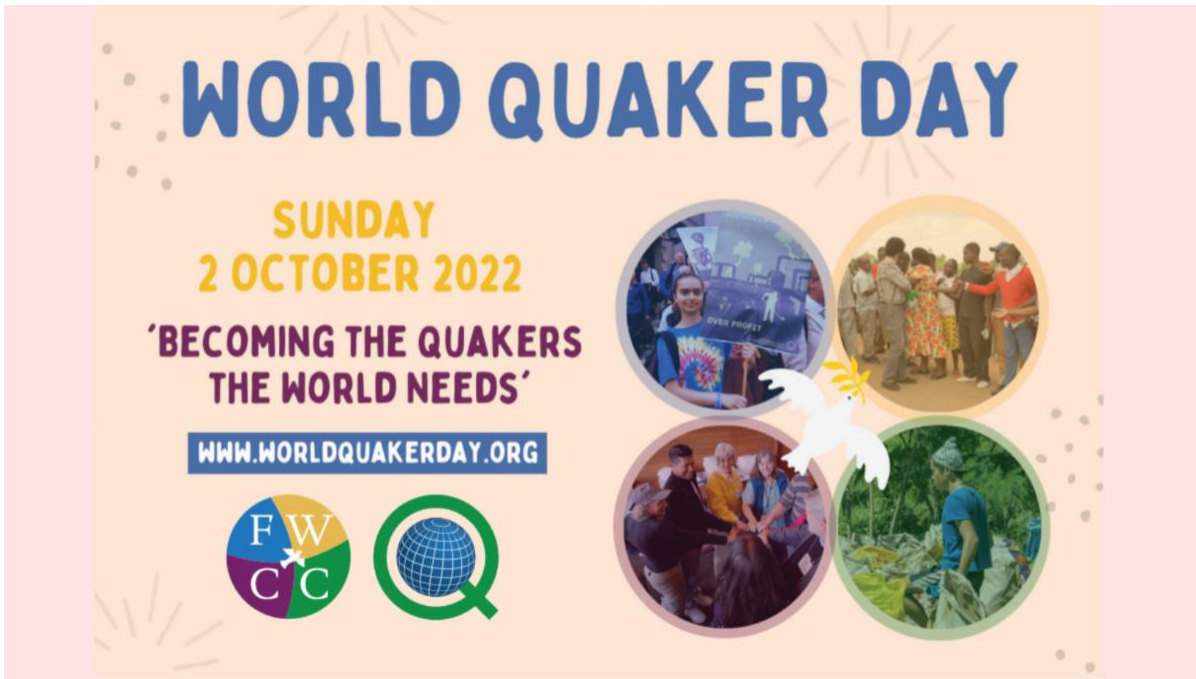
Oct 2: World Quaker Day
Oct 2: POT LUCKS are back
Oct 9: Forum - TBA
Oct 23: Forum – South Central Representative Meeting Explained
Nov 12: Retreat 9:30 to 3:00

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Surprise!

If we were not so single-minded / about keeping our lives
moving, / and for once could do nothing, / perhaps a huge
silence / might interrupt that sadness / of never understanding
ourselves.
Pablo Neruda, "Keeping Quiet"

World Quaker Day is October 2nd!



World Quaker Day will be on Sunday, October 2, 2022, and we are looking forward to experiencing a rich diversity of regional cultures, beliefs and styles of worship.

World Quaker Day

Val Liveoak

"The Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) fosters fellowship among all the branches of the Religious Society of Friends. In the Americas, the Quaker community extends from the Arctic to the Andes, spanning a rich diversity of regional cultures, beliefs and styles of worship."

fwccamericas.org website

Friends World Committee for Consultation/Comite Mundial de Consulta de los Amigos is one of the regions of the worldwide FWCC. The Section of the Americas includes Friends Meetings and Churches throughout the hemisphere.

I was privileged to attend around 10 annual Section Meetings and 3 or 4 Triannual World Meetings between 1991 and 2007. Most of the member Meetings and Churches are the regional Yearly Meetings/Churches—our South Central YM is one of 56 YMs and groups that belong to FWCC worldwide.

As a participant in FWCC meetings, I have had many experiences with Friends which have allowed me to better understand the wide variety of Friends groups and how they express themselves, worship, and are organized. One of my favorite parts is the translation, especially during open

worship, where the Friend who gives ministry is often translated into one or more languages, and each seems a message itself.

Several years ago, FWCC initiated World Quaker Day, and this year there is a list of worship activities that can be joined by Zoom on the website (under “Events”)—we are invited to join Friends throughout the world, using Zoom. Sign up on the FWCC site or at

www.worldquakerday.org

If you are interested in becoming a Yearly Meeting representative to FWCC activities, let me know, and I’ll pass the info on to the YM Nominating Committee.

FMSA Organizational Structure Sept 11, 2022

What FMSA needs to do

Pastoral	Spiritual	Physical	Other
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• maintain deep Meetings for Worship• sustain deep discussions about spiritual life and Quaker traditions• provide other adult religious education• children’s religious education• encourage individuals’ spiritual growth• provide spiritual friendship or mentoring• sustain Quaker public witness	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• care and support for individuals• sustain our sense of community• connect with visitors & new attenders• readiness for major events: weddings, memorials, etc.• reach out to those who have stopped attending since COVID• outreach to young people• connect with other Quakers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• maintain buildings and grounds• maintain meeting house electronics• maintain website• pay bills• steward financial resources• provide resources for hospitality (snacks, coffee, toilet paper)• open / close / run tech on Sundays• after-hours site security	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• outreach, including newsletter, weekly email notices, social media, etc.• monitor telephone answering machine• schedule building and Zoom use• interface with tenants• engage outside community with Quaker testimonies

We then identified tasks that we currently fail to address collectively – though some individuals do pick up some of these tasks. Failures are in **red-bold**. Inadequacies are in *red-italic*.

Note: even the items we currently address well can overburden Friends who take on too much.

What isn't getting done now

Pastoral	Spiritual	Physical	Other
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>sustain deep discussions about spiritual life and Quaker traditions</i> <i>encourage individuals' spiritual growth</i> provide spiritual friendship or mentoring sustain Quaker public witness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>care and support for individuals</i> <i>connect with visitors & new attenders</i> reach out to those who have stopped attending since COVID outreach to young people <i>connect with other Quakers</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>maintain website</i> <i>provide resources for hospitality (snacks, coffee, toilet paper)</i> after-hours site security 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> social media outreach engage outside community with Quaker testimonies

Discernment based on the charts above

Jim asked us to examine the four categories in list one to see what parts might be combined and what might we let go. Many were combined (but that is not reflected in list one); none were let go. The central concern, Joni reminded us, is listed as number one in Pastoral: maintain deep Meetings for Worship. Everything else flows from this. How to move forward? Trust in each other.

Gary commented that he has joined this same conversation many times in the last 20 years. He agreed that our primary purpose is restorative worship to energize us and give us guidance as we move into the world. We make medicine for each other that is tangible. Dale said our vision leads us to our priorities, as in any organization.

Val referred to the Biblical story of Mary, who sat at Jesus' feet to hear him preach, while Martha was in the kitchen preparing a meal for the gathering. These are two sides that can't be separated; they must work together to achieve any goal. She suggested a wall chart in the community room be set up for people to commit to certain tasks for three or six months. No one would report to anyone else.

Friends continue to explore this option. Val commented that the Mary/Martha model is repeated in George Fox, who preached and Margaret Fell, who organized those who were converted. She hoped that hearing the monthly queries could elicit more vocal ministry. James M. summed it all up: it is mysticism – a barn will not fall down as long as cows are in it. Find the wall, Friends. [GH]

Help Provided but More Help Needed!!

Here's an example of some current met and unmet Meeting needs: The positions of **Opener** and **Technician** are filled from Oct 16 to the end of the year! Thanks and appreciation to David Hayes. We still need **Closers** for October onward.

News from San Antonio Meeting

Mark Lee Hickman Legacy of \$25,000

Mark requested that "it not be used for buildings or other physical structures, but rather for improving communication within and outside of the group, social outreach, cross cultural bridge building, reading and music for nursing homes or assisted living, help for the sick, mobility impaired, homeless, refugees, or for other similar purposes." Any requests regarding the expenditure of these funds from a committee or individual should be routed to the Finance Committee prior to any consideration in Meeting for Business. The Finance Committee will make a determination that the request is consistent with Mark's wishes.

Pot Luck Lunches are BACK Oct 2

Friends are asked to come 20 minutes before 10 to help set up. And stay on to help close down. The children will prepare soup and Friends can bring hot or cold, savory or sweet.

Meeting for Weeding is BACK Every 3rd Saturday

From 9 to 1:00 indoor and outdoor activities in aid of the Meeting. You are welcome.

Friends Advocacy Team

Members of the Team met with a staff member of Senator Ted Cruz on September 12 to present their request for ending U.S. support of the Saudi war on Yemen. Team members offered personal stories to illustrate their concern for the war, and to establish relationships with the Senator's staff. The diverse group represents four S.A. congressional districts, along with representatives from Central Texas and Rio Grande Valley. They will meet with local staff of Senator Cornyn on Oct. 18. It's not too late to join the Team.

RETREAT Nov 12

Hold the date because Friends agreed to have a Retreat led by Gary Whiting and David Bristol to build on our discussions on SHARED INTENT.

Watch this space for details in the November Newsletter.

We need to let our lives speak, but we also need to be confident of what it is that we want that life to say. This power won't be ours until we have made it ours by laboring together to test our understanding.

Robert Griswold, *No Creed is not the same as No Theology*, Friends Journal, Aug. 1, 2001

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.

More Quaker Jargon Revealed

Speaking Truth to Power was originally a Quaker principle, since taken up by many others. Telling a person in power what is your truth could bring heavy consequences, in the beginning and even now. Another symbol of integrity in which early Friends refused to do **“hat honor”** by removing their hats to anyone in authority. And Friends chose to **“affirm”** in legal proceedings, rather than to swear an oath, which implies part-time truth telling.

Newsletter Process

Thanks to Pam, I can now copy from other websites without bringing their formatting. Thanks also to Lee Gugerty who volunteered to proofread the Newsletter before it gets sent. And thanks to Jim who made changes to Sept's issue.

You can help by giving feedback: What is of interest? What can you do without? What else can the Newsletter provide? You can also help by forwarding items you find, news of interest, references to articles and books. < newsletter@saquakers.org > Thanks so much.

Children's Program

In consultation with parents, we are offering the program on the first and third Sundays, with time for work in the raised garden and making soup. Hannah and Gretchen are joined by Renata in reading stories that illustrate the Testimonies and craft time for the varied ages. Youngest two, oldest [at this time] is nine. The children replanted their garden with fall plants: cauliflower, broccoli, Swiss chard, and cabbage. With luck, we'll have vegetables for Thanksgiving.

Meet the Meeting

Von and Dale Kearins

Von and Dale met while in graduate school: Dale at Carnegie Mellon University, Von at Duquesne University where they earned their PhD degrees. Dale earned his PhD in chemical engineering and Von in psychology, specializing in children. They lived in Pittsburgh until October of last year. Their son, daughter-in-law and two grandchildren live in San Antonio. They moved to San Antonio to be near family.

Dale spent 35 years with Westinghouse at the Science and Technology Center leading power generation and environmental technology development and commercialization. Westinghouse sold the industrial businesses and Dale has supported the DOE National Energy & Technology Laboratory since that time working with a support contractor. He continues to work with Deloitte Consulting.

Von's career included serving as Executive Director of Arsenal Family and Children's Center (AFCC) for 35 years. The 1970's were a period of great turmoil as the Pittsburgh steel industry declined. Families were without work. Von developed outreach centers to help these families as they transitioned. She taught a class in crisis intervention at the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary for 20 years – one class with Mr. Rogers of TV fame. Von continues her role as consultant in child psychology and board member with AFCC after retiring as the Executive Director of the Center and continues to serve on the Pittsburgh International Children's Theater board.

Von and Dale joined Pittsburgh Friends Meeting in 1972 after leading an interdenominational ministry in Pittsburgh. They served as clerks of the Meeting and were active in various Friends organizations. They served as co-clerks of the **2002** Friends General Conference Gathering in Johnstown, PA, with the theme Coming to Peace. Von served on the Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO) committee and continues to serve on the house committee. Von led a study on girl child soldiers in four countries for QUNO and UNICEF. She will be serving on the QUNO 75th anniversary (2023) AFSC Committee. Von spent time at Woodbrooke (Quaker study center in the UK) as a Friend in Residence. Von served on the board of Earlham School of Religion. They have been active with FCNL. They look forward to being part of the San Antonio Friends Meeting.

October Forums

October 9 TBA

October 23 South Central Yearly Meeting, and the Representative Meeting to plan the 2023 annual sessions

Quaker Principles

George Fox and early Friends rejected the Church of England as corrupt and elitist. They sought to return to original teachings of Jesus. Instead of a Pope or king as authority, they placed the individual at the center of authority. They gathered to share their "openings" [leadings from the Spirit], to support each other, and to build a faith community. Today, Friends continue to be seekers after Truth as we worship in silence, with messages sharing what we have discovered in the silence.

Our guiding principle from Fox is "that of God in each of us." But what is the *that*? Quakers believe it is the spark of Divine power and call it *the Light*. It is the Light that shines within us, illuminating our strengths and the weaknesses. When we follow this self-examination diligently, we can experience its healing power.

"The Light is something of God, not something that belongs to the individual. It enlightens all people—allowing them, in a spiritual sense, to see clearly. And because it is 'of God' and not God, the Inward Light is just those few beams of an infinitely larger 'Outward Light' that happens to strike their hearts and illuminate their consciences. Everyone shares in that same Outward Light, but it is incomplete within any particular person."

Paul Buckley, *Inward Light and Outward Light*, Friends Journal, June 1, 2003

Resources: *Light to live by*, Rex Ambler, 2001; QuakerSpeak on YouTube [Quakers and the Light, Core Beliefs]; Friends Journal, go to the Search bar and enter The Light for articles in the archives.

October 2022

Wider Quaker World

Peggy McDonald from Live Oak Meeting invites Friends to come via zoom to their monthly Meeting for Worship for healing, every third Saturday. Her email is PMcDonald@sitecoach.com.

Pendle Hill

Visual Journaling Online

Oct 4 - Nov 1, 2022

An online arts and spirituality series with Jesse White.

Five Tuesday evenings from October 4-November 1, 2022, 6:30-8:30 PM

Dear F/friends,

Sometimes the spoken word carries with it immediacy and power that go far beyond the written word. Hearing someone's story in their own voice can be a remarkably intimate experience, inviting the listener to the possibility of personal transformation.

On October 2, World Quaker Day, Pendle Hill will launch its first-ever podcast series, "The Seed: Conversations of Radical Hope," an exploration of the world that is growing up through the cracks in our crumbling systems. Host Dwight Dunston, Pendle Hill teacher, hip-hop artist, and activist will interview Quakers and other seekers, discussing the experiences that have transformed their lives and inspired their visions of hope for the world.

With this podcast, Pendle Hill seeks to extend its reach as a spiritual learning community by bringing the Quaker message to an even wider audience. Please help us promote our vision of creating peace with justice in the world by transforming lives. Make your [gift today](#).

Francisco Burgos

Friends Committee on National Legislation

The United States has tested over 1,000 nuclear bombs on its own soil. The U.S. government detonated the world's first nuclear bomb above-ground in New Mexico with civilians living less than 12 miles away. Winds spread radioactive fallout to local "downwinder" populations, increasing infant mortality and cancer rates.

Recognizing this harm to civilians, uranium miners, and atomic veterans, Congress passed the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA) in 1990 with strong bipartisan support. Unfortunately, downwinders in highly irradiated places like Idaho, Montana, Colorado, New Mexico, and Guam have never been able to apply for RECA. If enacted, the RECA Amendments of 2021 (H.R. 5338) would extend RECA for 19 years and add eligibility for additional populations harmed by nuclear weapons activities.

For people with radiation-related cancers, access to this compensation can make the difference in getting the medical care they need. Urge your representative to support H.R. 5338! Contact your elected officials [here](#).

American Friends Service Committee



Help spread the message that love knows no borders with your free AFSC sticker!

Your sticker will mail in about 6-8 weeks. Limit of one per person, while supplies last

Friends Journal

QuakerSpeak is a YouTube series of four- or five-minute videos exploring a topic. These are sent out every Thursday and are archived for reference. A few topics include: Frequently Asked Questions, Quakers and the Light, Vocal Ministry, What do Quakers Believe?



I Paint to Reclaim My Light: Finding Peace in Nature, Sisterhood, and Watercolors by Anissa New-Walker. One of many artists in the September issue.

October 2022

We include this notice although it will be out of date by the time you read it. It identifies the concerns of the organization and steps being taken to achieve them.



Prophetic Council,

We are reaching out to invite you to join a diverse national delegation of faith leaders for a Congressional briefing on **Thursday, September 22nd in Washington D.C. at 9am ET**. The Congressional briefing will be an opportunity for faith leaders to raise our collective moral voice in demanding congress pass policies before the midterm elections that ensure living wages, voting rights, and reinstate the pandemic child tax credit.

Please consider joining and spreading the word to other faith leaders who you know in the DC and surrounding area to join. Here is the link to register and attend in person:

https://actionnetwork.org/events/faith-leaders-congressional-briefing?clear_id=true

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING DETAILS

Date: Thursday, September 22, 2022

Time: 9am-11am ET

Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Room 2237

In the spirit of love and justice,

Rev. Kazimir Brown & Dr. Adam Barnes

National Faith Partnerships | Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival

On the Lighter Side

Three Proofs that Jesus was a Californian

He never cut his hair; He walked around barefoot; He started a new religion.