



# The Friendly News

<b>San Antonio Quakers</b>	
<b>7052 N. Vandiver (at Eisenhower) San Antonio, Texas 78209</b>	<b>Message Phone: 210.945.8456 Website: <a href="http://www.sanantonioquakers.org">www.sanantonioquakers.org</a> Facebook: @saquakers</b>

## How Should We Organize our Meeting?

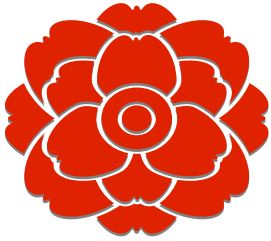
Friends Meetings have no paid staff; we depend on volunteers to do the tasks that keep Meetings running and to provide the collective discernment of the right path forward. To do this, we have traditionally relied on formal committees. Recently, this has not worked well.

- Even before COVID, we had trouble filling several of our committees; now, it is impossible to do so.
- We have tried giving more tasks to fewer committees, but those committees are now spread too thin. Tasks often fail to get done or fall to the 'usual suspects' to do them.
- We have tried leaving things to individuals, but worry that this does not provide the collective discernment that is one of the hallmarks of the Quaker way.

We need to think together about other ways to organize ourselves for the post-COVID era. **Please join us on Sunday, September 11th, for a (first) forum/discussion on Meeting organization.** We need your help identifying:

- the problems with our current structure,
- the tasks that are crucial for us to do, and
- possible ways to organize ourselves so that those tasks get done with joy rather than as burdens.

Jim Spickard will facilitate the September 2nd Sunday Forum.



## September Query: How Should We Organize our Meeting?

We have built our Meeting House on Payaya People's land.

- **Sunday Meetings for Worship**
  - 10-11am, in-person in the Meetinghouse AND on Zoom.
  - **Children's Program 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays during September**
    - [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
- **1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Potluck on Hold during the Increase in Covid**
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday "Meeting for Weeding" also on Hold during heat wave**
- **3<sup>rd</sup> 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

**Sep 11: 11:30 How Should We Organize our Meeting?**

**Sep 25: 11:30 TBA** (check the online calendar at our website: [www.SanAntonioQuakers.org](http://www.SanAntonioQuakers.org) )

**Oct 2: World Quaker Day, see page 9**

Nowadays silence is looked on as odd and most of my race has forgotten the beauty of meaning much by saying little. Now tongues work all by themselves with no help from the mind.

Toni Morrison, *Love*

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Please send October news, pictures & events by 9/26/2022 to [newsletter@saquakers.org](mailto:newsletter@saquakers.org)

## News from San Antonio Meeting

### Finding Our Shared Intent in Worship Part 2

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

Gary led us in a further examination of the queries: Opening ourselves to the Light reveals ways to be a better person. Too often our inner voices sound condemning and mean to us, but the voice of the pure Light is mild and forgiving. Early Quakers learned to wait in the Light to understand their failings; they were shown what they should be doing with their lives. Modern Quakers have lost sight of this restorative process.

Friends shared their present practices. One said she found it helpful to focus outside of the self, particularly in enjoying nature and in swimming. Another described how she tries to silence the playful puppies in her mind, and then “return” from a deep place that she did not consciously seek. Another told of how worship creates a space that shrinks the ego and allows for the insights of the Light.

A Friend tested the resulting insight as being true or a personal fantasy by asking “Is It mine?” That question allows her to give back any insight that is truly not her own. Growth has happened in cultivating silence in daily life. Another pointed to the Light as metaphor as George Fox wrote “For looking down at sin, corruption and distraction, ye are swallowed up in it; but looking at the light, which discovers them, ye will see over them. That will give victory, and ye will find grace and strength; there is the first step to peace.” 1658 The distraction and the victory of it are both part of him that the Light will illuminate.

We considered the prevalence of the question of How in the queries. Another metaphor pointed to the How as a pot luck, many offerings on the table, but no one prescribing or imposing one over another. Friends can try what works for them. Thus, our commitment to community puts variety on the table as we learn from each other the skills of finding the Light

Out of the concluding silence came a new challenge: the How is powerful and one can become bogged down in it. Instead, we can let go of the How and ask instead What and Why. Then the How will grow out of that search. We had circled back to the beginning - the mystery of the deep place that comes unbidden in our silent worship.

We were refreshed, but not satisfied and will gather again on Aug 28 to explore deepening our daily practices. **The What and Why.** We will meet in person and by zoom at 11:30 and everyone is welcome, whether or not you have participated in other sessions.

Let the Holy Spirit

Shine the every loving Light on me. Apologies to Leadbelly.

### Finding Our Shared Intent in Worship Part 3

**The What:** The Light shows us something precious, inspiring, invigorating, and leads to a passion for social justice. Thus, Gary summarized our exploration so far. The Light shows us what we need to work on to be a better person. It is hard work. He referred to the inner voice which for many can be harshly critical. That voice is the Old Testament God – condemning. George Fox pointed to the New Testament God of love and forgiveness.

One Friend said that worship helped him understand what Spirit wants us to do. For example, a Meeting for Business has an agenda and can become for forma. But with intense listening, it reveals what is real and what is ego. One can feel when we are out of alignment and what required more work.

**The Why:** Another Friend remembered Ken Southwood asking why he felt the need to come to worship. She asks the same questions and responds that Truth is in the seeking. While that's hard, the process can be shared and we seek unity in some fashion. But we contain Truth in all of us – it is portable. One Friend remembered his first time in Worship when Ken spoke about the very thing he had been thinking about. It can't be understood; Now I don't know.

Literature can help one Friend; he cited Huckleberry Finn who helped Jim escape bondage and, in the process, found a spiritual breakthrough for himself. Compassion. For the speaker, the inner voice keeps in check the baser instincts. He comes to Worship to pull out of guilt into a positive outlook.

One Friend quoted Penington that the path involves giving birth – to ourselves and to the community. Another described his drive from home to Meeting – passing new housing developments supplanting the meadows and woods. It is jangling, disorienting. Worship brings him back into unity with nature and the beauty of the word.

Gary pointed to the urgency in these messages. That together we are trying to give substance to what we feel in Worship. We can have e a Gift Economy – we receive the gifts and then give back, recharged by worship to be able to live in the world.

True godliness does not turn men out of the world, but enables them to live better in it and excites their endeavors to mend it. — **William Penn**

## "To Stop Violence, Start Early"

**By Poonam Sharma and Gary Whiting**

**For the Express-News**

The recent wave of mass shootings has opened an important discussion: How do we go back to being a society in which this is a rare occurrence, rather than a common one?

Many feel that controlling access to firearms is the answer. Statistics from other countries with stricter gun control laws support this viewpoint, with the United States ranking first among developed countries in firearm homicides, given our easier access. Those who find this conclusion unacceptable counter that mass shootings stem primarily from mental health issues. Certainly, this view has some obvious validity, as we can all agree that individuals who commit such violence are disturbed. But in terms of solutions, what would it mean to treat this primarily as a mental health issue? As a society, what should we be doing?

As practicing psychologists, we believe it falls on our profession to begin to frame an answer. Let's start by defining these horrific acts as "antisocial," since they tear at the fabric of our society, leaving behind broken hearts and minds. The opposite, which would represent our attempts at reducing this violence, can be characterized as "prosocial."

When you engage in prosocial behavior, your goal is to benefit another person, to be of help. But there is a seeming paradox at the core of prosocial behavior: Why would someone impose costs on themselves to benefit others? Doesn't this run counter to our culture's dominant ethos of profit and individualism? Aren't we naturally selfish, rather than giving?

Not at all. Research on prosocial behavior has demonstrated, from an early age, we prefer people who are kind and helpful versus people who hinder and harm; and children will model themselves Continued on page 5

after those who have influence on them. The spectrum from selfishness to altruism emerges from both inherited tendencies and environmental influences. Much can be done, *particularly at an early age*, to foster prosocial behaviors.

Please note the emphasis on early childhood development. The sooner we intervene with children showing antisocial tendencies, the greater the impact.

Research has shown elementary school teachers can significantly predict, as early as age six, future adult offenders. They recognize healthy behavior and have a close-up view of which children are struggling. Why would we waste this opportunity to intervene and provide support to disturbed children and their families to potentially avoid tragedy? That would mean making sure our schools become resource centers, adequately staffed with teachers and counselors and social workers, with proper funding for creative networks of outreach and care. At this point, the opposite is true: Education is woefully underfunded, particularly in our state (ranked 40th nationally in a 2021 report from the Education Law Center in the country).

If the goal is to nurture mental health and prosocial behavior, we must shift from a negative view of active social service. Proper government funding is a necessary cornerstone, though programs need to not only inspire a new generation of teachers and counselors, but also inspire our citizenry into active volunteerism. Our society should also foster help for our young adults, by reinvigorating service organizations such as AmeriCorps, Job Corps, and even the old Civilian Conservation Corps. Recent personality profiles done on these young mass murderers makes clear that alternative placements, within well-staffed training programs, might have made a difference.

As mental health professionals, we know what is necessary to foster psychological well-being. If we are serious about addressing violence from the perspective of mental health, we must commit to cultivating the social and educational framework to generate prosocial behavior. As Mahatma Gandhi said, "The true measure of any society can be found in how it treats its most vulnerable members." Let's make sure our children are given what they need, to help us create a safer and more compassionate society.

Reprinted with permission of the authors from the Express News Editorial of August 13, 2002

## **In Memoriam Jose "Joe" Ramirez**

The son of Petra Ramirez died of a heart attack July 24, 2022. Joe joined the Marine Corp after high school and was much decorated during his service. Following his discharge, he earned a Bachelors Degree in Sociology from UTSA. He joined the American G.I. Forum and had been with the Texas Veterans Commission for eight years where he helped many veterans receive their military benefits.

## Friends Advocacy Team

Members of the Team will meet 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. A week later the Team will meet with staff of Senator Cornyn. Individuals will prepare personal stories to illustrate their concern for the war, and will establish relationships with the Senators' staff. The diverse group represents four S.A. congressional districts, along with representatives from Central Texas and Rio Grande Valley. It's not too late to join the Team and get instruction on congressional visits from the Friends Committee on National Legislation.

We utterly deny all outward wars and strife and fightings with outward weapons, for any end or under any pretence whatsoever; and this is our testimony to the whole world.

*Declaration of Friends to [King] Charles II, 1660*

## Potluck Lunches are Still on Hold as COVID Lingers

We do have limited refreshments after Worship on the porch, but a sit-down lunch is postponed while the local COVID numbers are on High Alert. Friends are asked to wear masks and stand at a distance to prevent the possible spread of the virus. The weekly announcements will let us know the status. Workdays are also on hold due to the very high temperatures.

## Help Wanted!!

### SEPTEMBER TASKS:

- The positions of **Opener** and **Closer** are needed for September. Technician is filled.

### NEWSLETTER AID:

- Can someone help me with the spacing? When I copy an item from another website, it comes with spacing baggage that I cannot delete – leaving awkward gaps in the pages. Please respond to *jmhaynes* (at) *earthlink.net* Subject Help. And thanks, Gretchen

## 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.

***What we need is Love.***

September 2022

## More Quaker Jargon Revealed

**Traveling in the Ministry** means that you can represent San Antonio Meeting when you travel. Visits can help keep the balance between differing interpretations of Quakerism and increase understand between members of the various meetings, regions and branches. When you travel for personal reasons, you may request of Letter of Introduction, indicating that you are a Friend in good standing. Or when you travel under the weight of a concern, you may request a Minute of Travel endorsing your concern and stating that FMSA is in unity with it.

## September Forums

### September 11: How Should We Organize our Meeting?

We need your help identifying: the problems with our current structure, the tasks that are crucial for us to do, and possible ways to organize ourselves so that those tasks get done with joy rather than as burdens. Jim Spickard will facilitate the September 11 Forum.

### September 25: To Be Announced

(check the online calendar at our website: [www.SanAntonioQuakers.org](http://www.SanAntonioQuakers.org) )

## Children's Program



Children follow their own paths, with Renata after the story time.  
The program will continue on 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays in September.

## Meet the Meeting

### Miriam (Mimi) Moore

Mimi was interested in art from a young age. She would look at illustrations in books and magazines and wonder, “How did they do that?” the results seemed inevitable, yet somehow the artist figured it out. Dr. Seuss drew animals that looked pre-historic. Where did that idea come from? She was drawing, only with her eyes. There were no art supplies in the house. Her mother grew up in the depression and was always careful with money. Drawing would be a waste of paper.

Much later she started teaching at the Circle School, enabling children to discover art for themselves. Her interest in color found a useful outlet. The School was not selfish with art supplies for the children or for her. Everyone paints differently – some make drawings first, others leap in to see what might emerge. She discovered her love for color. Her own children went to the Circle School, where she worked as the Art Teacher for three years.

Mimi knew Suzanne Wright-Crain from movement workshops and through Sprout Scouts at Incarnate Word outings for the children of the Circle School, and attended meeting for worship together when Carol Balliet was clerk. She sensed a loving philosophy that would not put her down because of her handicap. Sometimes another’s discomfort puts a burden on the person with the handicap, but it’s better not to take it personally. She was living with Rheumatoid Arthritis at that time; the above the knee amputation came more recently when her knee replacement became perniciously infected. Mobility can be a problem but her red Husky, Little Kia, helps her get around. She learned to love Husky’s, and often brought her 80 pound husky to meeting. This big dog was quiet in meeting, and enjoyed greeting each person who welcomed her, at the Rise of Meeting.

Mimi discovered the Walking People, a Native American oral history, by Paula Underwood. Their stories illustrate the community learning from experience that show us the many Wisdoms we can also use for our own personal and community survival. She found new examples of human community and kindness in the stories, and is now in a long cycle of watercolors inspired by these tellings. This work in progress can be heard at her podcast, Miriam Moore reads the Walking People by Paula Underwood. This process is nourishing, which she equates with giving her brain a bath.

### Marian Carter Remembers

At the turn off the county road to the ranch, Marian’s grandfather gave a small piece of land for a two-room school house. Next to it were 19 mailboxes, and her family’s was the first box. Marian’s sister, Dot, began school in the first grade while Marian stayed at home. But she was restless without her sister and so began going with her. The teacher gave them coloring books and they went to the cloak room to color.

Her family valued being educated. Her grandfather’s family came from Tennessee or Kentucky and then moved to New Orleans. When the family moved to Texas, they brought lots of books with them. So the girls had a whole background: reading was important, not just something one had to do. Other children at the school didn’t have the same educated background.



She doesn't know why the fight occurred, but it did. She thinks she liked a boy at the school named Dusty and for some reason got into a fist fight with him, giving him a bloody nose. When she got home, she told her mother she did not want to grow up to be a fighting lady.

Pinocchio was the first book Marian read, although she didn't know all the words. She remembers closing the book and telling her mother she had read it. She never had trouble with reading, but didn't always remember all the details. The books in the house were for adults, but she would try to read them anyway. And there were subscriptions to the Saturday Evening Post and Reader's Digest.

Summer was hot at the ranch. Marian and Dot would go to Hay Creek on the property, walk across it to the other edge. Her aunt gave them a metal box with small scraps of bacon to catch crawfish. They would spend hours. Back in the kitchen, aunt would put the catch in a pan and turn up the heat. When they were dead, they could eat them. Oh WoW!

The parking lot of the main house had lots of sand. She and Dot would sit in the sand watching doodle bugs dig holes in a cone shape, not too deep, The girls would sing a jingle to get them to go down into the holes. They would spend hours watching.

There was a mystery. Tony, a Shetland pony, appeared at the ranch one day. The children of a family in town had outgrown him. Uncle Jim hooked up a lead between Tony and his bridle to train Marian. She would ride after the sheep when they got lost under the brush. She would go in on Tony and holler them out. It was very important work. Once the pony reared up and Marian slid off. She told Uncle Jim "I'm coming, just not on Tony."

At some point she asked "Where is Tony?" She was told the people in town wanted him back. Much later she learned that a mule kicked him and broke his leg. He was put down, but they didn't tell her. "That was a big mistake. Children deserve to know what happens in life. Death does happen."

Take heed, dear Friends, to the promptings of love and truth in your hearts, which are the leadings of God.

*Britain Yearly Meeting, Faith and Practice, 1995*

## Wider Quaker World

### World Quaker Day

World Quaker Day will take place on 2 October 2022 with the theme “Becoming the Quakers the World Needs.” This is an annual event where we celebrate the diversity of Quakerism around the world and build connections to make our community stronger.

This year, every Friends Church or Meeting is encouraged to send or receive visitors to or from another Quaker group, to bring greetings, build relationships and share ideas.

Intervisitation today is the easiest it has ever been, with many Quakers meeting online or in hybrid form. To make it even easier, visit the website of Friends World Committee for Consultation (<http://FWCCAmericas.org>) to find details about Quaker groups that are especially hoping for visitors on the day.

### Food for Thought from Friends Journal

#### Quakers Must Take a Position on Abortion

by Erick Williams

"Disunity does not mark the end of conversation. Disunity can be overcome "

As Friends, we make decisions by consensus. At best, seeking consensus is a spiritual practice. But all too often, we settle for merely avoiding conflict, and that can lead us into trouble. Shortly after the Supreme Court issued its decision this past June in *Dobbs v. Jackson*, which vacated the constitutional right to abortion, Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) published a statement that looked back on the conflict among Friends and described abortion as "a challenge issue," one "where our governing body is not in unity on a position."

"Therefore," it continued, "FCNL does not take a position on abortion."

It's anyone's guess how long the "Dobbs era" will last. But one thing is clear: However long it lasts, conversations in the abortion space will not be polite. Indeed, the conversation is already down-and-dirty. Friends' "no position position" has become increasingly untenable in a country where the political culture is so thoroughly polarized that it is hard to find a conscious adult who has "no position" on abortion.

[Read more at Friends Journal: <https://www.friendsjournal.org/quakers-must-take-a-position-on-abortion/> ]

September 2022

## Pendle Hill Offerings

Stephen G. Cary Memorial Lecture 2022:  
Strategizing for Change: Applying Lessons from the Life  
Bayard Rustin to Quaker Work at the UN

**Sarah Clarke,**  
Director of the Quaker UN Office in New York  
**Sep 12, 2022**  
7:30pm - 9pm Eastern Time (US & Canada) via Zoom

Free and open to the public, registration required.  
In-person registration is limited.



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As we approach the 75th anniversary of Quaker work at the UN, we have an opportunity to reflect on those in our community who have taught us valuable lessons about the Quaker traditions of non-violence and direct engagement with those who hold power. The wisdom and life of Quaker civil rights activist **Bayard Rustin** offers insights and lessons that continue to guide us today and as we look into the future. Read more and register [here](https://bit.ly/3efLfZW). (<https://bit.ly/3efLfZW>)

*The Stephen G. Cary Memorial Lecture was endowed by Norval and Ann Reece and established in 2004 in concert with Pendle Hill's publication of Steve Cary's memoir, [The Intrepid Quaker: One Man's Quest for Peace](#).*

## [On the Lighter Side](#)

### **Three Proofs that Jesus was Irish**

1. He never got married;
2. He loved green pastures;
3. He was always telling stories