



# The Friendly News

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## San Antonio Friends and Dream Week

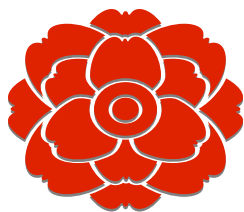
San Antonio Quakers have several opportunities to celebrate Martin Luther King's legacy. On January 14, we will show the film *Brother, Outsider*, the life of Bayard Rustin, close adviser to MLK, organizer of the 1963 March on Washington, and gay Quaker. This will be our third movie night as a partner with Dream Week, the film will begin at 7:00 and will be followed by a discussion.

Sunday will be the MLK Interfaith Worship, 4:30 at St. Gerard Catholic Church, 1523 Iowa St. 78203. Please wear your FMSA tee shirt and look for other Friends so we can sit together.

Another opportunity to wear the tee shirts is the next day for the MLK march. [the largest MLK March in the U. S.] In the past we have parked cars at St. Philip's College, 1801 Martin Luther King Drive [between S. Mittman and S. Walters] and taken the bus to the march beginning. Also look for the FMSA banner. Those who wish can then return to the college which is on the march route. Young children have participated riding in Flyer wagons. [It is a long haul for them.]

The focus of the January 22 forum is on Dr. King's lasting impact on individual lives and on American society.

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## January Query: How are we, as a meeting, living out Martin Luther King's dream?

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 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> 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
- **1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Potluck Lunch will be on 2<sup>nd</sup> Sun in January**
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday "Meeting for Weeding"**
- **3<sup>rd</sup> 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#**

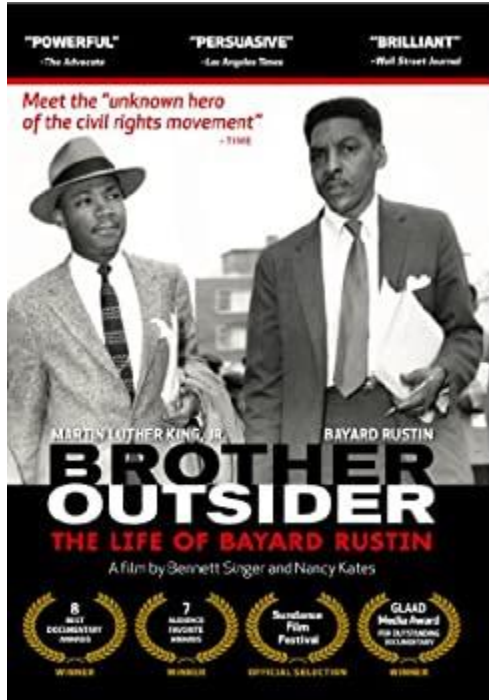
Please send January news, pictures & events by 1/23/2023 to  
[newsletter@saquakers.org](mailto:newsletter@saquakers.org)

### **Special Events**

- Jan 1** Will be regular worship but no Potluck  
**Jan 8 Potluck & Book Exchange** DVD & CD's - bring one; take one  
**Jan 14 Movie Night:** Brother, Outsider – Bayard Rustin, aide to MLK 7:00  
**Jan 15 Trustees Meeting** following Meeting for Business;  
**MLK Interfaith Worship**, 4:30 at St. Gerard Catholic Church  
**Jan 16 MLK March**, meet at St. Philip's College  
**Jan 18 Angelic Troublemakers, talk** (online: see page 4)  
**Jan 29 State of the Meeting Report discernment 11:30**

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Bayard Rustin was an early and incalculably important force behind the U.S. Civil Rights movement of the Twentieth Century. Although his contributions to the movement remain largely unrecognized by the general public to this day, he was of invaluable assistance to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and many of the other well-known heroes of the era. Rustin was a behind-the-scenes power during the 1956 Montgomery, Alabama, Bus Boycotts, and the chief organizer of the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, at which Dr. King delivered his famed "I Have a Dream" speech. Born to a West Chester, Pennsylvania, Quaker family, Rustin made a lifelong study of the principles of peace and social change through nonviolent resistance and was an important influence on Dr. King's adoption of the precepts of Gandhi.

## News of San Antonio Friends Meeting

### New Doors to the Restrooms

These are more "robust" than the previous ones so beware of the back swing. City code no longer requires separately signed men's and women's rooms but we have the one on the far end designated 'accessible.'

### Year End Financial Quandary

Because the Peace & Social Concerns committee was not functioning during 2022, no one requested the Treasurer to send donations to the regular list of local and national organizations. They were in the budget, but the Treasurer only releases funds based on a minute from a designated committee or from the Business Meeting. A long discernment followed, resulting in the following Minute:

**MINUTE 2022.12.01** The meeting requests that Finance Committee review meeting funds and propose a way to designate \$2000 not distributed in 2022 for contributions to outside organizations at January Meeting for Business.

The process revealed another problem: a short-fall of contributions to Meeting. While some December donations are still expected, the deficit is expected to be \$3,000 to \$3,500. The Treasurer explained that approximately 13 contributors [single and families] currently contribute 90% of the budget. He stressed that there are non-financial ways to support the Meeting and every contribution is valued, monetary or not.

The Proposed Operating Budget for 2023 of \$30,675 was approved. [A copy is available on the Meeting website.](#)

## Nominations for 2023

The second reading was approved with two more names added to be approved in January. A complete list is available on the piano and [at the Meeting website](#).

[It is noted that the number of Friends' names that appear more than once remains high. It is a benign Cerberus – a three headed dog guarding the Right Order of Meeting.]

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Regarding reorganization of our committee structure: this continues to be an unresolved and weighty issue. MCG discussed input received from business meeting and from individual friends, and propose that this discussion continue with additional participants, perhaps at the annual meeting of clerks and conveners in January.

## Meeting Events

December 4 was the regular Potluck, enhanced by a horizontal three-layer birthday cake for everyone born between June and January, lovingly decorated by the children. See the photo in Children's Program. On December 11 we held a "committee romp", a series of short presentations explaining what our committees have done in the past, followed by general discussion. On Christmas Eve Friends met for worship, but did not have our traditional meal. Blame Covid.

The January Potluck and book exchange will be on **January 8** due to the first Sunday being New Year's Day.

January 22 forum: [For Martin Luther King Day,] How is our Meeting living out Martin Luther King's dream? See page 1 for a complete list of our MLK activities.  
January 29 Sharing reflections on 2022 for the State of the Meeting report.

## Eva Koch Part 1: Angelic Troublemakers and Spiritual Discernment

Wednesday 18 January 2023 1pm U.S. central time. Free/pay-as-led  
<https://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/courses/eva-koch-part-1/>

As part of the fellowship at Woodbrooke, United Kingdom, this is an opportunity to learn from our 2022 Eva Koch scholars. Kirstin Munro investigates "angelic troublemakers" whose prophetic witness challenges both Friends and the wider society. Marguerite Kearns explores her own and other's experience of discernment.

Kirstin attends Friends Meeting in San Antonio, Texas, and has a long-standing interest in the history of Christian Anarchism. She hopes that her research and queries will provide some insights into the relationship between Friends and the prophetic witness of our "angelic troublemakers", helping us discern potential paths forward for addressing social and environmental crises.

Marguerite is a member of Plymouth Monthly Meeting in Philadelphia. She shows that spiritual discernment is more than a process. It can also be a lot of fun. She lays out three instances where she faced life pivotal decisions related to meaning and purpose when choosing whether or not to commit to a leading or witness. One decision concerns finding out if Quakers seek a particular outcome, relative to a witness or leading, and if it is best to test leadings in isolation or with others.



## The Children's Program



The children designed a horizontal three-layer cake for the combined Birthday Celebration – July to January. While the frosting did not quite manage to hold the three layers together, the gap didn't last very long.

On December 18, Donna Dickerson explained the history and meaning of Hanukkah and demonstrated with a menorah.

In preparation for Christmas Eve, they cut designs in paper bags for the luminaria that would line the walkway from the parking lot. They joined in worship for the first 15 minutes, then left for their own celebration, to rejoin their parents for the evening pot luck of tamales, rice and beans.

On December 18, Donna shared the history and traditions of Hanukkah; she had a menorah to demonstrate how the candles are lit to symbolize the miracle of eight days of oil. Two children finished painting their pottery and then Annabelle showed them how to make toys from ordinary objects for their pets. [A pull toy for dogs and a ball for cats.] The children, age 2 to 6, joined their parents in silent worship for the last five minutes.

## *Quaker Parent Mutual Support Groups*

- South Central Yearly Meeting has created a Quaker parent mutual support group that provides a supportive forum in which Quaker parents can talk about their parenting and their faith. Parents celebrate one another's successes and provide fellowship for one another through difficulties.
- These groups are open to any SCYM Friend currently raising children under the age of nineteen. They are **free**. Each group is facilitated by two friends whose children are grown. The groups will meet for one hour every other week for a total of 8 gatherings starting in **February 2023** at a time agreed on by the participants. To find out more, email Anne Collins at [adcollinsq@gmail.com](mailto:adcollinsq@gmail.com).

## Save a Pet for Christmas

Donations are very important to shelters at this time of year because it is a time of shelter overflow. Many people who purchase pets for Christmas soon realize they do not have the skills to care for them and dump them or surrender them to shelters. If shelters do not have enough money and resources to care for incoming animals, they may be forced to euthanize them. Donations ensure shelters have enough resources to care for pets before they are adopted out. Donations can be left at the Meeting by Jan 8 [Potluck for humans] and we will deliver them. Annabelle Ball

### Donation Wish List

- Cat Food (any brand is accepted, must be unopened)
- Dog Food (any brand is accepted, must be unopened)
- Rabbit food & hay (only accepting Oxbow; must be unopened)
- Newspaper- or pine- based litter pellets, some example brands include but are not limited to:
  - FelinePine
  - Yesterday's News
  - Queen Horse Bedding Pine Pellets
- Dog Exercise Pens
- Dog and Cat Beds (must be in good condition)
- Towels and blankets
- Pet Pee Pads (must be unused)
- Grooming supplies (including brushes, nail clippers, flea shampoo; must be unused)
- Cleaning Supplies (laundry detergent, paper towels, bleach)
- Supplies for Cheap Homemade Toys (including toilet paper rolls, brown paper bags, old t- shirts)

### Receiving Shelters

- Alamo City House Rabbits
  - PO Box 701762, San Antonio, TX 78270
  - Services rabbits
  - Website: [alamocityhouserabbits.com](http://alamocityhouserabbits.com)
  - Social media: Facebook, @AlamoCityHouseRabbits
- San Antonio Animal Care Services
  - 4710 TX-151, San Antonio, TX 78227
  - Services all animals; mostly dogs and cats
  - Website: [sanantonio.gov/Animal-Care/Home](http://sanantonio.gov/Animal-Care/Home)
  - Social media: Facebook, @CityofSanAntonioAnimalCareServices

## On a Personal Note from Rachel C.

My friend and neighbor Jack Elder has grown 6 anacua trees to share with others. He asked me to find them good homes. If you would like one (or 2), please contact Jack Elder directly. 2102163301 [highlandllak@yahoo.com](mailto:highlandllak@yahoo.com) Pickup address: 235 Kayton

January 2023

Avenue, San Antonio. Jack has an award-winning landscape he designed and gives free tours with advance notice.

### A Likely Scam

I just got a notice that my electric bill would be reduced and I would receive compensation for high bills in the past. All I had to do was give my credit card... Hang up. GH

## Wider Quaker World

**2022 SCYM Representative Meeting took place November 18-19 Online** The following items were reported and decided:

- **2023 SCYM Annual Sessions** will be **April 2-9 at Greene Family Camp and Online**. The theme will be ***Spiritual Refreshment for the Long Haul***. Our Keynote Speaker will be Greg Casillas, member of Friends Meeting of San Antonio. **Save the date**. Watch [scym.org](https://scym.org) for details.
- Youth Program Support Committee will start **Quaker Mutual Parenting Groups** in February. These will be small facilitated groups meeting on Zoom every other week at a time convenient for participants. See Children for more details.

We celebrated Tina Coffin's long service editing *The Carillon*, a magazine for Quakers in Arkansas, that many of us have enjoyed over the years. Two members of Arkansas/Oklahoma Quarter wrote a song for her.

## Friends General Conference The 2023 Gathering

**(FGC) Listen So That We may Live** will take place July 2 - 8, 2023 at Western Oregon University, Monmouth, Oregon. **The Gathering is a week of Quaker worship, workshops, and community for all ages**. Friends come together from across the US and Canada (and sometimes further) to deepen our connection to one another and the Spirit. The Gathering is typically held on a college campus in late June/early July, and location changes from year to year. In 2020, FGC began offering virtual Gathering programs as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Attenders range from newborns to elders in their 90s, and include both long-time Friends (mostly from the unprogrammed, liberal tradition), and those newer to Quakerism. In structure, it's part conference and part family camp. In content, it provides an abundance of opportunities to learn about Quakerism and to foster your spiritual life – and to have fun together..

## *Friends Journal*



## *Quaker Speak Video: The Secret to True Communication*

- Former Houston native and Quaker activist, J.E. McNeil prides herself on her ability to bridge the regional, cultural, and political divides in the United States—the ability, as she puts it, to speak both NASCAR and NPR. So she created a program that teaches others how to communicate with people of different ideological persuasions. As she says, "You can't start persuading people until you're actually communicating." Watch the video [here](#).
- If you don't already know about Quaker Speak Videos, this is great time to view this one and others. You can find the whole archive of videos [here](#).

## *Pendle Hill in January*



### **Racial Justice, Reparations, and Social Change**

[Against the Grain: Talking to White People about Racism in a Time of Polarization](#)

**Jan 9, 2023, 7:30-9pm ET**

*An online First Monday Lecture with **Drick Boyd**.*

[Pendle Hill's Reading Group \(January\)](#)

**Jan 18, 2023, 6:30-8pm ET**

*A consideration of Vanessa Julye's [Radical Transformation: Long Overdue for the Religious Society of Friends](#) (PHP #476), hosted by **Janaki Spickard Keeler**.*



[Beyond Diversity 101](#)

Jan 22-26, 2023

An on-campus intensive with **Niyonu Spann** and **Lisa Graustein**. Sunday at 6:00 pm through Thursday at 1:00 pm.

[Exploring a Quaker Commitment to Reparative Justice](#)

Jan 28-29, 2023

An online weekend collaboration with **Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre**.

## **Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)**

### **Build Safer Communities: Invest in Violence Interrupters**

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- The bipartisan gun reform bill passed in June 2022 was a significant step forward. But Congress has far more work to do to address gun violence, particularly at the community level.
- Traditionally, cities have responded to community-level violence by increasing the presence of a militarized police force. This solution has repeatedly failed with sometimes fatal consequences. A new solution, one that comes from within the community itself, offers a new way forward: violence interrupters.
- Violence interrupters work within their communities to deescalate violence before it happens, without police intervention. These evidence-based programs are tailored to the unique needs of the neighborhoods they serve and lay the groundwork for lasting communal change.
- Urge Congress to make our communities safer by dedicating federal funding to violence interrupters programs. Take action here: <https://fcnl.quorum.us/campaign/40259/>

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## **FCNL Young Adult Program Assistant**

### **[FCNL's Young Adult Program Assistant application has recently opened.](#)**

Eligibility for these positions include being 21 years of age and being able to work in person from an office environment starting Summer 2023 to Summer 2024. The deadline for all applications and materials is **February 10, 2023**.

**For more information and to get started on the application process, click this link: [Program Assistant Fellowship 2023-2024 - Friends Committee on National Legislation \(workable.com\)](#)**

- FCNL's Young Fellows Program Assistant program, above, is one of [three paid opportunities](#) offered by FCNL.



### *Quaker Voluntary Service (QVS)*

- At Yearly Meeting earlier this year, Claire Hannpel of Quaker Voluntary Service (QVS), shared with us the incredible opportunities and good work that young adults are doing around the country while living in intentional Quaker community. If you are a young person or know of someone interested in volunteer service, applications for 2023-2024 (fellowship year runs from late August 2023 through July 2024) are now being taken. **Deadline is February 28, 2023.** Find out how to apply at <https://quakervoluntaryservice.org/>
- 



- ***Friends Peace Teams Announcements and Upcoming Events: Upcoming Events***
- Event: [Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples](#), Online Workshop, 2–4pm, Sunday, January 22nd Mountain Time USA
- Event: [Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples](#), Online Workshop, 2–4pm, Saturday, February 11th Mountain Time USA
- Event: [Annual Meeting Registration & Information](#), 4–7 May 2023

## **American Friends Service Committee**

### **Humane migration responses**

AFSC works for a world where migrants, refugees, and internally displaced people have the power to determine where they live and the opportunity to thrive in society. We work to address both the economic and political drivers of migration in multiple countries as well as to support migrants and refugees, whether they are in transit or settled in new communities.

### **Quakers in the NEWS**

### **Digital platforms should build people up by giving more and taking less**

*Ezra Klein* Shared from the 12/15/2022 San Antonio Express eEdition

What's surprised me most as Twitter has convulsed in recent weeks is how threadbare the social media cupboard really is. So many are open to trying something new, but as of yet, there's nothing that feels all that new to try. Everything feels like a take on Twitter. It may be faster or slower, more decentralized or more moderated, but they're all variations on the same theme: experiments in how to capture attention rather than deepen it, platforms built to encourage us to speak rather than to help us listen or think.

Permit me a weird turn here. I became interested this year in how Quakers deliberate. As a movement, Quakers have been far ahead of the moral curve time and again — early to abolitionism, to equality between the sexes, to prison reform, to pressuring governments to help save Jews from the Holocaust. That is not to say Quakers have gotten nothing wrong, but what has led them to get so much right?

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The number of Muslim-American Candidates in the 2022 mid-term elections. 89 the number who were elected. 300+ Muslim-Americans elected to local, state and national offices.

The answer suggested by Rex Ambler's lovely book "The Quaker Way" is silence. In a typical Quaker meeting, Ambler writes, community members "sit in silence together for an hour or so, standing up to speak only if they are led to do so, and then only to share some insight which they sense will be of value to others." If they must decide an issue collectively, "they will wait in silence together, again, to discern what has to be done." There is much that debate can offer but much that it can obscure. "To get a clear sense of what is happening in our lives, we Quakers try to go deeper," he writes. "We have to let go our active and fretful minds in order to do this. We go quiet and let a deeper, more sensitive awareness arise."

I find this powerful in part because I see it in myself. I know how I respond in the heat of an argument, when my whole being is tensed to react. And I know how I process hard questions or difficult emotions after quiet reflection, when there is time for my spirit to settle. I know which is my better self.

Democracy is not and will not be one long Quaker meeting. But there is wisdom here worth mulling. We do not make our best decisions, as individuals or as a collective, when our minds are most active and fretful. And yet "active and fretful" is about as precise a description as I can imagine of the Twitter mind. And having put us in an active, fretful mental state, Twitter then encourages us to fire off declarative statements on the most divisive possible issues, always with one eye to how quickly they will rack up likes and retweets and thus viral power. It's insane.

<https://digital.olivesoftware.com/olive/odn/sanantonioexpressnews/shared/ShowArticle.aspx?doc=SAEN%2F2022%2F12%2F15&entity=Ar01500&sk=045B007E&mode=text>

## **Last Words**

Dearly beloved Friends, these things we do not lay upon you as a rule or form to walk by, but that all, with the measure of light which is pure and holy, may be guided: and so in the light walking and abiding, these may be fulfilled in the Spirit, not from the letter, for the letter killeth, but the Spirit giveth life. Advice from the Elders of Balby, 1656