



The Friendly News

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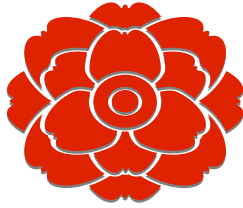
Exploring Quaker Roots

The forum June 25 returned to Margaret Fell: “We are all thieves...” Worship sharing became wide-ranging and deep. Friends shared personal experiences of breakthroughs in their spiritual journeys. While we never actually got to the Penington quote, we circled round its suggestions of how to respond when we face reality.

Friends wished to continue this exploration of the foundations of Quaker faith and how we live it day by day, in the third scheduled session, July 23, and beyond. To enhance our search, Gary introduced quotes from Meister Eckhart, found below. To make this series available to all friends, we invite you to join via zoom (11:30 – 12:30) if you can’t make it to Meeting on that day.

- Direct quotes by Meister Eckhart in bold; Commentary from John Caputo, The Mystical Element in Heidegger’s Thought
- **Where God is, there is the soul; where the soul is, there is God. God is nearer to the soul than it is to itself.**
- The Word which God speaks in the soul is “hidden” and easily overlooked. To hear what is spoken in silence, one must be silent oneself.

Continued on page 3



July Query: How do I guard against envy, and how do I remember that the quality of life does not depend on the abundance of possessions?

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 Meetinghouse & 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
- **Friday Meeting for Worship – Fridays 8-8:30 AM**
[CLICK HERE to join by Zoom –](#)
ID # 976 0522 6497; passcode: 194077
- **1st Sunday Potluck 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#**

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Please send August news, pictures & events by 7/25/2023
to newsletter@saguakers.org

Special Events

JULY 2 Potluck & Farewell to Joni & James Mize 11:15 – NO Children's Program
JULY 9 Forum 11:30 – Visible Mending and How It Speaks to My Quaker Values, led by Stephen
JULY 16 Meeting for Business 11:30
JULY 23 Forum 11:30 - Foundations of Quakerism, led by Gary (more info p 5)

This is a special issue of the Newsletter – truly collaborative. Our thanks to Lee and Linda for sharing their travel experiences and to Pam for her delightful description of the workday. Special thanks to Jim for the photo galleries and help with formatting.

Joni and James: Farewell Potluck

At the July potluck we will be celebrating James and Joni Mize as they approach their move to North Carolina. Join us at the rise of meeting on July 2 to wish them well.

Reorganization – An Update

Word-of-mouth, the newsletter, the empty chart – whatever, you took heed and filled in the blanks for June and started on July. Meeting will continue and our community will flourish. Thank you, all.

Continued from page 1 ... all voices and sounds must be put away and a pure stillness must be there, a still silence. In stillness and peace, there God speaks in the soul and expresses Himself fully in the soul. ... the best and most noble thing of all which one can attain in this life is to remain silent and let God work and speak. Where all the powers have removed all their works and images, there is this Word spoken.



Children's Program

The children took turns covering every surface of the two-layer cake to celebrate everyone who had a birthday between January and July. Friends showed their appreciation: there was not a crumb left after potluck.

In the next session, they learned about Haiku – a Japanese poetry form in which line one has 5 syllables, line two has 7 and line three 5 again. The children explored nature in the campus, starting with their garden of tomatoes. Then on to the shady courtyard and the colorful path to Meeting. Renata recorded their observations. Returning to their room, they clapped out the syllables: butterflies 3 bees 1.

Three Haiku:

Butterflies and bees / pollinating the flowers / red, orange, purple.

The tree gives us shade / a very hot Sunday morning / going to Meeting

Plants are happy green / garden growing from flowers / We eat tomatoes

Meeting for Weeding

We do contract with professional landscapers for the big jobs: tree maintenance and mowing the campus. But for almost everything else, we depend on Friends to lend a hand monthly to keep the flower beds flourishing and the courtyard clear. It's part of our community building.

In the Garden*

by Pam S

I woke early on the third Saturday in June not particularly looking forward to the Meeting workday (actually, dreading it!). The projected high heat index was already weighing on me. I gathered some treats for whomever was brave enough to show up in humidity you could practically cut with a knife and arrived at 8, unusually prompt for me, and was not surprised to see only one car in the lot. Jim S, camera in hand, was taking pictures in the wildflower meadow.



I grabbed the insulated bag with chocolate hummus and Korean sesame cookies for dipping and a couple containers of fresh fruit. I set things up in the kitchen and Jim made coffee. Kara M, Bill S, Andrew, Lisa C and Denise W were at the top of the path when I got there, asking for work assignments. We divided the weeding by weed types for the non-gardeners so they only had to recognize "their" weed and pull it. The more experienced gardeners just picked a spot -there was no shortage of weedy spots.

I wish I had taken a BEFORE shot because the result of our labors was incredible. After a very

short time I realized five MORE workers had arrived: James M, Lee and Linda from South Carolina, and Lee T and David B, along with their grand-daughter Natalie. Before I knew it, the courtyard looked better than I have seen it look in ages and the Memorial Garden, which



had all new plants, had been weeded and watered. I was there for 3 hours before I even knew it. The workday flew by, and it was fun. What a wonderful surprise! I hope everyone who showed up had a similar experience.

* *In the Garden* is an old hymn that I grew up with as a good little Methodist girl. The image of walking with God in the early morning has long been a favorite of mine. This past Saturday I was not alone in the garden, as the hymn goes, but I certainly felt the Presence of God in the community of Friends who came to work in God's Garden.





Meetinghouse Wildflowers

We have had a rainy spring, which has made our Meetinghouse wildflowers especially lovely. They are wonderful subjects for vintage lenses from the film era, which have rich colors and (sometimes) out-of-focus swirls. Here are some photos I made with film lenses from the late 1950s through the early 1980s, adapted for a digital camera.

-- Jim Spickard



Standing Cypress

(Auto-Takumar 55mm f/1.8 lens, 1958)



(Left: Meyer-Görlitz 100mm f/2.8 lens, 1969)

Bee-Balm
(with close-up)

(Below: Super-Takumar, 50mm f/1.4 lens, 1964)





Yellow Trumpet

(Vivitar 28mm f/2.8 lens, 1983)

Prickly Lettuce

*Super-Takumar 28mm lens,
f/1.4, 1964)*



Maximilian Sunflower

*Meyer-Görlitz Orestor 100mm lens,
f/2.8, 1969)*

*I have posted more vintage-lens photos at
<https://www.CenteredVision.photography/Themed-Galleries/Vintage-Lenses/>*

Linda Goller & Lee Gugerty's San Antonio trip, June 2023

We drove from our home in Central, South Carolina to San Antonio in early June to celebrate our 25th wedding anniversary by visiting with friends and f/Friends from when we lived in San Antonio in the mid 1990's. We were married under the care of Friends Meeting of San Antonio on June 21, 1998. Marian Carter, Janet Southwood, and Bill Wilkinson were on our clearness committee. The Quaker wedding was held at Mission San Juan and the reception was at the Guenther House. We visited both of those places and found they had changed little. The major changes in San Antonio that we noticed included our beautiful Meeting House (in 1998 we were still renting space at San Antonio College) and the enormous growth of the city.

We enjoyed a lunch with the Sweet's and learned about Bill's time in Germany and Pat's Brooklyn Irish Catholic background. We visited Marian Carter twice. Her memory was sharp. She recalled how Lee's nephew Sean politely asked her to dance at the wedding, which featured contra dancing (see photo). Lee recalls that Marian and Ena June Nadeau were vying for Sean's attention. The other photo shows Janet Southwood (left), Ena June (right), and a younger Linda and Lee by their Quaker wedding certificate. We also enjoyed Meeting for Weeding with many old and new f/Friends. Thanks to Greg Koehler for giving us a small ghost plant from the Meeting gardens. It survived the trip back and is now growing in South Carolina soil—an appropriately named plant to remind us of our spirited community.

