



The Friendly News

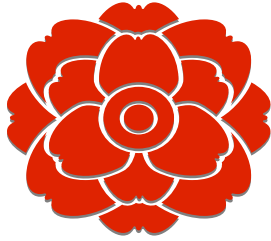
San Antonio Quakers 7052 N. Vandiver (at Eisenhower) San Antonio, Texas 78209	Message Phone: 210.945.8456 Website: www.sanantonioquakers.org Facebook: @saquakers
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Growing Together in the Light State of the Meeting, 2022

At Friends Meeting of San Antonio, we continue to treasure being together in the Light. In the third year of the pandemic, we have felt the weight of changes in ourselves, in our meeting, and in the world at large. The sense of loss from the interruption of the pandemic restrictions is slowly easing but remains profound.

We gathered each Sunday in person and virtually, finding worship deep and meaningful. Along with the reduction in our numbers, we have keenly felt the frequent absence of vocal ministry. Even so, in the silence we have experienced gathered meetings and the time for grace and our most loving selves to be in the room. We are trying to identify the barriers to participation in worship on Sundays, and to reach out to long-time Friends who we are missing dearly.

The impact of our declining numbers extended beyond meeting for worship. When committee participation dwindled, individuals took on tasks as needed, and the
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March Query How does the guidance you receive in waiting silence carry forward into your daily life?

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 & 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**— led by David
 - [CLICK HERE to join by Zoom](#) —
ID # 988 3173 6394; passcode: 724708
- **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#**

Please send April news, pictures & events by
3/27/2023 to newsletter@saquakers.org

Special Events

Mar 5 Potluck 11:15

Mar 12 Forum 11:30 Preview of Yearly Meeting, Val Liveoak

Mar 19 Meeting for Business 11:30

Mar 26 Forum 11:30 Considering Friends Committee on National Legislation's position on Reproductive Health, Hector Cruz

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collective discernment of a group effort was sorely missed. As we tried to rebuild our committees in support of the meeting's spiritual and earthly needs, ministry and grace have been at times overshadowed by frustration and weariness on the part of those to whom the weight of meeting those needs have fallen.

We held a series of forums around restructuring of our organization with the goal finding a way forward. This has been a difficult process; change is hard! We made an effort to identify what we must attend to and what we are not addressing. We identified four categories: spiritual, pastoral, physical, and other. This is a start, but we are still in the process of finding the way.

To ease the burden on the clerk, for 2022 we appointed two co-clerks who have divided the responsibilities according to their leadings and their strengths. We tried to find ways to support not only the co-clerks but also the committees, striving always to set things up so they can find their place in meeting with a sense of joy rather than obligation.

We developed a routine for managing our COVID precautions; each week three or four Friends monitor the rates of infection in the area and let us know what level of masking or social distancing we need to follow. Friends are comfortable with our arrangements.

Our hybrid meeting system is working smoothly and provides a relatively integrated experience for both in-person and Zoom worshipers, and for participants in forums and Meeting for Business. Friends at a distance and others who are unable to attend in person are grateful for the connections we can keep. We now have a system of speakers, microphone, and video screen which are unobtrusive yet include the distant friends clearly and audibly, and we are grateful to Friends who worked hard to find a way for us to worship safely, inclusively, and meaningfully.

Our buildings and our grounds continue to be a place of welcome, nurturing a sense of peace and helping Friends settle as we walk through the gates. With construction of a new walkway, a long-planned memorial garden is taking shape. We are grateful to the Friends who tend to the beautiful landscaping and who make a welcoming habitat for birds and other wildlife in the midst of the city.

Our children's program consists of a small group of children who tend the vegetable garden, make soup for the monthly pot-luck lunch, read stories, decorate the twice-a-year birthday cakes, and learn about making hard decisions. They join the Meeting for Worship in respectful silence.

We have held deep and substantive forums on spiritual and faith matters. Friends have explored subjects both broadly and specifically connected to our lives as Quakers. Forums on discernment and community support were particularly meaningful to newcomers, helping them connect with Quakerism and San Antonio Friends. Fighting climate change through investor awareness, examining our Quaker “heroes” through the lens of retrospective justice, finding our shared intent and shared truth in worship, consciously engaging with the world, and the work of wider Quaker groups were just some of our forum topics.

The fall retreat was well attended: “If Meeting for Worship is meant to be a restorative time, or even redemptive, what is this power or truth that strengthens and heals?”

Friends enjoyed active participation in the wider Quaker world over the last year. A number of Friends take active roles in South Central Yearly Meeting, Quaker Peace Teams, Peacebuilding en las Americas, Friends Committee on National Legislation, Friends General Conference, and Woodbrooke Centre for Quaker Studies in U.K.

Friends found this to be a year of grieving and loss, not only of absent Friends at meeting for worship, but also of collective energy, of a diminishment of our corporate life even as we find our way back to a new normal. We are attempting to come to terms with the way things are; we are trying to strike a balance between looking back at what we have lost and growing in the Light into what comes next.

News of San Antonio Friends Meeting

Forum Mar 12 We will learn about the upcoming Annual Session of South Central Yearly Meeting, April 2 to 6 virtual only and 6 to 9 in-person at Greene Family Camp as well as virtual.

Forum Mar 26 Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) is concerned with the implications of the recent act limiting most abortion decisions. It seeks feedback from Meetings across the country. Friends Meeting of San Antonio takes this opportunity to discern what we want FCNL to do in this regard.

Meeting will not hold a Community Yard Sale this Spring

No one came forward to become the Coordinator to over-see the tasks needed for a successful event.

Reorganization of our committee structure will be discerned in **Meeting for Business, March 19**. The full draft of the proposal is available on our website.

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If you enjoy the number quiz, please send your suggestions for the next issue.

March 2023

The name of the committee for Ministry has been changed to Ministry and Care, dropping the term Guidance. The functions will remain the same.

Meeting for Business approved the distribution of funds from 2022 to an expanded list of Quaker and non-Quaker organizations. One of the latter is Catholic Worker home building project. Val suggested a field trip to see the project in action. See Val if you would like to join the visit.

Yoga is Back SVADHISTHANA YOGA WORKSHOP

The Sacral Chakra is the center of creativity. This class will be all about lighting the fire of our passions as we chart a course into the new year. After an introductory reflection, we will move through a guided vinyasa sequence, wind down with a short breath work exercise (pranayama), and finish with a guided writing prompt (with a drawing option) to encourage your creativity to flourish beyond class.

6pm – 7pm CST Wednesday March 1, 2023

Please arrive 5-10 minutes early to give yourself time to set up

Friends Meeting of San Antonio
Zoom: provided to registered participants

Registration deadline Monday 7pm

Sara @ starfish15@gmail.com

Please indicate if you will be attending online

Price: Pay What You Want; Suggested donation \$10

Funds will be gifted to our Quaker hosts

Cash, check, or Zelle to treasurer@saquakers.org

Bring: mat; Optional: water, blocks, and/or other props, colored pencils

Instructor: Sara Ramey

Sara has been exploring yoga for over 10 years and recently began her journey as an instructor. She is excited to share her training and experience with others. Sara leads medium-paced holistic classes designed to strengthen and relax the body as a pathway to more fully connect with the self and the energy (prana) in the world around us.

Other classes in March will be announced as participation indicates.

Meet the Meeting – Saqqara Price

You may remember Saqqara running around the courtyard with the other children. Not anymore. Now she's running with her high school track team. She is best at short sprints, and the relay. But don't count out the high jump. Her long legs are perfect for

that event. Also perfect for free style races on the swim team. [It's what I learned as the Australia crawl – the fastest stroke.] And she is learning the rules of water polo.

Saqqara's school is Serious about swimming. They built four [4] pools, three outdoors and heated. That's Serious. The team made State last summer, before she joined them. Swimming is over for the time being but will be back after track season.

Her love of sports takes much of her free time, but what is left over, she gives to singing practice or concerts with the choir. That includes competitions in sight-reading and numbers practiced in advance. We welcomed Saqqara on a recent Sunday when she joined the children in their activities [hide and seek, but not tag this time.]

See this space in April for a conversation with Saqqara's mother, Kellie Price.

News of Friends

Adele Mize, mother of James, died at the age of 106. The funeral was held in Georgia on February 17.

Marian Carter celebrated her 93rd birthday, also on February 17.

The Children's Program

The program in March will focus on how to apologize. It would be helpful if parents are on the lookout for examples during the month and mention it to the kids.

What is a fer? I looked up defer and infer and prefer and refer. There may be other prefixes as well. Can anyone tell what the root word means?

Wider Quaker World

South Central Yearly Meeting (SCYM) 2023 Annual Sessions

Spiritual Refreshment for the Long Haul

Sunday, April 2 to Wednesday, April 5 online for everyone.

Thursday, April, 6 to Sunday, April 9 at Greene Family Camp (Bruceville TX) with some events also available **online**.

[2023 SCYM Annual Sessions Schedule](#)
[2023 COVID Guidelines](#)

Registration will open around March 1.

From Greg Casillas, Keynote Speaker, about the theme:

My take on "Refreshment for the Long Haul" is this, "If we are not charged, it is difficult to recharge others. How do we practice self-care for the challenges that we face, nourish others with supportive language, and what do we do on a daily basis to support our Quaker Values (SPICES) in a way that is not ethnocentric?"

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Greg Casillas' bio can be found [here](#).

If you are interested in presenting a workshop this year please contact Howard Hawhee through liz.yeats@scym.org.

See information about the Children and Youth Program [here](#).

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SCYM Quaker Parent Mutual Support Groups

- SCYM Quaker parent mutual support groups provide 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. ***The group has started. Please let Anne know if you might be interested in future groups.***

An Urgent Call to the Religious Society of Friends

To Friends Throughout the United States:

Greetings in the Spirit of Love.

We write to share with you an "Urgent Call to the Religious Society of Friends" concerning the current extensive **threats to our U.S. democracy**. We are led to speak out against the lies, extremist movements, and anti-democratic actions that are the opposite of our Quaker understandings of integrity and Truth. This Call was prepared by a group of nineteen Friends.

We encourage your prayerful discernment of this "Urgent Call" and ask you as individuals, monthly meetings, yearly meetings, and Friends organizations to consider how you might be called to act with integrity in response to these concerns.

Read the [Urgent Call](#)

Join the Conversation at quakercall.net

4/8/24

Friends Committee on National Legislation [FCNL]

For many months, Congress has attempted to bring the conflict to an end by funneling tens of billions of dollars in weapons to Ukraine and imposing maximum sanctions on Russia. One year later, we are no closer to peace. We've spent billions to end the war, but we haven't committed to one thing we know can work: diplomacy. Lasting peace can only be achieved through peaceful means. As this conflict stretches on, the risk of dangerous escalation between nuclear-armed powers only grows. It is time for lawmakers to support diplomacy and negotiations that will provide lasting security to the region. [Share your opinion with congress here.](#)

Spring Lobby Weekend: March 25 – 28, 2023 – Washington D.C.

At Spring Lobby Weekend, our young adult advocacy conference, hundreds of us from around the country will gather to learn advocacy skills and lobby Congress for important policy change. Together we will take action in support of violence interruption programs: community-centered solutions to address the root causes of violence. [Register Here](#) – In Person or Virtual

Legislative Priorities for the 118th Congress

Review the new FCNL legislative priorities that SA Friend's Meeting helped to determine [HERE](#).

Online Meeting on Migration

Just Migration: Seeing Beyond the Border Thursday, March 23, 8:00 PM Eastern
FCNL is hosting a conversation about migration policy and community work at the border and across the nation.

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American Friends Service Committee

We're grateful to everyone who has donated to support our response to the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria. Last week, AFSC staff visited some of the most devastated areas to assess community needs and coordinate relief efforts with local organizations. [See the latest update from AFSC's Bilal Olimat.](#)

We're now working with local partners in lesser-served areas in southern Turkey and northwestern Syria, providing volunteers, food, water, tents, blankets, diapers, and other essentials. [If you haven't already, please consider donating today.](#)

Migrant Rights

Everyone should have the power to determine where they live—and the opportunity to thrive wherever they are. But in the U.S. and around the world, these human rights are

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being undermined. Here are some ways that communities are working for more just responses to migration.

In May 2010, longtime San Diego resident Anastasio Hernandez Rojas was brutally beaten by over a dozen border agents as they were trying to deport him. By the time he arrived at the hospital, the 42-year-old father of five was braindead and had suffered a heart attack. He died three days later.

Border Patrol had no business investigating Anastasio's death. Nevertheless, that's what one of the agency's cover-up units did. The unit—known as a Critical Incident Team (CIT)—obstructed justice by corrupting and tampering with evidence. No one was ever held accountable for the killing of Anastasio.

Our coalition took action to stop these secretive Border Patrol units. We contacted members of Congress to alert them that CITs were working outside the law, without a congressional mandate to investigate cases.

Elected officials responded to our concerns. Our efforts moved the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security to act. In May, Customs and Border Protection Commissioner Chris Magnus issued a memorandum announcing that the secretive units would be eliminated by Sept. 30 this year.

Friends General Conference (FGC) The 2023 Gathering

Listen So That We May Live will be held at Western Oregon University in Monmouth, OR, from July 2-July 8, 2023.

Workshops offer Gathering adults and high school participants the opportunity to be immersed in a topic with other interested Friends. Friends stay in the same workshop throughout the week, forming a small community within the Gathering. Each workshop meets in person from 9:00 to 11:45AM, Monday-Friday. Most workshops include daily worship or worship sharing.

All workshops at the 2023 Gathering will be held in person. Here is a sampling; for the complete list, see the website, FGCquakers.org / Gathering

[200 Years of Quaker Engagement with China](#)

A rising China will help define the 21st century. Yet despite Quaker commitments to peace, there are linguistic, cultural, and political barriers that prevent Friends from engaging with China. This workshop seeks to overcome these barriers using Quakers' long history in the country as a roadmap for future engagement.

Workshop Number: 1 Leader: Patrick Lozada,

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[A User Guide to Vocal Ministry: How might we design an app for that?](#)

How do we know if and when to speak from the silence? And if we don't know, how can we learn? Following a user experience (UX) design process, we'll prototype a teaching tool — an app that maps our shared understanding of the vocal ministry discernment process. No technical background needed!

Workshop Number: 2 Leaders: Jen Ambrose

[Busy Hands, Quiet Spirit](#)

How does the experience of using one's hands to create integrate with and inform our spiritual path? Bring existing work or an interest in learning something new. We will explore how making can provide space for creativity, contemplation, and affirmation. Co-led by a beader/seamstress and a jeweler/armorer.

Workshop Number: 3 Leaders: dest/jess(ie)/etc. purvis, Keith Barch

[Challenging Ethnic and Racial Divisions*](#)

A workshop for Friends actively engaged in racial justice work. We will share successful approaches to addressing White Supremacy and colonialism that will enhance our techniques for challenging racial and ethnic divisions. Participants must write a statement about their work.

Workshop Number: 4 Leaders: Vanessa Julye, Janice Domanik

[Clerking with Joy and Confidence](#)

This workshop will focus on all aspects, both theoretical and practical, of being a presiding clerk of a Friends meeting or committee. There will be handouts and opportunities for experience sharing. Most work will be done in a whole group setting.

Workshop Number: 5 Leaders: Steve Mohlke

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Pendle Hill in March

Building Sanctuary Within to Build Sanctuary for Others

Mar 6, 2023

An Online First Monday Lecture with Blanca Pacheco. When immigrants arrive in the United States we face racism, poverty, brokenness, and disconnection from our cultures.

March 2023

The Sacred and Eternal Present Moment

Mar 12-19, 2023

A Seven-Day Mindfulness Meditation Retreat On Campus with Mary Grace Orr, Anne Briggs, and Rebecca Kronlage. In order to find inner peace and wisdom, virtually every spiritual lineage stresses the importance of learning to plumb the present moment. The simple techniques of mindfulness and kindness, taught by the Buddha, teach us to do just that.



Pendle Hill's Reading Group (March)

Mar 15, 2023

Hosted by Janaki Spickard Keeler Pendle Hill's Reading Group returns! Our Reading Group focuses on Pendle Hill pamphlets. In March, in concert with the integrity theme of Season Two of [The Seed](#), Pendle Hill's podcast, we will be reading the classic pamphlet *The Testimony of Integrity in the Religious Society of Friends* (PHP #296) by Wilmer Cooper.



Hope Leans Forward

Mar 18 and 25, 2023

An online series with Valerie Brown offering tools and practices to navigate these challenging times. NB: Program registration through Pendle Hill has closed. Please contact registration@pendlehill.org for more information, or to be notified if spaces open.

4/8/24

Friends Journal

Planting the Seeds of Peace

by Greta Kirk Mickey

Since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine a year ago, I have read numerous articles by Friends examining whether the peace testimony remains relevant in our times. As someone who carries a leading to work for world peace my unequivocal answer is yes. Here's why.

In 2008 I was blessed with a call to do peacemaking within the country of Georgia. That year, following a long period of worsening relations between the two countries, Russia invaded Georgia, creating a huge population of internally displaced people who were without housing, food, or jobs. Georgians faced the challenge of finding ways to support their physical, emotional, and spiritual needs.

Amidst this turmoil, Friends in Georgia asked New York Yearly Meeting (NYYM) for help with refugee aid and conflict transformation skills. At the time I was serving NYYM as peace concerns coordinator, and it was within that capacity that the yearly meeting asked me to consider carrying the work in Georgia. After much prayerful discernment, I was led to say yes.

Read more in the March issue.

How has your view of Jesus, God, or religion changed since you were young?

Hear what Hayden Hobby, Calliope George, and listeners like you have to say in this month's [*Quakers Today*](#) podcast.

Interfaith Welcome Coalition

Help us gather donations for our backpack drive on March 25! Is your group or organization up for a special project? We're asking for help getting the word out and gathering donations for this campaign. Here's a flyer to share! Is your group or organization up for a special project?

We're asking for help getting the word out and gathering donations for this campaign. Here's a flyer to share!



BACKPACK DRIVE

FOR ASYLUM-SEEKERS

Join us in assisting migrants traveling through San Antonio by donating backpacks! We're requesting that they be **new**, single color, and 17".

March 25, from 9am-12pm

The Interfaith Welcome Coalition's backpack team will fill the backpacks with travel essentials, so no additional item donations are needed.

DROP OFF LOCATION:

University Presbyterian Church
300 Bushnell Avenue, San Antonio, 78212

The drop-off station will be in the circle driveway.

HAVE QUESTIONS? CONTACT:
210-989-0681
volunteer@interfaithwelcomecoalition.org

NEED TO MAKE A MONETARY DONATION? SCAN THIS CODE:





- At Yearly Meeting 2022, 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 March 28, 2023.** Find out how to apply at <https://quakervoluntaryservice.org/>



Friends Peace Teams Announcements and Upcoming Events:

Upcoming Events

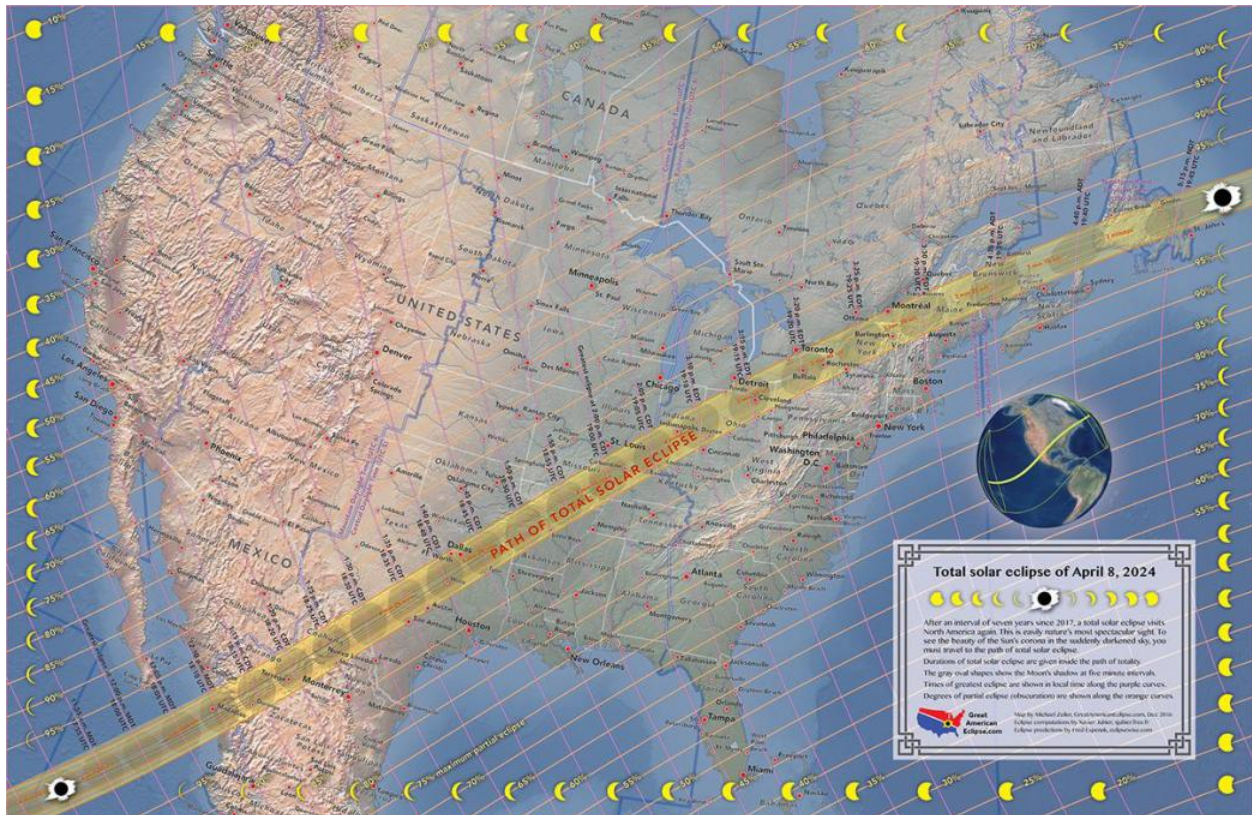
- **Indian Boarding Schools...** Online, [Mar 14](#), Tue 9:15pm Eastern
- **FPT Annual Gathering**, May 4-7, Westtown Friends School, [Register Now!](#) (yes all are welcome)
- [Paula Palmer interview](#)

Friends Peace Teams (FPT) In Ukraine: FPT has been working with Ukrainians since 2014 supporting internally displaced people.

April 8, 2024
Next total solar
eclipse, see it in
S.A. at 1:42 pm

**58 Million chickens & turkeys
are dead in the U.S. since 2022
from H5N1 flu virus & culling.**

Eclipse. According to reports, the times in Dallas are: begin 12:23; enter total phase 1:40; Maximum 1:42; end total eclipse 1:44; end view, 3:02.



Last Words

The Bible is concerned with a masculine God. It was written by men, translated by men, and, most of the time, interpreted by men. Reading with sensitive eyes, however, I have found many feminine images of God; I have glimpsed a larger God, one not limited by human concepts of sexuality. I have been excited to find my spiritual foremothers – women of incredible courage, capability, coping skill, and caring.

Friends have always believed in “continuing revelation.” I know that new light and truth have come to me from reading the Bible from the women’s point of view.

Daughters of Zion, by Elizabeth Watson, Friends United Press, 1982