



The Friendly News

San Antonio Quakers
7052 N. Vandiver (at Eisenhower)
San Antonio, Texas 78209

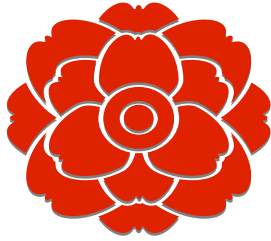
Message Phone: 210.945.8456
Website: www.sanantonioquakers.org
Facebook: @saquakers

Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) Seeks Local Advice on its Reproductive Health Policy

FCNL represents views of all branches of Friends; on this topic it has been unable to find unity for several decades. Thus, it has not had a policy. However, since the Dobbs Supreme Court decision, it has received many requests to make a policy decision. Friends in San Antonio focused on the issue on March 26 and April 16 & 23.

In the first two meetings, many Friends shared deeply personal experiences and agreed that FCNL should be ready to take a policy position. But when it came to actually wording such a statement, there was a broad range of additional concerns. Friends felt rushed by the short timeframe for feedback to FCNL and concerned that any issues with the statement could not be fully discussed in those meetings. There was frustration that FCNL has held no position on abortion for decades and in its current haste is straining our Quaker process of discernment. After the April 16 meeting, the clerk worked further on the wording of the statement to incorporate the feedback, and there was a Called Meeting for Business on April 23rd to further discuss the statement specifically.

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May Query When a child speaks to me, how do I sincerely listen with loving care?

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 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 June news, pictures & events by
5/25/2023 to newsletter@saquakers.org

Special Events

MAY 2 Pot Luck 11:15
MAY 14 Forum 11:30 TBA
MAY 21 Meeting for Business 11:30
MAY 28 Forum 11:30 TBA

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Note to Readers:

Since I have not heard from
anyone regarding the extent of
the coverage, I will not include
news of other organizations.
<saquakers.org/news-letter>

Continued from page 1.

Friends continued the discernment on April 23, laboring to find unity. Here is the amended policy statement that Friends approved at that meeting.

Friends Meeting of San Antonio is a community which values life, possibility, and growth. As such, we seek a world in which all people who can give birth receive affordable, easily accessible, and comprehensive reproductive care without regard to age, including complete, accurate, and unbiased counseling; sex education; contraception; pregnancy care; post-partum and well-baby care; family and adoption support during and after pregnancy; and safe and legal abortion in every community throughout the United States.

One Friend is standing aside from this policy because he concludes that personhood begins at conception and thus abortion violates the longstanding Quaker testimony that God resides in every person.

Decision-making in Quaker Meetings

All Friends (known as the Body) are responsible for decisions in the Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. **Consensus** is a secular term for reaching a decision by including as many opinions as possible. By necessity, it results in a majority and minority.

The Quaker way is to labor with an issue until the “**sense of the Meeting**” is achieved through unity. This does not mean unanimous agreement. It means that the Body, under guidance of Sprit, is in unity with no objections.

If a Friend has reservations, he/she may *stand aside* and be so recorded in the minutes. If a Friend has strong reservations, he/she may *stand in the way*, and be recorded. The Body will continue to search for unity, but if none is found, the Body may decide to go ahead or may put the issue aside for the time being. Only the Body can make this decision. The sense of the Meeting ensures that there is no majority or minority.

A full exploration of this subject can be found in *Beyond Consensus* by Barry Morley in our library. [G Haynes]

News of San Antonio Friends Meeting

At the April Meeting for Business, Denise reported on the Ad Hoc Tasks Committee which set up a structure for tasks to keep the Meeting going. These are now available on two charts on the porch for Friends to sign up,

Sunday tasks - opening and closing meeting, bringing snacks, setting up for potluck, running Zoom, etc. Written procedures for opening and closing meeting have been developed.

Supplies - We need 1-2 ongoing volunteers to check and renew kitchen, cleaning, and bathroom supplies. Ideally we see this as a multi-month commitment, since it involves a more detailed procedure. A written procedure is being developed. These individuals would consult with our cleaning person regarding cleaning and bathroom supplies.

Communications - the website, meeting calendar, newsletter, weekly announcements, phone messages, Facebook page and messages, etc. Denise has volunteered to serve as communications coordinator and work with Friends already doing some of these tasks. ***Starting in May, please forward communications about upcoming events or other newsworthy items to Denise***, with a copy to anyone else with a need to know (clerks, newsletter, etc.).

Tech tasks - maintain the Meetingroom tech, manage the Zoom account, maintain the website back-end, handle Meet tech questions and issues, prepare tech documentation. We see the need for a tech manager to make sure these tasks are handled. Jim Spickard has been handling these and is willing to continue to do this for the time being, but it would be wise to be looking for another person to work with him on these tasks.

Miscellaneous tasks - Friday morning Zoom meeting for Worship, COVID data weekly, interface with outside groups, phone directory. These are currently functioning well with the Friends who are currently handling them, but we include them as non-committee tasks so that they are not overlooked.
It takes a village!

Forum May 28 To Be Announced

James M's Dream Comforted

I'm sitting in the passenger's seat staring out the windshield at the back of a maroon, late 20s touring car. We're creeping along a tree lined lane on a bright day, not moving fast enough to kick up dust. The mood in the car is somber, belying the sundrops raining through the canopy, dancing and glinting off every polished surface on the bespeckled cars; in fact, I do not remember seeing the driver or anyone else in my car, just the rear of the touring car in our lead. Stealing a look out my window reveals a verdant manicured vista including a quaint lily pond, canal and some ornamental trees nestling a small boathouse.

A slight jolt as our car brakes brings my attention back to the car in our immediate lead. We stop. People start getting out of the cars ahead, so I get out. I walk in the general direction as the folk meandering toward the front of the line of cars. I see now the queue is longer than I imagined. As I stroll along, keeping to myself, glancing over I see a lady standing in front of a car.

She is tall, slim and wears a calf-length, grey dress that drapes from her shoulders. She's wearing a small hat; her purse is tucked beneath her elbow and she's got her face in a silk handkerchief. Though I do not see her face plainly I know her and my heart goes out in sympathy compounding the weight of sadness in mine.

I walk over and gently touch her shoulder; she turns stepping into my arms. We hug softly and meld. I feel her warmth, breath in her fragrance as I put my head next to hers. We embrace for a while, lost in each other's feelings. Somehow my intention of

consoling her frees the sadness residing me. Afterward we walk slowly, wordlessly toward the front, I'm thankful for how comforted I am. The dream fades...

The Children's Program

The children made planters from clay which were fired so that they could plant flowers to take home. The theme for the month was cooperation. For May 7, they will plant tomatoes and other summer vegetables in the raised bed. The theme for May is "Growing Up Quaker."



- Guilford College has set up a certificate program in "refugee integration". It would be suitable for anyone interested in working with refugees in San Antonio: <https://www.guilford.edu/news/2023/03/guilford-college-and-partners-launch-certificate-program-refugee-integration>
- "A Vermeer painting makes the case for stillness and looking at canals or the color blue or the value of the domestic lives of the Dutch bourgeoisie or just for paying close attention. ... These artworks and the pleasure that arises from them

are like the watershed lands on which nothing commodifiable grows, but from which waters gather to fill the streams and rivers that feed the crops and people, or where wildlife lives that is part of the agrarian system -- the insects that pollinate the crops, the coyotes who keep the gophers down. They are the wildlands of the psyche, the unexploited portions, preserving the diversity, the complexity, the systems of renewal, the larger whole as the worked land does not." -- Rebecca Solnit: *Orwell's Roses*, p 96 (Viking 2021)

Yoga May 10 & 24, 6:00-7:00.
At the Meetinghouse; mats provided.

Friends visit Towne Twin Village



Towne Twin Village project is creating a community as the tiny houses go up. Sponsored by the Catholic Worker and a coalition of churches and civic organizations, it puts people first. That is, get a roof over one's head before tackling the presenting problems.

By using rigorous selection criteria, the project seeks to help the most vulnerable of the city's unhoused population. One must be 50 or older and have some form of disability. No one is rejected because of drug use.

The tiny houses are built on a 500 square foot pad, in many different layouts and colors, around a central gazebo as a social focal point. Each cluster has its own laundry, which is also available to residents of the 24 RV's.

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MAY 2023

The complex will include a medical center, a services center and the Dorothy Day House of Hospitality for those non-residents who need temporary assistance. The complex is on 17 acres and on the #24 bus line, between I10 and IH35,

Ten F/friends joined a guided tour of the facilities and learned of the future plans, including two two-story apartment buildings. There will be many activities and fresh air movie nights for the residents and neighbors. Contributions are welcome now, along with offers to volunteer at any time.



MAY 2023



Photos by Jim S.