



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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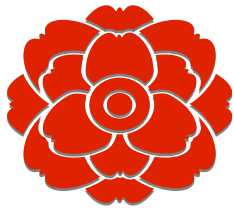
Year End Giving

Now is the time for all good F/friends to come to the aid of the Meeting. The Treasurer reports that our contributions are way below the 2023 budgeted amount. [Contributions in November are 66% of the budgeted amount at 83% of the year.] But fear not! We have the month of December to make up the difference.

A fallback position is to use all the “throw” [of cash] from our investment in Friends Fiduciary Fund for current expenditures. In the past this cash has been divided equally between our operating budget and the balance re-invested. It’s not quite like eating the seed corn, but getting close.

Friends approved a contribution of \$2,600 to purchase 2000 bus tickets needed each month by immigrants traveling through San Antonio. This is a project sponsored by the Interfaith Welcome Coalition. The Property Committee proposed, and Meeting approved, switching our telephone/ internet service from Spectrum to VOIT, saving a substantial amount.

Recognizing the trend in the past several years of decreasing contributions, the Finance Committee plans a series of forums on planning our financial future beyond 2024 and supporting traditional Quaker notions of financial responsibility. In-person donations can be handed to the Treasurer or placed in the small box to the left of the door in the foyer. Or you can mail a check to Meeting, 7052 N Vandiver, S.A. 78209.



December Query: How do you observe religious holidays in light of your own Quaker practice?

**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](#) – Children's Program**
ID # 976 0522 6497; passcode: 194077
- **For ALL Zoom Meetings: by telephone at
+1 346 248 7799, then enter ID#**

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Sharp Swallowtail on Marigold (Photo by Jim S)

Please send January news, pictures & events by 12/21/2023 to newsletter@squakers.org

Special Events

- DEC 3** **Six-Month Birthday Party [all are welcome!] Young Friends**
DEC 10 **Quaker Basics: Varieties of Quakers [In person & Zoom] 11:30**
DEC 17 **Children: Faith & Play Story Time; Christmas Play 11:15; Meeting for Business 11:30**
DEC 24 **Christmas Eve worship at 6:00, followed by tamales, etc.**

News of the Meeting

Because of the Christmas Eve tamale dinner, we will not have the midweek potluck and worship, originally set for December 13. Do plan for the two opportunities on 12/24 – regular at 10:00 and Eve at 6:00. Come a bit early to help set up the candles.

How to deal with uninvited overnight guests?

As the weather cools, we are faced with an increase in the unhoused folks who find a refuge on our campus. A recent example: Friends preparing for a use by “renters” had to clean up food waste dumped over the railing, clear other waste and wash down the porch. We have installed two motion-sensitive cameras which reveal use in the lighted areas, but not in the wooded area behind Meeting. Our insurance does not cover damage caused by these uninvited folks.

Two signs explaining that this is not a campground were destroyed the first night and another later; one other sign has survived so far. We removed the hose and faucet handle from the fixture at the corner of the Community Room, since it had been used for showering and laundry.

Friends pondered the alternatives, including a nightly professional patrol [costing over \$400/month] and authorizing the police to come onto the property if violence is seen on the cameras. We considered how we want to be in the world. Clearly, this is an ongoing problem and Friends need to find unity in a policy to deal with it.

Nominations for 2024

Val Liveoak has agreed to serve as Clerk for the next two years, meaning that she will come off Ministry & Care and the Nominating Committees. Other shuffling of deck chairs was approved, with the hope that current attenders might live into this service. If you feel called to participate more deeply in the life of the Meeting, or have questions, please ask Julie, Stephen, Val, or Denise.

Task List

Opportunities to volunteer are arrayed on the Task list a monthly chart of what needs doing to keep Meeting humming along. Please, let's not leave it to the "usual" names. Everyone can find something useful to do and spread the joy of serving. You'll find the chart on the porch or in the Community Room. You can also [sign up online](#).

Young Friends' Program

The Young Friends made ornaments from clay that were fired, then painted them in bright colors. Young Friends decorated the Six-Months Birthday Cake on December 3rd.

On December 17th, Denise will present the Faith and Play story of "Gifts." If we have enough children, we will present a Christmas pageant – the Birth story in modern times, "What If Jesus Were Born Today?" Watch this space for a review. Our traditional Christmas Eve tamale supper will be December 24th.



Quaker Benediction

“When the song of the angel is stilled

When the star in the sky is gone

When the kings and princes are home

When the shepherds are back with their flocks,

The work of Christmas begins.

To find the lost,

To heal the broken,

To feed the hungry,

To rebuild the nations,

To bring peace among brothers,

To make music in the heart.”

News of the Yearly Meeting

[SCYM Faith and Practice 2023 Draft](#) - Friends may read and discuss this document in their monthly meetings and worship groups. It will come back to yearly meeting sessions in future years for approval. The Peace and Justice Committee brought forward the following minutes on contemporary issues which were approved. You may read the full text at the SCYM website.

[Minute on Support for Transgender Individuals](#)

[Minute on Peace in Ukraine](#)

[Minute on Equal Access to Sexual and Reproductive Services](#)

[Minute on Apartheid-Free Communities](#)



Thanks to the generous support of the Friends Foundation for the Aging, [Pendle Hill](#) is able to make the online programs accessible to f/Friends of all ages free of charge.

Quaker Original Sins

Though Quakers strongly emphasize the grace of God, there remain some closet Quakers who still talk about Original Sin. For example:

George Fox “Doesn’t know when to be quiet and always makes inappropriate comments during morning worship.” Reported by the Right Reverend Niles Needlenose Nordstrum, Vicar of Chattering Fields Parish.

Elizabeth Fry “Constantly visiting women prisoners and leaving her husband home to take care of the kids.” Reported by her husband. [Quaker Lite 2 ½ - The Lite Within, by Stan Banker, 2002]

The Interfaith Welcome Coalition

How To Volunteer [Volunteer Sign-Up](#) [Contact Us](#)

Thank you for your interest in volunteering with us!

You can sign up to become a member of the Interfaith Welcome Coalition volunteer group by clicking the **Volunteer Sign-Up** button above. You will be directed to GivePulse, our volunteer database and scheduling platform, and asked to fill out a simple application.

Our Volunteer Coordinator will contact you after you submit your application, and at that point you can begin browsing our monthly schedules and sign up for whichever outreach program you are interested in volunteering with.

American Friends Service Committee

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Distributing bags of food and hygiene items at a shelter in Gaza. Photo: Amjad Fayomi

Throughout AFSC's history, we have provided relief to people forced to leave their homes because of war, natural disasters, and other crises. Over the past year, we have assisted earthquake survivors in Turkey and Syria, families displaced by war in Ukraine, and refugees from Somalia. Now we're distributing food and other essentials to people in Gaza.

Pendle Hill

On Active Hope

The pattern of injustice and violence that we experience in the world is a sad and depressing sign of our unwillingness to embrace a path to love. It

is as if we have not learned our lessons or as if we are not interested at all in getting insights from the wounds in our history. We're not only continuing to harm ourselves as individuals, but our ignorance and selfishness are provoking major disruptions to other living beings, including the planet that hosts and nurtures us.

As people of faith, we know that love isn't just possible, but it is a tangible and transforming reality that must guide our action. My conviction as a Friend encourages me to be a living testimony of peace and justice, grounded in that which is the most sacred and eternal. These testimonies call me to radically embrace what activist Joanna Macy calls "[active hope](#)" as a creative way for manifesting love. **Francisco Burgos, Executive Director**

Friends Journal

Exploring our spirituality through metaphor

A few years ago, while attending a retreat at Friends House in Barnesville, Ohio, and surrounded by Quakers from all over the country, I began to notice something peculiar about the way that people were speaking in meeting for worship. It did not seem to matter which branch of Friends the speaker came from; whether Orthodox, Liberal, or Conservative, each person spoke using metaphors. Being a student of sociolinguistics, I began to wonder if our common language habit could be metaphor. This conjecture led me into a yearlong study using linguistic theory focused on contemporary Quaker use of metaphor. My research aimed to compare the ways in which contemporary Friends and the early Friends of the seventeenth century embody their spiritual experiences using the classic metaphors of dark and light. [Read the entire article at Maurine Pyle, [Out of Darkness into Light](#), Friends Journal, Nov. 1, 2013]



Friends General Conference

2024 Gathering will be held at Haverford College in Haverford, PA from June 30-July 6, 2024

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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 farther) 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. Beginning in 2024, in-person Gatherings will alternate years with online Gatherings and in-person Young Adult & Youth (YAY) gatherings.

Gathering attendees 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 Committee on National Legislation

FIVE tips for effective listening during conflicts. Listen to:

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|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. The divine within you. | 4. The light of diverse voices. |
| 2. The good in others. | 5. The possibilities emerging. |
| 3. Impacted communities. | |