



### The Friendly News

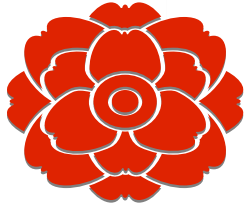
<p><b>San Antonio Quakers</b></p> <p><b>7052 N. Vandiver (at Eisenhower)</b>  <b>San Antonio, Texas 78209</b></p>	<p><b>Message Phone: 210.945.8456</b></p> <p><b>Website: <a href="http://www.sanantonioquakers.org">www.sanantonioquakers.org</a></b></p> <p><b>Facebook: @saquakers</b></p>
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### News of Meeting

A major concern is the number of unhoused men and women who have found a safe place on Meeting grounds and porches. Some have used our large trash can, but there is much trash left. When a member stopped by during the week, he spoke to several people on the porch, offered some snacks and suggested they relocate to Haven for Hope. When he came by the next day, one of the men was still here.

The Property committee has installed cameras that are motion sensitive to monitor the activity. The police have been called only once, when a man was observed to be passed out next to a broken beer bottle. The department had a Homeless Team in the past, but it is not clear whether that is still available. When Towne Twin is completed, the Catholic Worker house will close, cutting off a reliable source of support. Friends in Meeting for Business discussed the concern at length and will experiment with suggestions.

Julie hosted an Annular Solar Eclipse party in the parking lot, attended by her extended family and other Friends. Jim provided protective eyewear. An essay in photos taken by Jim is on pages 5 & 6. The potluck on December 3 will also be the six-month birthdays celebration. Children will decorate the cake. The mid-week Soup and Worship continues on the third Wednesday of each month. A Friend provides a pot of soup and others may bring items to share. The simple meal is followed by worship. 6:00 to 7:30.



**November Query: As we remember veterans in November, and absorb the news of current wars, how are we led to prevent war and the harm it does to people in the military, civilians, and the earth?**

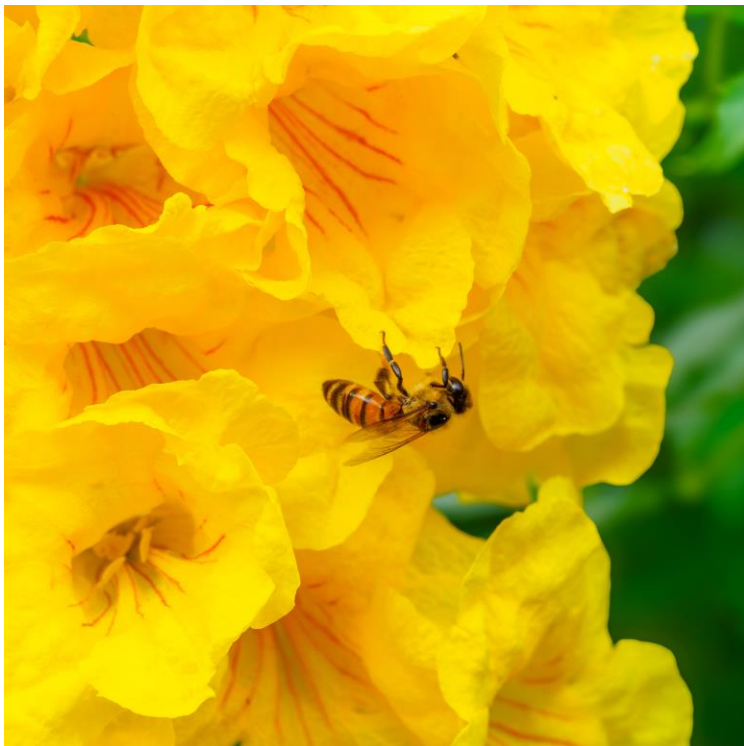
**We have built our Meeting House on Payaya People's land.**

***Here are the direct links for our weekly activities.***

- **Sunday Meetings for Worship**  
10-11am, in-person in Meetinghouse & Zoom.  
**Children's Program 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
- **Friday 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**
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday “Meeting for Weeding”**
- **3<sup>rd</sup> 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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## **Special Events**

**NOV 5 Children's Program, Potluck 11:15**

**NOV 12 Quaker Basics: Conducting Business 11:30 [In person & via Zoom]**

**NOV 15 SOUP, Fellowship & Worship 6:00-7:30**

**NOV 19 Children: Faith & Play Story Time; Meeting for Business**

**NOV 26 Quaker Basics: Wider Quaker World 11:30 [In person & via Zoom]**

Bee on the esperanza in the Meeting grounds (Photo by Jim S)

## In Honor of Veteran's Day, formerly Armistice Day, 11/11

Euphemism

An innocuous substitute for  
a dangerous term:

i.e, shock and awe,  
to camouflage carpet bombing that  
imitates the destruction of Dresden.

Or friendly fire, to disguise the fact  
we just slaughtered our own.

Or Defense Department instead of  
War Department, proving you can  
fool some of the people some of the time.

Or collateral damage, concealing the mangled bodies  
of women, men and children, done not on purpose.

Or, worst of all, PTSD, shell shock -  
good speak to hide walking destruction,  
the pulverized minds of men and women,  
maimed in our name.

Special Military Operation.

Enough! Enough of Euphemisms!

Name the horrors, the results of horrors,  
so that we may own them.

Take them to heart.

Perhaps then we may come to a real word:

Peace.                                      Gretchen Haynes

## News of the Meeting

Many of you may know that over the last three years, John and I have lost all of our parents, most recently John's Father in February. These last 8 months have been very difficult for us and thankfully, we are coming to a place of calm. Many realizations have come to the forefront of our relationship and the decision has been made for me to leave Thrive. My last day will be October 31.

We are looking to slow down, enjoy a bit of travel, volunteer and focus on our house build in Colorado. I moved from Costa Rica to work for Thrive in 2017 and it was my first job back in the States. I am proud of and grateful for the work that we have done, the relationships I have made and the lives we have impacted. **Greg Casillas**

## Considering Death and Dying

The recent death of Marian Carter has given us the opportunity to examine our own end of life plans and procedures. This is a sensitive subject, often ignored.

### Funeral Consumers Alliance (FCA)

This national organization is a non-profit educational service that provides information for low-cost cremation and burials. In San Antonio, for example, the cost of direct cremation is \$575, as of June 2021. Prices may have changed since then. Gravesite burial and casket cost is \$775. There are six Funeral Caring USA firms in San Antonio. At the time I became a member, the one-time fee was \$45. The following information is taken from their literature.

**What to do at the time of death.** When death occurs in a hospital, hospice or nursing home, their professionals can pronounce death. They should be given the number of the funeral home. When death is sudden and unexpected, or if a person dies who was not under the care of a physician or other health care professional, call the local police. They will determine if the Medical Examiner is to be called. If this is a Medical Examiner case, transportation of the body is provided. If there is a loss of consciousness and death has not occurred, call 9-1-1.

"We at FCA cannot stress enough the need to discuss your wishes with your family. They are a part of the preplanning and need to know what your wishes are and what arrangements have been made. If you want to set money aside, FCA recommends you set up a "Payable on Death Account" with your bank or credit union. List several people who would be able to access these funds. FCA does not recommend pre-need contracts with funeral homes." For more information, [www.funerals.org](http://www.funerals.org), or email [fcasatx9@gmail.com](mailto:fcasatx9@gmail.com) or 210-341-2213



A companion to FCA is the magazine **Compassion & Choices** which advocates for Medical Aid in Dying legislation that allows people “to chart the end-of-life journey that best reflects their personal values, beliefs and priorities.” According to C&C, over 80% of Americans support their position. “Yet opposition to our shared vision is growing.” It has targeted laws in four states and D.C. and tried to criminalize doctors who help patients access their healthcare rights.

### **Last Wishes Data Sheets**

This 3 ½ page data base lists everything one would need to know for an obituary. It is available <https://sanantonioquakers.org/last-wishes-form/>. It includes instructions for one's Memorial Meeting. At this time, we are considering how to proceed. Suggestion: make a print copy for yourself and your family. Eventually, we hope to have a way for the information to be stored with the Meeting and made available as needed.

## **Annular Solar Eclipse, October 14, 2023 - photos by Jim S.**







Parking lot eclipse party





## Getting Things Done

Below is the Task Chart for October taken on October 15. You will notice many blank spots where Friends' names could be [should be]. Tasks include opening and setting up the snacks and coffee, cleaning up the kitchen after hospitality, and closing everything. Certain names appear in every box in a line. The other lines are blank. And yet all the tasks get done by someone. Looking ahead, the chart for November is equally barren.

You now have the option of signing up online at <https://sanantonioquakers.org/task-signup/>. Come on, Friends, let's spread the joy and commitment!

Sunday Tasks	10/1	10/8	10/15	10/22	10/29	11/5
Open: unlock building, set out guest books etc. (see procedure sheet)	Paul	Dance		Val	Kara	
Bring & set out snacks	Lolli	Kara		Val	Kara	
Make Coffee						
Set up/RUN Zoom	Bill	Kara	Bill		Kara	
Set out assistive listening equipment						
Close (see procedure sheet)	Gretchen	Gretchen	Gretchen	Gretchen		
Kitchen Clean-Up			Vog + Dick			
Set up Tables and Chairs						
Take down Tables and Chairs						
Kitchen Clean-Up	1.					
Laundry	2.					
Open and Close	Kara					
Prepare Soup						



Sunday Tasks	11/5	11/12	11/19	11/26	Wednesday 11/15
Open: unlock buildings, set out guest book, etc.					
Bring and set out snacks Make Coffee	Kara				
Set up/RUN Zoom Set out assistive listening equipment	Kara		Kara		
Close					
Kitchen					
Clean-Up		John	John		
Set up tables/ chairs					
Take down tables/chairs					
Kitchen Clean-Up	1. 2.				
Laundry					
Open and Close					
Prepare Soup					

## Children's Program

The children continue to enjoy the Quaker curriculum Faith and Play which uses felt symbols and wooden characters to illustrate Friend's principles. October was Prayer, led by Kara, illustrating how Friends of all ages gather and enter the worship room. She followed the story with "I wonder..." questions about how the children saw themselves in the story and what was important to them.

November 5 will be "Play in the Clay." They will make gifts from clay that will be kiln fired and returned Nov. 17 for them to glaze. In past clay projects, the older children helped the younger ones complete their projects. We talk about how working together helps everyone.

In December, the Faith and Play story focuses on Gifts. The children will then wrap the clay gifts that they made earlier. The December 3 potluck will be the six-month birthday celebration, so children will decorate the cake, always a joyful task!



## Interfaith Welcome Coalition

*Bills Criminalizing Immigrants—and Those Who Help Them—Are Up for a Vote.  
The IWC suggests that you call your Representative today and tell them to  
Vote NO on SB 11 and SB 4!*

[SB 11](#) would make improper entry into Texas a criminal offense, violating migrants' right to asylum by **arresting them** rather than allowing federal immigration authorities to process them. This would funnel vulnerable asylum seekers into the corporate-run prison pipeline.

Equally chilling is [SB 4](#), calling for a minimum sentence of 10 years for smuggling immigrants or operating a stash house. Its overbroad language may **deter faith ministries, NGOs, and families from providing humanitarian services to migrants for fear of getting charged under this law.**

## American Friends Service Committee

The **Compassion in Action Matching Gift Challenge** runs through Nov. 20, and it's our largest match of the year. When you contribute: \*You help people who have been displaced from their homes by war and natural disasters; \* You support community initiatives for food justice, housing rights, and sustainable income.; \*You energize courageous work for a future free of militarism and violence. **Help turn \$500,000 into \$1,000,000 for peace, justice, and human dignity.** [Donate at their website.](#)

## Pendle Hill

### **Awakening the Witness: Convincement and Belonging in Quaker Community**

**Nov 6, 2023** A First Monday Lecture with Matt Rosen 7:30pm - 9pm Eastern Time (US & Canada) via Zoom. Free to the public! Registration required.

There are ongoing conversations across the global Quaker community about belonging, the structure and meaning of membership, and the shape and purpose of outreach work. Often, these are tied to widespread anxiety about the future of the Religious Society of Friends and the possibility of its renewal. As these conversations develop, it can be helpful for us to remember that early Friends had no system of membership as we understand it today. Instead, their writings center on an experience they called convincement: when they found themselves without any outward help or guidance, at the end of their own resources, they encountered God and were transformed – not just once, but again and again. For these first Friends, the unity of community was found through the shared experience of this transformation and its fruits.

## Friends General Conference

Founded in 1900, Friends General Conference is an association of local and regional Quaker organizations primarily in the United States and Canada. FGC is a volunteer led association. Our focus areas and related projects are determined by volunteers representing our affiliates and consistent with FGC's organizational Minute of Purpose and Vision Statement. What was once an association of seven yearly meetings holding a biennial "general conference" is now a coalition of sixteen yearly meetings and twelve directly affiliated monthly meetings. Gretchen is one of the delegates from South Central Yearly Meeting who will attend at the end of October and report back.

## Friends Committee on National Legislation

**Annual Meeting & Quaker Public Policy Institute, NOVEMBER 15 - 19, 2023 | WASHINGTON, D.C. & ONLINE**

At FCNL's Annual Meeting, Friends from across the country join in fellowship and worship as we seek unity on important matters that affect us all. FCNL's General Committee makes decisions about organizational priorities, bylaws, and budget for the



coming year. Through the Quaker Public Policy Institute hundreds of advocates lobby their federal officials to advance just public policies.

## Friends Peace Teams

*Friends Peace Teams is a Spirit-led organization that develops long-term relationships with communities in conflict around the world to work for justice and healing, and to create enduring cultures of peace.*

***Friends Peace Teams North America (formerly known as the FPT Council) was formed in 2023 as a way to decolonize our worldwide relationships. Prior to 2023, the Council was the Friends Peace Teams' governing body. The international governing body of Friends Peace Teams is now the Global Coordinating Team made up of representatives from regional groups and committees. Friends Peace Teams North America continues to be the legal body for the United States non-profit corporation.***

## Newsletter of Friends Meeting of San Antonio

The newsletter is a collaboration, published monthly, to provide its readers with up-to-date information and concerns of FMSA. This month, we are blessed with powerful photos of the recent annular solar eclipse. We invite readers to send news, photos and comments to [newsletter@saquakers.org](mailto:newsletter@saquakers.org)