



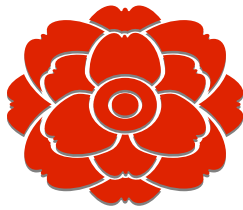
### The Friendly News

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

**Memorial Plaques** The Property Committee is ready to buy the memorial plaques. These would be in the names of Marian Carter, Elmer Rusty Carter, Janet Southwood, Mark Hickman, Ruth Lofgren and Doug Balfour. The Minute authorizing the Memorial Garden specifies that we ask families to pay for the plaques, about \$260 each. Several of these Friends have no family to ask and others' families are in no financial position to contribute. The Meeting encourages members, attenders, and the decedents' families to contribute as they can. Meeting will pick up the difference.

**Unhoused Visitors** We seem to have fewer unhoused visitors than we did last month, perhaps because earlier police activity sent more to our campus. We did call the police to ask one person who had set up a tent in front of the Meetinghouse door to move on. They did so with apparent peaceful outcome. Friends approved a minute setting the policy "of not allowing visitors to sleep overnight on our property or hang out after dark." We are reminded that we live in a broken world and must deal with this locally while living into our Quaker ideals and taking care for our own limits.



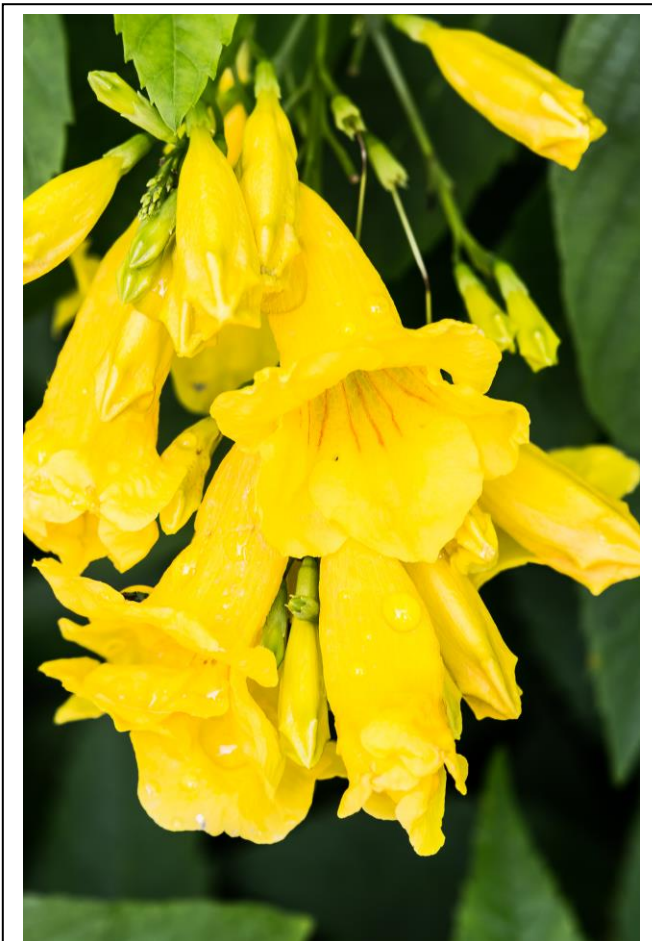
**January Query:—As we move into the new year, what are we led to leave behind and what new directions are we being led toward?**

**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

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- **For ALL Zoom Meetings: by telephone at +1 346 248 7799, then enter ID#**

**Special Events**

- JAN 7 Young Friends 10-11; Potluck 11:15**
- JAN 14 Forum: Becoming Allies to LGBTQ+ 11:30**
- JAN 15 MLK March [details to be announced]**
- JAN 17 Midweek potluck and worship sharing on anti-racism**
- JAN 21 Young Friends 10-11; Meeting for Business 11:30**
- JAN 28 Worship Sharing on State of the Meeting 11:30**

Meeting house flowers, photo Jim S

## Young Friends' Program

The Young Friends produced a modern interpretation of the Birth Story in which Mary and Joseph were unhoused and turned away from the Inn because they had no credit card. They were directed to the kennel at the back, currently occupied by a large black dog. Folks from the United Farm Workers union followed the star to find the newborn baby. Then members of the rock band, Three Wise Guys, arrived on their way to a gig. They told the new parents that state police had stopped them to enquire about the star. Not wanting to get anyone in trouble, the band would not continue on highway 35, but take the farm roads instead. The program ended with singing "Oh Little Town of Bethlehem."



Cast in order of appearance:

Joseph: Alastair                      Mary: Phoebe                      Innkeeper: Isaac                      Dog: Fiore  
Star: Renata      Farm Worker: Oona                      Band member: Pema

## News of Meeting

Our traditional **Christmas Eve** tamale and potluck was well attended with families united for the occasion. The Wilkinson daughters and son-in-law and Lisa Craig's son and his wife joined us. This followed a candlelight worship.

**Lost and Found Dept.** Left behind Dec. 17, a library book on Hanukkah and a blue shawl. Any hope?

## FMSA Celebrates Martin Luther King Jr.

Friends will join the annual march on January 15, carrying our banner proudly. Joni and James left us two FMSA T-shirts which will be available on Sunday, January 14 for any two Friends who plan to march. Our monthly mid-week potluck on January 17 will be followed by worship sharing on queries regarding becoming an anti-racist Meeting and living into that as a life way.

## News of the Yearly Meeting

### SCYM Minute 2023.05 Peace in Ukraine

South Central Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) stands in solidarity with global organizations which are committed to working towards ending the war in Ukraine. We also stand in nurturing solidarity with those Quaker organizations representing our Quaker commitment to lasting peace through peaceful means.

SCYM is therefore led to reach out to Friends World Committee for Consultation, to Friends House Moscow, and to Quakers of Kyiv, Ukraine, to begin a renewed unique Quaker peace initiative. Through this dialogue, SCYM envisages that a small group of dedicated and discerning Friends will meet in-person with advocates for peace from both Russia and Ukraine.

## Quaker Original Sins

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

**Edward Hicks** "Painting childish looking animals," Reported by Randall Williams, his elementary school art teacher.

**Joseph John Gurney** "Trying to outdo my prison ministry by creating the Gurneyites." Reported by his sister, Elizabeth Fry [See Dec. Newsletter.]  
[p 21, Quaker Lite 2 ½ - The Lite Within, by Stan Banker, 2002]

## Friends General Conference – Changing Times

**January 18-21, 2024 online only.** [The program](#) includes four main components that were lifted by yearly meeting clerks, focus group members and additional Friends:

- **Connection to Spirit**
- **Becoming an Actively Anti-racist Faith Community**
- **Changing Structures for Changing Times**
- **The Future of the Religious Society of Friends.**

**Thursday** night, we will open with worship. Friends will have an opportunity to explore what our hopes are for the conference. We'll meet in reflection groups, which will meet

daily. Reflection groups offer an opportunity to process the conference on both a personal level and a structural level. How might the ideas you are hearing apply to your yearly meeting, monthly meeting, or other Quaker groups?

**Friday** is the first full day of the conference. We will explore ways to connect with each other and deepen our connection with Spirit. We'll focus on both personal and communal aspects of this connection. **Our plenary speaker will be Francisco Burgos** followed by workshops with Christopher Sammond, Nikki Mosgrove, Chuck Schobert and more.

**Saturday** has two tracks. Each track includes a plenary followed by workshops. Friends can choose between:

- Next Steps in becoming an actively anti-racist faith community:

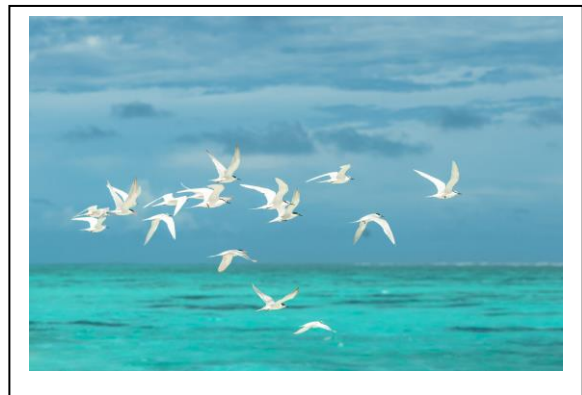
**Vanessa Julye will be our plenary speaker** followed by workshops with David Etheridge, Janice Domanik & Beca Haines Rosenberg, Clinton Pettus and additional Friends.

- Changing Structures for Changing Times:

Our plenary speakers will be **Paul Buckley, Rashid Darden and Barry Crossno** followed by workshops with Emily Provance, Susan Loucks and Your Turn, Your Story: a chance to share across Yearly Meetings

**Sunday** includes a presentation, “**Speak and Be Heard: Voices of Younger Friends.**” Several younger Friends will speak about Quakerism, Quaker structure, or their sense of belonging. Then, we will move into discussion groups to reflect on the messages we've heard. **We will join in worship as we close the conference.**

**Registration Costs** FGC incurs costs for our virtual events, including staff costs, technology costs and modest honoraria for non-staff presenters. With our projected attendance and budgeted costs, we anticipate the approximate cost per attendee to be \$100 depending on attendance. **We are asking that all Friends who are able to pay \$125 for the conference. Friends whose income is more limited are asked to pay a minimum of \$75.**



If this amount is still too much, we hope your monthly or yearly meeting might be able to assist. If you or another potential participant still needs aid, please reach out to Ruth Reber [ruthr@fgcquaker.org](mailto:ruthr@fgcquaker.org). We do not want anyone left out because of a lack of funds. Additional donations towards our programs are always welcome and appreciated.

In Friendship, Barry Crossno, General Secretary

## The Interfaith Welcome Coalition (IWC)

IWC has an urgent need for volunteers to join the Mobile Loaves and Fishes Lunch Delivery team. This team delivers lunches every morning during the week. Visit our [volunteer page](#) for more information and to schedule your volunteer time—or volunteer directly on Give Pulse. Visit the website for more information.

## Friends Peace Teams (FPT)

Friends Peace Teams (FPT) is a Spirit-led organization supporting justice and healing in 20 countries that have faced war, colonization, violence, and oppression. Our 2023 [PeaceWays](#) shares stories of our justice and peace work around the world.

We create cultures of peace through developing relationships, holding workshops, and taking action based on our best discernment. We offer workshops in the Alternatives to Violence Project, Trauma Resiliency, Healing and Rebuilding Communities, and Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples.

FTP is experimenting with Decolonizing itself: We are supporting clerks from our regional Teams to rotate to clerk and have bilingual meetings for our Global Coordinating Team. FPT North America has its focus on a US-based program (Toward Right Relation with Native People), encouraging individuals' local witness in their community justice and peace organizations, and resource sharing with other regional teams.

The Europe regional team members have supported peace workers in Ukraine and the North Caucasus for years and now include concerns in Palestine and Iraq. Our recent international training brought twenty Ukrainian peace & justice workers in for trauma healing and skills building for their return to the war-ravaged homeland. In Latin American, Peacebuilding *en las Américas*, we use AVP workshops in five countries to give skills to participants where politics, economics, and indigene-settler differences are severe. In the African Great Lakes region, we have programs for economic empowerment of individuals, women's health, healing ethnic divisions in communities, healing trauma for refugees from wars in Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo, and literacy and peace education and improving agriculture. In AWP, we find good in each person, have started supporting displaced persons from Myanmar-Burma, and grow eco-justice in the Philippines and Korea. We hope you will find the news on our

website engaging. We invite readers to follow a country or project that interests you and engage with our peace workers. Join Us!



Cypress shoreline with flying egret, photo Jim Spickard

## American Friends Service Committee

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights. From Dec. 10 (International Human Rights Day) through Dec. 18 (International Migrants Day), AFSC and partners organized protests, vigils, and events in cities across the U.S. as part of our “Migration is a Human Right” week of action. Together, we took action to demand that migrants be treated with the dignity and respect we all deserve.

“This Human Rights Day, like every other day, thousands of immigrants are jailed in detention centers, trapped at the border, or forced to suffer uncertainty and hardship while Congress and the Biden administration continue to choose political posturing over real solutions,” said Amy Gottlieb, AFSC U.S. migration director. “But even in these dark times, we take solace in the light and love within our communities. We celebrate our networks of solidarity and mutual aid and our many small victories: stopping deportations, changing campus policies, or mitigating the harms of immigration enforcement.”

## Pendle Hill

### *Hybrid Meeting for Worship*



We invite you to join us, whatever your beliefs, convictions, or experiences.

We meet every day from 8:30 AM – 9:10 AM, EST, both in person and online via Zoom.

## Friends Journal

### ***Connection and Belonging: A Deeper Perspective on Stewardship,*** **by Pamela Haines**

I'm grateful to the Haudenosaunee people for giving me a whole new perspective on stewardship, through one small prepositional change. When the Haudenosaunee (formally known as the Iroquois) gather for any purpose, they start with “the words that come before all else.” Thanks are offered to the earth in all its manifestations—water, plant, and animal life—then to the winds, sun, moon, and stars; and then to the ancient wisdom carriers and the Spirit Creator. The recurring phrase—“and now our minds are one”—binds the community together in shared thanks. [See the [entire essay](#) in the December issue.]

### ***My Brother Is Away,*** by Sara Greenwood, illustrated by Luisa Uribe (recommended for ages 5-8)

There are quite a few books written for children with incarcerated parents but few for children with incarcerated siblings. Similarly, there are few statistics on the effects of having an incarcerated sibling.

These children are often overlooked, even though they may suffer emotional distress. Children who have an incarcerated older sibling are at risk of becoming offenders themselves. They are apt to experience bullying from other children who know about the



incarceration. They are likely to have feelings of confusion, shame, and embarrassment, and often have increased responsibilities in their household.

## Friends Committee on National Legislation

The Advocacy Teams Network is made up of more than 1,500 Quakers and friends from across the country who use their power as constituents to make change in Washington. Our success comes from our commitment to building relationships with Congress grounded in mutual respect and listening.

## Friends World Committee for Consultation



### Weave a Legacy

As we move toward the close of a successful campaign, there is one more thing Friends can do to help FWCC achieve its campaign goals.

We set a goal to double the number of members in the [Weave a Legacy Society](#), FWCC's planned giving program. Only a few have joined since the start of the campaign.

You can still make an impact on the long-term future of FWCC. A bequest gift would help FWCC plan for a sustainable future. The Weave A Legacy Society recognizes and honors those individuals who have included a provision for FWCC Americas in their estate plans. These planned gifts provide substantial future support for helping ensure that FWCC Americas remains a vital force for uniting Quakers across diverse divisions for many years to come.