



The Friendly News

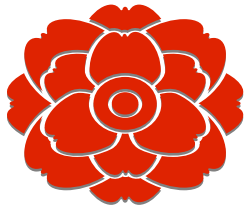
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News

Yearly Meeting will take place on Zoom from Sunday 3/24-Wednesday 3/27, followed by the in person gathering at Greene Family Camp from Thursday, 3/28-Sunday 3/31, with some events also on Zoom. Please see the [SCYM website](#) for full details and registration. Registration for in-person attendance closes on March 11.
[more info on pp 6-7]

FMSA On February 25, 2024, 17 Friends attended the forum led by Julia Hitz to prioritize legislative issues that Friends Committee on National Legislation in Washington DC should focus their lobbying efforts on for the congressional term beginning in January 2025. The sense of our meeting will be considered along with those of other meetings around the country to help FCNL address the most urgent issues and those which they can most effectively impact.

Of the many, many issues that we care about, the list below, in no particular order, represents the group's leanings. The group felt that they would like time to consider the issues, and so a Part 2 Forum has been scheduled for March 24. At that time we will ...
Continued on page 3



March Query What is springing up from the Seed within you?

**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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Special Events

MAR 3 Young Friends 10-11; Potluck 11:15
10 Forum: TBA 11:30
17 Young Friends 10-11; Meeting for Business 11:30
24 Forum – FCNL Priorities, part 2 11:30
31 EASTER Fellowship



Meeting
House
Purple
Cluster

Photo by Jim S.

[continued from page 1] continue the discussion and settle on the top 5 priorities, which will be submitted to FCNL. If time remains, we will discuss what, if any, actions we as a meeting or as individuals might take on these issues, or additional issues of state and local urgency.

Immigration:

- Promote asylum rights and improve process
- Reform path to citizenship, including DACA
- Collaborate with other Friends organizations such as at the UN to address international migration/immigration issues
- Humane treatment of people awaiting asylum

Reproductive Rights:

- FCNL seek to ensure that decisions are personal, not made by governments
- Support the range of reproductive health issues

Protecting Democracy:

- End gerrymandering
- Ensure strong separation of powers, the enforcement of the constitution, and the strengthening of democratic institutions which are being damaged
- Protecting and promoting voting rights and access
- Emphasize the rule of law within the polarized political system
- FCNL enhance their space for legislators to come together, and support Problem Solvers Caucus
- Comply with international justice court rulings and provide funding to strengthen them

Climate Crisis:

- Integrate climate issues into all legislation across the board
- Remove incentives for fossil fuels and promote renewable energy, and freeze ne fossil fuel development on public land
- Promote legislation to reduce the human suffering under climate change, such as crop failures, water competition, and international migration

Military Reform:

- Reduce the military budget by 25% and use that money to meet human needs.
- Reduce the US role in violence around the world (supporting wars and engaging in direct military action)

Gun Safety:

- Support 'Common Sense Gun Safety' legislation (current enforcement and new regulation)

Friends are encouraged to stand when giving vocal ministry, afterthoughts or announcements. It calls attention to their message and prompts them to speak clearly.

The concern for unhoused people in general and on our campus in particular is being addressed by an Ad Hoc committee. The forum on Membership was well attended and Ministry and Care encourages friends who feel connected to Meeting to get in touch for further steps in their spiritual journey.

Peace & Social Concerns Committee has been proposed to re-form. While this Meeting has a culture of supporting individuals in their leadings, it is possible to have the Meeting involved as a whole in such activities. Eyes Wide Open was such an event. Concern was expressed whether we have enough energy to take on such leadings, or to continue supporting individuals. Meeting involvement needs to be spirit-led, not merely inclined to follow a certain path.

Spring Cleaning? Organizing is what you do before you do something, so that when you do it, it is not all mixed up. A. A. Milne

Wanted: A home for a shepherd dog, hit by a car but not injured. Good deed awaiting. Contact the clerk to proceed.

Friends are preparing information on the concern for death and dying to be presented in a future forum.

The mid-week soup and worship has been discontinued for lack of participation.

April 8 total solar eclipse on Monday. Jim & Meredith have invited us to view this rare event from their front yard. Please bring your own chair and refreshments to share.

Times (at 30545 Bridlegate Dr, Bulverde):

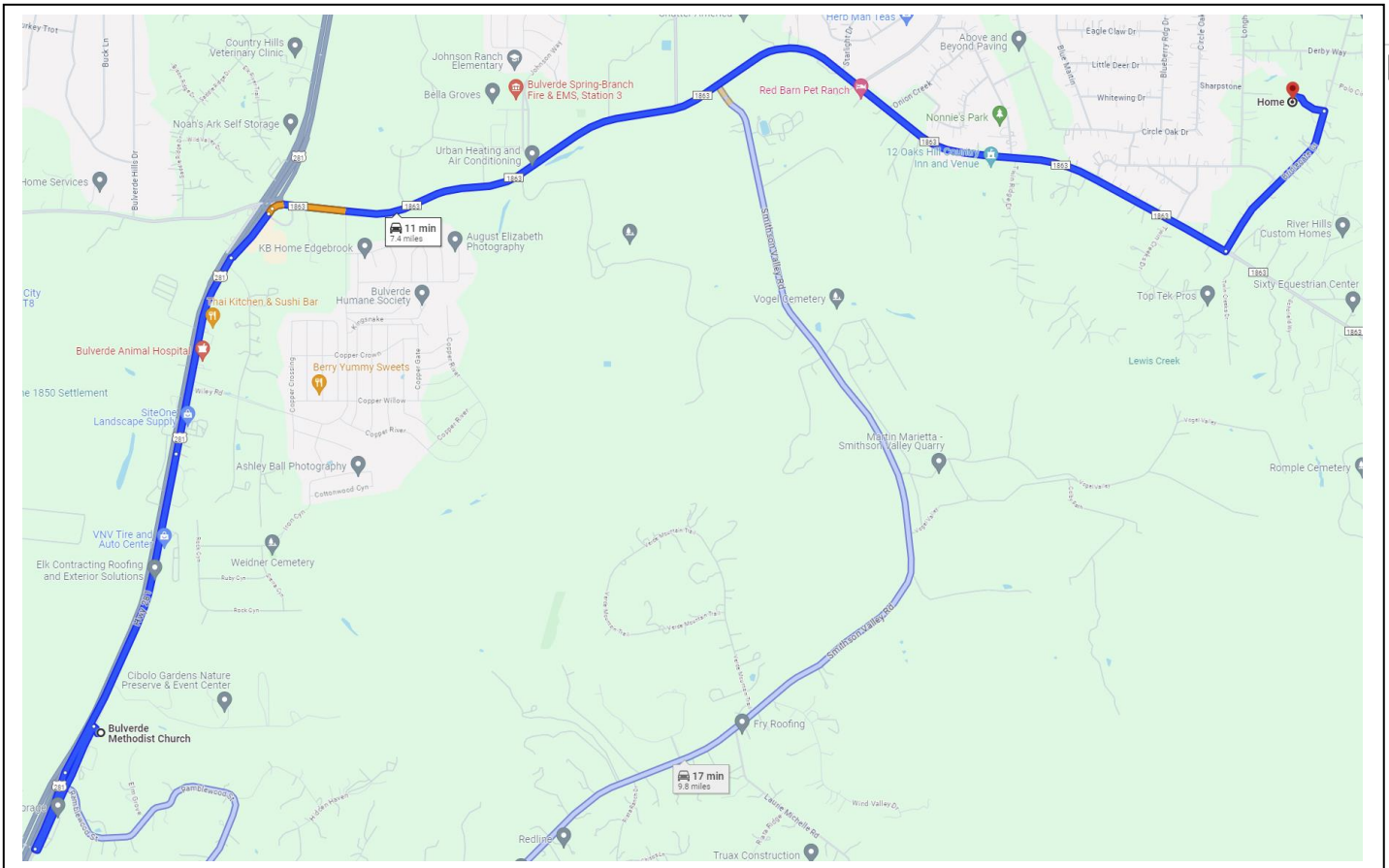
Start of Partial Eclipse => 12:15pm
Start of Total Eclipse => 1:34pm
End of Total Eclipse => 1:36pm
End of Partial Eclipse => 2:56pm

Here's a map to our house. The directions are:

- Drive north on Hwy 281 until you cross Cibolo Creek into Comal County
- Continue 3 miles to just past the top of the next hill and exit to FM 1863. Go right onto 1863 at the bottom of the hill (stop light).
- Drive east 3.6 miles to Bridlegate Drive, which only goes left. (There is a left turn lane.)
- Go north 0.6 miles to our driveway: blue 30545 sign on the left. (Neighbors' driveway is the blue 30475 sign just before it.) If you reach the park (on the left), you've gone too far, so turn around in the park's parking lot and come back.
- Take the first right on the driveway. It's marked with another blue 30545 sign. You can see the neighbors' gray house straight ahead; that's no ours.
- Drive across the concrete bridge and past the "Dragon Crossing" sign.

MARCH 2024

- Park off the driveway to the right or left OR continue up the drive to more parking nearer the house. **Parking is limited, so carpool if you can.**



A Note from Val Some Friends know that I have been a war tax resister since the 1980s. The four years I lived in El Salvador (during a war sponsored to large extent by the US), I got to experience truly simple living, and it gave me further motivation to reduce my income below taxable levels, a practice I continue.

As a person who is not ever going to be called up for military service, resistance to War Taxes is one way I can be a Conscientious Objector.

Since US-supported Israeli attacks on Gaza, new groups of War Tax Resisters have sprung up and one of their tactics is to encourage everyone to pay at least \$1 less than they owe on 2023 taxes—and write



a letter telling the IRS why, sending copies of the letter to members of Congress and the President, showing that we do not support wars around the world.

From posts on the National War Tax Resisters Coordinating Committee website: While the situation in Gaza has fueled much of the recent interest [in War Tax Resistance--WTR], the insanity of spending close to half of our federal income taxes on militarism is becoming even more difficult to ignore as needs in our communities increase. The daily news of military invasions can be dizzying and difficult to follow...We find hope that there is such renewed interest in WTR as witnessed in social media and people sharing NWTRCC.org info and making flyers and 'zines to share with others.

The US recently dropped at least 125 precision guided weapons missiles some costing about \$1.5 million each on Iraq and Syria in response to deaths of 3 members of the US military in Jordan. That far exceeds the \$65 million that UNRWA, the main provider of medical services and schools to Palesinians and refugees throughout the Middle East, is expected to lose in aid by the end of the month that is certain to lead much additional suffering. While we know that the US has about 900 military bases in over 100 countries, many were surprised to learn of US bases in Jordan. ...The US has proposed spending \$95 Billion for military spending in Israel, Ukraine and Taiwan. **NWTRCC** is a long-standing group. One new article on its website is Easing into War Tax Resistance <https://nwtrcc.org/2024/01/17/easing-into-war-tax-resistance/>.

Pilgrimage for Peace (through Feb. 21): Faith leaders, activists, and artists are now on a journey to the White House in Washington, D.C. Together, we are urging President Biden to call for an end to the war in Palestine and to halt all weapons funding to Israel. Instead, the U.S. must channel efforts toward increasing humanitarian aid to Palestine. Learn more about the pilgrimage, including how you can join us along the way.

News of the Yearly Meeting

Being a Quaker Today: Nurturing Our Soul, Brightening Our Light, and Acting on Our Faith The annual session takes place at the Greene Family Camp near Waco, TX. with adult and young Friends programs, worship, games and swimming [weather permitting]. Visit the website for more information and registration.

Events from Saturday, March 23-Wednesday, March 27 will be held online via Zoom. Events from Thursday, March 28-Sunday, March 31 will be held in-person at Greene

Family Camp (GFC) & online livestream (video with no interaction) and via Zoom interactively on Sunday.

Registration for in-person attendance at Greene Family Camp for Thursday, March 28-Sunday, March 31 will close on Monday, March 11. Starting Tuesday, March 12, only registrations for online access will be accepted.

Pamela Haines will be the keynote speaker this year. She writes:

I am active with my local Quaker meeting, a regional Quaker Eco-Justice Collaborative, Mill Creek Urban Farm, and the Philadelphia Public Banking Coalition. I tend the earth in my community garden and with the Philadelphia Orchard Project.

Quaker Humor

We will follow this course of action as the way opens... means: "If we're going to do this, somebody better cough up a big chunk of change."

[p 41, Quaker Lite 2 ½ - The Lite Within, by Stan Banker, 2002]

Young Friends' Program

Young Friends busy in their room. In March, they will begin the spring planting season with 4-inch pots of pepper seeds to take home until the soil is warm enough and the plants are big enough to go into the raised garden.



Meeting for Weeding

