

PHOENIX QUAKER MEETING NEWSLETTER

(Noticias de la reunión de los Amigos de Phoenix)

MARCH 2023

MARCH 2023 CALENDAR OF EVENTS		
Sunday, March 5	9:00 – 10:00am	Discussion Group – Monthly Query
	10:00 – 11:00am	Meeting for Worship <i>(In Person and on Zoom)</i>
	10:00 – 11:00am	First Day School: Led by Candace <i>(In Person Sunday School)</i>
Friday, March 10	8:00 am – 1:00 pm	TAG SALE
Saturday, March 11	8:00 am – 1:00 pm	TAG SALE
Sunday, March 12	10:00 – 11:00am	Meeting for Worship <i>(In Person and on Zoom)</i>
	10:00 – 11:00am	First Day School: Led by Nancy <i>(In Person Sunday School)</i>
Sunday, March 19	10:00 – 11:00am	Meeting for Worship <i>(In Person and on Zoom)</i>
	10:00 – 11:00am	First Day School: Led by Candace <i>(In Person Sunday School)</i> Early Child Care Available
	12:30 – 2:00pm	Meeting For Worship for Business
Saturday, March 25	All Day	Arizona Half-Yearly Meeting Hosted by Phoenix Monthly Meeting
Sunday, March 26	10:00 – 11:00am	Meeting for Worship <i>(In Person and on Zoom)</i>
	10:00 – 11:00am	First Day School: Led by Nancy <i>(In Person Sunday School)</i> Early Child Care Available

June 21-25, 2023: Intermountain Yearly Meeting at Ft. Lewis College, Durango, Co. Come and meet other Friends from the four corner states and beyond!



REMINDER: TAG SALE on Friday, **March 10**, and Saturday, **March 11**, from 8 am to 1 pm. Come, volunteer, and buy new treasures!

AND

Early Child Care, for ages 5 and under, will be available three Sundays a month for families who are attending the worship service. Please note the spring schedule: **March 19, March 26, April 2, April 16, April 23, May 7, May 14, and May 21.**

The childcare room is staffed by Madison Jenkins-Torres, our paid professional childcare provider, and a volunteer from the Meeting. If you have any questions, please contact Kari Watkins Harvey at acumoxamama@gmail.com.

AND

AHYM (Arizona Half Yearly Meeting), a gathering of Friends from all around Arizona, HERE at Phoenix Meeting, on Saturday, **March 25**, 8:30 am - 5 pm. If you can host a visitor in your spare bedroom on March 24 and/or March 25, contact Candace Wilkinson at candacewilkinson@mac.com.

QUERIES

The Religious Society of Friends challenges each of us to live a life reflective of our beliefs. We take our faith into the broader community in many ways. Some are led to do acts in full view of society; others are led to work where their service is less visible but no less valuable. Each of us holds a part of the whole. None of us could consistently do what we do, no matter how little, without drawing from the well of our faith. Among us all, we make a greater impact than we may realize as individuals.

1. In what ways does your life reflect your faith? In what ways does your faith illuminate your life?
2. How do you distinguish between the leadings of the Divine and the pressures of the needy?
3. Do you give sufficient time to sharing with others in the meeting, both newcomers and long-time members, your understanding of service and commitment to Quaker witness?
4. Mindful that the light leads us in different ways, how do you demonstrate your respect for others' modes of service?

~ Faith and Practice of Intermountain Yearly Meeting

***“BEING ANGRY IS JUST
TRADING ONE PRISON
FOR ANOTHER.”***

*~ Lamar Johnson, in Missouri,
2/12/23, after being exonerated and
freed 28 years after a murder
conviction based on no evidence.*

FIND US ONLINE

***Our website:
www.PhoenixQuakers.org***



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MEET ZORO AND CASSY, OUR SAGUARO CACTI



There are two saguaro cacti that have been on our property since Friends purchased it before 1950. Thus, they are wild urban cacti. We have begun to participate with the Desert Botanical Garden's Research Project. DBG is collaborating with folks all over the valley on the status of our cacti and what we might do to help them stay healthy or to bring them back to better health.

The First Day School has been and will be involved in this conservation project in keeping with our testimony supporting stewardship. We have already inspected them once and named them. The cactus in the front yard, facing Glendale, is "Zoro." The cactus in back, facing our parking lot, is "Cassy." We need to help them. Look at them. Their



bottom four feet, nearest the ground, don't seem well.

Jason Harvey graciously helped us geolocate them. Zoro's coordinates are: 33.53840 degrees North, by - 112.04518 degrees west.

Cassy's coordinates are: 33.53898 degrees north, by - 112.04492 degrees west.

These are the coordinates we need to give the precise geo-reference for our saguaros to the DBG. We will ask them if there is something we can do to help Zoro and Cassy stay healthy.

RIGHTEOUS CONFRONTATION INSTEAD OF HOLY HATRED

Even the most peaceful of us ... can feel a “holy hatred,” a scathing judgmentalism far different from prophetic justice-seeking, toward those whose views and behaviors we oppose. Those whom we oppose become less than human in our estimation; the image of God within them is defaced and lost in our experience. But in our quest for Shalom, wholeness, and peace, we will fail if we remain imprisoned by feelings of judgment and alienation. We need to find a path to righteous confrontation, speaking truth to power, that honors the holiness of those who appear to be “wholly other” to ourselves in politics, values and lifestyle, even as we confront them on what we perceive to be unjust policies and actions. Like the psalmist, we discover the self we aspire to be in [Howard] Thurman’s vision of the “centering moment,” by attending to the still, small voice of God.”

~ Bruce Epperly, in *PROPHETIC HEALING: Howard Thurman’s Vision of Contemplative Activism*, 2020

ANNUAL GATHERING OF FRIENDS WORLD COMMITTEE, THE AMERICAS IN SCOTTSDALE AT THE CASA IN MARCH, 2025

March 17-25, 2025!! That’s right, 2025! Mark your calendars! The annual gathering of FWCC, SOA (Friends World Committee on Consultation, Section of the Americas — OUR Western Hemisphere), will be gathering at the Franciscan Renewal Center, Scottsdale. The main days are March 21-24. We can attend, or possibly host some travelers for a small event, or maybe help with transporting guests to and from the airport, or Walmart! (If you do not live in a country with a Walmart, you appreciate its choices and prices far more than we, who have everything at our fingertips, often do.)

Also... 2024 - the entire year - is the 400th anniversary of the birthday of George Fox! Let’s put on our thinking caps as to how we can find some fun and celebrate our “founding father.”

MARGARET FELL, ON WHETHER TO WEAR GRAY OR COLOR

But Christ Jesus saith, that we must take not thought what we shall eat, or what we shall drink or what we shall put on; but bids us consider that lilies how they grow in more royalty than Solomon. But contrary to this, they say we must look at no colours, nor make anything that is changeable colours as the hills are, nor sell them nor wear them. But we must be all in one dress, and one colour. This is a silly poor gospel. It is more fit for us to be covered with God’s eternal Spirit, and clothed with his eternal Light, which leads us and guides us into righteousness and to live righteously and justly and holily in the present evil world.

This is not delightful to me, that I have this occasion to write to you, for wherever I saw it appear, I have stood against it several years. And now I dare neglect no longer. For I see, that our blessed precious holy Truth, that hath visited us from the beginning is kept under, and these silly outside imaginary practices is coming up, and practiced with great zeal, which hath often grieved my heart.

~ from *Bonnelyn Young Kunze, Margaret Fell and the Rise of Quakerism*, pp. 24-25

BROOKINGS INSTITUTE: THE BLACK PROGRESS INDEX

Examining the social factors that influence Black well-being

In the spirit of Du Bois and others who have pursued truth and justice, the NAACP and the Brookings Institution have partnered to develop tools and resources that will empower communities with data and information. The partnership's primary project is the Black Progress Index, which provides a means to understand the health and well-being of Black people and the conditions that shape their lives.

~ Thanks to the NAACP newsletter for this

AND FORWARD!

We know there is no going
back to 'normal.'

The path forward demands
that we take our rightful
places as the younger
siblings in creation,
deferring to the oceans,
forests, and mountains
as our teachers.

*~ Leah Penniman, from "The Gift of ecological Humility"
Spring 2021, YES! Magazine*



THE PEACE OF WILD THINGS

When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound in fear
of what my life and my children's lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake rests
in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.
I come into the peace of wild things who do not tax their lives
with forethought of grief. I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars waiting with their light.
For a time I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

~ by Wendell Berry; thanks to Tom Martin of Flagstaff Meeting for this

Donate your plastic Bottle Caps!

They are used to help Mexican patients pay for cancer treatment. Just put a bowl on your kitchen counter and save caps from vitamins, shampoo, laundry soap and other bottles. Plastic only. See Judy Lundy.



OUR BILINGUAL CORNER

In appreciation of Friends in our Western Hemisphere, and in our Meeting, for whom Spanish might be a first Language, and for “gringos” who might want to learn more Spanish, we include a monthly spiritual message in both English and Spanish. If you would like to help with this effort, contact Nancy Marshall at nanmar4009@gmail.com.

“Amarás al Señor tu Dios con todo tu corazón, y con toda tu alma, y con todas tus fuerzas, y con toda tu mente; y a tu prójimo como a ti mismo”
Sn Lucas 10:27

~ Gracias a las noticias de FWCC,
invierno, 2023

“Love the Lord thy God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.”
St. Luke 10:27

~ Thanks to the FWCC newsletter,
winter, 2023

IDOLS

Now an idol is something that masquerades as a religious symbol, something which gives you comfort and which is powerless because it makes no demands upon you. An idol is that which provides an easy answer to your problems... It offers a projection of your own unconscious wishes... Idols help us to strengthen our hostility to forces that destroy our sense of security.

Now Quakers are very good at being hostile to people... nonviolently, of course! The point I'm laying before you is that, if we have a dark side of our personality, if we have hostility, if we have weakness, then that's going to express itself. And if we want to be spiritually whole, we have to recognize that fact instead of pretending it's not reality...

[We must enter] a process of discovering darkness in ourselves; otherwise, we [might assume that] because we are Quakers and because we accept the peace testimony, we've got the issue of violence all stitched up in our own life... So, the peace testimony then has the capacity to be an idol. And our idols reinforce our habits. Idols are deep forces of our conservatism...

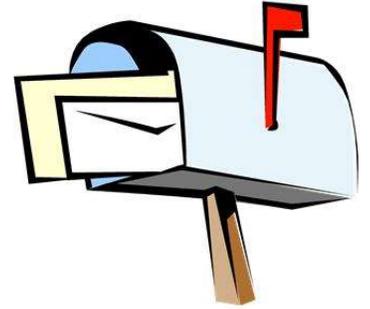
~ John Punshon, 1984; excerpt, thanks to Extra Extra of
Western Friend on Saturday, Feb. 25, 2023



A FOND FAREWELL

On February 5 we celebrated our dear Friends Margy & Jim Brittingham, who soon leave for Florida to live near their son Jim, his wife and their grandchild. Margy has served the Meeting in just about every capacity with grace and humor. We will all miss you!!!

Letters to Auntie Upswaddle



Dear Auntie Upswaddle:

I need your help. My parents are talking about “Ukraine” and “Russia” a lot. There’s a war going on, and they say that Russia invaded Ukraine. They are talking a lot about our Quaker Peace Testimony, and I am confused. We’re not supposed to want war, so do we ever defend ourselves? How does that work? I’ve gotten out of some scrapes in the hallway at Junior High, but I talk a pretty good game and can move quickly. It sounds like my parents are for Ukraine and against Russia. They say we should help Ukraine. Does that mean guns? Bombers? How does that square with our Peace Testimony? I feel like going over there to help, but I know I’d wind up carrying a gun. How do I sort this out?

Your friend, Desmond

Dear Desmond,

You’ve hit on a really tough problem for a lot of Friends. We hate to see people being treated unjustly. And from all accounts I can get hold of (except the news from Russia), this was an unprovoked invasion by a country with massive military forces against another country that is trying its best to fight back, with military forces.

The short answer is, I just don’t know. I have no easy answers for you. And if you are in Junior High, you are way too young to go over there and try to do anything.

But there is something I think we can all do. There is something good about trying to help with clothes, food, and medical supplies. This is just giving aid to the victims as they escape their destroyed apartment buildings and flee the cities that are being bombed. Your parents could send some money if they have it. You could collect money or maybe medical supplies at your Meeting. It’s really better to send money from here to Europe, near Ukraine, where they can buy the right supplies and ship them into Ukraine pretty quickly.

And I know it doesn’t sound like enough, but let’s all hold them all in the Light. This is time for prayer too. Not just all the people of Ukraine, but the young Russian soldiers who may not be fighting voluntarily and may not really understand what they are doing. And we need to hold in the Light all the leaders on all sides, that they may see a kinder way to coexist than by war and invasion.

Desmond, thanks so much for bringing this up. It’s a very painful time for a lot of us. And worse for those in the war. There will be a lot of healing to do for a long time to come. Figuring out how to be peaceful in a world with war is not easy.

With affection,
Auntie Wilhemina Elspeth Upswaddle