

PHOENIX QUAKER MEETING NEWSLETTER

(Noticias de la reunión de los Amigos de Phoenix)

MARCH 2024

MARCH 2024 CALENDAR OF EVENTS		
Saturday, March 2	12:00 – 1:00pm	Women's Gathering
Sunday, March 3	9:00 – 10:00am	Discussion Group – Monthly Query
	10:00 – 11:00am	Meeting for Worship
		First Day School Childcare for Age 0-5 Available
Sunday, March 10	10:00 – 11:00am	Meeting for Worship
		First Day School Childcare for Age 0-5 Available
	11:30am	Potluck Lunch and Fellowship
Tuesday, March 12	7:00 – 8:00pm	Building & Property Committee meeting
Thursday, March 14	6:00 – 7:00pm	Ministry & Care Committee meeting
Sunday, March 17	9:00 – 9:50am	Experiment with Light
	10:00 – 11:00am	Meeting for Worship
		First Day School Childcare for Age 0-5 Available
	12:30 – 2:00pm	Meeting for Worship for Business (on Zoom)
Friday – Sunday, March 22-24		Arizona Half-Yearly Spring Meeting in Tucson
Sunday, March 24	9:00 – 10:00am	Book Club
	10:00 – 11:00am	Meeting for Worship
	10:00 – 11:00am	First Day School
	11:30am – 12:30pm	Peace & Social Concerns Committee meeting
Sunday, March 31	8:00am	Easter Potluck Breakfast
	10:00 – 11:00am	Meeting for Worship (Easter)
	10:00 – 11:00am	First Day School

FIND US ONLINE



Our website: www.PhoenixQuakers.org

Follow us on Facebook: [@PhoenixQuakerMeeting](https://www.facebook.com/PhoenixQuakerMeeting)

ADVICES AND QUERIES: STEWARDSHIP

Quakers often talk about being led.... We are all led. The question is not whether we are led, but what leads us.

~Robert Griswold, 2005

In the biblical tradition, the foundation for human governance is stewardship rather than ownership; we care for life's homeplace as servants, not as the lords of the earth.

~ Jim Corbett, *Sanctuary for All Life*, 2005

Advices

The principle of stewardship applies to all that we are given and to who we are as individuals, members of groups, and inhabitants of the earth. We are each obliged to use our time, abilities, strength, money, material possessions, and other resources in a spirit of love, aware that we hold these gifts in trust and that we are responsible for using them wisely. We need to be aware of pollution, overpopulation, and all forms of wastefulness.

Queries

Do we regard our time, talents, energy, money, material possessions, and other resources as gifts from God, to be held in trust and shared according to the Light we are given? How do we witness to this conviction in our lives? Do we investigate the companies in which our money is invested, avoiding investing in those whose practices undermine Quaker testimonies and values?

~ Selected from *Intermountain Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice*
Thanks to Judy Ray, *Life in the Light*, Pima MM newsletter.



INTRODUCING OUR NEW EDITOR: DAVID NOSKO

Beginning with the April edition of the Phoenix Meeting Newsletter, our new editor will be David Nosko. David comes to us as a breath of fresh air, exposure to several Friends' meetings in other states, and surely his positive outlook and sense of humor will appear in the offerings in the newsletter.

Unless someone new picks it up, we will be retiring the Bilingual Corner. Phoebe, our Administrative Assistant, handles the calendar and layout/distribution. I've been in touch with Auntie Wilhemina Elspeth Upswaddle, and she hopes that young Friends will continue to write to her, and she will do her best to answer.

The newsletter should not be on the shoulders of just one person. If you want to send photos or articles, or inspirational quotations, reach out to Dave at: davidnosko1@gmail.com.

It's been an honor serving the Friends Meeting e-mail community.

~ Nancy Marshall



THE WAY FORWARD

On Saturday, February 24, about 25 of us from Tempe Meeting, Phoenix Meeting, and with traveling Friend Jamie Newton from Silver City, NM, met in our Meeting room for a potluck lunch, a slide show on the meeting and spirit of Intermountain Yearly Meeting, and a discussion of queries on challenges faced by our local Meetings and how we might envision our future, possibly with partnering help from pithing IMYM.

Of the ideas expressed, here are a few:

- 1) Invite (and pay) a Friend who has experience in education to visit among local Monthly Meetings to give us ideas and share our experiences on raising a strong Sunday School community (Elizabeth from Albuquerque was suggested more than once);
- 2) Advertise more broadly, not to “proselytize,” but to let folks know we are here;
- 3) Recognize that it costs money do some of the things we want and that when volunteers for large jobs are not forthcoming, find a way to pay for the service;
- 4) Find a way for folks to camp at IMYM;
- 5) Find more connections among ourselves within the Intermountain community.

The Annual Gathering of IMYM will be June 12-16 in Durango, CO.

ON GRATITUDE



“We give thanks to all of the waters of the world for quenching our thirst, for providing strength and nurturing life for all beings...

We turn our thoughts to all of the Fish life in the water... They were instructed to cleanse and purify the water. They also give themselves to us as food.

Now we turn toward the vast fields of Plant life... Can we agree that we are grateful that the berries are with us in the world and send our thanksgiving, love and respect to the berries?... With one mind, we honor and thank all the Food Plants we harvest from the garden...

Now we turn to the Medicine Herbs of the world... They are always waiting and ready to heal us... With one mind we greet and thank the Tree Life....

We gather our minds together to send our greetings and thanks to all the beautiful animal life of the world, who walk about with us... We thank all the birds who move and fly about over our heads...



We are thankful for the powers we know as the Four Winds. We hear their voices in the moving air as they refresh us and purify the air we breathe...

We bring our minds together as now to send greetings and thanks to our Grandfathers, the Thunderers...



We now send greetings and thanks to our eldest brother the Sun..

We give thanks to our oldest Grandmother, the Moon, who lights the nighttime sky...

We send greetings and thanks to the enlightened Teachers who have come to help throughout the ages...

We now turn our thoughts to the Creator, or Great Spirit, and send greeting and thanks for all the gifts of Creation."

~ From "Allegiance to Gratitude," from BRAIDING SWEETGRASS, by Robin Wall Kimmerer, Canada, 2013

IN GRATITUDE

It is with heart felt appreciation that I want to thank you all for your contributions of bottle caps, clothing, food and even a refrigerator!

The caps are a valuable gift in that they are driven across the border into Mexico, boiled down and made into prosthesis parts for poor Mexican people in need.

Thank you for your kindness, generosity and for being the caring loving people you all are.

~ From Judy Lundy, in behalf of all the people whom we reach and serve.



BUILDING OUR MEETING COMMUNITY — ONSITE

Report to the Meeting for Worship for Business:

February, 2024

In the dark of night, somewhere between dusk of February 7, and the dawn of February 8, 2024 a car without two working front tires was abandoned in the driveway of the Meetinghouse. Our Resident (who shall remain unnamed so as to avoid bringing inappropriate lavish praise upon them) wisely called the police. The police inspected the inside to see if there was evidence of ownership or a gun on the front seat. They popped the trunk to be sure there was not a dead body inside. Relieved to find all in the negative, they parted with the salvo, "Since it is on Meeting property, and not on the street, it's your problem."

Sunday arrived, and the car still sat in the driveway, hampering but not completely blocking legitimate traffic. An ad hoc committee of Friends Concerned Over the Abandoned Vehicle (FCOAV) formed itself and contemplated the possibilities.

One member (unnamed) wanted to donate to a charity. Several others offered their preferred charity names. They could not come to agreement.

A committee member with some experience in the charitable department asked if we knew who the owner might be. A charity would have to know the owner and be offered papers transferring title in order for a gift to be given and received.

Reference to police observations and further inspection of the vehicle did not produce answers on ownership.

Thus, FCOAV members reluctantly concluded that this poor vehicle had indeed been abandoned. The committee Clerk (anonymous) again sought the sense of the committee as to how to proceed.

Ultimately corporate wisdom prevailed. The committee (which will, true to Quaker tradition, remain nameless so as not to give too much credit—or blame—to any one individual, came to unity that the interests of the vehicle were best served if it could be referred for City services. We enlisted one committee member with a large car and a large tow-strap to hitch up the abandoned vehicle. While another committee member (also nameless) sat in the car and steered, the first committee member hauled the car off Meeting property—the car all the while being Held silently in the Light by all other VCOAV members—and into a parking space on the adjacent street, where it now stays, safe and eligible for all appropriate City of Phoenix services.

The FCOAV, being only an ad hoc committee set up to deal with a specific issue, and in keeping with the Good Order of Friends, immediately disbanded themselves and folded up their respective tents and receded into the desert.



~ Respectfully submitted, an anonymous member of FCOAV.

ON CRITIQUE AND CRITICISM

“Critique is important. It can make us sharper. It can make us more effective and better. But criticism is also a skill. It’s not just about throwing out the first thing that makes you mad or that you thought about in your mind. It requires skills. The skill to boil it down to the essence and not make s... personal. The ability to make room for growth and assume that growth is possible, and really be grounded in a desire for growth and not just a desire for punishment or revenge. And it requires the ability not only to give it but also to *receive* it.”

~ emphasis by nhm,
Alicia Garza, from *THE PERSUADERS*,
by Anand Giridharadas, Vintage Books, NY, 2022

OUR BILINGUAL CORNER

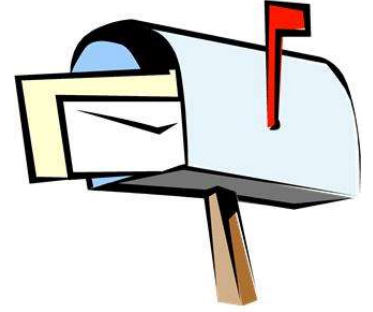
In appreciation of Friends in our Western Hemisphere, and in our Meeting, for whom Spanish might be a first Language, and for “gringos” who might want to learn more Spanish, we include a monthly spiritual message in both English and Spanish.

Esta mes, un foto del jardín de la comunidad sobre Romero.



This month, a photo from the community garden about Rosemary.

Letters to Auntie Upwaddle



Dear Auntie Upwaddle:

It is Black History month and they are having us read some speeches and see some videos about Black people in the US and their struggle for freedom and dignity. I like learning this stuff, but some students tell me race is just fake and that we don't need to learn about Slavery or racism. I'm confused. There are some black students in my school (not a lot) and some Latino students and some from Asia and other parts of the world. Why focus on Black History?

Your friend,

Caroline

Dear Caroline,

Thanks so much for writing and asking some very good questions. They are not easy to answer.

My first thought is that when people tell you you don't need to learn about slavery or racism, ask them where they got that idea. Ask if they are curious. Let them know that you are curious, and that you are seeking answers in a lot of places, not just a few classes at school, or one TV program. You want to read lots of books, even some that are "Banned," just to understand what people are writing and thinking about. That you want to meet more people who are of different backgrounds, including black people and other people of color, and learn some history directly from their experience.

Racism has been real for a long time, not just in the United States. There has been a system of dividing people by caste in India for thousands of years. People born to some higher classes or professions are upper caste, and people born to those of more menial jobs are "lower caste," and it's really hard to do anything (get an education, move to a different town) in order to be treated as anything but the caste you were born into. The caste system in India has been illegal for many years but it still persists.

We emphasize black history in the U.S. because as a nation, we have a history of white people of European heritage enslaving black people who were brought here by force from Africa as slaves. Slavery in the U.S. was based on race. Even in modern times, when slavery is illegal, and there has been an ongoing movement for civil rights (for people of color, women, and people of different nationalities and religions), there is still discrimination and inequity in how our institutions like education and voting work.

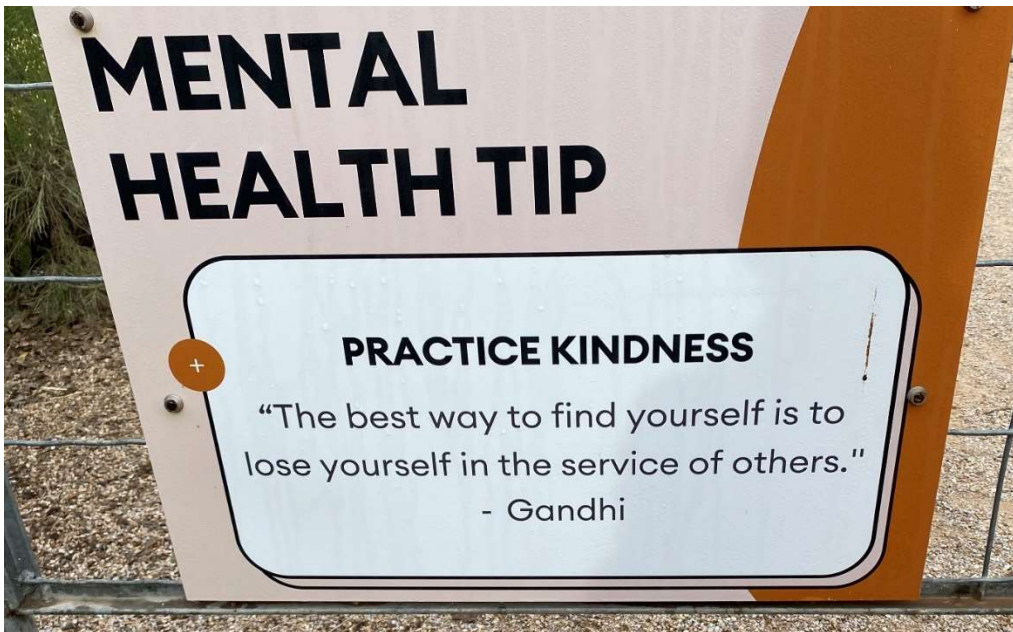
Caroline, I'm glad you are curious. You'll find a lot to learn, from a lot of different people, movies, books and more along the way. And what you learn now may need to be updated in the future. For example, I know a lot of Black gospel and spiritual songs, songs that are over 100 years old. But I just learned this week, from a show on TV, that black people have really updated their style of singing gospel music from what it was in the past. There is even a lot more dancing included, even in churches! Now, that's wayyyy different than what we do in Quaker Meeting! I don't think I will be able

to learn some of these songs. But I appreciate the idea that a new generation of black gospel singers and song writers has come up and that lots of people love these new songs. As we say in Quaker circles, the search for truth is a continuing process. And the search for the perfect gospel song, in black churches and elsewhere, is also a continuing process.

Maybe you and I can visit a traditionally “black” church one day and join in singing the gospel songs!

Your friend,

Auntie Wilhemina Elspeth Upswaddle



WHO ARE THESE SMILING PEOPLE?
(hint: One of them used to be our Resident)