

**Program Description for
New Mexico Friends Regional Spring Gathering
April 23 – 25, 2021**

Spirit, Nature, Connections: Growing from the Time of Quarantine

The New Mexico Regional Meeting will be offered by Zoom this year. Albuquerque Monthly Meeting will host the event and we encourage as many of you as possible to attend.

Friday evening Program: We will start at 6 pm with inter-generational introductions and a game or two. Feel free to have all or part of (potluck) dinner during the first hour. After a short break, at 7 pm we will read the State of the Meeting Reports. We ask that each Meeting choose a reader for their report. We will close with a short worship time after the readings.

Saturday morning 9 – 10:30 am. We will spend time with guest Friends Mica Estrada and Carl Maguder, of Strawberry Creek Meeting in Berkeley, CA sharing their ministry on our theme.

10:30 – 11:30 – Nature Break with some direction from Carl and Mica

11:30 – 12:30 – Sharing of questions and thoughts on the morning's presentation.

1:30 – 2:45 pm – The Albuquerque Contemplative Reading group will share a short experience of its practice - as we read together, out loud, out of the silence - a poem by Joy Harjo, the first native woman poet laureate from her book *Conflict Resolution for Holy Beings*. We will listen for what rises up within us in response to the text from our own experience and our day's theme.

4 – 5 pm – Worship Sharing, reflecting on our connections with nature.

Option #1: Zoom breakout rooms. Friends will choose a comfortable spot in nature—or with a view of nature—at home and join a Zoom breakout room.

Option #2: Go to a favorite nature site—away from wifi. Some Friends may choose this if they have the technology. We realized how for so many of us, such a site is near a life-giving river, but any site with cell phone coverage should work. Participants would use a smart phone, signing up in advance to join a group based on a specific app. It should work for groups of 4 – 5 on FaceTime (for iPhone people), on What's App and on Facebook Messenger. (there are online instructions for each app on group video calls.) When you register – please indicate if you would like to try this and show which apps you can use, so we can form groups in advance. We will ask each group to hold a practice session from home during the lunch hour, with the hope that the worship sharing time won't be taken up by technical difficulties.

Sunday morning 9 – 10 am As it was for many, 2020 was a challenging year for the American Friends Service Committee NM Program. Sayrah Namaste and Patrick Jaramillo will share the story of the year with us, and their plans for the coming year. Farm to Food Bank was created in response to the pandemic to keep farmers and traditional people of the land working with some income, and helping

feed the many New Mexicans who suddenly had to rely on food pantries. They continued their Healthy Food Campaigns despite at home schooling thanks to volunteers from Abq Monthly Meeting. The pandemic created new ways to address inequities that could be continued after the pandemic if there is systems change.

10:30 – 11:30 am Meeting for Worship. During worship on Sunday, children are especially invited to join Albuquerque's children for a program on the theme, offered by our Children's Program Coordinator, Elizabeth Freyman. Participants need to register by April 7 to receive their activity box in time.

2 – 3:30 pm Meeting for Worship for Business. Clerk Nan Uhl will be sending the agenda.

REGISTRATION FORM – [USE THIS LINK:](#)

Registration is required because you will need to receive the Zoom links. PLEASE REGISTER by APRIL 7.

We continue with our custom of Pay as Led. Costs for this Regional are low due to no rental or food expense. We will be providing honorarium for our speakers and have expenses for the children's activity boxes for materials and postage. NM Regional has a healthy budget right now and can cover these expenses. Your contributions are welcome if you can help out.

About our guest Friends:

Carl describes himself as an EarthQuaker, who finds "That of God in all Creation." He led Bible study at Friends General Conference last year on Trickster Jesus and works as a hospice chaplain.

[[hyperlink: https://www.fgcquaker.org/connect/gathering/schedule-glance/gathering-schedule-and-handouts/virtual-gathering-videos](https://www.fgcquaker.org/connect/gathering/schedule-glance/gathering-schedule-and-handouts/virtual-gathering-videos)] [[Hyperlink: https://www.civiclight.org/soulways](https://www.civiclight.org/soulways)] .

Mica said of her workshop at Ben Lomond last year: we "will give space and time to shifting our paradigm from trying to solve a problem to listening to a wise earth... Nature allows diversity to flourish and find its way to equity, inclusion and letting go." She is also a research professor who studies diversity, equity and inclusion in STEM.

We look forward to our time together, the Albuquerque Meeting Planning Team:

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