

**Topeka Friends Meeting
State of the Society, 2021-2022**

Thus men should never take leave of each other lightly, for then, should the worst happen, they can say to themselves: "At least I did press him to my heart!"

Joseph and His Brothers by Thomas Mann

In 2021, we went back and forth between meeting in person and meeting over Zoom. On October 17, 2021, we started meeting in-person again and continue to meet in-person today.

In 2021, the man that housed the local Bahais' archives suddenly became ill and had to sell his house. The meeting decided to allow the local Bahais to use one of our upstairs rooms to store their archives. We have received so much support from the Bahais over the years and we were happy to be able to help them.

In 2021, James Coffman continued to be incarcerated. He found an attorney that was willing to file an appeal on his behalf, and for the first time since he was incarcerated we are hopeful. James continues to struggle within the issues associated with the understaffed state penal system and to remain optimistic while gangs dominate the life of the prison.

In February 2022, we were blessed with a new friend and lost a very dear one. Howard Chong moved to Topeka at the beginning of the year and started attending our meeting in February. We have been very blessed with Howard's youthful energy and broad world view that he lends to the meeting.

On February 27, 2022, Ron Strong lost his battle with Alzheimer's disease and the light that had shined so beautifully in Ron was extinguished. The meeting marked Ron's passing with a memorial service on April 24, 2022.

Also, on April 24, 2022, we enjoyed our first potluck since the start of the pandemic. We are grateful to have one of our favorite parts of community back.

On April 16, 2022, we received an email from Carrie Cornsweet Barber. Her family moved to New Zealand several years ago so we have not seen them for a while. She is the co-clerk of the local monthly meeting and needs to transfer her membership. Hearing from Carrie reminded us of the many happy times we shared with them and how long it has been since we have enjoyed their company. We sadly transferred her membership at our May business meeting.

Lori Keegan continues to participate in the FCNL advocacy teams. They have been able to meet with local politicians using Zoom. The local advocacy team is now called Lawrence / Topeka Advocacy Team of Kansas.

On behalf of the Topeka Friends Meeting,

David Ozaki
Presiding Clerk