

April 2025



The Friendly News

Friends Meeting of San Antonio (Quakers)

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Our Meeting house is built on the Payaya People's land.

Finance Committee Seeks Feedback

The following is the Finance Committee's summary of the FMSA & Money forum held on February 23. The committee is seeking feedback regarding how well this report captures thoughts shared in the forum, as well as concrete suggestions for how we might operationalize this framework as part of the Meeting's approach to its financial and non-financial resources. We would like to find a way to have some tangible guidance come out of this process. Friends can respond to the finance@saquakers.org email.

Finance Committee Summary and Thought Piece

Based upon the FMSA & Money Forum

February 23, 2025

On February 23, Friends met together in a forum focused on the Friends Meeting of San Antonio and our relationship to money both in terms of individual giving and the stewardship of the assets in our care. The discussion was led by the Finance Committee, which consisted of Carol Redfield, Pat Sweet, and Bill Wilkinson. Bill Sweet was part of the panel in his role as treasurer.

[cont. on p.3]

Advice for April

In this season of renewal and growth, how might we embrace the beauty of spring and the small joys in nature to sustain and guide us, as we seek to live faithfully despite the shadows being cast in the world today?

April 2025 Calendar

Regular Activities

- **Sunday Meetings for Worship, 10:00-11:00**
 - In-person in Meetinghouse and on Zoom
- **First Day School Children's Program, every Sunday, 10:00-11:00**
 - Childcare is available during forums and Meetings for Business
- **Midweek Meeting for Worship at Gary and Vivian's home**
 - First Wednesday of each month, 7:00 PM
 - 307 E. Mistletoe Avenue (between McCullough and St. Mary's, we will keep the colored lights on)
 - Please join us!
- **Potluck Lunch - 1st Sunday, 11:30-12:30**
- **Sunday Forums - 2nd & 4th Sundays, 11:30-12:30**
 - In-person in Meetinghouse and on Zoom
- **Meeting for Worship with Attention To Business; 4th Sunday, 11:30-12:30**
 - In-person in Meetinghouse and on Zoom
- **Friday Meeting for Worship, 8:00-8:30 am, Zoom only**
- **"Meeting for Weeding," 3rd Saturday, 8:30-12:30**
- For ALL Zoom Meetings:
 - [CLICK HERE](#) to join by Zoom; ID # 976 0522 6497; passcode: 194077
 - by telephone at +1 346 248 7799, then enter ID#

Special Events

- | | |
|----------|---|
| April 6 | Collection for People with Needs <i>[see article on p.4]</i> |
| April 13 | Forum: Right Sharing of World Resources - Traci Hjelt Sullivan, General Secretary of RSWR (aka Rebecca's mom) |
| April 19 | Meeting for Weeding, 8:30-12:30 |
| April 27 | Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business <i>[Please note change to 4th Sunday]</i> |

First Day School Schedule

April 6	Cooking for Potluck with Gretchen
April 13	Won't you be my jirani?
April 20	Easter coloring and free play with Renata
April 27	Group games with Renata

Finance Committee Seeks Feedback [continued]

The discussion seemed to focus on being responsible in terms of sustaining the Meeting in light of today's financial realities, including issues that affect those realities along with how, and under what circumstances, we should use our money to accomplish good locally and in the wider Quaker world. Friends seemed interested in developing a "philosophy" about how FMSA views and uses its monetary and non-monetary assets well, while establishing sufficient reserves to support future generations of Quakers in San Antonio.

Here are some possible ways in which FMSA could establish a framework for how it manages its wealth, while rooted in nonviolence, community-building, and a firm belief in equality and justice for all people. Many of these things we already do to some extent, but it may be helpful to have them in writing and develop them into something more concrete that would provide guidance to the treasurer, finance committee, and the meeting as a whole.

- **Mindful Spending:** Recognizing that the manner in which money is used can have profound effects, both positive and negative. We thoughtfully spend money on that which truly serves what the Meeting is trying to accomplish in the short term and long term by carefully planning in ways that avoid reactionary spending and focus on those issues and things we view as important.
- **Sustainable Choices:** Advocating for purchasing goods and services that are ethically produced, environmentally sustainable, and support businesses with positive social impacts, when possible. This could include buying from local organizations as well as those that prioritize fairness, equity, environmental stewardship, and assist with immigrant employment.
- **Resisting Consumerism:** Avoiding the culture of excessive consumption, emphasizing contentment with what is enough, and steering clear of the common propensity for material excess.
- **Supporting Like-minded Organizations:** Encouraging contributions to organizations and movements aligned with Quaker values. This includes nonprofits working on peacebuilding, social justice, immigration, poverty alleviation, racial and gender equality, environmental advocacy, equitable access to resources, and promoting nonviolent conflict resolution.
- **Consider Tithing:** Promoting individual tithing or charitable donations to FMSA and how FMSA gives to others as a form of responsible monetary stewardship. The idea is not just to give to charity but to joyfully contribute what we can.
- **Time and Talent:** In addition to financial contributions, Quakers have always valued time and talent as forms of wealth. Encouraging individuals to volunteer and support FMSA as well as causes where their skills can be just as impactful as donating money.
- **Impact Investing:** Require that investments generate both financial returns and positive social/environmental impacts.

- **Mutual Aid and Community Engagement:** Support mutual aid within our local Quaker community to foster a sense of shared responsibility among Friends. Participate in building local community infrastructure or supporting grassroots movements.
- **Future Generations:** Consider the welfare of future generations in how money is used and invested. Advocate for financial strategies that promote the long-term health of the planet and its ecosystems, in which humans and human societies are integral, with a strong emphasis on renewable resources, carbon reduction, and sustainable agriculture in addition to the long-term health of FMSA.

Donations for Religious Education



SAVE SOME FOR US!

The Young Friends will be making some really cool arts and crafts in the coming months.

We would love your glass yogurt pots to transform into amazing and fun new things!

Community Updates

FMSA Supports Our Local Community

FMSA is continuing to collect items for people in need. This collection will only take place each first First Day (Sunday) of each month. A collection box will be on the breezeway outside the Meeting Room entrance. The items will be delivered Sunday afternoon. Watch the weekly announcements for specific needs for each upcoming month.

Current needs include:

- Larger size diapers (4-6)
- Basic cleaning supplies and house goods (trash bags, bleach, toilet paper, paper towels, etc.)
- Oil, sugar, and salt are always needed.
- Food/HEB gift cards are always welcome.

Meeting for Weeding

We had a lively Meeting for Weeding in March: screens were cleaned, windows were washed, plants were pruned, leaves were raked, the roof was swept, and fun was had by all!



Thursday Nature-Based Program for Kids, taught by Nicki

A young participant in the Wild at Heart nature program plants bluebonnets in our garden.



Reflections on Friends Journal

By Frances Frey

The February 2025 issue of the Friends Journal opens with a letter from the editor in which he describes this issue as sharing “tips for staying spiritually grounded in times of turmoil.” In this reflection, I will share a brief synopsis of each of these articles, as well as a few thoughts and quotes that resonated with me. This issue also contains articles about the history of Friends' involvement in slavery; how Alaskan Friends are healing their relationship with Indigenous communities after a history of involvement in Indigenous boarding schools; Friends' global responses to climate change; and a reflection on the Israel-Hamas War. If any of these topics interest you, I encourage you to check out this issue online at the [Friends Journal website](#).

In a brief article entitled “On the Use of Despair,” the author shares her perspective on despair and the importance of allowing ourselves to move through it. She clarifies, “I am not saying that despair should be encouraged, wallowed in, or fed daily tidbits of hopelessness and gloom. I am saying that despair, like any emotion, must be felt as fully as one can on any given day, acknowledged, given room to crescendo, and only then pointed toward action.” She describes despair as a dark chasm with hope waiting on the other side, and she reminds us that we do not have to traverse the chasm alone: “...there is another side to the chasm. This knowledge does not mitigate that there is a long climb down into it, and an even longer climb up the other side. Like the kind souls who kept me company through 53 hours of labor when my first child was born, God does not take away any of the pain - and does not leave my side.”

In “Rhapsody in Purple: Reshaping Hearts through Political Canvassing,” the author describes what she learned canvassing when she ran for a non-partisan county board seat. She shares, “I once learned at a recycling center that strong paper has long fibers; having only short fibers makes paper weak and prone to tearing. I think this is a useful metaphor for thinking about communities. As I see it, any connection between two people is a fiber. A long fiber is a relationship across divides of class, race, education, neighborhood, political leanings, etc. The more long fibers you have, the stronger your community. For me, canvassing my purple district is about creating fibers - the longer the better!” The author goes on to describe canvassing as “a chance to connect with an amazing, random collection of human beings, some of whom will touch your heart in ways you cannot predict. You will help weave our distrusting, anger-shredded society back together, fiber by fiber.”

In “The Delight of Being Alive,” the author describes how she uses walking prayer meditation for healing. I love the Quakerly way she describes what brought her to the practice: “I realized I was beyond my measure: doing far too much and some of it not in the right spirit.” I also love how the author describes the importance of cultivating love for this world: “What we love, we protect. If we bear witness to the beauty and the suffering of all our relations on earth, we might be led to action...I come to the path every day with this question: What will I fall in love with today?”

FGC Gathering 2025

By Rachael Cundey

This February 1-9 was the first Friends General Conference Gathering originally planned to be completely virtual (2020 was a surprise). I entered The Gathering with a question: What is mine to do? With so many problems in the world and so much to be done to address them, what are my next steps?

I left with a few answers.

I heard from Windy Cooler about her years of public ministry addressing abuse in Quaker communities. Her work was greatly informed by the research of Judy Brutz, which showed that Quakers, despite our testimonies of peace and equality, have similar rates of family violence as all other communities. The final expression of her ministry was an extended listening project, the results of which are found at <https://www.lifeandpowerquakerdiscernmentonabuse.com/>. I hope our Meeting can start a dialogue on interpersonal/family/intimate partner violence.

I participated in a weeklong Quaker workshop titled “Business Meeting: What Is Quaker and What is White?” which examined practices in Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business that may rise not from Spirit but from the white, middle-class upbringing that a majority of Friends share. Our group shared great conversations, although we had more questions than answers. How do we strike the balance of integrating newcomers without forcing them to assimilate away their differences? Where is the role of education on the good intentions behind Quaker practice, and when should we instead question the practices Friends who are not both white and middle-class find problematic? An opinion widely held was the need to “translate” Quaker terms into words understood outside our bubble. I am happy that we have been spelling out acronyms lately in this Meeting, and I hope we can remember to clarify our seventeenth-century Quaker language as well.

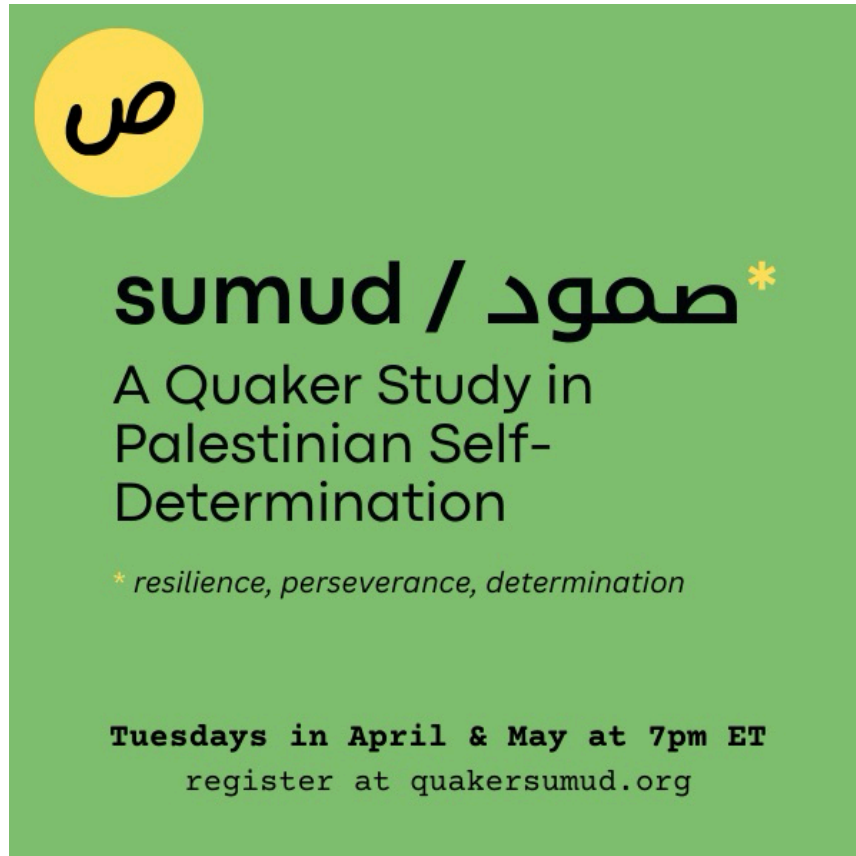
One Friend shared the feeling that Quakers are conflict-avoidant. Another responded that we have plenty of conflict; rather, we are repair-avoidant. When harm occurs, we too often hope it will go away rather than take steps to heal the rupture.

I could say so much more. I’ll give a quick shoutout to Faith and Play, which was very healing to me as someone who grew up in a more prescriptive Sunday School environment. I look forward to further conversations with Friends on these topics and many more!

Quaker Study in Palestinian Self-Determination

By Rachael Cundey

I attended this workshop as part of the Friends General Conference Gathering and was truly impressed by the integration of history and politics with our Quaker faith and values. My fellow workshop attendees made deep, thoughtful contributions to the conversation (whether they had done the recommended reading or not). You can register here: <https://quakersumud.org/register/>



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