

August 2025



The Friendly News

Friends Meeting of San Antonio (Quakers)

7052 N. Vandiver (at Eisenhower)
San Antonio, Texas 78209

Message Phone: 210.945.8456

Website: www.sanantonioquakers.org

Facebook: @saquakers

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

Connecting with the People's University for Palestine

By Rachael Cundey

On Sunday, July 13th, James visited us for a forum on the People's University for Palestine here in San Antonio. We learned how the People's University formed last year after Governor Abbott's Executive Order 44 targeted pro-Palestine students, educators, and campus organizations. At the same time, the schools and universities in Gaza were being destroyed. Professors, students, and community members came together and imagined a university outside of school walls and censorship that would center Palestinian voices and oppose systemic violence.

Throughout fall 2024 and spring 2025, the People's University met about once per month on Zoom or at different locations in the community to discuss topics such as militarism, religious nationalism, colonization, and the Boycott, Divest, and Sanctions movement, always demonstrating the connections between Palestine and San Antonio.

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Query for August

Do we care for one another so deeply that we are aware of the personal difficulties of those in the meeting community? How do we translate our awareness of those difficulties into appropriate action? How do we express our concern for others when we feel a problem exists and our help has not been sought?

August 2025 Calendar

Regular Activities

- **Sunday Meetings for Worship**, 10:00 - 11:00 AM
 - In-person in the Meetinghouse and on Zoom
- **First Day School Children's Program**, every Sunday, 10:00 - 11:00 AM
 - Childcare is available during forums and Meetings for Business
- **Potluck Lunch** - Sunday, August 3, 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM
- **Friday Meeting for Worship**, 8:00 - 8:30 AM, Zoom only
- **"Meeting for (Not Just) Weeding,"** Saturday, August 16, 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM
- **No Meeting for Business, forums, or midweek meeting for worship in August.**
These activities will resume in September.
- 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#

First Day School Schedule

On our third First Day (August 17th), all Friends are invited to a back-to-school Popsicle Social hosted by the Young Friends! There will be a bevy of frozen treats (including vegan, low-sugar, and dairy-free options) for all to enjoy. The event will be at rise of worship. Please plan to join us for a sweet treat and fellowship.

August 3: Cooking for Potluck with Gretchen

August 10: Quaker Basics: 🎵 Let's Get Down to Business 🎵 with Rebecca and Suzanne

August 17: Quaker Basics: Committees: Gotta Catch 'Em All! with Suzanne

August 24: Quaker Basics: Queries: Quaint Quirk or Quintessential Quaking? with Rebecca and Suzanne

August 31: Quaker Basics: Curious Quaker Round Up and Wrap Up with Suzanne

[People's University - continued from page 1]

Another strong throughline in these sessions has been poetry. James led us to reflect on the [poem](#) "Your Weight, at Birth" by Naomi Shibab Nye, a Palestinian poet in San Antonio.

James graciously shared with us his path to becoming an educator and his path to becoming involved in the struggle for justice in historic Palestine. Both interests were first sparked by his love for the environment. He now sees connections everywhere; so many of the social concerns we face here in San Antonio are also key elements of the Palestinian struggle. He encouraged us to keep our focus on the ongoing genocide in Gaza and how we can support Palestinians in seeking peace and justice.

At Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on July 20th, Lisa proposed inviting the People's University to hold one of their sessions on our property. What followed was a rich discussion of what we are led to do with the resources we have. Friends expressed our alignment with the People's University's principles and deep concern about the targeting of educational efforts in this country and possible future erosion of free speech protections.

We united in the following minute:

MINUTE 2025.07.03 FMSA supports the mission of education and justice of the People's University for Palestine and, in that spirit, approves offering our space for free to hold a meeting in the fall or spring semester, should they require additional space.

More information about the People's University for Palestine can be found at their [website](#) and in this [article](#).

Reflections on Friends Journal

By Frances Frey

When I received the June/July issue of the Friends Journal and flipped to the table of contents, I was thrilled to see a name I know. Our own Suzanne Cole Sullivan published an article entitled [Sparking Still: Big Steps for Small Friends in First-day School](#). I will save my reflections on this issue of the Friends Journal, and encourage you to go to the source and read about the Quaker revival that is happening in our very own meeting.

Special Events



@sa_stands

CAFECITO: BREWING COMMUNITY SAFETY

PART 2 OF OUR CAFECITO SERIES WHERE WE WILL TALK ABOUT EXISTING SOLUTIONS FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY, WHAT SOLUTIONS CAN WE PUSH FOR, AND WHAT OUR VISION IS FOR THE FUTURE!

When: Thursday,
August 7 @ 6:30PM

Where: St. Paul United
Methodist Church
508 Center St,
San Antonio, TX 78202

Free coffee & snacks!

get to know your Friends

Friends Meeting of San Antonio

Frances Frey is a long-time, intermittent attender of FMSA. She has two sons, one who is about to start college in California, and the other who is in high school at ISA. Frances spends her days at Trinity University answering questions with data and her nights at home with her kids, her partner, and her dog. She loves to read, crochet, knit, play piano (poorly), and go for long walks in her neighborhood.



How many states and/or countries have you lived in?

Two countries (US and Hungary), five states (Arizona, Massachusetts, Colorado, California, and Texas)

Where did you attend your first Quaker Meeting?

Cambridge, MA. After encountering Quakers at protests against the war in Iraq, I read *A Quaker Book of Wisdom*, and I became curious to experience silent worship.

Which of the Quaker testimonies speaks to you most right now?

Simplicity is speaking to me most strongly at the moment. In the past, I thought of simplicity as being about how I spent my money, but now I feel drawn to it as a meditation on how I spend my time as well. I'm trying to learn to only say yes to things I am called to, so I can give more time to the things that matter. I also see simplicity as foundational to the other testimonies.

What is sustaining you right now?

I am sustained by noticing 'small wonders' around me. I often stop on walks to take pictures of dewdrops on grass or to feel the warm breeze on my skin. Noticing reminds me that, no matter what is happening in the world, there is still joy and beauty all around me.

1

Beach or Mountain
Mountain

2

Cake or Cookies
Cookies

3

Summer or Winter
SUMMER

4

Book or Movie
BOOK

Community Updates

After hearing a moving, spirit-led presentation by the pastor of the community we are supporting during a forum on June 22, the Meeting agreed to make a financial contribution to the community during a called meeting for business that same day. We received a lovely thank-you letter that was read aloud after the rise of meeting on July 6. We wanted to share it here as well.

Dear friends,

7/2/25

↑ (both your name and ~~quite~~ literally true!)

Thank you so much for the opportunity to share with you all recently about our ministry work.

It was heartening to feel that the stories of my community were valued and cared for in that space and to see and feel so much support and compassion. And thank you for this incredible gift in the donation that you sent. These funds are so needed and will go directly to help so many families in crisis – so that they can have food, shelter, medicine and so on, but also so that they will feel loved and blessed by you all as I did.

With deep gratitude and love,

Dianne

Other Groups Use Our Meetinghouse

By Jim Spickard, FMSA Rental Coordinator

The Meeting periodically rents our meetinghouse and grounds to outside groups. We have two types of rentals:

1. Some groups rent only the Meeting Room or the Community Room. Friends are welcome to use other parts of the Meetinghouse while they are here, but should stay away from the Meeting/Community rooms and the main porch. It is fine to use the library or work in the gardens.
 - *These rentals have the off-blue color code for "Outside Groups" on our website calendar.*
2. Other groups rent the entire site for private events. Unless you are involved with that group, Friends should NOT come to the Meetinghouse during their activities.
 - *These rentals have the light-yellow color code for "Private Events" on our website calendar.*

We need to be courteous to these groups and not impinge on their activities. Friends are welcome to come to the Meetinghouse during the week, but should consult the website calendar (<https://sanantonioquakers.org/calendar/>) before doing so.

Consideration of 2025 Charitable Contributions

By Bill Wilkinson

With the dissolution of the Peace & Social Justice Committee, the Meeting determined that concerns that would have come through that committee will be considered at Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business as a committee of the whole. At the September Meeting for Business, we will determine the Quaker and local organizations to which we will make contributions in 2025.

The list below shows the organizations to which FMSA has made contributions, including a description of each organization and contribution amounts for the most recent contribution year. It is critical that this list be reviewed so that Friends can make informed decisions in September.

If anyone has additional organizations they would like the Meeting to consider, please plan to provide a brief summary of the organization and an explanation of why you wish to add it to the organizations under consideration.

Quaker Organizations

Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)

Last Contribution \$200 in 2024

A Quaker advocacy group that lobbies Congress to promote peace, justice, and environmental stewardship based on Quaker values.

American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)

Last Contribution \$70 in 2024

A Quaker organization working globally for peace, human rights, and social justice through humanitarian aid, advocacy, and education.

Friends Journal

Last Contribution \$75 in 2024

A monthly Quaker magazine that explores contemporary issues through the lens of Quaker faith and practice.

Quaker Voluntary Service (QVS)

Last Contribution \$75 in 2024

A year-long fellowship program for young adults combining spiritual formation, community living, and social justice work.

Friends Peace Teams

Last Contribution \$80 in 2022

A Quaker-led initiative supporting peacebuilding, healing, and reconciliation in conflict zones through grassroots partnerships.

Friends Peace Teams – Peacebuilding en las Américas

Last Contribution \$350 in 2024

A regional program under Friends Peace Teams focused on trauma healing and conflict transformation in Latin America.

Friends General Conference (FGC)

Last Contribution \$70 in 2024

A North American Quaker association that supports unprogrammed meetings with resources for worship, spiritual growth, and outreach.

Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC)

Last Contribution \$70 in 2024

Connects Quakers across theological and geographic lines worldwide to promote unity and collaboration.

Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO)

Last Contribution \$100 in 2024 (First-time recipient)

Represents Quaker values at the UN by advocating for peace, human rights, and sustainable development.

Local & Interfaith Social Justice Groups

Esperanza Peace & Justice Center

Last Contribution \$100 in 2024

A San Antonio-based organization advocating for cultural and social justice through arts, education, and community organizing.

P.E.A.C.E. Initiative

Last Contribution \$225 in 2024

A grassroots San Antonio group working to end domestic violence through community education and empowerment.

COPS/METRO

Last Contribution \$125 in 2024

A coalition of churches and community organizations in San Antonio advocating for public policy that supports families and working people.

Interfaith Welcome Coalition

Last Contribution \$185 in 2024

A network of faith groups in San Antonio supporting asylum seekers and immigrants through hospitality, advocacy, and services.

Catholic Worker House

Last Contribution \$100 in 2024

Provides shelter, meals, and support to unhoused individuals in the spirit of Catholic Worker values of hospitality and justice.

Thrive Youth Center

Last Contribution \$165 in 2024

Offers emergency shelter and supportive services to LGBTQ+ youth experiencing homelessness in San Antonio.

Christian Assistance Ministries (CAM)

Last Contribution \$100 in 2024

A Christian nonprofit offering food, clothing, and case management to individuals and families in crisis in the San Antonio area.

Migrant Center for Human Rights

Last Contribution \$190 in 2022 (no longer in operation)

Provides legal services and advocacy for detained and vulnerable immigrants seeking asylum or relief in the U.S.

RAICES (Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services)

Last Contribution \$60 in 2022

A Texas-based nonprofit offering free and low-cost legal services to underserved immigrant children, families, and refugees.

Housing First Committee

Last Contribution \$20 in 2022

A local advocacy group promoting a "housing first" model that prioritizes stable housing as a foundation for addressing homelessness.

Subscribe to the monthly newsletter and weekly announcements at

<https://sanantonioquakers.org/newsletters/>

We welcome input for newsletters. Please email newsletter@saquakers.org if you have any news, articles, poetry, etc. to share. Photos are great, too!

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