

January 2025



The Friendly News

Friends Meeting of San Antonio (Quakers)

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Quakers famously speak of “testimonies”: simplicity, peace, integrity, and all the rest. Craig Barnett, of Chestnut Hill Meeting (PA) explains these as follows:

Testimony is not another word for values. It is our testimony to the reality of human life and our place in it. It is not a subjective choice of what we value, but the reality of life at its deepest and most authentic. When we encounter spiritual reality, we are touched by the creative energy of the universe. We have been granted a glimpse of ourselves and our place in the divine reality that moves through all things. At this moment, our own values, ideals, and principles become unimportant. After such an encounter we are changed, not just in our beliefs or values, but in how we perceive the world and our place and purpose in it. The first generation of Quakers did not invent a set of values. They lived according to the reality that had been revealed to them. In the process, they discovered that living an authentic human life and maintaining a genuine human community is a political act.

Advice for January

As we look back on this past year, how can we find the resolve to walk in peace and simplicity in the year ahead?

January 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
- **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**; 3rd 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, 9:00-1:00 (summer 8:00-12:00)
- 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

- January 18 Meeting for Weeding, 9:00-1:00
January 20 MLK March - check weekly announcements for FMSA participation
January 26 Forum: Worship Sharing on the State of the Meeting, 11:30-12:30

First Day School Schedule

- January 5 Cooking for Potluck with Gretchen
January 12 Simplicity in the Heart
January 19 Simplicity at Home
January 26 Simplicity in the Community

Subscribe to the monthly newsletter and weekly announcements at
<https://sanantonioquakers.org/newsletters/>

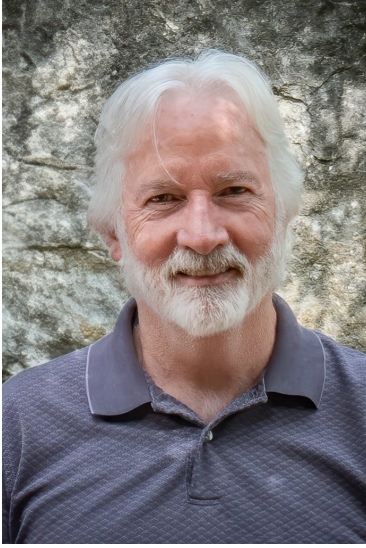

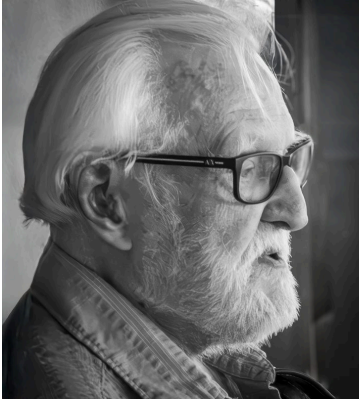
Forum: Worship Sharing on the State of the Meeting - January 26, 2025

Every year we submit a report to the South Central Yearly Meeting (SCYM) summarizing the life of the Meeting over the past year. At this forum, we will gather the thoughts of Friends in shared worship, responding to a set of queries, which will be the basis of our report.

Celebrating the Lives of Friends

Since our last newsletter, FMSA has celebrated the lives of three long-time Friends: James Mize, Michelle DiGiacomo, and Ken Southwood. At the memorials, Friends and family gathered to share memories and meditate on the lives of these long-time members of FMSA.

To read about their lives and legacies, download their memorial brochures below.

James Mize	Michelle DiGiacomo	Ken Southwood
 A color portrait of James Mize, an older man with white hair and a beard, wearing a dark polo shirt, set against a natural rock background.	 A color portrait of Michelle DiGiacomo, an older woman with short grey hair and glasses, wearing a blue and red patterned top.	 A black and white profile portrait of Ken Southwood, an older man with a white beard and glasses, wearing a denim jacket.
Memorial Brochure	Memorial Brochure	Memorial Brochure

Friends General Conference News

Come join Friends this winter for an inclusive, joyful, enlivening Online Gathering! The theme is “A Spring Whose Waters Never Fail.”

“When we feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and break every yoke of oppression, then our faith will become like a well-watered garden – like a spring whose waters never fail.”
(Isaiah 58)

The Online Gathering will be held on Zoom from February 1-9, 2025. For more information, visit www.fgcquaker.org/event/2025-online-gathering/.

The Online Gathering offers a wide variety of programs and events throughout the week, including workshops, daily worship, speakers, Bible Half Hour, and more. The gathering’s plenary speakers are Friends from around the world, who will bring grounding, connection, and new perspectives in these changing times.

If you are interested in learning more about clerking, please consider attending the session titled, “Friends Decision-Making and Clerking with Joy.” This workshop will focus on all aspects, both theoretical and practical, of Friends decision-making. For more information, visit:

www.fgcquaker.org/fgcworkshops/friends-decision-making-and-clerking-with-joy/

[Registration for the 2025 FGC Online Gathering is open!](#)

If you are requesting financial aid, the priority deadline for financial aid is Friday, January 3.

The deadline for Online Gathering registration is Monday, January 27.

Community Updates

Holiday Greetings from Friends who have Moved Away

Long-time members of FMSA may remember Colin and Debbie from before they moved to Salt Lake City and then Melbourne, Australia. Here are highlights from an update they shared with the community:

G'day,

It has been almost two years since we landed in Melbourne. Our little one, Moses, is almost 2 years old. He is a happy little dude.

We are settling into our life here. We found a wonderful community in the Melbourne Quaker meeting. We are enjoying our jobs – Colin is working for the state, and I'm working for the University of Melbourne. We recently purchased our first home in the hill country outside Melbourne.

We hope you have a wonderful holiday season



2024
With love from
Colin, Debbie, and Moses

Fun Photos from the December Meeting for Weeding

We had a good turnout for the December Meeting for Weeding, and the grounds around the meeting house are spruced up for the start of the new year.



