

July 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](http://www.sanantonioquakers.org)**  
**Facebook: @saquakers**

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

## AFSC Staff Member Injured in Gaza

*By Rachael Cundey*

Friends who attended South Central Yearly Meeting this year may remember the American Friends Service Committee workshop on their work in Gaza. We heard from their two staff members, Firas and Serena, through Zoom. They shared about their struggle to feed themselves and other Palestinians amidst bombings, displacement, and a blockade of humanitarian aid. They were so generous in sharing their time and experiences with us.

I received the news on June 24th that Firas was injured in a bombing that killed his neighbor. I am very concerned about his prospects for recovery given the destruction of the healthcare system in Gaza.

It is easy to feel hopeless in the face of so much suffering. We may never know whether our words and actions made an impact. As we hold that, what are we called to do? I invite Friends to think of one action they can take this week for Gaza in Firas's honor.

*[continued on page 3]*

## Query for July

*In times of public protest, when injustice demands a response and violence threatens to rise—within us or around us—how do we remain faithful to the Spirit of peace and stay guided by love, not hatred?*

## July 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
- **Midweek Meeting for Worship (Suspended for Summer)**
- **Potluck Lunch** - 1st Sunday, 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM
- **Sunday Forums** - 2nd & 4th Sundays, 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM
  - In-person in the Meetinghouse and on Zoom
- **Meeting for Worship with Attention To Business**; 3rd Sunday, 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM
  - In-person in the Meetinghouse and on Zoom
- **Friday Meeting for Worship**, 8:00 - 8:30 AM, Zoom only
- **"Meeting for Weeding,"** 3rd Saturday, 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM
- 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

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| July 13 | Forum: People's University of Palestine educational community group |
| July 19 | Meeting for Weeding, 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM                             |
| July 27 | Forum: White Culture in Quakerism                                   |

### First Day School Schedule

- |         |  |
|---------|--|
| July 6  | Cooking for Potluck, with Gretchen                               |
| July 13 | Quaker Basics: The 4 W's of Worship, with Suzanne                |
| July 20 | Quaker Basics: Help, I Swallowed My Teacher!, with Suzanne       |
| July 27 | Quaker Basics: Don't Bring Your Popcorn to Meeting, with Suzanne |

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- You could view a video on Serena and Firas's work here and share it with friends:
  - <https://afsc.org/lifelines>
- You could send an email to your representatives:
  - <https://afsc.org/action/tell-congress-demand-lifesaving-aid-gaza>
- You could commit to handwriting a letter to your representatives and use these guidelines to incorporate a personal story:
  - [https://act.fcni.org/sign/letters\\_for\\_gaza](https://act.fcni.org/sign/letters_for_gaza)

## Community Updates

### July Forums

On July 13, we will be visited by one of the organizers of the People's University of Palestine educational community group in San Antonio. They will talk about the work they are doing.

On July 27, Rachael will lead us in a discussion of how white culture shows up in Quaker spaces and how our Meeting can welcome expressions of Spirit from all cultures.

### Business Meeting Minutes

The minutes for the June Meeting for Business are now available on the FMSA website at <https://sanantonioquakers.org/business-meeting-agenda-reports/>. It is helpful if Friends review the previous month's minutes before each month's business meeting.

### Donations for People in Need

We will not be collecting physical donations on the first Sunday in July for the community we are supporting. We will resume collections in August; check the weekly announcements for details about what is needed.

After hearing a moving, spirit-led presentation by the pastor of this community during a forum on June 22, the Meeting agreed to make a substantial financial contribution to the community during a called meeting for business that same day.

### Weekly Prayer Vigil Vigilia de oración semanal

Para nuestros hermanos inmigrantes/  
To support our immigrant brothers and sisters

800 Dolorosa St  
Mondays/los Lunes at 8:00 am  
Beginning June 9/  
Comenzando el 9 de Junio

Questions?: [chair@interfaithwelcomcoalition.org](mailto:chair@interfaithwelcomcoalition.org)

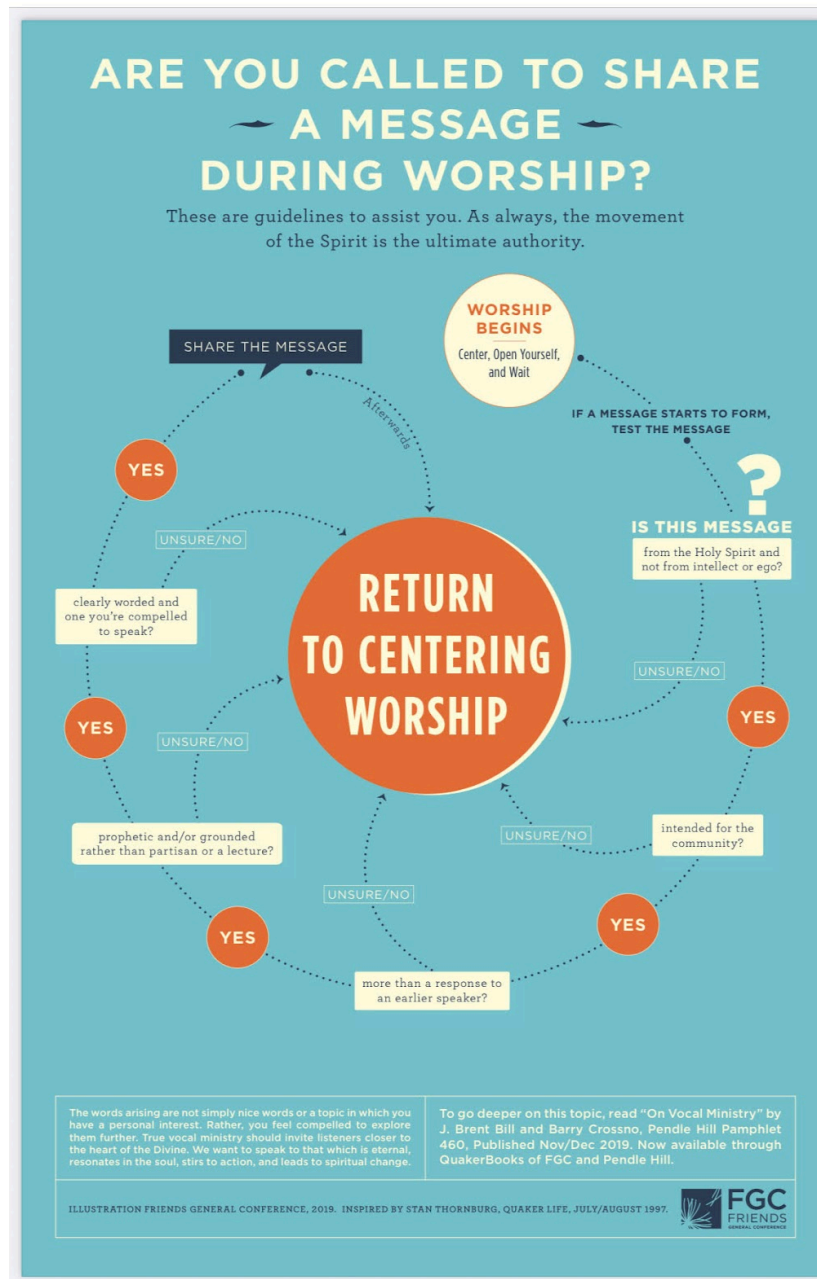


## Quaker Questions

**How can I be sure when it's appropriate to speak in Meeting for Worship?**

Click to see the [full PDF of the graphic](#) below.

"These are guidelines to assist you. As always, the movement of the Spirit is the ultimate authority."



*Are you curious about other Quaker faith and practice matters? Let us know! Email [ministry@saquakers.org](mailto:ministry@saquakers.org) with your questions and we'll respond in future newsletters.*

## get to know your Friends

Friends Meeting of San Antonio

**Gary Whiting** has been married to Vivian Rule for over 40 years, and together they have three grown daughters. Outside the home, Gary counsels individuals who have experienced life-changing illnesses or injuries. He says the beating heart of his work is group sessions that allow clients to help each other - he's just the guy who rents the room.



How many states and/or countries have you lived in?  
Eight states (Ohio, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Nebraska, Missouri, Texas, and Alaska).

Where did you attend your first Quaker Meeting?  
Austin, Texas, in 1996. He and Vivian were seeking a place to raise their daughters with active faith and social service.

Which of the Quaker testimonies speaks to you most right now? "We seek an Earth restored."

What is sustaining you right now?  
The light. We have within a direct source of strength and comfort. The light is a fount that pours into each of us.

1

Modern or Vintage  
Vintage

2

Coffee or Tea  
Coffee

3

Summer or Winter  
SUMMER

4

Morning or Night  
Morning



## Reflections on Friends Journal

By Frances Frey

The features in May's Friends Journal focused on housing and homelessness. The first feature, *The Coldest Night at the Overflow Shelter*, was a meditative piece describing one night when the author volunteered at a shelter in Missouri. The second feature, *I Was a Stranger and You Invited Me In*, described what happened when a small meeting in Ohio viewed Matthew 25:35-36 as a to-do list, experimenting with ways to let in a stranger, including inviting an unhoused person to live in a camper on their property and outfitting a retired ambulance as a camper to give to an unhoused woman.

The third feature focused on a laundry ministry in San Francisco for which the author sat outside the San Francisco Meetinghouse on Sundays during worship to extend "spiritual care in the form of laundry." The author reminded friends that "neither understanding nor being comfortable are baselines for good order: the central question is whether we are being faithful," and he suggested that the dominant monthly meeting culture (which is often White and middle-class) sometimes takes precedence over discernment.

The fourth feature felt like the meat and potatoes of this issue (or tofu and rice if you're a vegetarian). *Shalom and Right Relationship: Reflections on Housing Justice* provided statistics on housing and homelessness as well as context to help readers understand the nature and some of the dynamics of the housing crisis in the United States. The author also suggested that we deepen our thinking about housing justice to include the Quaker concept of right relationship. The article concluded with specific suggestions for pursuing housing justice and provided resources to support further research.

The final feature, *Solidarity with Our Unhoused Neighbors: Quaker Ministries for the Homeless*, described ministries for unhoused people in several communities in California, including parking for unhoused people living in cars, first aid, talking with unhoused people to really understand their needs and to include them in community, and providing children's activities in shelters.

As I read these articles, I thought about our recent forum, where the pastor of a local community shared with us her work with homeless immigrants, who Haven For Hope and the Salvation Army are turning away out of fear of losing federal funding. I am glad FMSA is supporting her financially and with donations of food, clothes, and whatever else is needed. Opportunities to give as a community make the often overwhelming desire to help feel as simple as buying rice and oil at HEB, and meeting the person who distributes our donations helped me believe that every little donation makes a meaningful difference. If any of these articles interest you, I encourage you to visit the [Friends Journal website](#) to check out this issue online.

## FMSA at No Kings Day



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

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

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