

June 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.**

## FMSA Applies to Join SA Stands

*By Rachael Cundey*

On May 18, 2025, our Meeting agreed to join SA Stands as an Ally. Our application to join the coalition is currently being processed by the group.

SA Stands was formed in 2018 to allow organizations across San Antonio to unite with the common goal of protecting immigrants. Specifically, they aim to reduce the number of people incarcerated or deported, stop collaboration between local law enforcement and federal immigration enforcement, obtain transparency from local government officials, and ensure that law enforcement upholds all constitutional and civil rights. In the past, they have had success with expanding access to valid identification for immigrants and with a cite-and-release program to keep people accused of low-level offenses out of jail.

*[continued on page 3]*

## Query for June

*Are we open to being led by the spirit to change, reduce, or eliminate the excesses in our life, even when such simplicity challenges our habits, status, or comfort? How does letting go create space for deeper spiritual connection and service?*

## June 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**

**CANCELLED FOR SUMMER -- will resume in September.**

**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, 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

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| June 1  | Collection for People with Needs [see weekly announcements for details] |
| June 8  | Forum: People's University of Palestine educational community group     |
| June 21 | Meeting for Weeding, 8:30-12:30   |
| June 22 | Forum: The immigrant community, <b>9:00 am</b>                          |
| June 29 | Forum: "Ask a Quaker"   |

## First Day School Schedule

June 1	Cooking for Potluck and Half Birthdays with Gretchen
June 8	Our Big Blue Boat with Suzanne
June 15	I Can Make My Own Flowers with Lisa
June 22	Under A Rock with Renata
June 29	TLCC with Suzanne

## June Forums

On June 8th, 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 June 22nd at **9:00 am** (note time change), we will be visited by a pastor of the community we are working with. She will talk about her work with the immigrant community.

On June 29th, Ministry & Care will hold an informal "Ask a Quaker" discussion. All are welcome, but we especially encourage people who are new to meeting since Covid to attend. This is your chance to ask about any and all things Quaker-related!

## Community Updates

Josh Brodesky, editorial page editor of the Express-News and regular attendee at FMSA, won second place in the National Headliner Awards' editorial writing category.

## FMSA Applies to Join SA Stands

*[continued from p. 1]*

Now, their efforts are organized into three working groups: rapid response to immigration enforcement, community discussions around alternatives to police, and supporting an immigrant legal defense fund. The rapid response group is currently the most active, with frequent Know Your Rights educational sessions and the San Antonio Rapid Response Hotline at (210) 361-3070 that folks can call if they see possible immigration enforcement activity. Distributing our cards with information on constitutional rights is a great first step in line with the goals of SA Stands. I am excited to see our Meeting become more involved in supporting immigrants in our community.

## Quaker Questions

### **What's the difference between a clearness committee and a support committee?**

A Quaker clearness committee and a support committee are both forms of communal spiritual discernment, but they have distinct purposes. Anyone in Meeting may request this type of support by contacting the Ministry & Care Committee.

**A clearness committee** is intended to help an individual or couple discern clarity around a particular decision, leading, or situation. Common reasons to request a clearness committee include membership, marriage under the care of the meeting, major life decisions (career, ministry, relocation, etc.), and better understanding a spiritual leading or concern. Clearness committees are usually short-term and will meet once or a few times around a specific issue. The goal is spiritual clarity, not advice-giving. It involves spirit-led listening in which committee members ask open, prayerful questions without pushing opinions. Deeply personal sharing is common, and confidentiality is honored. The committee helps the individual listen to the Spirit and their inner truth.

**A support committee** accompanies someone actively engaged in a ministry, service, or a life challenge, offering encouragement, accountability, and practical or spiritual assistance over time. Support committees have an ongoing relationship with the individual they support. They meet regularly, sometimes for months or years. The committee helps the person stay grounded in their leading or task. It engages in mutual discernment by offering feedback and helps test how the Spirit is moving through the person's work or challenge. Finally, a support committee may provide practical support if requested and able to do so.

*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.*

## Business Meeting Minutes

The minutes for the May 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.

# get to know your Friends

Friends Meeting of San Antonio

**Suzanne W. Cole Sullivan** recently joined Friends Meeting of San Antonio after trying Quakerism for 15 years. It turns out Quakers are pretty cool. They have an M.Div, mostly from a Quaker seminary, and an MS:HRTM from the University of New Orleans. Suzanne is often heard before they are seen and will probably be near the dessert table. Suzanne remains very gay.



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

Three countries (US, Sweden, Scotland), ten states (Maryland, Georgia, Mississippi, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Indiana, Ohio, Texas)

Where did you attend your first Quaker Meeting?

Chambersburg, PA

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

My perennial favorite testimony is elegance, which is not one of the most popular six. Elegant actions are ones that value the time, talent, and treasure of all involved by being the most kind to the people doing the work and having the softest impact on resources without creating extra work or waste. I think elegance is very Quakerly because it often isn't the first or most obvious course of action. Instead, elegance rises from thoughtful engagement and careful planning.

What is sustaining you right now?

Literally, blackberry citrus seltzer from Kroger that we smuggle back to San Antonio from other cities when we travel. Figuratively, seeing my lantanas thrive.

1

Beach or Mountain  
BEACH

2

Dogs or Cats  
YES

3

Summer or Winter  
SUMMER

4

Music or Podcasts  
AUDIOBOOKS

## Reflections on South Central Yearly Meeting

*By Rachael Cundey*

I was happy to attend SCYM online again this year. Online worship sharing was deep and personal with my small group. Before the in-person sessions began, Lewis Webb, U.S. Peacebuilding Director of American Friends Service Committee, shared his journey of growing into activism through an online workshop and invited us to share moments from our own journeys.

His most striking piece of wisdom came from his story of deciding to take the U.S. Peacebuilding Director position. After many years focused on issues of police and prisons based in New York City, he was unsure whether it was right for him to broaden his focus to peacebuilding across the country and move to Philadelphia. He then realized that all of these issues, from unjust policing to immigrant detention to the displacement of Palestinians, were connected by common causes that he could work to address through this expansive role.

Jacob Flowers from the American Friends Service Committee was able to join Friends in person at SCYM for a screening of Lifelines, a short documentary film about AFSC's staff members in Gaza and their lifesaving work, found here: <https://afsc.org/lifelines>.

AFSC's two staff members joined us on Zoom and shared about their experiences providing humanitarian aid while experiencing bombardment and displacement themselves. They asked that we share their story with our communities, contact our representatives, and boycott companies that support the genocide in Gaza. Jacob Flowers reminded us that SCYM pledged in 2023 to become an apartheid-free meeting. How do we want to live into that promise?

## Update on ICAP Lawsuit

As many of you are aware, Friends General Conference (FGC) joined 26 other religious organizations in a suit filed by the Institute for Constitutional Advocacy and Protection (ICAP) at Georgetown University against the Department of Homeland Security regarding immigration enforcement at places of worship. The court denied a request for injunctive relief in April while the case is moving through the justice system. ICAP announced its intent to amend its original request for an injunction, and the court has asked for that second request to be filed by June 2 and expects to issue a ruling by June 25. It's important to remember that, regardless of any rulings related to requests for an injunction, the original litigation continues to move forward.



## AFSC Video Recordings

The following links are now available to view and share with your monthly/yearly meeting members and Friends.

**AFSC Plenary Speaker; Thursday, April 24, 2025 -- <https://youtu.be/3nKJA1lw2qs>**

Susan Abulhawa; Award-winning novelist, poet, essayist, scientist, mother, and activist

**AFSC Alumni Event; Saturday, April 26, 2025 -- <https://youtu.be/VWvFFtXm8oY>**

Courage to Resist: Commemorating 50 Years Since Vietnam

**Workshop: AFSC Corporation April 2025 -- <https://youtu.be/tCrLOvnPFU>**

Sowing the Seeds of Justice in New Orleans

**Workshop: AFSC Corporation April 2025 -- [https://youtu.be/\\_J2kauEMS14](https://youtu.be/_J2kauEMS14)**

NY/NJ Healing Justice: From the Inside Out

## Reflections on Friends Journal

*By Frances Frey*

The features in Friends Journal often focus on a particular theme, but occasionally, they are simply collections of “the most interesting articles we’ve gotten over the last few months.” The April issue was one of these random collections; however, despite the lack of an overall theme, the articles complemented each other. The first two articles addressed the climate crisis, and the last three articles all focused on how we must learn to rely on the Holy Spirit to live in right relationship with God and each other.

The first climate change article, *An Experience of Love: Bolivian Quakers’ Witness to Climate Crisis*, described how extreme heat and droughts have impacted Indigenous Bolivians’ ability to connect with the Creator through nature and how these environmental changes have affected food supplies. It also described how, in response to crop failures, young adult friends in Bolivia distributed seed potatoes, and in the process, they found that this service work is “an experience of love.”

The second climate change article, *Addressing the Long Emergency: Hope and Inspiration for Climate Action*, did precisely what the title promised, offering hope for our ability to impact climate change. The author stated that “tackling climate change has so many facets that there’s something for everyone to do.” It also reminded readers that “change doesn’t happen all at once. It happens little by little, as actions grow into a movement, and then rapidly, as the movement captures the general imagination.” I often wonder if it matters whether I recycle or conserve water if others aren’t doing it, so it’s helpful for me to be reminded that the unsatisfying beginnings of things are as indispensable as the more obviously meaningful ends.

In the first article about the Holy Spirit, the author of *In the Deeps and in Weakness: The Work of the Spirit Among Friends* described his yearning “for the fiery and passionate faithfulness of the early Quaker movement” and the importance of learning to recognize God’s voice. In the second article, *Three Steps Forward: The Path to Greater Love and Truth*, the author explained how the first three steps of Overeaters Anonymous (OA) brought him to a deeper understanding of his Quaker roots. As a child, he thought it all depended on him, but he has come to understand that we need to turn “away from our present course of trying to fix it all ourselves” and turn toward a path that “clearly testifies to a Power greater than our own.”

The last article, *Conversations with My Guardian Angel*, is a deeply personal account of a man’s encounters with a guardian angel during a long illness. The author described his experience as “an ongoing conversation: instantaneously available.” And in describing his guardian angel, he said, “He is omnipresent, confident, and quietly reassures me that I am not alone.”

The articles in April’s Friends Journal reminded me that Quakerism is a diverse faith, ranging from those who aren’t sure there’s a God at all to those who view “the Holy Spirit as the Spirit of Christ.” As a result, there are always articles in the Friends Journal that challenge me, and I think that’s one of the strengths of Quakers. Most of my reading keeps me safely in the echo chamber of topics that algorithms know I will like. In contrast, the Friends Journal offers me an opportunity to hear from people whose beliefs differ from mine, but who are equally (if not more) dedicated to Quaker faith and practice. If any of these topics interest you, I encourage you to check out this issue online at the [Friends Journal website](#).

## First Day School POV Pictures

On May 4, 2025, First Day School participants built empathy by imagining the world from the point of view (POV) of various animals. They read them aloud after the rise of meeting, and then they shared them in the community room for those who couldn’t hear their tiny voices.

In case you missed it, photos of each reflection are provided on the following pages. Enjoy!



Margot<sup>80</sup> am a bird. I fly alot, to find my food,  
to make a nest, sing, lay eggs, take care  
of my babies,  
My color is red. I am a Cardinal.

Margot  
Russell

Cheetah  
It's not easy being ~~me~~ ~~cheetah~~  
everybody expects ~~you~~ <sup>me</sup> to run fast  
and ~~you~~ <sup>I</sup> have to hunt down ~~your~~ <sup>my</sup>  
prey without them seeing ~~me~~ <sup>me</sup>  
and then <sup>I have to</sup> chase them. It's also  
very hot and dry where I  
live. I have a yellow body with  
black dots. I am a Cheetah.

# Parrot Point Of View Sylvie Bradesky

Living in a pet store is like living in a run down apartment complex. Everything is livable, but not fancy. They give you the ok food, which is flavorless. And then when the people who want to buy you take you out of your cage, they expect you to chirp and fly around and talk. But noooooo, because nothing is that easy, is it?

### From My Point of View

It's not easy being a cat. People expect you to keep the place free of mice. What do they expect? Would I eat a mouse? Uck! So, I just sit in the chair next to the mouse hole and wait. When a mouse appears, I drop in on it. Surprise!

And when I wake from a little cat nap, the house has moved and the sunny spot is now over there. When I move and settle in, it's not long before the house moves again. How inconsiderate.

And the dog. How can I be expected to share my water dish with such a messy drinker? I need waders just to get near the dish. When it comes to food, I prefer to graze during the day. But no. Unless they put the food half way up the stairs, it's the dog there first. And an empty dish.

Now, take the great outdoors. Full of treats and dangers. So many sunny spots to choose from that don't move around so much. But take the squirrels. Take them, please. Dashing hither and yon, with no plan in evidence. Makes me tired just watching them. Where's the dog when I need her?

In the kitchen, there's a really nifty spot next to the fridge, blowing a gentle warm breeze. And if I lift my head and give a couple of yowls, some one will fill the dish with kibbles. Not as good as the canned stuff, but not to complain [too much].

I like to nap near the grown up. Every once in a while, there's a free hand to scratch my ears or a foot to rub my back. My grown up does a lot of sitting by a desk. Room for me under foot, just in case. And I can wash my face, even if it doesn't need it right now.

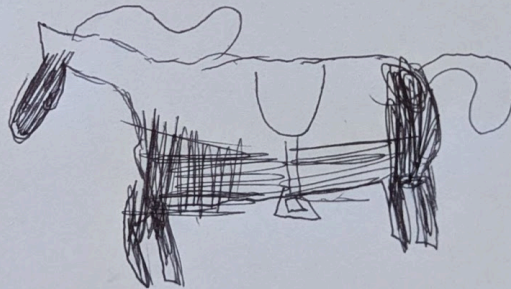
So, you can see, it's not easy being a cat. But it sure beats being a dog.



horse

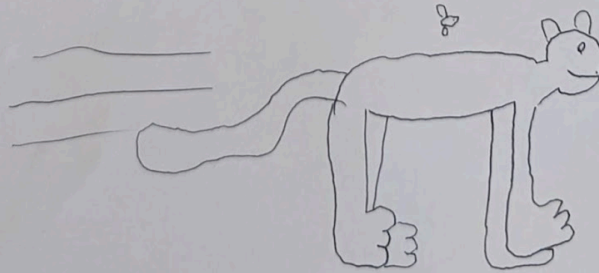
phoebe rose  
russell

I am a horse that lives in stables  
that smell like my ~~sister's~~ droppings. I  
have to be kicked in the ribs if I go slow  
and I hate it! But I love getting groomed.  
Sometimes I go to the lake to bath. I sweat  
a lot. It ~~hates~~ hurts when I get rocks  
stuck in my hooves. Clearly, It is hard  
being a horse.



I am a bug. Humans hate me. I'm not that bad though. All I do is I suck a little bit of blood out of their bodies to feed to my babies. I fly around and ~~the~~ people try to ~~swat~~ me out of thin air. I am a Mosquito.

By: Felix



Subscribe to the monthly newsletter and weekly announcements at  
<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!

Follow us on Facebook!  
<https://www.facebook.com/SAQuakers>