

October 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.**

## Monarch Butterfly & Pollinator Festival 10 Year Celebration

The Monarch Butterfly and Pollinator Festival is celebrating its 10th year! The festival, which is free and open to the public, will be held on October 18th from 9 AM to 2PM at Brackenridge Park. There will be nature-based experiences, hands-on activities, and opportunities for community connection. This is a great opportunity to learn while you're having fun with a pollinator picnic, a bird city maze, a monarch migration obstacle course, monarch tagging, and many more hands-on activities.

For more information, visit

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/monarch-butterfly-pollinator-festival-10-year-celebration-tickets-1384656166869?aff=oddtcreator>

## Query for October

*How do we nurture a spirit of patience, trust, and discernment—both in our own lives and within our Meeting community—when the future feels unsettled?*

## October 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** (*Canceled for October*)
- **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, 9:00 AM-1:00 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

October 5      Collection for People with Needs *[see weekly announcements for details]*  
October 12     Forum: Gaza Vigil  
October 18     Meeting for Weeding, 9:00-1:00  
October 26     Forum: Courtyard Ideas

### First Day School Schedule

October 5: The Parable of the Sower with Gary  
October 12: Who Let an Elephant in the Room?  
October 19: How Beasts First Came into the World with Suzanne  
October 26: Orange You Glad to See Me?

## October Forums

### Vigil for Gaza

We will gather on October 12th to recognize the two-year anniversary of October 7, 2023. We will read poetry, write letters to our representatives, and connect through worship sharing in this vigil for peace and justice in Gaza.

### Courtyard Ideas

The forum on October 26 will be a discussion about how we might use the courtyard. We especially invite input from parents and children.

## Community Updates



# get to know your Friends

## Friends Meeting of San Antonio

**Meredith McGuire** was a teacher for 50 years. She taught all ages, from sixth grade to adult night school. She started out teaching to support herself in graduate school, but she stuck with it because she discovered she loved working with young people when they were forming who they were and who they wanted to be. Meredith's degrees are in sociology and philosophy, but her education, both as a child and in college, was also steeped in religious thought, including Presbyterian and Quaker. Meredith is married to Jim Spickard. She also has three children and many students and colleagues who have grown into lifelong friends.



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

5 states (Indiana, Florida, New York, New Jersey, and Texas)

**Where did you attend your first Quaker Meeting?**

In Evansville, Indiana, with my father or at the Quaker boarding school I briefly attended.

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

Peace is the most important to me right now, but simplicity also speaks to me:

'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free  
'tis the gift to come down where you ought to be  
And when we find ourselves in the place just right  
'Twill be in the valley of love and delight.

**What is sustaining you right now?**

My ever-deepening relationship with my husband, who has graciously become my caregiver, my social activism for fair prices on utilities on behalf of the citizens of San Antonio, and delightful conversations with former students and colleagues who are now going forward based on much of what I taught them.

1

Fall or Spring

FALL

2

Indoors or Outdoors

OUTDOORS

3

Spontaneous or  
Planned

PLANNED

4

Coffee or Tea

?



## Special Events

### Nametag Decoration

On September 14, Friends gathered for a nametag decoration forum. Thanks to stickers, crayons, markers, collage, and artistic freedom, our Meeting will be more vibrant from now on!





## Property Improvements



## Reflections on Friends Journal

*By Frances Frey*

The August issue of the Friends Journal featured six lessons from history. *Black Resistance to Quaker Enslavement* told another side of the story of Quaker abolition, which includes the role that Black resistance played in forcing the Religious Society of Friends to confront its own contradictions and ultimately recognize that of God in enslaved people.

*The Burning of Pennsylvania Hall* recounted the brief existence of a “temple to free discussion” built by abolitionists in 1838 and destroyed two weeks later by a mob enraged by the “race-mixing” and “women and men speaking together equally” that went on inside. This article puts our current struggles over DEI in a larger context in which the progress we have made makes me feel hopeful.

*Led by God to Help Educate Freedmen* celebrates the history of the Laing School, which was founded in 1866 by Quakers to educate newly freed slaves in South Carolina. *A Fine Union of Serenity and Adventure* tells the story of how Rufus Jones “recovered his lost radiance,” moving from an abstract faith to a life-changing feeling of unconditional acceptance from the divine.

*Quaker Witnessing During Philadelphia's MOVE Crisis* tells the shocking story of the bombing of a residential building in Philadelphia that was home to MOVE, a Black liberation and back-to-nature organization, and it explores how peacekeeping quietly normalized the power and violence of racism because its practitioners failed to acknowledge the racial dimensions of the situation.

The final article, *A Union Unlike Any Other*, explored the shifting views of U.S. Quakers on same-sex marriage. Because I am very aware that equality for LGBTQ+ Friends is still not a foregone conclusion, this article reminded me that each of the articles in this Friends Journal captures a point in time. All of these histories are still unfolding. What will the Friends of the future write about us?

If any of these articles interest you, I encourage you to visit the Friends Journal website to check out [this issue online](#).

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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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