

September 2025



The Friendly News

Friends Meeting of San Antonio (Quakers)

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

What We Are Swimming In

By Rachael Cundey

On July 27th, Friends gathered for a forum on white culture in Quakerism. Friends identified times they experienced cultural differences or alignment. Some Friends struggled to name characteristics of white culture, as it is often seen as the default in the United States, inside and outside Quaker spaces. Friends concluded that this invisibility allows white culture to maintain its dominance without being questioned.

Friends reflected on times that white culture shaped Quaker spaces they have been a part of, from decision-making practices centering Western nonprofit-style accounting to our own meeting time that favors middle-class work schedules. Friends explored how different approaches to change could challenge or uphold white cultural assumptions.

If we really believe in continuing revelation, do we have to continue practices just because they are what we have always done?

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Query for September

How does my life speak of my concern for ecological, economic, and social justice?

September 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 at Gary and Vivian's home**
 - First Wednesday of each month, 7:00 PM
 - 307 E. Mistletoe Avenue (between McCullough and St. Mary's)
 - Please join us!
- **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

Special Events

- September 7 Collection for People with Needs *[see weekly announcements for details]*
- September 14 Forum: Name Tag Social - Decorate your current name tag and make name tags for new attendees
- September 28 Forum: COPS Metro - A representative from COPS Metro will visit and talk about how their organization works and what their current projects are.

First Day School Schedule

- September 7 The Parable of the Lost Sheep with Gary
- September 14 A Few Fables of Fancy Dress with Suzanne
- September 21 The Parable of the Empty Boat with Suzanne
- September 28 "Quack quack!" said the Chicken with Suzanne

What We Are Swimming In *[continued from p.1]*

Friends are encouraged to access Quaker and other resources to continue thinking about this topic. Here are some suggestions to get started:

Quaker Coalition for Uprooting Racism:

<https://www.fgcquaker.org/fgcprograms/ministry-on-racism/qcur/>

The BlackQuaker Project: <https://www.theblackquakerproject.org/>

White Supremacy Characteristics: <https://www.whitesupremacyculture.info/>

We will continue the conversation this fall with a forum focusing on the Quaker Coalition for Uprooting Racism resource on racial harm and racial justice.

Consideration of 2025 Charitable Contributions

By Bill Wilkinson

[This article was published in last month's newsletter. We are repeating it this month as a reminder to Friends to kindly review the list in preparation for the September business meeting.]

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.

This [linked list](#) 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.

Mid-week Meeting for Worship Resumes

Mid-week Meeting for Worship will resume in September, at Gary & Viv's home at 307 E. Mistletoe (between McCullough and St. Mary's) at 7:00 on the first Wednesday of each month, which in September will be on the 3rd. Please come and join us. The discussions afterwards tend to be thoughtful and lively, and in fact, there will be a dollop of "programming" this month: Gary will be meeting with the First Day children to discuss the parable of the Lost Sheep, and it would be very helpful to share insights beforehand. Why is this simple tale one of the quintessential images of the Christian message? Why is that lone sheep the most precious, and what exactly does that mean? Particularly for a child? So again, please consider joining us and joining in.

get to know your Friends

Friends Meeting of San Antonio

Rebecca Cole Sullivan grew up at Ben Lomond Quaker Center with her mom, dad, and little sister. She got to roam 80 acres of mountainous redwoods near the beach. Being an active child, she would use the labyrinth as her personal track: running there, through it, and back home. Growing up Quaker with professional Quaker parents had its pros and cons. She would love to share more about that. She now spends her free time watching the WNBA, quilting, and running lots of miles for herself and kids at St. Jude. She is about six weeks out from the Chicago Marathon. (Official marathon #6!)



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

Two countries (US and Kenya), five states (California, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Georgia, and Texas), and the District of Columbia

Where did you attend your first Quaker Meeting?

Langley Hill Friends Meeting when I was less than 2 weeks old.

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

Community: as an extrovert, community is not just where I get energy but also what helps me stay grounded.

What is sustaining you right now?

Lots of food for all the running I am doing.

1

Beach or Mountain
Yes

2

Coffee or Tea
Tea

3

Morning Person or
Night Owl
Morning

4

Spontaneous or
Planned Trips
Planned

Reflections on Friends Journal

By Frances Frey

The June/July issue of the Friends Journal was a meditation on Quaker revivals. In six features, authors from around the world shared their thoughts and experiences. In *Breaking the Old Rules*, a Friend from London shared her meeting's discovery that by asking less of any one person, more people became willing to serve, which made their meeting more sustainable. In *Big Steps for Small Friends in First-Day School*, our very own Suzanne Cole Sullivan shared how a tiny spark of revival is being ignited for young Friends in First-Day School at FMSA. In *Risking Faithfulness*, the author described a process of experimentation that opens meetings up to renewal, recognizing that we must change and grow to stay healthy. In *Coming Out from Under Our Bushel*, the author discussed the history of revival in Quakerism and noted that although Friends are hesitant to push our beliefs on others, many might find our beliefs and practices meaningful, especially in light of the challenges facing our world today. In *The Revival of Defiance and the Call to Repair*, the author presented the role of defiance in early Quaker life and argued that defiance, grounded in core values and ethical commitment, is necessary for revival. Finally, an interview with Paul Buckley, author of *Primitive Quakerism Revived*, let us eavesdrop on a conversation about why a Quaker revival is needed, not just now, but continually.

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

Quaker Witness to the Wounds of Gaza

By Rachael Cundey

"Today, the word 'occupation' no longer carries its old meaning; occupation, despite its atrocity, kept people under restraint. What we see today is extermination and erasure from the map. It is not occupation but replacement, replacing a whole life with nothingness, and the memory of a city with ruin..."

I write here to bear witness, and history bears witness with me: we are the children of a generation destined to live through the most terrible tragedies of humanity in the last hundred years.

O you who pass by our story... do not be mere spectators. Record that you are witnesses to the wound, witnesses before God and before the memory of humanity."

-Firas, American Friends Service Committee Gaza office manager, 8.20.25 (translated)

Eight Quaker organizations joined together in their witness to the ongoing reality of Gaza, excerpted here:

“We believe with moral clarity, and in line with the definition of the crime of genocide, that the current actions in Gaza perpetrated by the Israeli government, constitute Genocide...”

All states have a legal duty under the Genocide Convention to prevent genocide. We call for:

- 1. An immediate, permanent ceasefire and full humanitarian access*
- 2. The application of robust, targeted, and timebound sanctions, including a comprehensive arms embargo, aimed at ending Israel’s genocide in Gaza and the related system of apartheid.*
- 3. Respect for international law and accountability*
- 4. Protection of free speech and the right to protest*
- 5. Dismantling of oppression and establishing a just and permanent peace*

As Quaker signatories, we commit to:

- Advocate relentlessly for the end of the Israeli genocide in Gaza and the deliberate starvation campaign, a permanent ceasefire and accountability for atrocities committed in Gaza, the West Bank and East Jerusalem.*
- Boycott settlement goods and divest from companies profiting from occupation, apartheid, or genocide (e.g., arms manufacturers, settlement financiers).*
- Reach out in love to Jewish, Muslim and Palestinian communities, confronting antisemitism, anti-Muslim and anti-Palestinian hate while refusing to be silent in the face of oppression.*
- Highlight the voices of Palestinians, which have still been all-too-absent from media narratives.*
- Support humanitarian relief for Gaza and communities suffering under occupation in the West Bank.*
- Advocate for the universal human rights of all people in Palestine and Israel—ensuring they can live in freedom and dignity, without fear, and with lasting peace and security.*

We hold in the Light all suffering peoples and leaders, praying they choose justice. In Palestine and Israel, peace built on equality is the only path forward.

- 1. American Friends Service Committee*
- 2. Canadian Friends Service Committee*
- 3. Friends Committee on National Legislation*
- 4. Friends World Committee on Consultation World Office*
- 5. Quakers in Britain/ Quaker Peace and Social Witness*
- 6. Quaker Council on European Affairs*
- 7. Quaker Service Norway*
- 8. Quaker United Nations Office”*

American Friends Service Committee has invited all Friends organizations to endorse this statement, which Friends can read in full [here](#).

I invite Friends to consider what we are led to do, as individuals and as a Meeting, in response to this immense suffering inflicted using our tax dollars.

Community Updates

Mark your calendars for the holiday gift fair hosted by FMSA on November 8, 2025, from 8 AM to 1 PM.



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<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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