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The *Ann Arbor Friends Meeting Newsletter* is published monthly by the Ann Arbor Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends.

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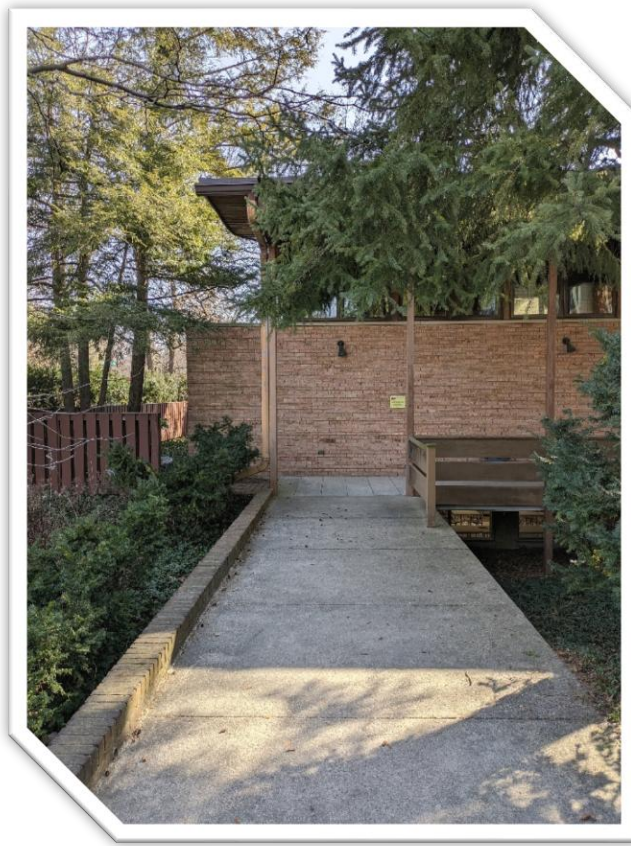
Photo of Social Saturday courtesy of Naomi Gilbert

To subscribe to the newsletter and weekly handout, email Eric Wozniak at ericwozn@gmail.com.

Please send any entries for the newsletter to Eric at least one week before the end of the month.

Photos by Eric Wozniak unless otherwise noted.

DONATIONS (Tax Deductible): Ann Arbor Friends Meeting relies on donations from members and attendees to cover over 60% of its budget. You can contribute by check via U.S. mail: c/o Treasurer, Ann Arbor Friends Meeting, 1420 Hill St., Ann Arbor, MI 48104. You can also contribute cash or checks in the Contributions Box (on wall next to Meetingroom door) and online at the Meeting's website at: <https://annarborfriends.org/wp/donate/>.



October Meeting for Worship schedule:

- October 5 & 12:
 - The 9:30 a.m. Meeting for Worship will be **screen-free**.
 - The 11:30 Meeting for Worship will be **blended** (both in-person and on Zoom).
- October 19:
 - The 9:30 Meetings for Worship will be held in **parallel**.
 - The 10:00 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business will be **blended**.
 - The 12:00 Meeting for Worship will be **blended**.
- October 26:
 - The 9:30 Meeting for Worship will be **screen-free**.
 - The 11:30 Meeting for Worship will be **blended**.

AAFM Event Calendar

* = See Meeting announcement for details

For all Meetings for Worship, including Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, the Zoom link is: <https://tinyurl.com/AAFM-Zoom> (Zoom Meeting ID 818 7021 4329) (* = See announcement).

Wednesday, October 1

7:00 What Does it Mean to be Quaker? *
Corner Room & Zoom

First Day School

6:00 YAF Dinner *

Monday, October 13

7:30 Peace & Social Justice; Zoom

Thursday, October 2

6:00 M&C Committee; Zoom
7:00 Earthcare Committee; Zoom
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8585173612>
Passcode: earthcare

Wednesday, October 15

7:00 What Does it Mean to be Quaker? *
Corner Room & Zoom

Sunday, October 5

9:30 Meeting for Worship — Screen-free
First Day School
10:30 Common Hour/Refreshments
CCF Meeting; Living Room
Singing; Meeting Room
10:35 Property Committee; Corner Room
11:30 Meeting for Worship — Blended

Sunday, October 19

9:30 Meetings for Worship — Parallel
10:00 Meeting for Worship with Attention
To Business — Blended
12:00 Meeting for Worship — Blended
12:30 Potluck
7:00 May Watanabe Memorial Meeting; Meeting Room

Monday, October 6

6:00 Spiritual Formation; Zoom

Monday, October 20

6:00 Spiritual Formation; Zoom

Tuesday, October 7

2:00 Meeting for Walking *

Tuesday, October 21

2:00 Meeting for Walking *

Wednesday, October 8

7:30 Quaker House Committee; Zoom

Thursday, October 23

10:00 FCNL — Washtenaw Advocacy Team;
Corner Room

Thursday, October 9

7:00 Membership & Outreach; Zoom

Sunday, October 26

9:30 Meeting for Worship — Screen-free
First Day School
10:30 Common Hour/Refreshments
10:35 Reading & Discussion
10:45 CCF Parents' Meeting
11:30 Meeting for Worship — Blended
First Day School

Saturday, October 11

2:00 Earthcare Committee; Corner Room

Sunday, October 12

9:30 Meeting for Worship — Screen-free
First Day School
10:30 Common Hour/Refreshments
Singing; Meeting Room
Finance Committee; Corner Room
& Zoom
11:30 Meeting for Worship — Blended

Monday, October 27

6:30 Final Affairs Committee; Naomi's House & Zoom

Wednesday, October 29

6:30 Women's Meeting; Meeting Room

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Message from CCF: Starting on Sunday September 28th, we'll hold two First Day School lessons, one during the early meeting, and one during the later meeting. **Except for nursery care, there will be no formal childcare during the common hour, so if childcare is needed, families should contact Julie Cadman-Kim as soon as possible so we can plan ahead.** Families should also plan for their children to attend the first fifteen minutes of Meeting for Worship regardless of whether it's the early meeting or the later one.

We appreciate families' flexibility during this time of experimentation. Please reach out to Claire Tinkerhess, Julie Cadman-Kim, or Molly Tinkerhess with any questions or feedback about this new schedule.

Nursery care will be available every Sunday from 9:25am-12:45pm

The schedule for the next three weeks looks like this:

9:30-10:30am: First Day School during screen-free worship. Children join worship in the beginning and then attend First Day School

10:45-11:30am: Common Hour and refreshments for all, including children

11:30am-12:30pm: First Day School during hybrid worship. Children join worship in the beginning and then attend First Day School

Refreshments & Potluck, October, November & December:

October & November: Refreshments between meetings except for Meeting for Business Sundays (**October 19 & November 16**) when we will have potluck after the later Meeting for Worship

December: Refreshments between meetings every Sunday (No Meeting for Business in December, thus regular refreshments.) During the rotating church shelter, we expect to have refreshments upstairs.

A memorial service for Lois Hamm, who grew up in Ann Arbor Friends Meeting, and the sister of Doug Hamm, will take place on **Saturday October 4th, from 10am to noon PST**. The memorial will be in the home of Doug Hamm and Dorothy Henderson and available on zoom. To receive the zoom link email grassvalleyfriends@gmail.com.

There will be a memorial service, in the Meeting Room for **May Watanabe** on Sunday, **October 19**, at 7:00 p.m.

What Does it Mean to be Quaker?

Wednesday, October 1, 15; 7:00 p.m. | Corner Room and on Zoom <https://tinyurl.com/AAFM-Zoom>

This is an open discussion for both new and old members to learn and discern together on issues about how Quakerism impacts our spiritual practices and the way we live our lives. For new people, this is a place to ask questions about things that are not immediately obvious about our spiritual community. For other members, it's a place to explore something which has been on your mind or heart, where you wonder how other Friends might help you see clearer.

Meetings for Walking

Tuesday October 7 and 21 at 2:00 p.m. Thomas and Nancy Taylor will lead walks in Cherry Hill Nature Area. Cherry Hill offers a variety of grassland, hardwood forest, marsh and pond with minimal climbing. The leaf colors should be beautiful.

Directions: take Plymouth Road east into the center of Dixboro, turn right on Cherry Hill Road. Drive past the Humane Society, keep going when it becomes a dirt road, and you will see a sign on the left side.

Park on either side of the road.

If you have questions, please contact Nancy and Thomas (734-368-6555)

Young Adult Friends: YAFs ages 18-35ish meet for dinner on the second Sunday of the month at the home of an older Friend. The next will be at the home of Laura Lein and Ben Kuipers on **October 12** at **6 pm**. For information on this and other YAF activities contact Lily at lily.wiest@gmail.com.

Singing

October 5, 12; 10:30 a.m. | Meeting Room

Join us in group singing, with Grayson or Thomas on piano.

Friends Committee on National Legislation's Washtenaw Advocacy Team

October 23, 10:00–12:00 | **Corner Room**

Join the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) Advocacy Team when we meet every month on the fourth Thursday from 10:00 a.m.–noon. Because we have both Ann Arbor and Chelsea members, we toggle between the two locations for meetings. Our purpose is to build relationships with our members of US Congress, and to support bills promoting matters of peace and justice. Sometimes we meet with the staff of our Senators and Representative; more often we make phone calls, or write letters to the members or to newspaper editors. We are amply supported by the large, expert staff in the Washington DC office of FCNL and by other Advocacy Teams in Michigan.

Our elected officials need constituents who will encourage, teach, appreciate, and hold them accountable to work for the common good. Governed by members of the Religious Society of Friends, FCNL acts in faith to create a world free from war, a society with equity and justice for all, a community where every person's potential may be fulfilled and an earth restored. One current issue is urging congressional members to oppose the transfer of more weapons of war and military support to Israel. Questions? Contact John Gourlay (john@weathervanefarm.net) or Nancy Taylor (netaylor@comcast.net).

Reading and Discussion will meet on Sunday, **October 26**, at 10:35 in the Fireplace room.

Note the change in time to fit into the new schedule. A link to the reading will be provided before the meeting.

Please join us for a seasonal **Property Work Party** on **Saturday 11/15 from 9am-1pm**. We will work on raking leaves and preparing the yard and property for the fall and winter. Refreshments and tools provided!

AMONG FRIENDS

Following our successful experience last March, the Meeting will be hosting the **Daytime Warming Center** again this winter for two weeks, **from 11/24 to 12/5**. We need volunteers to serve as point persons between DWC and staff alongside the Meeting Worker during that time, as well as volunteers for shifts each day. Please contact Luiza at aafmoffice@sbcglobal.net if you are willing to serve as a point person and assist in the organization of the DWC. You can sign up for a regular shift using this link: <https://tinyurl.com/aafm-dwc-2025> Any help is appreciated! Please email the office if you have any questions.

Calling all cooks! A group of us under the sponsorship of M&O volunteer to make a home-cooked dish to contribute to the monthly YAF dinners. If you would like to join our group and provide a dish, perhaps every 2-3 months please email Naomi at naomig@umich.edu. This is a vital part of our nurturing in the Meeting and many hands make light work!

Newer Friends, feel free to check out the [New Quaker Hub](#), a section of the Friends General Conference website geared toward new Friends.

Bill Riccobono facilitates an **online “Bible Hour”** on **Thursdays at 9:30 a.m.** (except for October 2), lasting 45–60 minutes. Discussion of short, selected verses is guided by sharing replies to five questions: “What is the author’s main point? Do I find any new light within the verses?” Etc. Questions? Ask [Bill](#), who is in the Meeting Directory. <https://tinyurl.com/AAFM-Zoom>.

SPECIAL MESSAGES

The American Friends Service Committee asks you to write your Representative and ask them to cosponsor H.R.3565, the [Block the Bombs Act](#). By introducing this bill, Members of Congress are proactively trying to block the Trump administration from delivering major US weapons to Israel. If enacted into law, this bill would block the following weapons to Israel: BLU-109 bunker busting bombs, MK80 series bombs, GBU-39 small diameter bomb variants, Joint Direct Attack Munitions (JDAMs), SPICE gliding bomb assemblies, 120mm tank ammunition, and 155mm artillery ammunition, including white phosphorus munitions.

Quakers discern genocide is occurring in Gaza and urge courageous action. Written July 18, 2025

The following statement from AFSC recognizes the importance of the peace and equality testimonies in responding to the atrocities that are being perpetrated with our tax dollars against Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank, including the bombings of schools and hospitals, the targeting of journalists and deliberate starvation, which the UN has described as famine. It calls for supporting a permanent ceasefire, true humanitarian relief and reaching out in love to Jewish, Muslim and Palestinian communities. PIAG asks that people read the statement so that our meeting may consider endorsing it. <https://afsc.org/newsroom/quakers-discern-genocide-occurring-gaza-and-urge-courageous-action>.

From Friends Journal

In November 2025 we will publish our fourth annual issue of **Quaker Fiction**. It's open to all genres: crime, fantasy, romance, science fiction and horror, young adult, and more. Surprise us with your work! For this special issue, we're seeking short stories from 500-2000 words, and flash fiction of less than 500 words. We're seeking stories of Quakers and their experiences.

If you would like more specific guidelines, etc., ask Nancy Taylor (netaylor@comcast.net) to email them to you, or check the latest Friends Journal.

Ann Arbor Friends Meeting, along with the American Friends Service Committee and a number of other Meetings, is a member of the Apartheid-Free Communities organization. Here are some valuable resources that were shared at the Apartheid-Free Communities Quaker Affinity Group Meeting in June: [Introductory Materials for Apartheid-Free Communities](#). And here is the [Quakers Apartheid-Free Communities webpage](#).

LEYM Fall Bulletin Now Available

The Fall 2025 LEYM Bulletin is now available. Printed copies are in the mail to meetings, and the digital version is [available here](#) and on the Bulletins web page. The issue is chock full of good stuff, including:

- Message from Our Clerk
- LEYM Annual Epistle
- Highlights of LEYM Annual Meeting (with photos)
- Yearly Meeting Financial Report
- Meeting News – Holland Meeting
- Minute from Granville Monthly Meeting
- Retreats: Broadmead MM, Spiritual Formation, Fall Youth

The Contributions Committee is looking for volunteers to be contact persons for the following organizations:

1. Appropriate Technology Collaborative
2. Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights
3. Bold Against Bail Coalition

****** A contact person is someone who is willing and able to keep track of how an Organization is functioning and what its financial needs are at least once a year. It is not necessary to be an active member of the organization, and membership is not required.

If interested, please contact Marilyn Siegel (marsiegel25@gmail.com), Donald MacGregor (Donald.macgregor@att.net) or Austin Kieffer (akieffer120@gmail.com).

Fun on Social Saturday, September 6 – photos courtesy of Naomi Gilbert



PIAG UPDATE

Our actions make a difference! Please see the AFSC Action Hour Resources for actions you can take:
<https://afsc.org/actionhour>

LARGER CIRCLES OF FRIENDS

LEYM K-12 Fall Youth Retreat

October 3-5, 2025

6:30 p.m. Friday – 11:30 a.m. Sunday

K-12 youth as well as their families are welcome to stay at the Kirkmont Center in Zanesfield, OH (near Bellefontaine).

Please register and direct any questions to Diane Mott, Clerk of Youth Retreat, by September 10.

mottfam45@gmail.com

(419) 419-8339, Here is a link to the [flyer](#).

Thursday October 9, 7-8:30pm join Lake Erie Yearly Meeting's Advancement and Outreach team's newcomer-friendly program featuring QuakerSpeak videos and open discussion, on this [Zoom Link](#).

Fall Retreat at Weber Center

The Broadmead Monthly Meeting Friends Fall Retreat is scheduled for **October 24-26, 2025** on the theme **Forging Ahead Through Changing Times in Our Community**. The facilitators will be **Shulamith Clearbridge**, a member of Swarthmore Monthly Meeting and an experienced workshop leader, writer and an interfaith spiritual director. She will be joined by Quaker chants singer **Paulette Meier**. The retreat will be held at the Weber Center in Adrian, MI, at a cost of \$190 for a single room and \$140 for double occupancy. Contact Olwen Pritchard at pritchardolwen@outlook.com to reserve your spot. See [event flyer here](#).

Nonviolent Communication In-Person [Immersion Program](#) for
Fall/Winter 2025

Will meet monthly for 4 Saturdays: **Sept. 20, Oct.18, Nov. 15, Dec.13**, from 1p-5p ET.

The program will focus on self-connection and acceptance, increasing comfort and ease in using functional NVC in daily life, and learning practical tools to increase your NVC skills. This program will support the development of clarity and practice for how to move forward in your life with vitality, joy, agency, choice, and taking a stand for what you value in ways that make it easier for people to hear and understand you.

AFSC Action Hour for Palestine

[Every Friday](#) at 12:00 p.m.

Join AFSC staff every Friday at 12:00 p.m. to hear updates from Gaza. Then, take action with us as we contact our elected officials and call for humanitarian access to Gaza. Our elected officials need to keep hearing from us. [Register here](#).

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Peace in Palestine & Israel

Via Zoom; Every **Thursday**, 5:30 p.m.

Join the AFSC to pray for peace in Israel & Palestine. [Register here](#)!

Friends Committee on National Legislation Annual Meeting Announced

Registration is now open for [FCNL's 2025 Annual Meeting](#)! We will be gathering online this November under the theme **Still Speaking Truth to Power** to discern important organizational decisions, learn, grow, worship, and connect.

I hope you will join us virtually on November 14–16. Register below on our website and be the first to receive updates on this year's schedule and event details!

<https://act.fcnl.org/survey/annual-meeting-2025-registration/?t=17&akid=99673.127344.wQv22A>

In the midst of these challenging times, come and draw inspiration from our beloved community. We will hear from plenary speakers including **Timothy Snyder**, author of *On Tyranny*, and FCNL changemakers as we discuss how we are rising to meet this moment. Register now—you won't want to miss this!

This year's meeting has no set registration fee. We encourage you to pay as you are led (recommended \$50 per person) to support our ability to gather, ground, and re-energize at this critical time.

From Friends Journal: In November 2025 we will publish our fourth annual issue of **Quaker Fiction**. It's open to all genres: crime, fantasy, romance, science fiction and horror, young adult, and more. Surprise us with your work! For this special issue, we're seeking short stories from 500-2000 words, and flash fiction of less than 500 words. We're seeking stories of Quakers and their experiences.

If you would like more specific guidelines, etc., ask Nancy Taylor (netaylor@comcast.net) to email them to you, or check the latest Friends Journal.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Saturday, October 4, from 10:00-12:15 at Michigan Friends Center, 7748

Clark Lake Road, Chelsea is hosting [Forest Bathing, with Guide Kathleen Anzicek](#), who is one of over 2000 guides trained by the Association of Nature and Forest Therapy. Pre-registration is required; email kanzicek50@gmail.com. Questions may be directed to her by text at (734)260-0273. Dress with waterproof shoes, and comfortably warm. If the weather is inclement, it will be canceled.

Help the hungry, locally and worldwide. Join the 51st Annual Ann Arbor Area CROP Hunger Walk on Sunday **October 5, 2025**. Start and finish at First United Methodist Church, 120 South State Street, Ann Arbor. To support the Walk, visit "<https://www.crophungerwalk.org/annarbormi>".

On Walk Day, sign-up at FUMC between 1pm and 2pm, join the outdoor send-off service, and walk a 1-mile or 3-mile route, in a large crowd!

Trash Talk Tour: What happens after you throw something in the recycling? What does the Michigan Stadium do with all their waste after game day? What are the local, zero waste alternatives to our throwaway culture? The annual [Trash Talk Tour](#) takes place on **October 5th**, where you'll get the chance to explore all these questions through exclusive, behind-the-scenes tours of the Michigan Stadium, Recycle Ann Arbor, and more! Plus, **Kiwanis Thrift Safe will be open to the public for shopping** (for the only Sunday of the year!). There will be live music, donuts, cider, games, screen printing and more family-friend fun at the Kiwanis Zero Waste Fall Festival. All of the events at Trash

Talk Tour are free and open to the public (donations appreciated), but there's limited capacity for some events, so make sure you grab your spot early!

Voters Not Politicians will be hosting **Writers-Activists Monthly LTE Workshop** for people who love to use writing as a form of activism in their local communities, and want to inform as many people as possible about pro-democracy issues affecting Michigan. During these sessions - **Wednesday, September 24th; Tuesday, October 28th; Thursday, December 4th; Wednesday, January 14th** - VNP will share strategies for writing Letters to the Editor and other public communications regarding pro-democracy issues including Money Out of Politics and combating voter suppression. There will also be policy discussions on current **VNP** policy priorities and helpful curated talking points on each policy topic. Each meeting will have updated information on policy and the grassroots media landscape.

Three upcoming opportunities for **De-escalation Training** are being offered by the **Daytime Warming Center staff**:

- Oct 2nd, 3-5pm, Zion Lutheran - Piper Hall
- Oct 26th, 1-3pm, Zion Lutheran - Piper Hall
- Oct. 30th, time TBD, at St. Francis of Assisi Ann Arbor

To RSVP or get updates about the schedule for these trainings, email jrivard@zlc-aa.org.

Saturday, November 8th 6-9 PM The Neutral Zone teen arts and leadership center (310 E Washington St) is hosting NZ Engage - a festive evening fundraiser.

Enjoy music, refreshments and performances while Neutral Zone teens pitch project ideas worth uplifting. Your \$10 ticket helps cover the costs of the evening and guests are encouraged to consider donating at least \$25 to one or more of the teen project pitches at the event.

Register at <https://neutralzone.salsalabs.org/nzengage2025>
and talk to Megan Mueller Johnson if you have any questions

A Day of Silence and Meditation Practice, led by Carol Blotter

9:00–4:00 on Saturday, December 6 in 2025 | Michigan Friends Center

Suggested donation \$30 or as able. Pre-registration requested; contact Carol Blotter at (734) 475-0942. Each retreat is an opportunity to enjoy the quiet of the country while practicing sitting and walking meditation. This day is appropriate for anyone interested in meditation: beginners will have break-out instruction; experienced meditators can be in silence all day; those in-between can practice and have their questions answered. These retreats are fundraisers for the benefit of Michigan Friends Center. Contact Carol at (734) 475-0942 or cb.meditate@gmail.com to register.

Carol Blotter's meditation practice draws from dual roots in the Quaker and Buddhist traditions. She has been teaching since 1999 and has led more than 40 retreats across the United States and has taught over 50 classes in meditation to spiritual seekers, schools, universities and medical groups. She is a teacher for The Forest Way, which is an organization dedicated to providing retreat opportunities conducive to spiritual growth that is both balanced and integrated.