

Ann Arbor Friends Meeting Newsletter

August 2026

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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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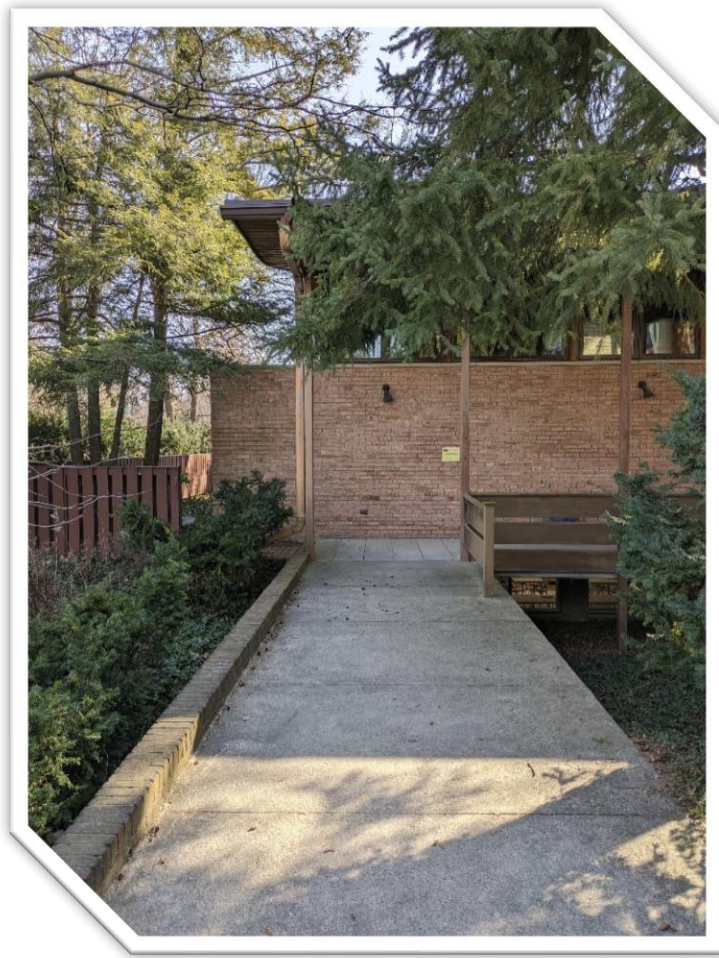
Meeting for Walking on July 21 in Saginaw Forest. Photo courtesy of Naomi Gilbert

To subscribe to the newsletter and weekly handout, email Eric Wozniak at publications@annarborfriends.org.

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/>.



August Meeting for Worship schedule:

- August 2, 9:
 - The 9:30 a.m. Meeting for Worship will be **in-person**.
 - The 11:00 Meeting for Worship will be **blended** (both in-person and on Zoom).
- August 16:
 - The 9:30 a.m. Meeting for Worship will be blended.
 - There will be no Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business this month.
- August 23, 30:
 - The 9:30 a.m. Meeting for Worship will be in-person.
 - The 11:00 Meeting for Worship will be blended.

AAFM August 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).

Saturday, August 1

3:00 George Ferrel's Memorial; UUAA Church *

Sunday, August 2

9:00 Singing; Meeting Room *

9:30 Meeting for Worship — In-person

10:30 Common Fellowship Time

11:00 Meeting for Worship — Blended

CCF; Living Room

Property Committee; Fireplace Room

Tuesday, August 4

2:00 Meeting for Walking *

Wednesday, August 5

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

Thursday, August 6

6:00 M&C Committee; Zoom

Saturday, August 8

2:00 Earthcare Committee; Zoom

Sunday, August 9

9:00 Singing; Meeting Room *

9:30 Meeting for Worship — In-person

10:30 Common Fellowship Time

11:00 Meeting for Worship — Blended

Finance Committee; Corner Room & Zoom

Monday, August 10

7:30 Peace & Social Justice Committee; Zoom

Thursday, August 13

7:00 Membership and Outreach; Zoom

Saturday, August 15

5:00 Social Saturday; Fellowship Room &
Backyard

Sunday August 16

9:30 Meeting for Worship — Blended

10:30 Common Fellowship Time

11:00 Group event in Fellowship Room

Monday, August 17

6:30 Final Affairs Committee; Naomi's House

Tuesday, August 18

2:00 Meeting for Walking *

Wednesday, August 19

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

Saturday, August 22

3:00 Quaker Death Education; Fellowship Room
& Zoom *

Sunday, August 23

9:30 Meeting for Worship — In-person

10:30 Common Fellowship Time

11:00 Meeting for Worship — Blended

12:00 CCF Retreat; Fellowship Room

Tuesday, August 25

7:00 Reading & Discussion

Wednesday, August 26

9:30 FCNL – Washtenaw Advocacy Team; Corner
Room *

Sunday, August 30

9:30 Meeting for Worship — In-person

10:30 Common Fellowship Time

11:00 Meeting for Worship — Blended

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

We're looking for people to serve as Meeting closers. You can sign up at this link -

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1A-FQJSLbc62Vmwds57_i89unl_-](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1A-FQJSLbc62Vmwds57_i89unl_-zM1BUeM9IjKKOD6E/edit?gid=1643896035#gid=1643896035)

[zM1BUeM9IjKKOD6E/edit?gid=1643896035#gid=1643896035](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1A-FQJSLbc62Vmwds57_i89unl_-zM1BUeM9IjKKOD6E/edit?gid=1643896035#gid=1643896035) with your name and email and you'll get a reminder email a few days before when you've signed up. You can sign up for either the 9:30 screen-free worship or the 11 a.m. hybrid worship (there are "x"s for Business Meeting Sundays when there is no later Meeting for Worship)

Instructions on what to do are here - [In person meeting closing instructions Laura version](#)

Quaker House Committee is looking for volunteers to help with an experimental solution for accommodating a resident with long-term disabilities in Quaker House, while maintaining equity in the workload for other residents. We need helping hands from the Meeting for about 30-60 minutes once a month, to do a deep cleaning of the Nursery and Children's Room. This would include tasks such as dusting, vacuuming, and sweeping. Regular volunteers are preferred. Please contact Jeff Cooper (cooperdaub@hotmail.com; 734-377-1676); Jan Wright (janwrigh@umich.edu; 734-652-5328); or Anna Hillaker (annahillaker@gmail.com; 734-645-1167) to find out more or to volunteer.

A Memorial Meeting will be held under the care of Ann Arbor Friends Meeting for Rick Plewa's husband George Ferrell on Saturday **August 1st** at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Ann Arbor. The doors will open at 2:30 pm, and there will be short program of musical offerings before the service begins at 3pm*. For those unable to attend in person, there will be a "view and hear only" YouTube link:

<https://youtube.com/live/7yh047mqYul?feature=share>

***Please note** – The Ann Arbor Saline Road/Ellsworth Road intersection will be closed for construction beginning August 1. Access to the UU Church will be via Ellsworth Road driving along a short stretch of unpaved road from Maple Road. (You may want to allow a few extra minutes of travel time.) See map link:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1OsHmVwyrFHtcEnNQDRgphgBeX5YDVfKg/view?usp=sharing>

Singing

Sundays, **August 2, 9**; 9:00 a.m. | Meeting Room

Singing around the Meeting room piano with Peggy and Thomas. 9:00 – 9:30. Bring instruments and play along!

Young Adult Friends, YAFS ages 18-35ish usually meet for dinner on the second Sunday of each month at the home of an older Friend. There will be no Meeting sponsored dinner in August, but we will resume on September 13. For information on this and other YAF activities contact Lily Wiest at lily.wiest@gmail.com.

What Does it Mean to be Quaker?

Wednesdays, **August 5, 19**; 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.

Conscientious Objection Workshop:

On Monday, Thursday and Monday, **August 10, 13 and 17**, 7-8 pm. Curt Tolles, in connection with Durham Friends Meeting, will offer a three-part online workshop on Conscientious Objection and the new draft registration law. A more detailed announcement and link to register for the workshop are at leym.org/conscientious-objection-workshop. Also, see the flyer on page 12!

Message from Meeting for Walking:

This month six of us enjoyed our two walks in Saginaw Forest. During the first we ended by celebrating our five-year anniversary with refreshments carefully hidden in the bushes while we walked. We welcomed Steve Roush to our walks and welcomed back Mike Merrick and Rick Thomas after an absence. We were also thrilled to have Luiza and Aaron along for this walk.

Last year we stayed home during the month of August because of the heat, but this year our group decided to plan on walking with the possibility that we'll change our minds closer to the time. If you're not sure if we're walking, give Nancy, Thomas, or Naomi a call or just come, at least one of us will be there and together we'll make a 'game time' decision.

Our August walks will be on **August 4** and **August 18** at 2 pm when we'll be returning to Eberwhite Woods where we haven't walked since August 2023. It's a perfect month to walk at Eberwhite, under the dense trees and while the school is closed. Trails are unpaved and mostly level. Parking is at the far back of the Zion Lutheran Church on Liberty.

All are welcome and feel free to bring a friend.

If you have questions, please contact Nancy and Thomas (734-368-6555) or Naomi (734-476-4555).

Friends Committee on National Legislation's Washtenaw Advocacy Team

Wednesday, **August 26**, 9:30–11:30 | Corner Room

Join the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) Advocacy Team when we meet every month on the fourth Wednesday from 9:30 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).

Quaker Death Education, a series of events focused on the practical matters surrounding death and dying, started in February. This series is being hosted by Final Affairs, under the care of Ministry and Counsel.

These events will be facilitated by Robin and Kate. Robin is an End-of-Life Doula and NEDA-Proficient professional, as well as the President and Co-Founder of the Evergreen End of Life Foundation of Michigan. She has given numerous presentations on end-of-life topics, including legacy projects, the role of an End-of-Life Doula, advance care directives, and other aspects of death and dying. Kate has a long interest in death and dying and experience as a Funeral Services Representative.

All events will be hosted from **3pm–5pm** in the Fellowship Room and on Zoom. Please note, the event in August has been moved from the 1st to the 22nd.

Learn more at tinyurl.com/QuakerDE

Zoom Link: tinyurl.com/QuakerDEZoom

August 22nd - Funeral / planning for after your own death - leaving a simple legacy for loved ones

October 3rd - Life after Death - taking care of things after someone else dies

December 5th - Quaker Death Cafe 2 - a chance to revisit how we feel about death and dying

AMONG FRIENDS

Our sanctuary guest, Mohamed Soumah, is in serious danger of being deported to the Republic of Guinea. This would put his life in danger because the medications that keep his body from rejecting the new kidney he received in 2022 are not available there. Mary Anne Perrone (maperrone@ameritech.net) is assembling letters of support with a new **deadline of August 3**. For details see the [Sanctuary Committee report on July 19](#).

Friends from Michigan and northern Ohio are invited to attend our annual summer gathering at Quaker Park in Battle Creek, Michigan (Fremont & Groveland). Meeting for worship will be on First Day, August 2, 2026, starting at 11:00 am, followed by a picnic lunch or potluck. Be sure to bring a chair and food or a dish to pass. The Kalamazoo Meeting will be providing table service along with water. As in the past, we will have a portable toilet available. Hoping for a good turnout.

It could rain Sunday morning when we are planning to gather outside for worship in Quaker Park in Battle Creek, Michigan. (63 Groveland St, Battle Creek, MI 49017)

Joe Mills (Kalamazoo Meeting) suggests that if we get there and it's raining, we can all go to Kalamazoo Meeting to have worship together at about 11:30, followed by potluck. Kalamazoo Meeting is at [508 Denner St, Kalamazoo, MI 49006](#).

Any questions, please contact Joseph Mills at 269/599-6563 or millrae@juno.com.

In case anyone knows of a working car, whose owner has no use for, or is otherwise available/for sale, please let Eric Wozniak know at ericwozn@gmail.com or 734-985-5032. It would help my family out a lot. Thanks very much.

When our Friends Grayson Moore, and Scott Neville moved out of state in September 2025, they generously offered to rent their condo, very affordably, to a family in dire need of secure housing, while they waited for a more opportune time to put their condo on the market. They had intended to put the condo on the market in May, but not wanting to disrupt the family's living situation during the school year, they agreed to let the family stay until June 15, and postponed listing the condo with a realtor until that time. Grayson and family have requested if people in the Meeting could help spread the word about the condo's availability in the meantime, it would be much appreciated. The condo is at 2130 Pauline, unit #103, between West Stadium and Maple Road. It is a 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom first floor unit, 1173 sq. feet, with a somewhat enclosed patio, shared laundry and storage in the basement, and access to the community center in the adjacent building (pool, gym, etc.).

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

New Mailing List: There is now a new mailing list/google group for Friends who participate online (in any capacity) to share community, information, and updates. Everyone in the AAFM community is welcome to participate. To request to be added to the group, go to this link:

<https://groups.google.com/a/annarborfriends.org/g/online-friends/about> and click on “Ask to join group”.

If you need any help with the new google group/ mailing list, feel free to email Marni Rachmiel (sfsmarn@gmail.com) or Matt Butler (apooltoswim@gmail.com).

Refreshments and food allergies

Food for refreshments should not contain peanuts or peanut products. We have slipped away from requiring this, but we feel that this is necessary now. Also, gluten intolerant folks are again participating in refreshments—it would be great if we had at least one item they could eat. Thanks—the Refreshment and Potluck Committee.

How Does the Bible Speak to Us? Join a small group of Friends who meet weekly for about 45 minutes. We use the [Friendly Bible Study](#) method which is a uniquely Quaker approach to reading the Bible. We are currently working our way through the gospel of Luke. We meet via the AAFM worship link <https://tinyurl.com/AAFM-Zoom> on **Thursdays at 9:30 a.m.** All are welcome to join. If questions, please contact Bill (billriccobono@gmail.com) or Naomi (naomig@umich.edu).

The Tools For Our Time Resource Deck is a calendar of events, and a guide to publicly-accessible campaigns, programs, and organizations for people wanting to connect to programs and campaigns helping to support and protect our immigrant neighbors.

SPECIAL MESSAGES

Reflections on the 250th Anniversary of a Should-Be Democracy

By Dwight L. Wilson, Former General Secretary of Friends General Conference

The United States pitches itself as the democratic savior of Europe in two 20th century wars, both of which had segregated forces which totaled more than 1.5 million Black military personnel and a similar number who were employed in support positions. Support people included cooks, laundrywomen, teamsters, nurses and spies.

The two most important wars fought on North American soil was the War for White Male Independence (Revolutionary War) in which approximately 7,500 Black soldiers and 15,000 Black women and men were support people. In the Revolutionary War, approximately 2000 Native Americans also fought for the Patriots. Despite what was declared a victory, Blacks remained enslaved and Native Americans marginalized. In the War for Inclusive Independence (Civil War), there were over 200,000 Black soldiers and over 225,000 Black support people. Joining the segregated Black troops were approximately 15,000 Native Americans opposing the traitors.

One of my ancestors, free-born William Ferguson, fought for the North's 27th US Colored Troops. Another ancestor, William Thomas Freeman, ran away from Georgia slavery and fought with the 44th US Colored Infantry. William Ferguson was at Battle of the Crater where one-third of the Black troops were casualties. William Thomas Freeman was one of the fortunate few Black soldiers who survived the Fort Pillow Massacre led by General Nathan Bedford Forrest who later founded the Ku Klux Klan.

I write about the period between the founding of the United States and the Civil War. I already knew that George Washington, Benjamin Franklin and Patrick Henry had made fortunes speculating on Native American lands. They did so as invaders calling themselves "pioneers" despite the fact that, pre European-contact, more than 50% of the livelihoods of most Native Americans' livings East of the Mississippi River came from agriculture.

While the United States celebrated 250 years of European-American Independence, I did two deep dives into the behavior of the Founding Fathers. The first was a look at how they viewed slavery. Here are a few quotes, Benjamin Franklin "Slavery is... an atrocious debasement of human nature." Thomas Jefferson "Indeed I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just: that His justice cannot sleep forever." Patrick Henry "Would anyone believe that I am master of slaves of my own purchase? I am drawn along by the general inconvenience of living here without them...I will not—I cannot justify it." George Washington "There is not a man living who wishes more sincerely than I do to see some plan adopted for the abolition of slavery." And yet after their assessments, it took four generations and a Civil War to end what was identifiably evil. Because of extremely high infant mortality among bonded children, malnutrition, untreated infectious diseases, brutal labor conditions, and substandard medical care, the enslaved's life expectancy was between 6-17 years less than that of the overlords.

Next, I studied the finances of Presidents before and after leaving office. Four of the first 5 presidents were enslavers, yet neither of them enriched himself while serving. Modern Presidents use the office to add generational wealth, none more than the current office holder. In our lifetime, it's also common practice to simultaneously reduce the wealth of the poor and underrepresented.

What of my own behavior? In 1992, as the Founding Executive Director of New Jersey SEEDS, as motto, I used Thoreau's quote, "I have faith in a seed." SEEDS stood for Scholars, Educators, Excellence, Dedication, Success. We served academically gifted/ financially disadvantaged youth. After I left office, the geographical

footprint was reduced and the theme changed to “Access changes everything.” The high-powered board chose to downplay the original focus and lift up their own importance. Ida B. Wells once said about her own work for positive change, “I am not taking this stand because I personally wish for recognition. I am doing it for the future benefit of my whole race.” Her stance resonates with me. I recognize myself as exceptionally gifted, but I am not exceptional. Millions of other people of color have more gifts and talents. None among us should be seen as “different” or more worthy than the mainstream. All humans are created equal. No one should be given a “get out of jail free” card. No one should celebrate their own wellbeing at the expense of others. Thus, I have given years to legal system oversight, responsible gun control, immigrants’ rights, anti-domestic abuse, multi-cultural education, right sharing of world resources, and care for sick babies. Each is centered in human rights: non-violent peacemaking that leads to justice.

Before I close, let’s see how Bryan Stevenson, one of the most outstanding citizens of the 21st century, views the behavior of the United States.

“I see the modern-day challenges as a manifestation of the underlying narrative of racial difference, of racial bigotry that we are still fighting against... For me, the great evil of slavery in America wasn’t the forced labor, wasn’t the brutality, wasn’t the violence...I think the greatest evil of slavery in this country was the narrative we created to justify enslavement, because people who enslaved other people didn’t want to think of themselves as immoral or indecent.”

The preferred American narrative is about heroism. The truth is tragedy. Make America Great Again references mythology because dominance is synonymous with oppression and reconciliation is a lying narrative. Pro-conciliation should be the goal. Not since the conscience-free kidnapping in Africa and chattel enslavement have Blacks known a Golden Age on these shores. Not since invader policies stripped the Originals of power have Native Americans known a Golden Age. I am determined to work toward a peaceful healing that is best summarized with Palestinian Quaker Jean Zaru’s words, “Peace is not only the absence of war, but it is the absence of dire poverty and hunger. Peace is freedom from sickness and disease. It is employment and health. Peace is based on a deep sense of human equality and basic justice.”

MFC26 Report to AAFM

Michigan Friends Center

Report to Ann Arbor Friends Meeting – June 2026

Susan Douglas, Clerk/President, MFC Board of Directors

Looking Ahead

The Michigan Friends Center continues to thrive because of a community of people who believe in its mission and generously share their time, talents, resources, and spirit. I am deeply grateful to everyone who

helps sustain this special place. With continued care and shared commitment, we look forward to another year of welcoming gatherings, thoughtful dialogue, lifelong learning, and quiet moments of reflection.

The Board is also entering an important period of transition. Current board members are Susan Douglas (Clerk), John Langmore, Palmer Morrel-Samuels, and Richard Tucker. Two board members will complete their terms this year, while one has graciously agreed to extend their service to provide continuity during this time of change.

For the first time since Friends Lake Cooperative Community was founded in 1963, there may soon be no active Quaker serving on either the FLCC Board or the Michigan Friends Center Board. While the Center continues to welcome people of many backgrounds who share its values and mission, this marks a significant moment in its history. We hope to welcome new board members—especially Friends, as well as others who are inspired by Quaker values and committed to the Center's mission of fostering peace, community, stewardship, and lifelong learning—to help steward the Michigan Friends Center into the future.

Key Highlights from the Past Year

- Continued offering programs centered on Quaker values, environmental stewardship, contemplation, and community engagement.
- Launched a new website in August 2025.
- Expanded outreach throughout the Chelsea community.
- Welcomed Linda LaNoue as Center Coordinator.
- Maintained financial stability despite fluctuations in rental income.
- Pursued new grant opportunities to support future programming.
- Began an important board leadership transition

Relationship with Ann Arbor Friends Meeting

As Clerk/President of the MFC Board of Directors, I am pleased to report on the Center's activities during the past year.

Since its founding in 1990 as the year-round arm of Friends Lake Community Center (FLCC), the Michigan Friends Center has remained grounded in Quaker values and Quaker process while welcoming organizations and individuals who share its commitment to peace, community, stewardship, and lifelong learning

The Board is grateful that Ann Arbor Friends Meeting continues its annual group membership with MFC. This membership provides:

- Six free events annually at the Center

- Access to the lake, picnic area, campground, and woodland trails
- Opportunities to strengthen connections within the wider Friends community

We are especially pleased that Ann Arbor Friends continues the tradition of monthly summer social gatherings at the Center, and we look forward to welcoming many participants.

Public Meetings and Programs

- Earth Day Food and Sustainability Panel (2025)
- Earth Day program exploring the environmental impacts of AI data centers (2026)
- Documentary screenings:
 - 17 Blocks with Davey Rothbart
 - Where Can We Live in Peace? with Hernán Drobný
- Quarterly silent meditation retreats led by Carol Blotter
- Forest Bathing program (2025)
- Healing flute performance (2025)

Community Outreach

- Presence at Chelsea Farmers Market
- Participation in Sounds and Sights on Thursday Nights
- New website launched August 2025
- Finalist for 100 Women Who Care grant
- Pre-proposal submitted to Chelsea Community Foundation

Administration and Finances

- Carolyn Holland left her role as Office Manager after 14 years of dedicated service as manager, joining her husband in retirement
- During the transition, the Board reviewed the Center's staffing needs and reconfigured the former part-time manager position into an independent contractor role with a revised scope of work, responsibilities, and expectations designed to better support the Center's current operations and future growth.
- Linda LaNoue was hired as a Coordinator
- Rental income exceeded budget despite a temporary slowdown
- Donations helped maintain financial stability
- Rentals increasing through the new website

I will send another report in July with updates from an upcoming Michigan Friends Center Board retreat and financial reports covering 2024 through the first half of 2026.

Susan Douglas, clerk/President of the MFC Board of Directors



Quaker Religious Education Collaborative

Joining Hands in Service to Quaker Religious Education



LINK TO REGISTER

Conscientious Objection: Is This for You?

Discerning, Deciding, Documenting, and Defending
a CO Claim with Selective Service

August 10 | August 13 | August 17
7:00 to 8:00 PM ET*

Effective December 18, 2026, eligible males (assigned at birth) aged 18 to 25 will be automatically registered for the military draft pool using existing federal and state records, removing the need to register manually. **How do we respond as Friends, and prepare the young people in our lives and communities?**

Join Friends for this a comprehensive, interactive workshop for all teens and young adults, of any gender, as well as all interested adults or mentors, of any age. **The workshop covers Selective Service legislation, definitions of conscientious objection, activities to discern one's beliefs and articulate them, and finally some strategies to defend them.** By the end, participants will have a better understanding of conscientious objection, a deeper grounding about the source of their convictions, and a "CO letter" articulating their beliefs. *The workshop provides extensive materials, including a workbook to document personal reflection, activities, and discussion.*

*The Selective Service process has no place to indicate a conscientious objection claim and says it can only be done if a draft is re-instated and a person gets an induction notice. **That's too late — this workshop addresses that gap.***

The workshop is a collaboration between Quaker Religious Education Collaborative (QREC), Durham Friends Meeting (DFM), and Quaker House (QH). The facilitator, Curt Torell, Ph.D., serves on the Steering Circle of QREC and is a long-time board member of Quaker House, a Friends witness for peace that serves members of the military who are questioning their role. Conscientious objection has been a cornerstone of the QH work. Curt is a member of Chapel Hill Meeting in North Carolina.

****Online with Zoom from anywhere,
or attend in person at Durham Friends Meeting in Durham, NC***
[Link to register](#)

[^Link to Register^](#)

The Reparative Justice Committee reminds Friends of various opportunities to become involved with Peace House activities. We continue to collect food for the Food Pantry, delivered by volunteers each third Sunday of the month. This month, items particularly needed are peanut butter, bars (granola, protein, cereal...), trail mix, "just add hot water and eat" type foods, and things like small bottles of juice, and electrolyte drinks. See the complete list at [Peace House needs list](#). Volunteers are welcome at the Pull-over Prevention and Mutual Aid Fair, which happens on the second Saturday of each month. The place and details of the August fair will be posted at <https://www.facebook.com/PullOverPrevention/>. Around the Kitchen Table--free brunch from 11-2 on the third Sunday morning--consider for August 16th when there is no business meeting scheduled! Questions about other ways to support Peace House? -- talk to a member of the Reparative Justice Committee—Lynn Drickamer, Susan Hartman, or Lily Wiest.

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.

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](#).

Below you will find a link to the Podcast, Native America Calling. The topic of this episode is Assessing the Outlook for Domestic Violence Prevention and Justice. Two of the four guests are from Michigan; Stacey Ettawageshik (UTFAV) and Tribal Judge Melissa Pope. It is a very interesting and informative discussion.

<https://youtu.be/CmWtKh35obU?t=303>



Peace House's various pantries. Photo courtesy of Bill Riccobono.

LARGER CIRCLES OF FRIENDS

Proposed Change in LEYM Database

At last year's Annual Meeting, Publications & Archives Committee was asked whether we need to maintain records for all members of constituent meetings in the LEYM database and how, if at all, their contact information should be accessible. P&A will bring to Annual Meeting a proposal that was previously considered and supported by Executive Committee, and was presented at Representative Meeting:

Annually, the database manager will ask monthly meetings for their directories in digital format and, unless otherwise requested, forward any that are received to the Friends Historical Collection at Swarthmore College and to Friends General Conference but not compile this data into a Yearly Meeting directory or add it to the database [as has been our practice]. Monthly Meetings can make their own decisions about what information they send to the database manager or can ask that their directory information not be forwarded elsewhere. In keeping with LEYM's privacy policy, Meetings will be asked either to identify or redact names and email addresses for people under 18, so these will not be forwarded to Swarthmore or FGC.

Note: The database manager will continue to collect and include in the database contact information for 1) officers, committee members, and other Friends with individual responsibilities in LEYM (e.g., the

Bulletin editor); 2) those Friends who attend Annual Meeting; and 3) clerks and committee clerks of Monthly Meetings as well as contact people in worship groups.

If you have questions or concerns about this proposal, please speak with or write to Jeff Cooper, clerk of the LEYM Publications & Archives Committee (734-668-8063, cooperdaub@hotmail.com).

AFSC Action Hour for Palestine

Via Zoom | 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

Via Zoom | Every **Thursday**, 7:30 pm

Every week, AFSC's Quaker Engagement team hosts Meeting for Worship virtually for Friends from across the globe. Embracing the practice of Quaker unprogrammed worship, we gather to bring our attention to witnessing injustice in our world and bolstering our solidarity with people facing oppression. Join us to explore and experience the spiritual dimensions of activism and social justice. [Register here!](#)

From AFSC

Increasing numbers of young people are finding that Quaker worship “speaks to their condition.” Do you ever wonder how or why? Perhaps this podcast will inform and inspire!

<https://quakerpodcast.com/finding-a-spiritual-home-what-does-quakerism-look-like-for-the-next-generation/>

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Unite & Rise for Voting Rights

Saturday, **August 8**, 4:30–7:30 pm

UUAA Congregation, 4001 Ann Arbor-Saline Road, Ann Arbor

Join in the National Day of Action to commemorate the signing of the Voting Rights Act of 1965!

The film screening is followed by a potluck dinner and panel discussion led by Voting Access for All Coalition (VAAC). Panelists will discuss personal experiences with voting access and will reflect on what it takes to build a system where every voice is valued and heard.

Co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters Washtenaw County, the Restorative Justice Committee of UUAA, and Voting Access for All Coalition (VAAC).

[Register to attend!](#)

The next ICPJ Facilitator's Lab Cohort, focusing on workshop opportunities related to de-escalation, conflict resilience, voting protection, and reimagining safety will be launching **July/August**. If you are interested in learning more and getting information about the dates feel free to contact Allie (asuffety@gmail.com).

Again this year, the **Community Farm of Ann Arbor** is providing fresh, healthy, organic produce to our low-income and housing-insecure friends and neighbors, through their Community Farm Donated

Shares Program. Last year, the program raised over \$5000, including a donation from our meeting, to distribute food through **Peace House** (one of our Reparative Justice recipients) and **Brown Chapel AME**. The farm hopes to double that amount this year and needs donations at this time to help them counteract rising prices. Donations can be made at <https://www.communityfarmofannarbor.com/donate/>. For more information about Community Farm of Ann Arbor, see their website at <https://www.communityfarmofannarbor.com/>

The Rainbow and the Machine is a radical White antiracist documentary about [the Young Patriots](#), who were the group of poor White southern migrants to Chicago in solidarity with Fred Hampton, the Black Panther Party, and the Puerto Rican Young Lords. Netflix has expressed interest in picking up this documentary if it can get funding, meaning that one of the best stories about poor, southern White antiracism in US history could find a broad audience. [Here's the link](#) to support and learn more.



Peace House, Ypsilanti. Photo courtesy of Bill Riccobono.