



PHOENIX QUAKER MEETING NEWSLETTER

(Noticias de la reunión de los Amigos de Phoenix)

FEBRUARY 2026

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Sunday, February 1	9:00 – 10:00am	Faith and Practice Discussion
	10:00 – 11:00am	Meeting for Worship
	10:00 – 11:00am	Childcare Ages 0-5
	2:00pm	Jesselyn Gaona's Celebration of Life (at Golden Gate Community Center)
Sunday, February 8	9:00 – 10:00am	Threshing Session on Immigration Issues that may arise at the Meetinghouse
	10:00 – 11:00am	Meeting for Worship
	10:00 – 11:00am	Childcare Ages 0-5
	11:30am	Potluck Lunch/Fellowship
Sunday, February 15	9:00 – 10:00am	Experiment with Light
	10:00 – 11:00am	Meeting for Worship
	10:00 – 11:00am	First Day School (Sunday School)
	10:00 – 11:00am	Childcare Ages 0-5
	11:30am	Business Meeting (MFWFB)
Sunday, February 22	9:00 – 10:00am	Book Club - The Tyranny of Merit: What's Become of the Common Good? by Michael J Sandel
	10:00 – 11:00am	Meeting for Worship
	10:00 – 11:00am	Childcare Ages 0-5

FIND US ONLINE



PhoenixQuakers.org

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NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Save the Date: Spring Half Yearly Meeting
- Jesselyn's Celebration of Life: February 1 and March 21
- From A Place of Hope
- The Peace of Wild Things
- Thoughts from Cross Country Skiing in wild country
- Meet Jackson, our childcare provider
- First Day School and Childcare
- Friends Music Camp
- Call to Action: Choose Democracy, Food Drive



SAVE THE DATE: SPRING HALF YEARLY MEETING

March 27, 28 & 29



Gather with Arizona Friends

for fun and fellowship

with **Barry Crossno**,

Secretary of Friends General Conference

“The Meeting Experience”

Hosted by Pima Monthly Meeting in Tucson

Children's Program Available

Registration information available soon

JESSELYN GONOA'S CELEBRATION OF LIFE

When: Sunday, Feb. 1, at 2pm at the Golden Gate Community Center, 1625 N. 39 Ave, Phoenix.

In honor of Jesselyn's vibrant spirit, we ask that you skip the traditional black. We'd love to see a sea of blue — her favorite color and the color for colorectal cancer awareness. Smart casual attire is welcome, and we encourage you to wear a butterfly or a rose, two symbols she held very dear.



The Quaker Memorial Service for Jesselyn will be held on Saturday, March 21, at 2 pm, in the Quaker Meetinghouse in Tempe, 318 East 5th Street, Tempe, between University and Broadway.

FROM A PLACE OF HOPE

Francisco, Executive Director of Pendle Hill, January 28, 2026

Our current sociopolitical reality is characterized by narratives and practices of lies and cruelty. We are all outraged to see how violence, the use of power, and disrespect for life are infecting our already divided society, made vulnerable by our deep divisions about our identity as a diverse community and our lack of recognition for our historical past. This is what stands in our way as we aspire to build a more just, equitable, and humane present and future.

Our social media and discourses are being filled with a false Christianity that bets on white supremacy and has no roots in the authentic Christian values and practices of justice, mercy, love, or compassion.

From our Quaker tradition, we cannot be indifferent to pain or injustice. Our convictions lead us to advocate for a community where each person is respected and recognized as a bearer of that divine force. Where each of us is capable of loving, of being better, and of accompanying each other as we grow.

It is from this deeply rooted conviction that I dare to say we cannot be indifferent to the cruelty we have witnessed. How peaceful protesters such as Renee Good and Alex Pretti have been vilely murdered while exercising their constitutional right to protest. How more than 30 people have died in ICE facilities from January 2025 to the present.

In the face of these events, if my faith does not move me to indignation, to compassion, and to action, I must examine whether I am falling into stagnation or whether I am being called to be a witness to the transformative power that leads us to dialogue and practices that build peace, well-being, and justice.

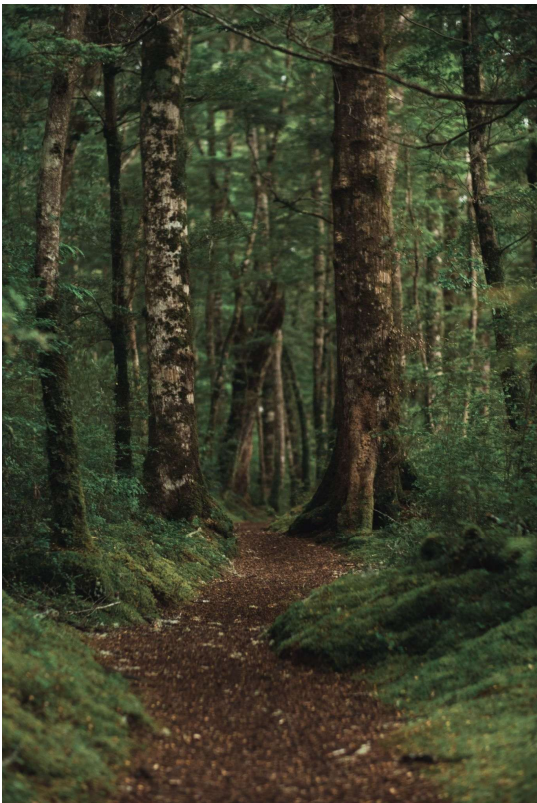
I invite you to reflect on this, not from the place that crushes us with all the dissonance present in our daily lives, but from the place of hope, that place where we can recognize ourselves as people equal in dignity, and from where we can be capable of building the Beloved Community.

Pax et bonum,

Francisco

THE PEACE OF WILD THINGS

Wendell Berry



When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.
I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

~Submitted by Nancy Marshall

THOUGHTS FROM CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING IN WILD COUNTRY:

After turning around on her skis and returning the way she came:

"Reusing my original two tracks allows me to change direction without further scarring the snow. I don't like messing up the snow and leaving a big oafish sign of my presence. My deep tracks can freeze into an extra mountain for a field mouse to climb, a ridge for an ermine to scale, one extra ditch waiting to turn the ankle of a running deer. I try to be courteous. The tracks we trouble to leave behind tell a story about our character."

*~Submitted by Nancy Marshall
from FOX AND I: An Uncommon Friendship,
by Catherine Raven, 2021*

MEET JACKSON: OUR CHILDCARE PROVIDER

Jackson came to us first as a neighbor and friend to our dear Candace Wilkinson. She shared with us that she and Jackson had babysat together, and she was impressed with the way he interacted with and took care of children.

He has been the lead caregiver for children ages 0-5 since September. He is a junior at Thunderbird High School.

His favorite subject is World History/US History. He wants to be a History Teacher or a Pharmaceutical researcher. I asked what led him to Pharmaceutical research and he shared that there were a lot of doctors in his family, and he is really into chemistry, so those 2 things make him think of Pharmaceutical research.



I asked Jackson where his favorite place in the world is. He said he has recently traveled to Japan, and thought it was the most beautiful place he had ever been. He said he went to Tokyo, Kyoto and Hiroshima.

In his spare time, Jackson loves to play his guitar and play video games. He says that taking care of children is fun, and offers him a new perspective on things! Do not hesitate to stop Jackson and get to know him, when you see him around. He is a lovely human.

FIRST DAY SCHOOL AND CHILDCARE

First Day School met on January 18th, and everyone was happy to be back together again. We plan to meet on the 3rd Sunday of every month through May, with an additional Sunday a month, if more than one family can attend, and a teacher is available. Please watch the weekly email the Saturday before to find out if FDS is meeting.

Our childcare for children ages 0-5 is growing and is available most Sundays through the end of May, unless otherwise noted on the calendar. ***Because of this, we are in need of an adult volunteer every Sunday. Please consider volunteering one Sunday between now and the end of May for childcare.*** Please contact Kari at acumoxamama@gmail.com or 585-315-5155 (text or call) and let her know which Sunday you would like to volunteer.

What is required of the Volunteer:

Arrive by 9:45am and stay until the parents have picked their children up from the childcare room, hopefully by 11:15. Do not bring the children into the meeting, their parents can bring them.

With Jackson as the lead caregiver, the volunteer is to assist in engaging and interacting with the children, and caring for them.

Help to clean and organize the room, without disrupting the children.

Parents are to be notified via text message if the caregivers need help with the child because the child is inconsolable, or otherwise in need of their parent. IF the child needs a diaper change or to be taken to the bathroom, the caregivers will notify the parents to come and take them to the bathroom. *Caregivers are not to take the children to the bathroom.*

There is a list of parents' names and phone numbers taped to the wall in the childcare room.



Childcare Adult Volunteer Schedule for February, 2026:

Feb 1 – Jay M.

Feb 8 – Candace W.

Feb 15 – Nancy M.

Feb 22 – Jay M.

We are currently seeking volunteers for March 8 & March 15. Please let Kari know if you can volunteer either day.

FRIENDS MUSIC CAMP

Families, please check this out, and if not for this summer, then perhaps when your children are older!

A music camp with a mission to create a caring, inclusive community through music. FMC was founded in 1980 and ran continuously until the pandemic and is relaunching an in-person camp next summer at Goshen College, Indiana, from July 5-19.

Music Camp accepts students ages 10-17, playing any instrument (including voice) at any level. FMC is a non-competitive camp, focused on learning and growth through collaboration. Campers sing in choir, perform with small and large ensembles for their instrument, take lessons, and learn new repertoire during camp. Their website has lots more details about camp along with the camp registration form for any campers who would like to attend.

Website: friendsmusiccamp.org

Questions: friendsmusiccamp@gmail.com - any time!



CALL TO ACTION

Choose Democracy Gives us clear steps for what to do to fight authoritarianism on a daily basis, and helps to give direction on where to put your energy.

Find their website at: <https://choosedemocracy.us/what-can-i-do/>

FOOD DONATIONS WANTED



It is a fact that 1 in 8 Americans receive SNAP benefits. SNAP benefits are electronic food assistance payments provided through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program to help low-income individuals and families purchase food. SNAP benefits have been denied and delayed this month, and families, couples, individuals and pets are in great need of a food source.

We are currently accepting non-perishable food donations, as well as pet food, for the Paradise Valley Food bank. You may bring them into the Meeting House and look for a bin in the main room to put the items in. They will be delivered directly to the food bank. If you are not able to bring donations to the Meeting House, please consider finding a food bank close to home to take your donations to. Thank you, every donation counts!

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...

Here are the links to *QuakerSpeak* that were included in January's Saturday reminder emails:

- Connecting Spirit to Spirit: Becky Jones's Path to Prayer
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nyelNf7KnWM>
- How Quakers Can Rethink the Economy
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oz1uDad8S58>
- Being God's Hands
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kqkWIFoM-Yc>
- Following a Spirit-Led Call for Activism
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oKgNuZ07d7g>



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