

—Slug:.....COMM-0855.put.Quakers\_palestine  
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—For section..... Town and Village  
—Format..... News - no byline  
—Dateline..... Putney  
—Article Number:..... 43227



**Notes from editor (not for publication):**



HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

####BEGIN HED####

1 Putney Friends Meeting to discuss apartheid-free  
2 communities from a Quaker perspective

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4 TEXT BODY:

####BEGIN TEXT####

5 The Putney Friends Meeting invites the community to  
6 attend a presentation and discussion of the Apartheid-Free  
7 Communities campaign to promote peace with justice in  
8 Palestine and Israel. The event will be held Sunday, March 8,  
9 noon to 3 p.m., at the Putney Friends Meetinghouse on Route 5.

10 Quakers have long played an important role in peace  
11 and justice movements around the world. Steve Chase, a Quaker

12 educator and activist, will speak about his personal journey from  
13 holding a Zionist perspective to developing “moral clarity about  
14 how the seemingly intransigent conflict between Israelis and  
15 Palestinians can be resolved peaceably,” wrote organizers in a  
16 news release.

17 Chase’s presentation will highlight the principles of the  
18 American Friends Service Committee’s Apartheid-Free pledge.  
19 More than a thousand organizations, businesses, faith  
20 communities, educators, artists, and musicians around the world  
21 have adopted the pledge, including six towns in Vermont and  
22 Western Massachusetts.

23 The pledge has four parts: “We affirm our commitment to  
24 freedom, justice, and equality for the Palestinian people and all  
25 people. We oppose all forms of racism, bigotry, discrimination,  
26 and oppression; and we declare ourselves an Apartheid-free  
27 community. And, to that end, we pledge to join others in working  
28 to end all support to Israel’s Apartheid regime, settler colonialism,  
29 and military occupation.”

30 Chase currently serves as the outreach coordinator for  
31 the Apartheid-Free Communities Quaker Affinity Group. He was  
32 a member of Putney Friends Meeting and a professor of Advocacy  
33 for Social Justice and Sustainability at Antioch University New  
34 England in the early 2000s. After moving to Washington, D.C., he  
35 worked at the International Center on Nonviolent Conflict and  
36 served as a Quaker ally on the Steering Committee of the DC  
37 Metro chapter of Jewish Voice for Peace.

38 In 2017, he published the booklet *Boycott, Divestment,*  
39 *and Sanctions? A Quaker Zionist Rethinks Palestinian Rights.* In  
40 2024, he wrote an essay, “The Struggle for Unity on  
41 Israel/Palestine: Reflections on AFSC’s Apartheid-Free Pledge.”

42 This event is free. The meetinghouse is accessible.  
43 Additional parking is available across the street in the former  
44 Basketville lot. There is no need to RSVP. All are welcome to join  
45 the meeting for worship at 10:30 a.m., socializing and lunch at

46 noon, or just come to the afternoon program starting at 12:30  
47 p.m.

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BIO/COATTAIL:

48 ####BEGIN BIO/COATTAIL####

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*LAST ISSUE IN WHICH THIS FILE CAN BE RUN:*

49 ####BEGIN MAXISSUE####

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LINKS:

50 ####BEGIN LINKS####

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VIDEO:

51 ####BEGIN VIDEO####

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LOGLINE (SOCIAL MEDIA):

52 ####BEGIN LOGLINE####

####END LOGLINE####