

# Atlanta Friends Meeting Newsletter

Atlanta Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends Quakers. All are welcome.



Meeting for Worship  
Each First Day (Sunday)  
10:00 - 11:00 a.m.  
701 W. Howard Ave.  
Decatur, GA 30030

## September 2009

**Query:** How do we collectively discern our community's leadings, while conserving our financial resources and volunteer energy? Are we willing to take up new ministries? Are we willing to lay down old ministries?

-from Jonah McDonald

### WHY I AM WORKING TO BAN CLUSTER BOMBS

Like many people in my generation, working for peace first meant joining masses of others as we marched against the Vietnam War. Perhaps that laid the groundwork for a recurring and nagging thought that nowadays I was not doing enough for peace. I wanted to, but was busy with other projects and didn't know how I could find an action that felt both compelling and manageable and where I could feel I'd make a difference. As it turned out, all it took was for me to say "Yes" to an invitation by Joyce Myers-Brown to see "Bombies," a film about cluster bombs. I knew her as a champion advocate against landmines, and had long admired her strong spiritual base and profound commitment to promoting peace. Just being with her renews my soul, so I said "Yes."

That's all it takes sometimes, isn't it. A yearning to take action, a seeking to discern the right path, and saying "Yes" when a friend opens the way. Seeing the film, though, settled it for me. I had thought it would be about how the U.S. bombed the countryside in Kosovo, Iraq, and Afghanistan. Instead, it showed the utter terror felt by Laotians when we conducted a secret war against them during the Vietnam War. I had never known that we used their country as a dumping ground for millions of these bombs. I saw the painstaking steps necessary to defuse the unexploded duds, which even now add to the death toll of over 20,000 children and peasants, thirty years after the war. I wound up several projects, took a deep breath, and got started.

I found allies right away in Krista Brewer, Pres. of Georgia WAND; Lora Lumpe, with the Friends Committee on National Legislation, our Quaker lobby in Washington, DC; and Mark Smith of AFM. Others soon followed. Our goal is to pass HR981/S. 416, a bill in Congress that would protect civilians by severely restricting the use of these bombs which keep killing long after a war is over.

Now the bill is in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, where Sen. Johnny Isakson serves. No date has been set for a hearing, so that gives us an opportunity to build support around the state. We are circulating a letter to religious leaders for their signature and will send it to both senators when the hearing begins. To date five people have signed, including our own clerk. We're offering "Brownies not Bombs" displays and showings of the film to other groups, both to educate and to collect postcards. We've visited the offices of both senators. A young Iraq War veteran who had been an Army scout went with us, reporting the revulsion of both the troops and his superior officers for these weapons.

These are small steps in themselves, but I feel they have the potential to save the lives and limbs of countless children and farmers and soldiers. That is why I am working to ban cluster bombs.

Sue May

### Thank You!

Atlanta Friends express our deep appreciation to Debra Kocher for donating the beautiful Persian rug now gracing our library. Walk cheerfully but carefully so that it will shed its glow for years to come.

## **Announcements**

### **Editor's notes**

Apparently I have confused myself and others about the Newsletter deadline not keeping track of the month for the issue. Renda reminded me that her deadline for submissions was ALWAYS the Friday before Meeting For Business.

### **AFM Adult First Day Class**

On September 6, Sally Ferguson will share her spiritual journey. During the rest of the month, we will read and have worship sharing on the book, Jesus and Buddha-The Parallel Sayings, Marcus Borg, editor. If Jesus and Buddha were to meet, they would recognize one another as fellow prophets because they were teaching the same truths. This is a fascinating and appealing anthology of key beliefs within two of the world's great religions. Books are available from Bill Holland and all are welcome to class meetings from 9am to 9:50 am in the library.

### **Hike Saturday, September 19 at 9 AM**

Please plan to join East End Neighbors for a three-mile round-trip hike to the top of Stone Mountain on Saturday, September 19 at 9 AM. We will take the woody trail for a quieter approach. Families with children welcome! We will meet to carpool at Bethel Baptist Church at 1890 Second Avenue Decatur 30032, next to the funeral home & near East Lake Commons. (Please park behind the church.) We should be back by about 1 PM. For more info please contact Bert Skellie at [bertskellie@gmail.com](mailto:bertskellie@gmail.com) or 404-378-5883

### **Artists Atelier of Atlanta Gallery**

Joan O. Stabler signature member of Georgia Water Color Society and member of American Watercolor Society presents watercolor paintings of "The Beach People" 800 Miami Circle, Suite 200 Atlanta, GA 30324.

Open: Tues-Fri 11-5p.m. Sat.12-4p.m.

Everyone welcome!

### **Reminder: Public Education Project Funds Available**

If you are a public school teacher, student or parent or have any other connection to a public school, you may be interested in applying for support for a project. Projects must be sponsored by Meeting attenders. Three or four enrichment projects can be funded between now and the end of December, for about \$200 - \$400 each (up to \$1000 is available). To apply for funds, send a brief description of the project, the amount requested, the name of the teacher or other project leader and the name of the school to Bert Skellie ([bertskellie@gmail.com](mailto:bertskellie@gmail.com) or 404-378-5883) or put in the Social Concerns folder in the office.

### **Workshop on Whites as allies**

Join us on September 27 at 11:50 in the meeting room for a workshop on whites being allies to people of color in working against racism. Everyone is welcome. Here are some questions we'll consider: What is an ally? Why be an ally? Who are some role models as allies? What opportunities do whites have to speak out/ take action against racism in jobs, schools, and/or communities? What experiences or suggestions can people of color share about a helpful ally relationship? What does an ally need to know to avoid doing harm instead of good? We'll practice role-playing as a means to becoming more effective in speaking against racism. A resource list will be provided. Sponsored by the Committee on Undoing Racism in Atlanta Friends Meeting (CURAFM). For more information, contact Susan Firestone, 404-377-0875 or [sfirestone@gsu.edu](mailto:sfirestone@gsu.edu).

Clerk of the Meeting  
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Georgia Lord

Recording Clerk  
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Finance  
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Religious education  
Mary Jahntz

Newsletter Editor  
Perry Treadwell

Young Friends Coordinator  
Lora Norlin

Social Concerns  
Julia Parker Ewen  
John Adams

Office Coordinator  
Jonah McDonald

## **The 2009 Gathering**

More than two dozen members and attenders of AFM traveled to VA Tech in Blacksburg, VA for the 2009 Gathering of the Friends General Conference. Our active assembly included FGC board members, leaders for workshops and worship, and a host of other volunteers. Sorrow about the serious injury of a Young Friend and the death of Bonnie Tinker during the Gathering undoubtedly overshadowed many of the daily celebrations and joys that characterize the Gathering. Those who wish to know more about Bonnie Tinker will find a web search provides both written tributes and video examples of a woman who clearly “let her life Speak”.

One of the highlights for Maia Carter Hallward was Shane Claiborne's very inspirational message about radical community building and living in accordance with our beliefs. “Shane is young, articulate, dresses simply, speaks clearly, and is committed to living simply and in the places most needing of support.”

Aaron "Elaine's dad" Ruschetta attended the "Listening for Muses" workshop exploring the playful and spiritual sides of making music and sound. He also directed a “found sound rhythm band” of preschoolers at Junior gathering and played percussion with "The George Fox Trotter" band at the evening contra dances.

Although the first FGC for the Martinsons was cut short by Rick's father's illness, Beth was delighted to meet new people and to see others from AFM. She felt challenged by thought-provoking sessions, nurtured by caring Friends, and inspired and strengthened to deepen her commitment to faith and action.

MaryAnn Downey and Bill Holland lead a fulfilling workshop on "Deepening the Spiritual Life of the Meeting" MaryAnn felt moved by the gathered semi-programmed worship Sunday morning, planned and led by Christina Repoley that included prayers, scripture and poetry reading, hymns, a message from Christina, as well as time for silence and other messages.

A workshop on “Quaker Identity” was the highlight for Judith Greenberg . “By identifying the core qualities of Quakerism that are both constant and unique from other faiths, it provided a forum for both Christocentric Quakers as well as nontheists”. As always, the bookstore held a wealth of Quaker authors and materials.

Ann Ritter “was amazed at how spirit worked in the formulation of the workshops this year so that there was a gathered feeling in the intention and outcome of our work as a large group. This outcome was particularly critical as we held in the healing light both a place and its population. Intention also was important. We needed it to be available to us when we had to face the death of one of our own gathering members.”

Next year, Y'all come join us. It's not a party without you. Denny Webster

### **Excerpted from the Minute from the workshop on Quaker Identity**

“We examined our history and noted that unprogrammed Quakerism has always been changing, from Fox's day to Penn's, from activism to quietism, from evangelicalism to liberalism, and from liberalism to today's pluralism. But we sought out characteristics that have remained constant through these outward changes: rejection of formal hierarchy, corporate discernment and decision-making, attention to Advices and Queries rather than commandments, rejection of outward sacraments, refusal to express our faith in credal formulations, faithfulness to our tradition of unprogrammed worship, and unmediated access to the sources of truth.” The complete minute can be found at [www.nontheistfriends.org/.../minute-from-fgc-workshop-2009/](http://www.nontheistfriends.org/.../minute-from-fgc-workshop-2009/) or [dboultondent@btinternet.com](mailto:dboultondent@btinternet.com)

## **Atlanta Friends Meeting and Suchitoto** Report for 2007-2009

The Atlanta Meeting has supported work in the small community of El Sitio Cenicero in the Municipality of Suchitoto, El Salvador, since 1991 when, as a natural part of the Meeting's work with Central American refugees, Carol Cummings visited El Sitio prior to the end of the Salvadoran civil war. This long period of support responds to the idea that the end of a war is only the beginning of a long process of creating real peace and justice after the physical and psychological damage of a decade of war.

Meeting support has been of two forms: annual funds of \$1800 to \$2000 budgeted through the Social Concerns Committee and a fund from contributions of members of the Meeting and outside friends. For the last two years \$500 per year from the Social Concerns Funds have been used to help establish an Alternatives to Violence Program in Suchitoto along with help from the Palo Alto Friends Meeting, Quaker Peace Teams and Catholic religious. El Salvador has a deep history of violence from the war years and a macho culture giving this effort a particular significance.

Some \$1300 helped support micro-enterprise efforts in two rural communities involving over 30 youth in a little café serving tourists and in artisan projects. The remaining bulk of the Social Concerns funds have helped a freshwater talapia project in El Sitio. This project has some 20 associates including older women and youth and is the first project among a host of failed efforts that appears to offer real economic viability. The Meeting's funds have gone toward developing marketing efforts both to people visiting the community as well as to the external market. Previous Social Concerns funds established a \$5000 rotating loan fund for women in El Sitio. This currently serves some 22 women with loans of \$300-400 for a variety of micro-scale economic projects and shows no losses over three rounds of loans.

The university loan program, patterned after one started by the Palo Alto Friends Meeting in another rural community close to El Sitio in 1998, was originally open only to youth from El Sitio. As it became clear that the demand in the community was less than expected and that funds were also available from a Catholic parish, the community and the Meeting decided to open this fund to youth from other rural communities belonging to an association known as CRC. Three students



from El Sitio have received loans: Otilio Martir Ayala Sosa who graduated from the University of El Salvador (UES) last December in International Relations and who recently elected President of the community council, José Orlando Torres in his third year in Physics in the UES and José Francisco Chacón in his third year of a teaching degree program in mathematics in the Pedagogical University. The CRC program served 7, 9 and 13 students in 2007, 2008 and 2009 respectively. In total, the fund has provided \$40,000 in loans since 2003.

The two primary options that provide promise to youth, beyond subsistence agriculture or low paid work in the tourist trade, are undocumented immigration to the US or higher education studies. The loan programs are based on the observation that having a family and community member with higher education improves opportunities of both the family and the community.

Frank will be speaking at a forum after potluck on Sunday, Sep 6, at noon in the Library.

**Speaking in Meeting for Worship** My first contact with Quakers was when the doyen of La Jolla Meeting thrust John Woolman's Journal in my hands and said you must read this. I did and it changed my life. Forty years later I have begun to reread it and found this insight when he was about 22 years old: "All faithful people are not called to public ministry, but whoever are, are called to minister of that which they have tasted and handled spiritually. The outward modes of worship are various, but wherever men [and women] are true ministers of Jesus Christ it is from the operation of his spirit upon their hearts, first purifying them and thus giving them a feeling sense of the conditions of others. This truth was early fixed in my mind, and I was taught to watch the pure opening and to take head lest while I was standing to speak, my own will should get uppermost and cause me to utter words from worldly wisdom and depart from the channel of the true gospel ministry." Perry Treadwell

Atlanta Friends Meeting  
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business  
Eighth Month 16, 2009  
As Recorded Pending Approval

Ceal Wutka presented the query: “Do you individually assume your rightful share of responsibility for the work and financial support of the monthly meeting? Do you participate regularly in meetings for business and do you complete committee responsibilities faithfully?” (SAYMA Faith & Practice)

In attendance were: Marty Bray, Mark Bryans, Mary Ann Downey, Beth Ensign, Jenny Foster, Judith Greenberg, Roland Heath, Bill Holland, Kathy Johnson, Suzan Kenworthy, Tom Kenworthy, Elizabeth Lamb, David Leuszler, Lynn Leuszler, Georgia Lord, Beth Martinson, Pete McCaughan, Renda McCaughan, Steve McLaughlin, Karen terHorst Morris, Ronald Nuse, Lissa Place, Meredith Reynolds, Beth Ruddiman, Roy Taylor, Joan Thompson, Jim Tolmach, Perry Treadwell, Denny Webster, Pat Williams, Ceal Wutka, Mark Wutka, Steve Collins (Clerk), Caroline Noyes (Recording Clerk) (34 Friends)

1. Approval of Minutes of Seventh Month Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business.

**Minute 09-08-01:** Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the minutes of Meeting for Worship with attention to Business of Seventh Month 2009 with corrections.

2. Treasurer’s report.

Meredith Reynolds reported that there has been \$63,697 raised through July 31 and expenses of \$77,607. Total income thus far in 2009 represents 44% of the budget. The deficit as of July 31 stands at \$13,909. Rentals are running substantially ahead while contributions continue to run slightly ahead compared to previous years. Expenses are on target for this time of year. Newsletter expenses are high because of late billing from 2008, which has been paid. There is still cash on hand thanks to reserves set aside to anticipate deficits early in the year. Ferguson Cabin has received over \$22,000 in donations for new construction plans.

3. Ministry & Worship.

Suzan Kenworthy requested approval for the transfer of Jenny Foster’s membership from Northhampton Friends Meeting to Atlanta Friends Meeting.

**Minute 09-08-02:** Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the transfer of Jenny Foster’s membership from Northhampton Friends Meeting to Atlanta Friends Meeting

Suzan requested approval for additions to the 1995 policy on scattering burial ashes on the Meetinghouse grounds. The policy modification involves the two additions noted in italics. 1) Loose ashes should be placed, spread, or buried among the grass and other vegetated areas, and away from sidewalks, paths, and patios. No containers of ashes may be buried upon the Meetinghouse grounds. 2) A record should be kept by the Landscaping Committee and in the Meetinghouse office, noting the person, date, place, and pertinent details regarding memorial plantings.

**Minute 09-08-03:** Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the modifications to the policy on the scattering of burial ashes and related recordkeeping.

4. Administration

Georgia Lord presented a report summarizing Valerie Barlow’s work while Friend in Residence. Georgia presented for approval the job description for the Personnel Liaison position.

**Minute 09-08-04:** Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the job description for the position of Personnel Liaison.

Karen Morris presented for consideration the proposed job description for the position of nursery caregiver. Approval will be sought in Ninth month. Because of IRS rules and regulations, this will be an employee position rather than a contract position. Administration committee seeks approval to form a search committee comprised of members from both Administration and Religious Education committees to begin the search process.

**Minute 09-08-05:** Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the formation of a search committee to begin the process of

hiring a nursery caregiver.

Jim Tolmach presented for consideration the modified job description for Office Coordinator. The only modification in the job description is under the volunteer section: 12) Creates a monthly volunteer assignment calendar and notifies scheduled volunteers of their duties in a timely way. Approval for the modification will be sought in Ninth month.

#### 5. Green Friends

Roy Taylor presented a request for the Meeting to consider endorsing Britain Yearly Meeting's climate control and global warming statement ("A Quaker Response to the Crisis of Climate Change"). One of the purposes of the statement is for it to be shared with world leaders prior to the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in December 2009. After thoughtful consideration, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the following minute:

**Minute 09-08-06:** On the recommendation of Green Friends, Atlanta Friends Meeting commends to fall 2009 SAYMA Representatives Meeting the Britain Yearly Meeting's statement "A Quaker Response to Climate Change." We are in a process of discernment and are considering making the statement our own. AFM asks that the statement be circulated to SAYMA Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups so they too may consider how they are led.

Kathy Johnson presented an "EARTHCARE NOT WARFARE" banner proposal. This 6 x 4 banner with blue lettering on a white background would be placed in front of the Meetinghouse parking lot in a location that would not block visibility from either entrance. The \$125 cost would come from the Green Friend's budget.

**Minute 09-08-07:** Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the development and placement of an "EARTHCARE NOT WARFARE" sign.

#### 6. Other items

Beth Ensign reported on her trip with Burundi Friends to Mid-America Yearly Meeting. Burundi Friends had a chance to talk and meet with US missionaries to Burundi and with members of their Burundi Yearly Meeting.

Steve Collins read the NC Yearly Meeting Conservative traveling minute for Mark and Ceal Wutka.

Marty Bray brought greetings from the Carrollton Worship Group, with thanks for Atlanta Friends Meeting's care and concern.

The Meeting closed with silent worship.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Collins (Clerk)

Caroline Noyes (Recording Clerk)

## Calendar for Ninth Month, 2009

### Area Meetings for Worship

Every First Day, 10:00 a.m.— In the Meeting Room and a small meeting in the Library.

Every First Day, 3 p.m. — Carrollton Friends Worship Group, St. Andrew United Methodist Youth Center, 1106 Maple St, Carrollton, [lessell.bray@gmail.com](mailto:lessell.bray@gmail.com) or 770-830-8705.

Every 2nd and 4th First Day, 10:00 a.m. — Canton Friends Worship Group, 360 E. Marietta St, Canton, 12:00 p.m. Contact Marty Bray for more information: 770-830-8705 or [lessell.bray@gmail.com](mailto:lessell.bray@gmail.com)

Every Fifth Day, 12:10 p.m.— First Thursdays at AFSC office, 189A Sams Street, Decatur, GA, 30030.,

Every other Thursday at East Lake Commons, 404-378-5883 or [bertskellie@gmail.com](mailto:bertskellie@gmail.com).

Every Sixth Day, 8:45 a.m.— Friends School of Atlanta, 862 Columbia Drive, Decatur, GA 30030, 404-373-8746.

Mon-Fri Morning Worship, 8:30 – 9:00: In the library at Atlanta Friends Meetinghouse. Contact Jonah McDonald, [404-377-2474,afmquakers@hotmail.com](mailto:404-377-2474,afmquakers@hotmail.com)

### Weekly Events

Every First Day (Sunday)

9:00 Adult Religious Education

9:15 Singing, Classroom A/B

10:00 Meetings for Worship

Every Week Day (Monday – Friday)

8:30-9:00 Morning Silent Worship, Library

Every Second-Fifth Day (Monday-Thursday)

8:30-12:30 Smart Toddlers,

Nursery/playground

Every Third Day (Tuesday)

7:30pm Silent Meditation, Meeting Room

7:30pm Bible Study, Library

### Other Events

09/2, Forth Day (Wednesday)

7:00-9:30 Administration Com., Library

09/3, Fifth Day (Thursday)

7:30-9:00 Meeting for Peace, Library

09/6, First Day (Sunday)

10:00-11:00 Worship followed by potluck

11:15-1:30 Green Friends, A/B

12:00-1:00 Presentation on El Sitio, Library

11:30-1:00 Planning Committee for SAYF,

Retreat Senior High Rm

09/9, Fourth Day (Wednesday)

7:00-9:00 ORRIA, Library

09/10, Fifth Day (Thursday)

7:30-9:30 Social Concerns, Library

09/13, First Day (Sunday)

11:30-1:30 Ministry and Worship, A/B

11:30-2:00 Care and Counsel, Jr. Teen Rm.

11:45-2:00 Finance, Library

11:30-1:00 Planning Committee for SAYF, Sr. High Rm

11:45-2:00 RE committee, Class A&B

6:15-8:45 Spiritual Nurture Group # 2 Library

09/14, Second Day (Monday)

7:30-9:00 Meeting for Healing JHS class Rm

7:00-10:00 Spiritual Nurture Group

09/17, Fourth Day (Thursday)

6:45-10:15 Friendly 8s--Spiritual Journeys

JHS class Rm

09/18, Fifth Day (Friday)

~6:00 Newcomer's Welcome dinner TBA

09/18 **Newsletter Deadline** –To Perry Treadwell

09/20 First Day (Sunday)

11:45 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, Meeting Room (childcare available)

09/27 First Day (Sunday)

11:45-1:45 Forum: "Being an Ally"

(ORAIARH & CUR-AFM) Meeting RM

6:15-8:45 Spiritual Nurture Group #2,

Library

Please confirm unique events by checking the announcements sheets and or contacting the Meeting

Atlanta Friends Meeting  
701 West Howard Avenue  
Decatur, GA 30030-2902  
Phone: 404-377-2474

#### ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING

701 West Howard Avenue, Decatur, GA 30030

Clerk: Steve Collins, 404-687-8715; [shcollins75@hotmail.com](mailto:shcollins75@hotmail.com)

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Office: Hours M-W-F 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; E-mail address: [afmquakers@hotmail.com](mailto:afmquakers@hotmail.com)

NAMETAGS: If you would like to have a permanent nametag made, leave a request in one of the baskets on the front table. Indicate whether you prefer one that hangs around the neck or that pins. When Carol Gray has made one for you, it will be placed in the black file box on the greeting table.

If you would like to be included in the AFM database and receive the Newsletter by mail and/or appear in future AFM Directories, please send your name, address phone, e-mail address, etc to Nina Gooch by e-mail at [ninagooch@gmail.com](mailto:ninagooch@gmail.com) or by phone 404-371-9873. Please indicate if you want to be in the directory, receive the newsletter by mail, or both. This also applies to any change in existing database information, e.g. change of address.

To receive AFM newsletter notices via e-mail, simply send a blank e-mail to [afmnewsletter-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:afmnewsletter-subscribe@yahoogroups.com) from the address where you want to receive the newsletter. You will receive a note back from Yahoo asking you to confirm your subscription; simply hit reply and you will be added to the list. There is no subscription fee for the newsletter.

To receive general announcements and participate in discussion, follow the same instructions only address the note to [afmdiscussion-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:afmdiscussion-subscribe@yahoogroups.com). To receive

announcements relating directly to the life of the meeting, send the same note to [afmannouncement-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:afmannouncement-subscribe@yahoogroups.com).

Contributions to the Atlanta Friends Meeting can be placed in the slot marked "Contributions" in the greeting area of the Meetinghouse, or mailed to the Treasurer at the above address. Thank you!

#### DEADLINE FOR 10TH Month newsletter: 9th Month 18

Readers are encouraged to submit letters, articles, poetry, calendar notices and anything else of interest to Friends. Items should be sent directly to: Perry Treadwell [perryt@bellsouth.net](mailto:perryt@bellsouth.net) 404-325-1504

*This newsletter is a publication of the Atlanta Friends Meeting. Views expressed are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the Atlanta Friends Meeting*