

Atlanta Friends Meeting Newsletter



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

MARCH 2010

Query: When a member has lifted up a concern, how does our Meeting respond? Does our Meeting encourage those seeking clearness for their conviction of conscience to hold up such convictions with prayerful openness to the Light? Yardley Friends Meeting

“It is a pleasure to announce that John Roberts joined Atlanta Friends Meeting as Friend in Residence, December 1.”

John Roberts escaped the entirely overrated ice and snow (not to mention Red Sox) of Boston to find spiritual enrichment among the dogwoods and azaleas. Growing up a Quaker in New England, John brings diverse life experience to the FiR role and he is excited about his new community. Notes John: “I’ve found AFM to be a warm, dynamic group of people who bring together different perspectives while still sharing a common vision of the Inner Light. At AFM, the sum is truly greater than the parts.”

This month John was pleased to welcome his two children to Atlanta. Ryu, age 7 and Mia, age 5, will be living and attending school in Buckhead.

John’s career has been in marketing and communications, including six years of intense Atlanta engagement working with The Coca-Cola Company. Throughout his time as a relatively sane Mad Man in New York, he enjoyed additional projects in the not-for-profit arena, including global advertising for the 1992 Earth Summit, the first national integrated campaign for WIC (nutrition program directed to Women, Infants and Children) and the Partnership for a Drug-Free America.

Besides deepening his spiritual development, John is interested in social justice and public policy issues, such as prison reform. Says John, “I am inspired by Senator Jim Webb, D-VA, who happily ignores the conventional wisdom that prison reform is a ‘third



rail’ as he tackles head-on this incredible waste of lives and resources.”

John is also focused on ecumenical and interfaith initiatives, reaching out and building bridges to others in the faith community. He notes, “Quakers may be relatively small in number, but we continue to have disproportionate impact by asking the tough questions, by transcending political barriers and appealing to a common humanity that can resonate among the broader community.”

What do you know about the history of Friends and people of African descent? Quiz yourself below: Some Friends were disowned for working for abolition with non-Quakers.

- True
- False

Announcements

Forum on Immigration

March 4 at 7:00 p.m. in the meeting room.

Speaker: Azadeh Shashahani

Please call or email Priscilla Padrón for further information or clarification.

A timely forum about comprehensive immigration reform (CIR) is planned for March 4 at 7:00 p.m. Immigration has become an inextinguishable issue, in spite of the president's failure to emphasize CIR in the State of the Union speech and the lack of interest on the part of the general public and Congress.

Comprehensive immigration reform is one of the top issues cited by FCNL.

Well-known Atlanta immigration advocate, Azadeh Shashahani, will speak to the issue at the forum, followed by time for discussion.

See a brief summary of the current immigration issue and a bio of Azadeh on the Peace and Social Concerns table. Sundays on its web site.

2010 FGC Gathering Accepting Gifts of the Spirit

July 4-10, Bowling Green, Ohio.

The Gathering invites you to step toward worship, step toward community—to step toward a richer Quakerism.

Browsing this web site you will taste the vibrancy and the variety that is available by immersing yourself in this community of Friends for a week. We eagerly look forward to welcoming you—in person—at Bowling Green. Sign up on this page for regular email updates about the FGC Gathering. Evening Programs: George Lakey, July 5; Phil Gulley, July 6; A Quaker Showcase of Talent, July 7; "Show Me the Franklins", July 8; Interest Groups, July 9

go to <http://www.fgcquaker.org/gathering>

Adult Religious Education for March

March 7-Paul Baker's spiritual journey

March 14 -Chapter 7-Plain Living: A Quaker path to Simplicity, by Catherine Whitmire

March 21-Christina Repoley-The Roots of Quakerism

March 28, &31-Introduction to Quakerism

Spirit Led Decisions

Mary Ann Downey and Bill Holland to present workshop a Pendle Hill Workshop. They will teach "Spirit Led Decisions: Quaker Process for all Faiths" March 12-14. This workshop is based on requests from folks in other traditions to learn about our meeting for worship with attention to business. Share this news with others by sending this link <http://pendlehill.org/workshops/winter-2010/206-spirit-led-decisions> to all who might be interested.

Schreiber/Seal Marriage

All are invited to attend a Meeting for Worship with Attention to Marriage for Don Schreiber and Barbara Seal, at 3:00 PM, on March 21, 2010. Please come join in the celebration at the Meeting House. RSVP by March 1 with Caroline Morris at CFM888@bellsouth.net, or 404-633-4054. The reception will follow with the traditional Quaker potluck, including Quaker punch! If you wish to bring a potluck item, please note the item with your RSVP. We welcome all!

*And so I find it well to come for deeper rest to this still room,
For here the habit of the soul feels less the outer world's control;
The strength of mutual purpose pleads more earnestly our common needs;*

*And from the stillness multiplied by these still forms on ether side,
The world that time and sense have known falls off and leaves us
God alone.*

John Greenleaf Whittier

Clerk of the Meeting
Georgia Lord

Assistant Clerk of the Mtg

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Meredith Reynolds

Finance
Paul Mangelsdorf
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Call for SAYMA Yearly Meeting Workshops

The theme of SAYMA's yearly meeting at Warren Wilson College, Swannanoa, NC, June 9-13 2010 is: **DISCERNING OUR WAY**. SAYMA members/attenders and Friends are welcome to submit proposals for workshops. All proposed workshops will be given consideration, whether or not they address the theme. Have you recognized the need for clearness in your spiritual journey? How did you or your Meeting proceed? Has your Meeting attended to the process when corporate clearness was need? Is our Way of discerning useful or possible in the workplace? What about within our Families?

Please consider sharing your insights, experiences and skills with others. Workshops can take many forms - worship sharing; practicing the clearness process; working on specific concerns with a group. Are there particular gifts of our Meeting Members that work well in reaching clearness; how might you set up a clearness committee? Workshops which invite intergenerational participation and include an element of play are particularly encouraged!

Please use the Workshop Form to submit your proposal. The Workshop Form is available in two formats. The editable RTF document can be downloaded, filled out on your computer, and returned by e-mail to Sharon Annis. The printable PDF document can be downloaded, filled out by hand, and returned by mail to Sharon Annis. Be sure you are clear in your description of your workshop. Folks want to know ahead of time if it is very political or spiritual. Give an idea of how much is interactive or if your workshop is lecture or PowerPoint presentation.

We do not offer compensation in any form to workshop presenters.

Workshops will be offered Friday (6/11) and Saturday (6/12) afternoons between 2:30-4:30 PM. The sessions can be as short as 60 minutes or as long as 120 minutes. Please help us in our planning by filling out this form *as completely as possible* and returning it by **MARCH 15, 2010** to: **Sharon Annis** 869 A West Outer Drive Oak Ridge, TN 37830 865.483.8783 (home) 865.414.2682 (cell) sharonannis@comcast.net

Form due back by March 15, 2010 available at www.sayma.org (Documents)

Title of proposed workshop:

- Your name, address, phone number and e-mail:
- Provide a brief (approximately 50 words) description of your workshop. (This will be used for the advance program description to help Friends in selecting a workshop.) If your description is too long, it will be edited. However, we hope to put descriptions on the SAYMA Web site, which will accommodate lengthy discussions.

Please specify Friday or Saturday preference:

Would you be willing to give your workshop twice? (You may have different people in each session.)

Does your workshop need more than one session? (If you offer a two-part workshop, should participants attend both parts?)

What portion or percent of your workshop is worship? Lecture? Discussion? Interactive?

Preferred participants: Adults, youth or both? Women, men, or both?

Are there limits to the numbers of participants? Maximum? Minimum? What is your ideal number?

Workshop length: 60 minutes? 75-90 minutes? 90-120 minutes?

Particular space or equipment requirements (e.g., projector, piano)? We will try to have all workshops in handicap-accessible classrooms.

Please list any books or other materials that you would like to see stocked in the YM bookstore.

Additional Comments:

Please contact Sharon Annis with any questions you may have. She will send confirmation that she received your proposal, and you should hear before April 15 on whether or not your workshop has been accepted for the program.

ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING GATHERED MEETING RETREAT

March 26–28, 2010

“Tending our Spiritual Gardens”

Each year, the Atlanta Friends Meeting Gathered Meeting Retreat is held to support our spiritual growth and to deepen our sense of community. This is a time for gathering in silence and other forms of worshiping, sharing, relaxing, spending quality time together as spiritual seekers and friends, and for having fun. All are encouraged to attend, whether you are new to or seasoned in our Meeting, and whether you are a member or an attender. This time can be especially beneficial for new attenders to connect with others in the Meeting. Partial scholarships are available—please don't let funding keep you from this vital experience.

Location and Accommodations

The retreat is being held at the Charlie Elliott Center (543 Elliott Drive, Mansfield, GA, 30055) about one hour east of the perimeter. Cost, including all meals from Friday night dinner through Sunday Lunch: single room (\$220); two people per room (\$140/person); three per room (\$133/person); four per room (\$130/person [if this configuration can be arranged]). If you desire a roommate we will find one for you. If you know who your roommate will be, please indicate this on the form. In order to foster the sense of community that develops during a retreat, we ask that all participants commit to the full retreat and stay overnight rather than commute.

Mary Ann Downey and Bill Holland have been active in deepening the spiritual lives of Quakers and non-Quakers for many years. We are fortunate to have these active members of Atlanta Friends Meeting lead our Retreat this year. More information on their impressive qualifications is available on green registration sheets at the Meetinghouse. To register using the form below please provide the following information and enclose a \$50 deposit. (Checks made to “Atlanta Friends Meeting”)

Gathered Meeting Retreat Registration Form

Name(s)

Address

E-mail Phones: Day Night

Amount: Deposit/Full payment

Contribution to Scholarship Fund \$

Scholarship assistance requested \$

Occupancy requested: 1) Single 2) Double 3) Other

Roommate, if known

Emergency contact during retreat: Name Phone

Please indicate any special dietary needs (vegetarian, etc.)

Please indicate any other special needs (handicap room, etc.)

Place this form, along with the deposit or full payment, in the Gathered Meeting Retreat Committee folder in the Meeting office, or send to: Ceal Wutka, 4593 High Gate Lane, Lithonia, GA 30038

Questions

Contact Ceal Wutka, 770-808-0016, cecilia@wutka.com

The difference between consensus and unity is the difference between debate and finding a common theme, that is, searching for the Truth (the ultimate spiritual reality).

b. True. Some Friends were disowned for working for abolition with non-Quakers. See p. 89 in *Fit for Freedom, Not for Friendship: Quakers, African Americans, and the Myth of Racial Justice* for more information.

Atlanta Friends Meeting **Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business**

2nd Month 21, 2010

Recorded Pending Approval

Georgia Lord presented the query: gHow do I maintain simplicity, moderation, and honesty in my speech, my manner of living, and my daily work? Do I recognize when I have enough? Is the life of the Meeting so organized that it helps us to simplify our lives?h

In attendance were: Paul Baker, Susan Browne, Steve Collins, Julia Ewen, Judith Greenberg, Meg Harper, Dwight Harriman, Roland Heath, Kathy Johnson, Suzan Kenworthy, Tom Kenworthy, Elizabeth Lamb, Lynn Leuszler, Sally MacEwen, Paul Mangelsdorf, Beth Martinson, Alison Mawle, Susan May, Renda McCaughan, Steve McLaughlin, Meredith Reynolds, John Roberts, Aaron Ruscetta, Don Schreiber, Barbara Seal, Bert Skellie, Karen Skellie, Rick Stoops, Karen terHorst Morris, Joan Thompson, Jim Tolmach, Myrna Trapp, Perry Treadwell, Denny Webster, Mark Wutka, Caroline Noyes (Recording Clerk), Georgia Lord (Clerk) (37 Friends).

Ferguson Cabin Committee: Jim Tolmach presented an update of the Ferguson Cabin Stewards Committee description to reflect current practice. The committee welcomes Friendsf thoughts.

Finance Committee: Meredith Reynolds reported that 2009 ended with a \$271 surplus. Expenses and income were both below budget, and the reduced expenses offset reduced contributions. While contributions to the general fund were higher than 2008, they were \$21,000 less than budgeted; however, there was an increase in the amount of money donated to special funds like the Ferguson cabin. There is a continued decline in the number of giving units who are making contribution. Four areas of expense exceeded the budget: building maintenance, insurance coverage, printing and copying (new directory printing), newsletter (billings from the previous yearfs printing). The finance committee will examine the calculation of a ggiving unit.h

Ministry & Worship: Suzan Kenworthy reported that Ministry & Worship is seeking feedback on the January multigenerational Meeting for Worship. Ministry & Worship also presented the final requests for approval of Caroline Noyesfs membership, and the March 21, 2010 marriage of Barbara Seal and Don Schreiber under the care of the Meeting, with Julie Dalia, Dwight Harriman, Carolyn Coburn-Allen, Caroline Morris, and Mike Alant serving as their oversight committee.

Minute 10-02-01: Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the membership request of Caroline Noyes.

Minute 10-02-02: Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the marriage request of Barbara Seal and Don Schreiber.

Nominating: Steve Collins sought approval for Ceal Wutka as Atlanta Friends Meetingfs representative on the SAYMA Ministry and Nurture Committee

Minute 10-02-03: Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Ceal Wutka as Atlanta Friends Meetingfs representative on the SAYMA Ministry and Nurture Committee

SAYMA faith and Practice: Georgia Lord reported that Bill Holland convened a special meeting to discuss the proposed revisions to SAYMAfs Faith &Practice section on marriage, and forwarded those comments to the SAYMA Faith & Practice committee. Discussion on the proposed revision with Atlanta Friends Meetingfs suggested changes will be presented to Business meeting in 3rd Month, and a special meeting to further discuss the section on Community will be held during 3rd Month potluck.

State of the Meeting Report: Steve Collins reported that the report is due to SAYMA in April, and he is

seeking additions and changes to this draft. Another draft will be presented during 3rd Month for final review. A final version of the report will be included in the Atlanta Friends Meeting newsletter.

Social Concerns: Julia Ewen reported that a follow-up session on the recent legislative workshop will be held on the evening of March 8, 2010. More information will be on the discussion list and in the announcement sheets as the topics are finalized.

Approval of Minutes of First Month Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

Minute 10-02-04: Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the minutes of Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business for First Month with corrections.

Clerks items: Georgia Lord asked all committees presenting reports or requests to provide text and items in circulation prior to Meeting for Business so that Friends can give due consideration to the matter. Data is being collected on attendance and volunteer activities to determine volunteer patterns and potential barriers to volunteering. As part of this analysis, the clerk asks committees to consider whether all of the functions the committee performs continue to be needed (or whether some functions should be laid down), whether committee membership is sufficient, whether the committee is having problems recruiting sufficient volunteers, and if so, why?

Other announcements: There is a need for an interim recording clerk for 3rd Month. Paul Baker suggested that the Meeting examine its use of technology and its presence on social networking sites to complement the website as tools for outreach and awareness. The Administration Committee will examine the adequacy of technological services such as public address systems and projectors for meeting the needs of prospective building renters.

Meeting closed with silent worship.

Respectfully submitted,
Georgia Lord, Clerk
Caroline Noyes, Recording Clerk

“The Secret of Quakerism, if there is one, lies in the close and constant marriage between religious experience and social concerns.” D. Elton Trueblood

“We have become a generation of people who worship our work, who work at our play, and who play at our worship.” Charles Swindoll, *Stress Fractures*

Calendar for Third Month 2010

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, 12:30 p.m. — Carrollton Friends Worship Group, St. Andrew United Methodist Youth Center, 1106 Maple St, Carrollton, 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

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.

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

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

Every Fourth Day (Wednesday)

7:00-8:30 Mid-Week Semi-Programmed

Worship Mt. Rm

Other Events1

3/1 Second Day (Monday)

6:15-9:30 Spiritual Nurture Group, Library

3/2 Third Day (Tuesday)

7:00-9:00 Silent Meditation, Meeting Room

3/3 Fourth Day

6:45-9:45 Administration Committee

Meeting, Library

3/4, Fifth Day (Thursday)

6:00-10:00 Immigration Forum, Meeting

Room

7:30-9:00 Meeting for Peace, Jr. High Room

3/7, First Day (Sunday) Potluck

11:30-2:00 Green Friends, A&B

3/10, Forth Day (Wednesday)

7:00-9:30 ORAIARH, Library

3/11, Fifth Day (Thursday)

7:30-9:30 Social Concerns Meeting, Library

3/14, First Day (Sunday) 11:30-2:00 Care and Counsel, Jr. Teen Rm.

11:45-2:00 Finance, Library

11:45-2:00 Ministry & Worship, A&B

11:45-2:00 Religious Ed, Nursery

3/15, Second Day (Monday)

6:15-9:30 Spiritual Nurture Group, Library

3/18, Fifth Day (Thursday) Newcomers Dinner see weekly announcements for details

3/19, Sixth Day, (Friday) Deadline for Third Month newsletter

3/21, First Day (Sunday)

10:00-11:00 Meeting for Worship followed by Business Meeting

3/28, First Day (Sunday)

11:30- 1:10 Planning Meeting for Overnight U-E Classroom

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

Georgia Lord 770-934-7523: Georgia_Lord@mindspring.com

Treasurer: Meredith Reynolds, 404-683-3096: afmtreasurer@yahoo.com

Newsletter Editor, 404-325-1504, perryt@bellsouth.net

Office: Hours M-W-F 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; E-mail address: 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 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 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. To receive announcements relating directly to the life of the meeting, send the same note to afmannouncements-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 4TH Month newsletter: 3rd Month 19

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 404-325-1504 preferably in plain text in the body of the email.

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