

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

March 2011

Query: How have you sought, under the claims of divine love and grace, to recognize the uniqueness of every individual regardless of differences? Have you sought to understand and overcome the discomfort that often accompanies the perception of differences? Do you seek in others their God-given gifts? SAYMA Faith and Practice

FRIENDS FOR LESSBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDERED AND QUEER CONCERNS (FLGBTQC)

Or, Why I Decided It Was Important To Be The FLGBTQC Contact Person by Nina Gooch

Growing up in the United Methodist Church, I learned that God was a God of love. So, when I finally figured out I was gay, it was a shock to realize that the Methodist Church also said that it was not okay for me to fall in love with another woman. (Actually, this is an oversimplification of the Methodist Church's position, but it's how I experienced it then.) And I still remember going to a Metropolitan Community Church service for the first time. I knew that MCC had been specifically founded as a welcoming place for gay and lesbian people, but I was still scared enough that I almost turned around and went back home. Fortunately for me, I didn't, but only because I had had to buy subway tokens to get there and back and was short of money that week and I didn't want to waste even \$1.20.

By the time I started attending Atlanta Friends Meeting, it had sunk in that God really didn't care who I fell in love with or whether I was gay, but those experiences have never really left me. So taking on the responsibility of being contact person for Atlanta's FLGBTQC was something I felt I owed to other lgbtq people who might need a safe haven at and within the Meeting. I felt it was important that FLGBTQC continue even if we weren't particularly active, so we'd be here when we were needed. I wanted people to have a place they could go if they were struggling with being both lgbtq and religious or if they felt uncomfortable in the meeting because they were lgbtq or if they had questions.

FLGBTQC has continued to have potlucks every so often. I keep the supply of rainbow flags stocked so people can put them on their nametags as a visible sign that lgbtq people are indeed welcome here. I've been able to answer questions for people in the meeting who didn't identify as lgbtq but had questions and concerns. I pass on information from the national FLGBTQC, which gathers at Friends General Conference every summer and also every February. For several years, Atlanta's FLGBTQC has organized a small contingent to march in the Atlanta Pride Parade and be another voice of love and inclusion there. (While the protesters who think lgbtq people are going to hell are outnumbered by welcoming religious communities, they're still very loud.) Atlanta's FLGBTQC also has an email list for all those who are interested in lgbtq issues. (If you'd like to be on it, please email me at ninagooch AT gmail DOT com.)

I am not a mechanism, an assembly of various sections.

And it is not because the mechanism is working wrongly, that I am ill.

I am ill because of wounds to the soul, to the deep emotional self

and the wounds to the soul take a long, long time, only time can help

and patience, and a certain difficult repentance,

long, difficult repentance, realization of life's mistake, and the freeing oneself from the endless repetition of the mistake

which mankind at large has chosen to sanctify. D.H. Lawrence "Healing"

Announcements

Perry's Slide Show moved again

Due to scheduling conflicts the trip From Sea to Shining Sea will be scheduled for April 24 in spite of it being Easter. Come to Library after the egg hunt to hunt for the fascinating stories along U.S. 20. Perry will be speaking to the Village Writers Group at Eagle Eye Books on March 1, 7 pm.

Forum on March 3rd

Pat Loring will lead a forum on "Listening for the Movement of the Spirit" at the Meetinghouse on Thursday, March 3rd from 7:00 – 9:00. Pat is the facilitator for this year's Gathered Meeting Retreat and author of the two volumes of Listening Spirituality (one of which is currently being discussed in Adult Religious Education). Pat is a member of Friendship Meeting in Greensboro and recently was a featured speaker at Pendle Hill's 80th anniversary celebration.

Everyone is encouraged to attend, but particularly those who are unable to participate in the Retreat.

Childcare will be available, but an RSVP is required no later than Sunday, February 27th so that appropriate coverage can be arranged. To make your childcare reservation, call or email Caroline Morris (404-633-4054 or cfm888@bellsouth.net) by the 27th.

Another successful AFM "Movie Night"

About a dozen attendees contributed to the discussion following the film "Crash" on February 11. The next film will be the favorite "ET" so call home before coming.

Saturday, March 19, 2011, 8:00pm

Deidre McCalla and Elise Witt in concert at the Fiddler's Green Coffeeshouse. Please join us as we weave a delightful evening of harmony, hilarity, and hope. Fiddler's Green is monthly concert series sponsored by the Atlanta Area Friends of Folk Music. Doors open at 7:30pm. Light refreshments, coffee, tea,

sodas, and bottled water available for purchase; BYOB for alcohol. \$5 donation (\$4 for AAFFM members), kids under 12 and low-income attendees free.

Circle of Trust one-Day Seasonal Retreat Series

The Circle of Trust® Approach is a retreat format developed by Parker J. Palmer and the Center for Courage and Renewal www.couragerenewal.org. Haqiqa Bolling of Decatur City Schools and Dr. Veta Goler of Spelman College, are skilled facilitators who have worked with Parker J. Palmer and are prepared by the Center for Courage & Renewal. The purpose of the series of 1-day retreats is to use the seasons and their metaphors to create a quiet, focused, and disciplined space—a circle of trust—in which the noise within us and around us can subside and we can begin to hear our own inner voice. The first one will be April 16, with three more, offered singly or as a whole. For more information or to register, contact Haqiqa Bolling haqiqa@aol.com or Veta Goler vgoler@spelman.edu

Free Lobby Workshop Focuses on Preventing Genocides

On Saturday, March 26 staff members of the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) will be here to conduct a free Lobby Workshop from 9:30 - Noon in the Meetinghouse. Tim Barner and Mary Stata will bring a power point presentation, educate us about policy and genocide prevention, and conduct a role-playing exercise. They expect a bill to have been introduced in Congress by then and we can learn how to lobby for this bill. But whatever your issue, the skills taught in this lobby training will be very useful.

Space is limited, so please sign up with Sue May soon: sdmay@mindspring.com or 404-377-6326.

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Meeting Library Holdings on the Quaker Testimony of Simplicity

All meeting members and attendees are welcome to borrow items from the Meeting's library. From time to time, the Meeting's newsletter will include suggested lists of library items on topics of perennial interest to Friends.

To save you a bit of time if you decide to borrow one of the following titles, their call numbers are also listed, and the titles are arranged in call-number order. Books on other topics can be found by searching the library's combined catalog of authors, titles, and subjects.

“Stepping Lightly: Simplicity for People and the Planet” by Mark A. Burch **170.B21**

“The Freedom of Simplicity” by Richard J. Foster **234.F15**

“A Plain Life” by Scott Savage **248.4.S1**

“Simpler Living, Compassionate Life: A Christian Perspective” ed. Michael Schut **248.4.S3**

“No More Plastic Jesus: Global Justice and Christian Lifestyle” by Adam D. Finnerty **261.8.F55**

“Rich Christians in an Age of Hunger” by Ronald J. Sider **261.8.S9**

“Recycle This Book! Ecology, Society, and Man” ed. J. David Allan & Arthur J. Hanson **301.1.R4**

“Taking Charge: Achieving Personal and Political Change through Simple Living”
by the Simple Living Collective **309.1.S55**

“Living More with Less” by Doris J. Longacre **640.2.L6**

“99 Ways to a Simple Lifestyle” by the Center for Science in the Public Interest **640.N56**

“The Simple Living Guide” by Janet Luhrs **646.7.L21**

“Living Simply with Children” by Marie Sherlock **649.1.S8**

“Simplicity” by George Peck Pendle Hill Pamphlet #**189**

If you happen to have borrowed any of the following library books about simplicity, and have forgotten to return them, please do so, to allow other Meeting attendees the opportunity to borrow them:

“Radical Simplicity: Small Footprints on the Earth” by Jim Merkel **178.21.M5**

“Graceful Simplicity: Toward a Philosophy and Politics of Simple Living” by Jerome M. Segal
178.21.S5

“Plain Living: A Quaker Path to Simplicity” by Catherine Whitmire **248.4.W8**

“The Complete Idiot's Guide to Organizing Your Life” by Georgene Lockwood **179.9.L14**

And if you are aware of other books about Simplicity - or about another topic of particular interest to Quakers - that you think should be in the Meeting's library, please contact the Meeting's librarian Cal Gough with your suggestion: 404-377-0476 or calgough@bellsouth.net

The Abolition of Love, Just in time for Valentines Day:

What does he/she mean when the person says “I love you?” Is it the same as loving your dog, New York, The Beatles, or chocolate? So there are several meanings for the noun or verb love. We assume we know the subtitle or not so subtle differences.

C.S. Lewis wrote a whole book on Christian love. His lexicon: Storge - Affection, Phileo - Friendship, Eros - Romance, and Agape - Unconditional Love. He skirted around epithymia - sexual desire or “making love.”

There can be other variations. Eros may include the quest for fulfillment in music, paintings, sculpture, and that ah-ha experience. Agape can be expanded to Paul's unconditional love of parent for child, of God for us as in 1 Corinthians 13. Here the older King James version of the Bible has agape translated as *charity*. Maybe it's a form of altruism. Could it be acceptance?

The verb agapaō is used over 100 times in the Greek New Testament and the noun agapē 124 times. On the other hand, philos is used 28 times.

So I propose a suspension in the use of the general word love and find some substitutes that express our intentions more clearly. Or would that be dangerous or off-putting in some circumstances? The Editor

QUAKER CENTER FOR PEACE AND INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING



Did you know there's a Quaker center in Mexico City? It's La Casa de los Amigos, established over 50 years ago right in the heart of the city. It's where Tom and Suzan Kenworthy met when they trained for a service project in another part of Mexico and where I attended Meeting for Worship on Feb. 6.

Now it's filled with 36 residents, only a few of them on staff, the others volunteers and refugees, paying guests and guests who come in to the city from the countryside to market their wares. La Casa provides the latter with hospitality, and in exchange receives gifts of honey, jams, vegetables and fruits...and sometimes beautiful hand-made dolls, perfect gifts for my granddaughters.

Dan and Sue and Friends

La Casa is actually two buildings around a courtyard, and the site of the only monthly meeting in Mexico. The First Day I was there, the clerk reported on a successful trip to a women's prison to create a garden with the inmates. The meeting provided the plants and seeds. I learned that after the government's grossly inadequate response to the 1985 earthquake, when over 10,000 people were killed, there was a marked increase in the role of civil societies such as labor unions, non-profit charitable groups, and human rights organizations. La Casa is one of these that has a very good reputation for working for equality and economic justice, and they do this in several ways. One important way is to support workers personally and collectively, often through alliances with various cooperatives. Fair trade, in a just and sustainable society is a goal. "Construyendo la economia solidaria" is a key project.

If you're traveling to Mexico City, consider staying at La Casa's attractive apartment or renting a simple room. You'll be helping support a wonderful Quaker organization! Their website is www.casadelosamigos.org (Sue May)

Global Warming

"This is where we stand today on the subject of global warming. For the past 150 years, industrial civilization has been dining on the energy stored in fossil fuels, and the bill has come due. Yet, we have sat around the dinner table denying that it is our bill, and doubting the credibility of the man who delivered it. The great economist John Maynard Keynes famously summarized all of the economic theory in a single phrase: 'there is no such thing as a free lunch.' ... We have feasted to our hearts' content. But the lunch was not free." From *Merchants of Doubt* How a Handful of Scientists Obscured the Truth on Issues from Tobacco Smoke to Global Warming by Naomi Oreskes and Erik M. Conway p266

Balzac: "Behind every great fortune is a great crime."

"I don't think [a meaning for life is] what we're really seeking. I think that what we're seeking is an experience of being alive, so that our life experiences on the purely physical plane will have resonances within our own innermost being and reality, so that we actually feel the rapture of being alive." Joseph Campbell

Atlanta Friends Meeting
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
Second Month, 20, 2011
Recorded Pending Approval

Query: Georgia Lord presented the query: “How might we encourage committee or business meetings to become times of refreshment, of a renewed worship in our sense of giving ourselves and affairs over to God, of being drawn into living, loving, fellowship with one another—rather than a crowded, anxious, hurried burden on already burdened lives?” (Patricia Loring, *Listening Spirituality, Volume II*)

In attendance were: Susan Bacher, Paul Baker, Don Bender, Muireann Brennan Steve Collins, Mary Ann Downey, Julia Ewen, Dana Goldman, Roland Heath, Bill Holland, Kathy Johnson, Suzan Kenworthy, Tom Kenworthy, Elizabeth Lamb, Lynn Leuszler, Caroline Morris, Ronald Nuse, John Roberts, Aaron Ruschetta, Bert Skellie, Karen Skellie, Jim Tolmach, Myrna Trapp, Perry Treadwell, Denny Webster, Caroline Noyes (Recording Clerk), Georgia Lord (Clerk), (27 Friends).

Ministry & Worship: Bill Holland reported on the Vocal Ministry Forum led by Mark Wutka. The forum explored the purpose of vocal ministry, preparing for vocal ministry, delivering vocal ministry, and receiving vocal ministry. It was a very rich forum, and Mark prepared a document that will be circulated.

Minute 02-20-01: Atlanta Friends Meeting offers a minute of appreciation for Mark Wutka and his leadership in the Forum on Vocal Ministry

Minute 02-20-02: Atlanta Friends Meeting offers a minute of appreciation for Ceal Wutka and her encouragement of Mark to go forward during a difficult time.

Ministry and Worship has received a letter requesting membership for Dana Goldman. A clearness committee has met with her, and unites in supporting her desire for membership. Final approval will be sought in Third Month.

Nominating: On behalf of Nominating Committee, Steve Collins brought forth Stoph Hallward and Maia Hallward for initial consideration for membership on Ministry & Worship; final approval will be sought in Third Month. Steve Collins brought forth for final approval Denny Webster as a member of Ministry & Worship.

Minute 02-20-03: Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Denny Webster as a member of Worship & Ministry (2011-2014).

Nominating Committee reminds Friends that a number of committee openings for 2011 need to be filled, including Clerk of Hospitality, Treasurer, and members of Care & Counsel and Religious Education.

Jim Tolmach presented proposed revisions for the Handbook section addressing the Ferguson Cabin Committee. Final approval for the new text will be sought in 3rd Month.

Clerk’s Items: Georgia Lord reported that she has submitted a Letter of Transfer to New Brunswick Monthly Meeting for Anthony Smith.

David Jarvis, Frier Jarvis, Julie Dalia, and Myrna Trapp have been appointed to the Naming Committee, and suggestions for members of Nominating Committee should be brought to their attention.

The State of the Meeting Report is being prepared, and there was extended reflection on the issues confronting Atlanta Friends Meeting in 2010-2011, and the numerous ways in which Spirit is moving within the Meeting.

Inquiry About Possible Celebration of 20th Anniversary: Perry Treadwell asked whether Friends were

interested in holding some form of celebration around the fact that this summer will mark our 20th anniversary in this building. It was decided that several announcements will be made at the rise of Meeting regarding this anniversary and any response will be used to gauge interest in a possible event.

Other Items: Julia Ewen announced that a Friend is needed to help her develop the Angel Within program, and that contacts in the media are sought to help alert the public to the situation with the Tanzanian refugee camps and their forced repatriation of Burundians to Burundi. Bert Skellie reminded Friends of the Quaker Quest Forum on February 27th. Perry Treadwell has (temporarily) posted a history of Quakers (in America ed.) on a wall in the library.

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

Minute 02-20-04: Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the minutes of Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business for First month with no corrections.

Meeting closed with silent worship.

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

Call for SAYMA Yearly Meeting Workshop

Growing Within - Shining Forth

We will meet again at Warren Wilson College, Swannanoa, NC, June 9-12 2011

Our theme asks us to reflect on our inner Spiritual Growth (as individuals and as Meetings) and how we take our discovery out to the wider world.

Queries that you might consider: How do you (and your Meeting) cultivate the Light within? What supports this work? How do you and your Meeting bring the unique elements of our Faith in to the wider world?

SAYMA members/attenders and Friends are welcome to submit proposals for workshops. All proposed workshops will be given consideration, however we may not be able to accommodate all workshops or needs.

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. We will use your description in the advanced program. Friends will use this description to pick workshops that best fit their condition. 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 (6/10) and Saturday (6/11) afternoons. 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 February 28, 2011 to:

Sharon Annis, 869 A West Outer Drive, Oak Ridge, TN 37830, 865.483.8783 (home), 865.414.2681 (cell) sharonannis@comcast.net

The sense of the Meeting is that the quality of our worship is noticeably strengthened when Friends arrive on time. We appreciate that this is sometimes difficult to do and recognize any extra efforts Friends make to adhere to this discipline on behalf of our community.

Calender for 3rd Month 2011

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, 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, 60 Walton ST. NW, Atlanta, 10303 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. Beginning again August 13.

Wednesday 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 Wednesday

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 Events

3/2, Fourth Day (Wednesday)

6:45-9:45 Administration, Library

6:45-9:15 Finding Meaning in the

Second Half of Life

3/3, Fifth Day (Thursday)

6:00-10:00 Gathered Meeting Retreat

Faciliator Session Mt Rm

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

3/6, First Day, (Sunday) Potluck

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

3/9, Fourth Day (Wednesday)

7:00-9:00 ORAIARH, Library

3/11, Sixth Day (Friday) Movie Night
7:00 “ET”

3/12, Seventh Day (Saturday)
SAYMA Rep Meeting

3/13, First Day, (Sunday)

11:45-2:00 Finance, Library

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

11:45-1:15 Ministry & Worship Forum, Mt Rm
Pete Lang forum on Thomas Kelly

11:45–2:00 Religious Ed, Nursery

3/18, Newcomers Dinner

6:30 pm, at the home of Nina Gooch and Erica
French

3/18, Deadline for 4th Month newsletter

3/20, First Fay (Sunday)

11:45 11:45 Meeting for Worship with attention
to business

3/27, First Day, (Sunday)

11:45-1:45 Cabin Committee, A&B

11:45-1:15 Quaker Quest Forum Mt Rm

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

“From this point of view, what we call Man’s power
of Nature turns out to be a power exercised by some
men over other men with Nature as its instrument.”

C. S. Lewis “The Abolition of Man” 1947

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ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING

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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 18 th

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