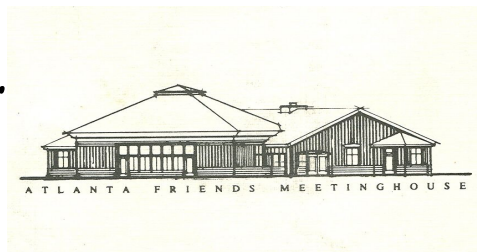


Atlanta Friends Meeting Newsletter

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

February 2013

Query: Are love and unity maintained among us? Are we careful not to hold an idea too firmly, knowing that another may bring us closer to the truth? Are we patient and considerate towards those we find difficult to understand or like? Do we respect that of God in each person, though it may be expressed in unfamiliar ways or may be difficult for us to discern?

Thoreau: Selections from "Life without Principle"

[We recently reread this 1850s lecture and were struck by not only its force but also its relevance for the Facebook generation. Here are some excerpts. -- Eds.]

This world is a place of business. What an infinite bustle! I am awaked almost every night by the panting of the locomotive. It interrupts my dreams. There is no sabbath. It would be glorious to see mankind at leisure for once. It is nothing but work, work, work. I cannot easily buy a blank-book to write thoughts in; they are commonly ruled for dollars and cents. An Irishman, seeing me making a minute in the fields, took it for granted that I was calculating my wages. If a man was tossed out of a window when an infant, and so made a cripple for life, or scared out of his wits by the Indians, it is regretted chiefly because he was thus incapacitated for — business! I think that there is nothing, not even crime, more opposed to poetry, to philosophy, ay, to life itself, than this incessant business. . . . If a man walk in the woods for love of them half of each day, he is in danger of being regarded as a loafer; but if he spends his whole day as a speculator, shearing off those woods and making earth bald before her time, he is esteemed an industrious and enterprising citizen. As if a town had no interest in its forests but to cut them down!

The ways by which you may get money almost without exception lead downward. To have done anything by which you earned money merely is to have been truly idle or worse. If the laborer gets no more than the wages which his employer pays him, he is cheated, he cheats himself. If you would get money as a writer or lecturer, you must be popular, which is to go down perpendicularly. Those services which the community will most readily pay for, it is most disagreeable to render. You are paid for being something less than a man. The State does not commonly reward a genius any more wisely. . . . As for my own business, even that kind of surveying which I could do with most satisfaction my employers do not want. They would prefer that I should do my work coarsely and not too well, ay, not well enough. When I observe that there are different ways of surveying, my employer commonly asks which will give him the most land, not which is most correct. I once invented a rule for measuring cord-wood, and tried to introduce it in Boston; but the measurer there told me that the sellers did not wish to have their wood measured correctly, — that he was already too accurate for them, and therefore they commonly got their wood measured in Charlestown before crossing the bridge.

The aim of the laborer should be, not to get his living, to get "a good job," but to perform well a certain work; and, even in a pecuniary sense, it would be economy for a town to pay its laborers so well that they would not feel that they were working for low ends, as for a livelihood merely, but for scientific, or even moral ends. Do not hire a man who does your work for money, but him who does it for love of it.

It is remarkable that there is little or nothing to be remembered written on the subject of getting a living; how to make getting a living not merely honest and honorable, but altogether inviting and glorious; for if getting a living is not so, then living is not. One would think, from looking at literature, that this question had never disturbed a solitary individual's musings. Is it that men are too much

disgusted with their experience to speak of it? The lesson of value which money teaches, which the Author of the Universe has taken so much pains to teach us, we are inclined to skip altogether. As for the means of living, it is wonderful how indifferent men of all classes are about it, even reformers, so called, — whether they inherit, or earn, or steal it. I think that Society has done nothing for us in this respect, or at least has undone what she has done. Cold and hunger seem more friendly to my nature than those methods which men have adopted and advise to ward them off. . . .

I hardly know an intellectual man, even, who is so broad and truly liberal that you can think aloud in his society. Most with whom you endeavor to talk soon come to a stand against some institution in which they appear to hold stock, — that is, some particular, not universal, way of viewing things. They will continually thrust their own low roof, with its narrow skylight, between you and the sky, when it is the unobstructed heavens you would view. Get out of the way with your cobwebs; wash your windows, I say! In some lyceums they tell me that they have voted to exclude the subject of religion. But how do I know what their religion is, and when I am near to or far from it? I have walked into such an arena and done my best to make a clean breast of what religion I have experienced, and the audience never suspected what I was about. The lecture was as harmless as moonshine to them. Whereas, if I had read to them the biography of the greatest scamps in history, they might have thought that I had written the lives of the deacons of their church. Ordinarily, the inquiry is, Where did you come from? or, Where are you going? That was a more pertinent question which I overheard one of my auditors put to another once, — "What does he lecture for?" It made me quake in my shoes.

To speak impartially, the best men that I know are not serene, a world in themselves. For the most part, they dwell in forms, and flatter and study effect only more finely than the rest. We select granite for the underpinning of our houses and barns; we build fences of stone; but we do not ourselves rest on an underpinning of granitic truth, the lowest primitive rock. Our sills are rotten. What stuff is the man made of who is not coexistent in our thought with the purest and subtilest truth? . . .

Just so hollow and ineffectual, for the most part, is our ordinary conversation. Surface meets surface. When our life ceases to be inward and private, conversation degenerates into mere gossip. We rarely meet a man who can tell us any news which he has not read in a newspaper, or been told by his neighbor; and, for the most part, the only difference between us and our fellow is that he has seen the newspaper, or been out to tea, and we have not. In proportion as our inward life fails, we go more constantly and desperately to the post-office. You may depend on it, that the poor fellow who walks away with the greatest number of letters, proud of his extensive correspondence, has not heard from himself this long while. . . . When we want culture more than potatoes, and illumination more than sugar-plums, then the great resources of a world are taxed and drawn out, and the result, or staple production, is, not slaves, nor operatives, but men, — those rare fruits called heroes, saints, poets, philosophers, and redeemers.

Those things which now most engage the attention of men, as politics and the daily routine, are, it is true, vital functions of human society, but should be unconsciously performed, like the corresponding functions of the physical body. . . . I sometimes awake to a half-consciousness of them going on about me, as a man may become conscious of some of the processes of digestion in a morbid state, and so have the dyspepsia, as it is called. It is as if a thinker submitted himself to be rasped by the great gizzard of creation. Politics is, as it were, the gizzard of society, full of grit and gravel, and the two political parties are its two opposite halves, — sometimes split into quarters, it may be, which grind on each other. Not only individuals, but states, have thus a confirmed dyspepsia, which expresses itself, you can imagine by what sort of eloquence. Thus our life is not altogether a forgetting, but also, alas! to a great extent, a remembering, of that which we should never have been conscious of, certainly not in our waking hours. Why should we not meet, not always as dyspeptics, to tell our bad dreams, but sometimes as eupeptics, to congratulate each other on the ever-glorious morning? I do not make an exorbitant demand, surely.

Help Discern the Meeting's Work Against Racism on Sunday, March 3

It has been 15 years since ORAIIARH started as a support group for individuals in the Meeting who wanted to work against racism and about 10 years since the Committee on Undoing Racism in the Atlanta Friends Meeting began its work. It's time to discern the next chapter in the Meeting's work against racism. If you would like to be part of this work, please join us for the beginning of this important discernment process. We will meet in the Library after potluck from 12:15 to no later than 1:45 PM. For more information please contact Bert Skellie at bertskellie@gmail.com or 404-378-5883.

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New Purchases for the Library

Quaker History and the Simplicity Testimony

1. The Quiet Rebels by Margaret Hope Bacon

Lucid and absorbing, *The Quiet Rebels* tells the moving story of the Religious Society of Friends and its unique contribution to the history of the United States, from the day in 1656 when the first Publishers of the Truth arrived in Boston harbor to the present.

2. The Essence of George Fox's Journal, ed. Hunter Lewis

This new attempt to make Fox's *Journal* readable is well presented and easy on the eye and on first examination really does have the essence and literary feel of the original. If you have never read this Quaker classic before you have no excuse not to do so now.

3. The Man who Quit Money by Mark Sunden

In the autumn of 2000, Daniel Suelo deposited his worldly wealth -- all thirty dollars of it -- in a phone booth and has lived without money ever since. This is the amazing story of how one man learned to live, sanely and happily, without earning, receiving, or spending a single cent. Yet he manages to fulfill not only the basic human needs for shelter, food, and warmth, but also the universal desires for companionship, purpose, and spiritual engagement.

For Younger Friends

1. I'm Like you, You're Like Me by Cindy Gainer

For ages 3 and up. Simple words and detailed illustrations invite children to notice, accept, and affirm individual differences and similarities. Hair that's curly or straight, families with many people or few, bodies that are big or small -- boys and girls discover that even though they are different, they can listen, understand, cooperate, and be kind. Includes an activity guide for adults.

2. The Quiet Book by Deborah Underwood

There are many kinds of quiet: Quiet can be delicate. Quiet can be thundering! Quiet can be sweet, and cozy. It will be up to the parent to talk about Quiet in Quaker Meeting Quiet, but this book has all sorts of other Quiet quite beautifully. This is unusually child appropriate for any age up to six or so.

3. A Different Mirror For Young People by Ronald Takaki

This book traces the history of ethnic diversity in the United States offering readers a different mirror and more complete history of our country. The stories of American Indians, Africans, Chinese, Japanese, Irish, Jews, Mexicans, Vietnamese, Puerto Ricans, Filipinos, Afghans, South Asians and others who have made the United States a beacon of multiculturalism reveal the injustices of discrimination while celebrating the dream and spirit of immigrants and the hope and promise they bring.

-- Judith Greenberg, Library Committee

Atlanta Friends Meeting
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
January 20, 2013
Recorded Pending Approval

Attendance: Michael Allison, Paul Baker, Don Bender, Muireann Brennan, Mark Bryans, David Bundrick, Linnis Cook, Mary Ann Downey, Susan Firestone, Jenny Foster, Clive Gordon, Judith Greenberg, Roland Heath, Suzan Kenworthy, Tom Kenworthy, Chris Kohler, Elizabeth Lamb, Adrienne Lowe, Rick Martinson, Alison Mawle, Susan May, Karen terHorst Morris, Ramon Parrish-Auguste, Beth Ruddiman, Aaron Ruschetta, Peter Sederberg, Bert Skellie, Karen Skellie, Rebecca Sullivan, Jim Tolmach, Myrna Trapp, Perry Treadwell, Austin Wattles, David Foster (Clerk), Bill Holland (Acting Recording Clerk) (35 Friends).

Query: Bill Holland presented the query: "How do we foster a spirit of community among those in the meeting? How does the Meeting keep in contact with all of our members and attenders? How does the Meeting care for those who live alone, the sick, the aging, and those with families affected by disruption? Do we assist Friends in need as their circumstances require?"

Ministry and Worship: On behalf of the Ministry and Worship Committee, Bill Holland brought forward a proposal to clarify the responsibility for closing meeting, greeting visitors and announcements. Currently Clerk of Meeting and the Ministry and Worship Committee share this responsibility. After consulting with the Clerk, the committee recommends that Ministry and Worship assume sole responsibility for closing meeting.

Minute: 1-13-01: On the recommendation of the Ministry and Worship Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Ministry and Worship Committee assuming sole responsibility for closing meeting for worship. We approve removing item 3 from the current Clerk job description and clarify item 9 in the Ministry and Worship Committee description to make clear the committee now has this responsibility. We ask the Nominating Committee to make these changes to the respective descriptions in the AFM Handbook.

Social Concerns Committee: Michael Allison presented a letter we received from FCNL calling on President Obama to convene a national summit on climate change and asked that we endorse the letter.

Minute 1-13-02: On the recommendation of the Social Concerns Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting endorses the letter calling for the President to convene a climate change summit, and asks the Clerk to sign the letter on its behalf.

Treasurer's Report: Peter Sederberg reviewed the 2012 Year-end Balance Sheet, Income and Expenses statement, the Permanent Improvement Fund and Revenue & Expenses for 2013. The meeting met the contribution goal and exceeded the anticipated revenue income. The Meeting ended the year with a surplus of about \$12,715. The Permanent Improvement Fund has been drawn down over the last year to make energy improvements. The grounds project will be drawing from the fund in 2013.

Finance Committee: Peter reported the Finance Committee recommends that \$10,000 of the 2012 surplus be transferred to the Permanent Improvement Fund.

Minute 1-13-03: On the recommendation of the Finance Committee, we approve transferring \$10,000 from the FY 2012 surplus to the Permanent Improvement Fund.

Nominating Committee: Beth Ruddiman brought forward the following members and attenders for positions:

Don Bender: Care and Counsel, Clerk; Clive Gordon: Care and Counsel, Member
Chris Kohler: Georgia Peace and Justice Coalition, Representative
Jeff Evans: Administration, Member; David Payne: Newsletter Editor
Aaron Ruschetta: Webmaster; Cal Gough: Librarian

Approval will be requested in February.

The Clerk raised a concern over the difficulty the Nominating Committee was having finding members and attenders willing to serve important roles in the meeting. Friends made a number of recommendations including holding a threshing session, a forum on service, bringing a F(f)riend to business meeting, conducting an annual survey of gifts and interests, and declaring a jubilee year laying down all committees. The clerk encouraged our continuing reflection on this issue and invited interested Friends to share further ideas.

Quaker Quest Report: Bert Skellie read a report reviewing the history and accomplishments of the Quaker Quest Project. [See Appendix -- Eds.] Friends expressed appreciation for the work of the Quaker Quest committee.

Minute: 1-13-04: Atlanta Friends Meeting expresses its appreciation to the Quaker Quest Committee for its faithful work in creating and carrying out the Quaker Quest program in 2012, with help from Friends General Conference. This program has made a substantial contribution to the spiritual life of the Atlanta Friends Meeting.

Clerk's Items: The Clerk reported that the working group preparing the State of the Meeting Report has received three surveys and reports from over half of the committees. A draft report will be brought in February with final consideration in March.

A meeting was held on January 6th to consider the changes proposed to the grounds improvement project. There was general agreement among those who attended that the proposed changes were within the scope of work already approved by Meeting and no that further discernment was needed. Friends interested in the project should contact John Roberts or Jack Honderd.

The Clerk reported the Meeting has received notification of a bequest left to the Meeting from the estate of Erline Bennett. Mary Ann Downey provided a remembrance of Erline. Erline was a regular attender of Atlanta Meeting after her retirement from an editorial position in New York City. While she never became a member, she was clearly grateful for the worship experience we provided and remembered us after she moved to Texas in her final years. The Clerk will acknowledge the bequest gift.

Chattanooga Friends Meeting has commended to our care their member Caty McAfee who will be living in Atlanta while she attends Georgia Tech.

The Clerk presented a draft statement of appreciation for Friends service. He asked Friends for additions and corrections. We will consider the revised document in February.

The Clerk presented a record of 2012 events in the lives of meeting members:

Births	Nahayo Eddy Dieudonne (1/6)
Marriages Under Our Care:	Sally McEwen and Aaron Ruscetta (3/11)
	Lissa Place and Glen Satell (5/12)
	Christina Repoley and Dean Leeper (10/6)
Deaths and Memorial Services	Sally McEwen (3/15)
	John Morris
	Nancy Smith
	Don Bayless
	Janet Ferguson
Transfers Out:	Mark Wutka (3 rd Month)

Minutes of December 2012:

Minute 1-13-05: The minutes of the December 16, 2012 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business are approved as submitted.

Meeting closed with Silent Worship.

Following Worship, Friends reconvened for the Annual Meeting of the AFM Corporation.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Holland, Acting Recording Clerk
David Foster, Clerk

APPENDIX: Quaker Quest Report

Starting in late 2010, Atlanta Meeting began to consider whether to pursue Quaker Quest. Our endeavors were led and inspired by Sally MacEwen. We miss her and wish she were still here to celebrate the conclusion of this project.

At least 29 Atlanta Quakers planned and carried out eight public sessions last fall:

Aaron Ruscetta, Deidre McCalla, Laura Bowman, Ron Nuse; Adrienne Lowe, Denny Webster, Mark Smith, Susan Firestone, Becky Lough, Folami Prescott-Adams, Mary Ann Downey, Susan May, Bert Skellie, Georgia Lord, Muireann Brennan, Terri O'Neal, Beth Ruddiman, John Adams, Nina Gooch, Wendy Phillips, Bill Holland, Judith Greenberg, Pat Williams, Caroline Noyes, Julia Ewen, Paul Baker, Clive Gordron, Karen Morris, Roland Heath.

With the help of a \$1500 grant from Friends General Conference, we had \$3000 to spend on publicity. Quaker Quest brought in 41 relative newcomers to the afternoon sessions, four of whom now attend meeting regularly. Three of these four noticed our banner out front. Most of the relative newcomers were invited or referred by a friend (12), had attended Meeting before (7), saw the sign out front (5), or saw the web site (5). There were an average of seven newcomers attending each session, along with an average of 17 others from the Meeting, for a total average of about 24 attending each time.

The impact of Quaker Quest has been much larger than recruiting new members. The presentations were transformative. Each set of speakers prompted individuals in attendance to think and feel more deeply about faith as both an individual and as a corporate experience. Presenters were fascinating, honest, and touching. Quaker Quest has influenced religious education within the Atlanta Friends Meeting. In preparation for Quaker Quest, many members spoke to the adult education class on proposed topics. Since the advent of Quaker Quest, a modified version termed "mini-Quaker Quest" has been introduced to the older children in religious education classes.

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From the Directory Editor . . .

The draft of the 2013 directory is now available at the meeting house on the greeting table by the front door. Please check your information, even if you think none of it has changed. Then, either make any corrections or additions needed or, if there are no changes, please write OK by your info so we'll know you've checked it. If you know you won't be at the meeting house in January or February, please call Nina Gooch at 404-371-9873 or email her at ninagooch@gmail.com. If you would like to add a new or updated photo to the picture directory supplement, you can email her a picture or see her after meeting to have your picture taken.

AND . . . When Tara Hands asked FCNL what might replace war as "not the answer," Alexandra Stark, Legislative Program Assistant, replied: "Our Peaceful Prevention of Deadly Conflict Program."

Calendar for Second Month (February) 2013

Area Meetings for Worship

- Every First Day (Sunday), 10:00 a.m. – Meetinghouse, with a smaller group in the Library.
Every First Day, 12:30 p.m. – Carrollton Friends Worship Group.
St. Andrew's UMC Youth Center, 1106 Maple St.; Margaret Bray, 770-830-8705.
Every 2d and 4th First Day, 10:00 a.m. – Canton Friends Worship Group.
360 E. Marietta St.; 779-720-4669 or wrldpeas@mindspring.com.
Every 2d First Day, 10:30 a.m. -- Macon Friends Worship Group.
Contact Diana Day, 478-227-8892; maconquakers.org.
Every 4th Morning (Wednesday) Worship, 8:30 a.m. – Library.
Contact Jonah McDonald, 404-377-2474; afmquakers@hotmail.com.
Every 4th Evening (Wednesday), 7:00 p.m. – Meeting Room.
Contact Christina Repoley, 404-840-3005; christinarepoley@gmail.com.
First 5th Morning (Thursday) – AFSC office, 60 Walton St. NW, Atlanta.
5th Day (Thursday) (except 1st of the month), 12:10 p.m. – East Lake Commons, Decatur.
Contact Bert Skellie, 404-378-5883, bertskellie@gmail.com.
6th Day (Friday) (2nd week of August through May), 8:45 a.m. – Friends School of Atlanta.
Community Meeting Room, 862 Columbia Dr., Decatur, 404-373-8746.

Weekly Events at the Meetinghouse

- Every First Day (Sunday)
9:00 a.m. Adult Religious Education
9:15 a.m. Singing, Classroom A/B
10:00 a.m. Meeting for Worship
Every Second-Fifth Day (Monday-Thursday)
8:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m. Smart Toddlers, Nursery playground
Every Fourth Day (Wednesday)
8:30 - 9:00 a.m. Morning Silent Worship, Library
Every Third Day (Tuesday)
7:30 p.m. Silent Meditation, Meeting Room
7:30 p.m. Bible Study, Library

Clerk of the Meeting: David Foster, 404-941-7337

Recording Clerk: Caroline Noyes

Office Coordinator: Jonah McDonald, 404-377-2474

Treasurer: Peter Sederberg, 404-968-9309 Ministry & Worship: Bill Holland, 404-692-2358

Finance: Paul Mangelsdorf, 770-677-4280 Religious Ed.: Alison Mawle, 404-944-9142

Social Concerns: Michael Allison, 770-832-3539; Bert Skellie, 404-378-5883

Care & Counsel: Laura Norlin, afm.care.counsel@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor: David Payne, atlquakerltr@gmail.com

Webmaster: Aaron Ruscetta, arxaaron@gmail.com

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Treasurer: Peter Sederberg, 404-968-9309; afmtreasurer@yahoo.com
Newsletter Editor: David Payne, atlquakerltr@gmail.com

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 and contact information to Nina Gooch at ninagooch@gmail.com or 404-371-9873. Please indicate if you want to be in the directory, receive the newsletter by mail, or both.

Contributions to the Atlanta Friends Meeting may 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!

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

To receive the Newsletter via e-mail, 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; hit reply and you will be added to the list at no charge. To receive general announcements and to participate in discussion, follow the same instructions, but 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.

**DEADLINE FOR 3RD MONTH NEWSLETTER:
FEBRUARY 22**

Readers are encouraged to submit letters, articles, notices and anything else of interest to Friends. Items should be sent directly to atlquakerltr@gmail.com **in plain text in the body of the email. Texts may be edited for length and format. Pictures should be in .jpg format.**