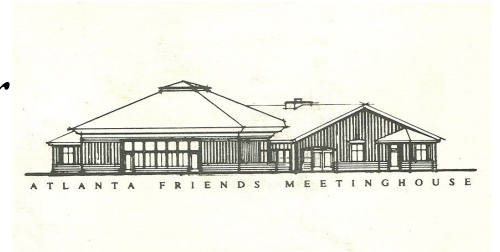


Atlanta Friends Meeting Newsletter

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 2013

Query: What does “eldering” mean in our Meeting? Does the Meeting understand and value the gifts of elders? How are the holders of these gifts discerned, nurtured, and held accountable? Are we each open to eldering and recognizing its importance in our religious community?

Mary Ann Downey: Journey to an Undivided Life

We gathered over dinner for the first of four retreats at Pendle Hill, Friday night, November 9, 2012 -- a group of 20 travelers, ready to take the "Journey to an Undivided Life". There was excitement mixed with anxiety as we begin to meet our fellow travelers and discover what leads us to this time and place. Many of us are in transitions of retirement, loss of family, aging, new jobs, and we share at least one common concern; 'what's next?' Within the context of four weekend retreats that focus on the seasons of the year and the season of our spiritual journey, we begin in autumn searching for "The Seed of the True Self." We hope to discover an undivided life by finding ways to let go of what we no longer need to hold and follow nature's guide planting seeds of renewal?

Our retreat leaders, Valerie Brown and Carol Korstch, challenged us to consider practical and spiritual preparations for this retreat. They wrote, "We invite you to select an object that may serve as a symbol of your intention for the retreat, something that has special meaning to you. An important step in living an 'undivided life' is becoming aware of your deepest intention, your soul's work. On Friday night, we will invite you to introduce yourself and your object to the group as a way of getting to know each other."

I sat in morning meditation the week before the retreat wondering again about my intention for taking a sabbatical year and going to this series of retreats. How I could introduce myself to a group of strangers with a clear statement of my intention when it was not always clear to me? I began reading poetry, and writing journal notes as I often do to get started. After some writing about Pendle Hill, I recalled one of my favorite poems from Mary Oliver's book, *Thirst*. Her poem "When I Am Among the Trees" may have been triggered by my memories of the wonderful variety of trees around Pendle Hill as well as the focus there on spiritual renewal. In the last lines of the poem are the words,

*"and you too have come
into the world to do this, to go easy, to be filled
with light, and to shine."*

These words immediately felt right. They offered an invitation and an affirmation that touched me deeply. They express my intention clearly for these retreats, a sabbatical year, and my desire to live a faithful life.

Lying on the table next to the chair where I sit to write and meditate is a small dark brown clay star that has at its center a serene face, eyes closed and a mouth with just a hint of a smile. This special star was made for me by my daughter, Lisa. For the first time, I saw the star and face as a special symbol of renewal. With hands and heart, she formed a lump of clay into a gift, a guiding star that has an amazing ability to remind me "to go easy, to be filled with light and to shine". With Mary Oliver's words and Lisa's special star, I knew I was ready for the journey.

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Annual Appeal for Unreturned Meetinghouse Library Materials

The Library is missing a considerable number of items borrowed in previous years and never returned. The breakdown:

	Adult Books	Children's Books	Videos	Totals
Unreturned 2012 Borrowings	25	6	0	31
Unreturned from Previous Years	270	51	23	344
Totals:	295	57	23	375

Any materials you have borrowed and forgotten to return means that others cannot take their turns at reading these books (or watching these videos). Please check around your home (and car) for any item you have borrowed from the Meetinghouse's Library and forgot to return. Just place them in the basket on the desk inside the library near the window, and we'll make sure they are promptly reshelved.

-- Cal Gough, Library Committee Clerk

SAYMA Yearly Meeting coming up on the third weekend in June . . .

We'll start with opening worship at 1 p.m. on Thursday June 13th and end with closing worship on Sunday June 16th from 11 to noon. The Yearly Meeting Planning Committee is hard at work putting together four days filled with inspiration, energy, friendship, and Spirit. Look for the Advanced Program with registration forms and all the details sometime in the first week in April either on the SAYMA website or in paper copy at your meetinghouse. -- Carol Ciscel, Clerk, YMPC

"Now is the time to think about whether you'd like to offer a workshop at Yearly Meeting -- either Friday June 14th or Saturday June 15th. Workshops begin at 1:15 and conclude by 3 pm. Most workshops are held in the smart classrooms in Jensen which are all equipped with PowerPoint. We limit attendance to no more than 25 per workshop. In order to cast a wide net for workshop proposal, this email is being sent to all meeting clerks; meeting and worship group contacts, SAYMA officers, committee clerks, and representatives to Wider Quaker Organizations, and to those who attended Yearly Meeting last year. Workshops should address our theme for this year -- Let us See What Love Can Do. The correct link for the form is <http://tinyurl.com/SAYMAworkshops2013>. Please let me hear from you by February 28, 2013."

-- Bill Wolfe, Workshop Coordinator: wmjwolfe@yahoo.com; (615) 238-1247.

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Friendly Eights starting up again in April

Friendly Eights are groups of about eight people who meet around once a month on a common topic of interest or an activity. Some previous Friendly Eights have organized around ethnic dining, photography, book groups, charades, refugee support, and hiking to name just a few.

Care and Counsel is asking members or attenders with an interest in convening a group around a topic of their choice to contact Muireann Brennan, mbrennan@cdc.gov, or Georgia Lord georgia_lord@mindspring.com. Convening just means organizing the first meeting; it does not necessarily mean you will have to organize subsequent meetings.

Atlanta Friends Meeting
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
February 17, 2013
Recorded Pending Approval

Attendance: Micheal Allison, Paul Baker, Don Bender, Mary Ann Downey, Betsy Eggers, Julia Ewen, Jenny Foster, Clive Gordon, Roland Heath, Bill Holland, Kathy Johnson, Chris Kohler, Elizabeth Lamb, Georgia Lord, Lynn Leuzler, Rick Martinson, Caroline Noyes, Beth Ruddiman, Erin Schroeder, Peter Sederberg, Bert Skellie, Jim Tolmach, Myrna Trapp, Perry Treadwell, Austin Wattles, Blake Williamson, David Foster (Clerk), Karen terHorst Morris (Acting Recording Clerk) (35 Friends).

Clerk's Readings and Reflections: Excerpt read from *The Quaker Doctrine of Inward Peace*, by Howard H. Brinton (Pendle Hill Pamphlet #44, 1948)

Query: Caroline Noyes presented the 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?"

Ministry and Worship: On behalf of the Ministry and Worship Committee, Bill Holland brought forward a proposal to change the date of the Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business in 4th month to the 28th to avoid a conflict with the Gathered Meeting Retreat.

Minute 2-13-01: On the recommendation of the Ministry and Worship Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves moving Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business for 4th month to Sunday, April 28, 2013, if consistent with divine will, so as not to conflict with the Gathered Meeting Retreat. The clerk, David Foster, will be out of town on April 28, so he asked Assistant Clerk, Caroline Noyes to step in for him and she agreed.

The Ministry and Worship Committee has received a letter of transfer for Paul Baker from Friends Meeting of Washington D.C.

Minute 2-13-02: On the recommendation of the Ministry and Worship Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the transfer of membership for Paul Baker from Friends Meeting of Washington, D.C. to Atlanta Friends Meeting. Ministry and Worship will set up a welcoming committee for him.

Social Concerns: On behalf of the Social Concerns Committee, Bert Skellie presented a proposal to change the name of the "El Sitio Scholarship Fund" to the "Suchitoto Education Fund," to better reflect the fund's current usage and geographical scope. Suchitoto is the home of Meeting member Frank Cummings and many scholarship recipients. A question as raised about the specifics of this fund and Bert clarified that is it not part of the budget line for the Social Concerns Committee, but rather is a separate fund and its monies come directly from individual donations, not the Meeting's operating budget.

Minute 2-13-03: On the recommendation of the Social Concerns Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting agrees to change the name of its "El Sitio Scholarship Fund" to "Suchitoto Education Fund." Further, the Meeting agrees to allocate any surplus funds in the renamed "Suchitoto Education Fund" to the scholarship program of the "Comité Parroquial de Becas" (Parish Scholarship Committee). Finally, Meeting accepts opening the "Suchitoto Education Fund" to future donations for the formal scholarship programs in Suchitoto that meet IRS standards.

Clerk's Business: Clerk, David Foster, presented for approval the Minute of Recognition and Appreciation of Service that was first proposed in January. These volunteers have made an important contribution to the life and vitality of the meeting community.

Minute 2-13-04: Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the Minute of Recognition and Appreciation of Service to Atlanta Friends Meeting [see attached] for F(f)riends who completed various types of service during 2012. In this manner Atlanta Friends Meeting expresses gratitude to the many individuals who provide important and on-going service to the Meeting and as representatives of the Meeting to other organizations.

Nominating Committee: On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Beth Ruddiman, brought forward for approval the 7 persons who were nominated for positions in January.

Minute 2-13-05: On the recommendation of the Nominating Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the nomination of the following members and attenders for positions within the Meeting.

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

The Nominating Committee also brought forward for the first time 3 names for positions as follows:

Elizabeth Lamb	Recording Clerk
Free Polazzo	Representative to Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting
Heather Jeziorowski	Religious Education Liaison on the Nominating Committee

As is our practice, these names will lay over for one month before Nominating brings them back to Meeting for Business to seek approval.

Several people voiced concerns about one of these nominations. Several spoke of willingness to be open to change, learning from conflict and recognition of past service and interests.

The clerk asked the Nominating Committee to hear these and any further concerns and also to discuss the role of the Meeting's representatives. The clerk asked that we hold the Nominating Committee in the Light as they discern the way forward.

Other Clerk's Business: The Clerk brought forward an item for our collective attention, the question of the status of the Advancement Committee. For a while there has not been a clerk nor members on this committee, yet we have worship groups under our care. The Clerk read the description of the committee from the Meeting Handbook and asked the Ministry and Worship Committee to discern the way forward, from several possibilities: 1) to reconstitute the committee under the Ministry and Worship committee, 2) to divide the responsibilities of the committee among current committees, or 3) to ask the Nominating Committee to make the reconstituting of this committee a priority. A major task of Advancement is to find ways to involve our Meeting in the Worship Groups under our care, leading them to Preparatory and full Monthly Meeting status as appropriate. In addition Advancement seeks to involve the members of the Worship Groups in our Meeting. The Clerk invites input.

Ministry and Worship: Bill Holland reported that Friends World Committee on Consultation (FWCC) is sending Rachel M. Bewley-Bateman, clerk of the Europe-Middle East Section, to the U.S. to attend a Section of the Americas meeting in the spring. Following the meeting, she will be visiting Atlanta Friends on March 21-24. Please mark your calendars. The committee plans to have several events while she is here, including a welcome/newcomer's dinner, an adult first day class and a forum after Meeting for Worship. As a former clerk of Ireland Yearly Meeting, she will have much to share of her experiences among Friends in a predominantly Catholic country as well as her current work for FWCC in Europe and the Middle East.

Social Concerns: Our Role As Individuals In America's Racial History: Karen Morris reported that it has been 15 years since ORAIIARH started as a support group for individuals in the Meeting who wanted to work against racism in their personal lives and organizations and about 10 years since the beginning of the Ad Hoc and later the Committee on Undoing Racism in the Atlanta Friends Meeting (CURAFM). It's time to discern the next chapter in the Meeting's work against racism. She announced a meeting for discernment after potluck, Sunday 3/3/13 at 12:15 PM for those who want to join together in this work. She invited all members and attenders of the Meeting to be take part in this important discernment process.

Treasurer's Report: Peter Sederberg reported that since his last report in January, additional checks have been found and/or recently submitted as contributions for 2012. Consequently he is amending the end-of-year report for 2012 to show that \$4,000 has been added to the income line. This amount will bring the total income over expenses to \$16,583. In answer to a question about the overage, Peter replied that the Finance Committee had recommended allocating \$10,000 to the Permanent Improvements Fund, which was approved by the January Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. The Finance Committee will discern to what use to put the remaining \$6583. The Committee welcomes input.

Clerk's Item: State of the Meeting Report. Caroline Noyes read the draft of the 2012 State of the Meeting report. The Clerk asked that any edits be made on the draft copy and submitted. Discussion ensued about whether or not to name individuals referred to in the report. After consideration of the balance between the document as a record of the spiritual state of the Meeting and also an historical record, unity was found to include the name of births, marriages and deaths. After a concern was brought forward about potentially divisive language in the section about community, the Meeting also agreed to remove the name of the child in the draft and reword the section so that the language was inclusive. Further comments shall be given to Caroline Noyes. Approval will be requested in March for a revised draft.

Minutes of January 2013:

A concern was raised about the accuracy of the report given for Social Concerns last month. While the January minutes of the report are correct as given, the statement needs revision for clarification.

Minute 2-13-06: The Minutes of January, 20, 2013 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business are amended as follows: "Green Friends: Micheal 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 Green Friends, 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. Friends approved."

Minute 2-13-07: The minutes of the January 20, 2013 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business are approved as submitted.

Meeting closed with silent worship.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen terHorst Morris, Acting Recording Clerk
David Foster, Clerk

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Recognition and Appreciation of Service to Atlanta Friends Meeting, 2012

Atlanta Friends Meeting recognizes the following Friends who completed the specified service during 2012, and expresses its appreciation for their service. While the nature and length of this service varied considerably, each made an important contribution to the life and vitality of our meeting community. We invite individuals in the Meeting to express your gratitude to them personally as you feel led.

- Folami Adams, Nominating Committee: 2010-2012
- Paul Baker, Care and Counsel Committee, appointed member: 2011-2012
- Carolyn Coburn-Allen, Administration Committee, at-large member: 2009-2012
- Steve Collins, Nominating Committee, clerk: 2010-2012
- Susan Cozzens, First Day School, teacher: 2011-2012
- Mary Ann Downey, leader of Adult Religious Education program: 1998-2012
- Maggie Hasbrouck, First Day School, teacher: 1995-2012
- Roland Heath, Nominating Committee: 2010-2012
- Bill Holland, SAYMA representative: 2010-2012
- Bill Holland, leader of Adult Religious Education program, 1998-2012
- Lynn Leuszler, Ministry and Worship Committee, member: 2010-2012
- Lynn Leuszler, Movie Night coordinator: 2011-2012
- Georgia Lord, Movie Night coordinator: 2011-2012
- Laura MacNorlin, Care and Counsel Committee, clerk: 2011-2012
- Dan May, Meetinghouse Committee, clerk: 2008-2012
- Caroline Noyes, Recording Clerk: 2009-2012
- Ron Nuse, Naming Committee: 2012
- Morgan Phillips-Spotts, First Day School, teacher: 2009-2012
- Christina Repoley, Ministry and Worship Committee, member: 2010-2012
- John Roberts, Friend in Residence: 2009-2012
- Aaron Ruschetta, Naming Committee: 2012
- Bert Skellie, Social Concerns Committee, co-clerk: 2012
- Bert Skellie, Quaker Quest program, coordinator: 2012
- Karen Skellie, Finance Committee: 2008-2012
- Karen Skellie, Naming Committee: 2012

We also express our gratitude for, and to, the many others who are continuing their service to the Meeting through their ongoing work on committees and in other nominated roles, as representatives of the Meeting to other organizations, and as volunteers helping to carry out the many functions that are essential to our life as a faith community. This service is the lifeblood of our spiritual community; we are grateful for all you do on behalf of the Meeting.

Minute approved February 17, 2013

Calendar for Third Month (March) 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 Second and Fourth First Day, 10:00 a.m. – Canton Friends Worship Group.
360 E. Marietta St.; 779-720-4669 or wrldpeas@mindspring.com.
Every Second First Day, 10:30 a.m. -- Macon Friends Worship Group.
Contact Diana Day, 478-227-8892; maconquakers.org.
First Fifth Morning (Thursday) – AFSC office, 60 Walton St. NW, Atlanta.
Every Fifth Day (Thursday) (except 1st of the month), 12:10 p.m. – East Lake Commons,
Decatur. Contact Bert Skellie, 404-378-5883, bertskellie@gmail.com.
Sixth 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, Library
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 Third Day (Tuesday)
7:00 p.m. Silent Meditation, Library
Every Fourth Day (Wednesday)
7:00 p.m. Mid-Week Worship, Library
Every Fifth Day (Thursday)
7:30 p.m. Bible Study, Library

Clerk of the Meeting: David Foster, afmclerk1@gmail.com
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
Social Concerns: Michael Allison, 770-832-3539
Care & Counsel: Don Bender, afm.care.counsel@gmail.com
Religious Education: Alison Mawle, 404-944-9142

Newsletter Editor: David Payne, atlquakerltr@gmail.com
Webmaster: Aaron Ruschetta, arxaaron@gmail.com

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ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING
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Clerk: David Foster, afmclerk1@gmail.com
Treasurer: Peter Sederberg, 404-968-9309; afmtreasurer@yahoo.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 afmannouncementssubscribe@yahoogroups.com.

**DEADLINE FOR 4TH MONTH NEWSLETTER:
MARCH 23**

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.**