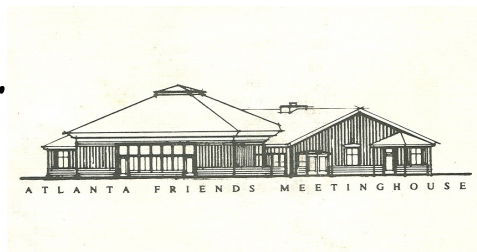


# Atlanta Friends Meeting Newsletter

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



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

## September 2013

**Query:** Do we share our deepest beliefs and values with each other and with our children, while leaving them free to develop as the Spirit may lead them? Does the Meeting give the children loving care, and promote their spiritual life through religious education and other activities? Do we encourage our children's participation in the Meeting's work and cultivate their desire for service to others?

## A Proposed Minute on the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

[This proposed minute was originally written and adopted by the Swannanoa Valley Monthly Meeting for Business and brought to the Peace and Social Concerns Committee of SAYMA in June 2013. SAYMA suggested it be shepherded to all SAYMA's meetings and worship groups for discernment. It was presented to AFM Monthly Meeting on July 21, 2013. An ad hoc working group was asked to receive Friends' suggestions and work with the original minute. Please contact Pat Williams, Micheal Allison, Kathy Johnson, Free Polazzo, Karen Morris. This group notes that the American Friends Service Committee has historically been involved in the Israel-Palestine conflict and has written its own guidelines, "Principles for a Just and Lasting Peace in Palestine and Israel." You may also wish to refer to the AFSC website for more information: <https://afsc.org/story/boycott-divestment-and-sanctions-explained>.]

As Quakers we endeavor to listen deeply to the concerns of everyone involved in a conflict in the belief that no lasting solution to conflict can come unless the just claims of all can be respectfully heard and their just claims can in some measure be satisfied. In the case of the Israeli-Palestine conflict, which so sorely torments the international community generally and the peoples of the Middle East in particular, Israel's just claim for security is fully heard and supported by our government, and we join with the great majority of Americans who support Israel's claim for a secure existence.

The just claims of the Palestinians, on the other hand, are not widely recognized nor discussed in this country. Further, they receive little support from our government. Several from our Meeting have had direct experience with the on-the-ground realities in Israel/Palestine and others in the Meeting have undertaken a journey to educate themselves, through reading, conversations and forums about the claims of each side. We believe that three Palestinian claims deserve our support:

1. The Israeli occupation of Palestinian territory is illegal under the United Nation's Fourth Geneva Convention, to which Israel is a signatory. Article 49 of that Convention specifically prohibits an occupying power from transferring members of its own civilian population into the territory it occupies. Thus the steady acquisition of Palestinian land for Israeli settlement development and the expropriation of natural resources such as water are illegal under international law and are eroding the Palestinian's right to a viable homeland. International institutions and global civil societies have recognized and acted on this conflict.

2. The Israeli domination of the West Bank denies the Palestinian's right to personal freedom, national sovereignty and self-determination. This domination through continued expansion of

exclusively Jewish towns and highways is contributing to the prevention of substantive peace negotiations from taking place.

3. The Palestinians also claim that those who support these illegal Israeli settlements by buying products produced there are contributing to the perpetuation of a grave injustice against the Palestinian people and may be unaware of the origin of these products. Once they are made aware that they are illegally produced on the West Bank, they have responsibility not to be complicit in continuing injustice.

In support of Palestinian justice, as well as in support of a peaceful and lasting resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, we encourage our members and all citizens not to buy products (e.g. Soda Stream, Ahava cosmetics, etc.) produced in the West Bank settlements. AFSC now supports campaigns to boycott and disinvest in corporations that do business in the areas of forced displacement in Palestine. As members of the Religious Society of Friends who believe that all women and men are our sisters and brothers, we are led to respond to the cries of the suffering of the Palestinian people by supporting the boycott campaign until the Occupation has ended and the basic human rights of those living under the intolerable conditions of this Occupation, which we regard as both illegal and immoral, are secured.

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### **Join an Upcoming Forum on White Privilege and Racism . . .**

Please join us for an enlightening and interactive forum entitled "Understanding Racism Through Understanding White Privilege". Learn more about the concept of white privilege and how it impacts those most negatively and positively impacted by racism. Child care will be provided. The forum is Sunday, September 22, 2013 from 11:45 - 1:45 pm.

Participate in an experiential activity that helps you uncover your personal connection to White privilege. Consider the next steps you can take to end racism in your personal life and in your community.

This forum is hosted by Quakers for Racial Equality. For more information, contact Susan Firestone at [sfirestone@gsu.edu](mailto:sfirestone@gsu.edu) or 404-377-0875.

### **. . . And Learn More about the New Jim Crow, September 18 – October 9**

How can we end the overuse of incarceration in the U.S. "criminal justice" system? How to end unfair racial disparities in imprisonment? Michelle Alexander's *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Color Blindness* lays out the injustices clearly and passionately. A racially diverse group in Atlanta, including Quakers, has begun to take action on this issue. I invite you to join me and some of this action group to be part of a new study series on four Wednesday evenings from September 18 through October 9. We will discuss questions in "The New Jim Crow Study Guide and Call to Action." The first three evenings will focus on the book; on the fourth Wednesday I invite you to participate in the monthly meeting of the action group.

We will meet in the Meetinghouse library from 7:30 - 9:00 pm for the study sessions and in the Meeting Room on October 9. Contact Bert Skellie at [bertskellie@gmail.com](mailto:bertskellie@gmail.com) or 404-378-5883 to sign up or for more information. The study sessions from 9/18 - 10/2 will be limited to 20 participants. I will have copies of the book for \$12 and a free study guide in advance.

**Atlanta Friends Meeting**  
**Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business**  
**August 18, 2013**  
**Recorded Pending Approval**

**Attendance:** Mike Aland, Micheal Allison, Don Bender, Muireann Brennan, Steve Collins, Linnis Cook, Mary Ann Downey, Julia Ewen, Jenny Foster, Clive Gordon, Judith Greenberg, Joe Guy, Roland Heath, Bill Holland, Kathy Johnson, Chris Kohler, Suzan Kenworthy, Tom Kenworthy, Justin Leverett, Rick Martinson, Caroline Morris, Karen terHorst Morris, Beth Ruddiman, Myrna Trapp, Perry Treadwell, Sarah Walton, Austin Wattles, Pat Williams, David Foster (Clerk), Elizabeth Lamb (Recording Clerk) (30 Friends).

**Query:** Bill Holland presented the query: “Do we listen to others, even beyond words, being sensitive to their personal needs and difficulties? Do we regard our possessions as given to us in trust and do we part with them freely for the needs of others? Are we careful to keep our jobs and social activities from absorbing time and energy that need to be given to spiritual growth and service to others?”

**Nominating Committee:** On behalf of the Nominating Committee Beth Ruddiman brought forward Bill Holland for final approval as SAYMA Representative.

**Minute 8-18-13-01:** On the recommendation of the Nominating Committee Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Bill Holland as SAYMA Representative.

The Nominating Committee is beginning to consider positions for next year and everyone is asked to consider what positions they may feel called to hold and what recommendations they have for the Nominating Committee. It was pointed out that there is a position for a second SAYMA Representative and that perhaps someone who did not feel comfortable serving as the sole representative might now feel comfortable serving under the able mentorship of Bill Holland.

**Ministry and Worship Committee:** On behalf of the Ministry and Worship Committee, Bill Holland reported on the Memorial Meeting for Elva Mae Stanley Moore which was held Friday, August 16, 2013. She is the mother of Kelli Moore. The welcome by Mary Ann Downey was followed by open worship in which all were invited to speak as led, and then by a reception.

Elva Mae Stanley Moore, 84, passed away on August 11, 2013 at a local assisted living facility. She moved from Maryland to live in Philadelphia at a young age. She graduated from Delaware State University, where she was homecoming queen, and also completed a master’s degree from Temple University. She was a trailblazer and active in the Philadelphia community. She was a member of Camphor United Methodist Church (where her father served as pastor) and was a United Methodist woman for many years. She was a teacher in the Philadelphia School System and taught at Fitz Simmons and University City High School.

Mae was civically engaged, supported political issues, and also served on the Board of Directors at Friends Select School where her daughter attended school. She was quick witted and an expert in completing crossword puzzles in the New York Times and in local papers, like the Inquirer. She loved flowers, planted and cut, was an excellent cook, and loved good food. Mae also played the piano and loved the arts. She loved the Philadelphia community, but moved with her husband Charlie (late) to Chattanooga, Tennessee, where she continued to engage people and make new friends. She is survived by one daughter, one brother, two sisters-in-law, and a number of nieces and nephews in the Chattanooga and Philadelphia areas and beyond.

**Care and Counsel Committee:** On behalf of the Care and Counsel Committee Don Bender reported that the committee currently has ten members, which enables them to serve the needs of the Meeting without feeling overwhelmed. As part of their service they establish care committees, including a member of C&C, for members and attenders who reside in nursing homes or for other reasons are unable to attend regular meetings for worship. They also respond to any personal concern or hurt (illness, loss of a relative or friend, etc.) of which they are made aware. The committee is currently feeling a great concern about how we deal with aging, both our own and that of our loved ones. They are planning a Forum for October 27, 2013 so that all may learn about issues surrounding aging and some possible ways to handle them. There will be a planning meeting in early September. It was mentioned that Sue May has done a great deal of work on this issue and that she would be a good resource person. Other suggestions of specific topics or participants for this forum would be welcomed by the committee.

**Ad hoc Working Group for the Minute on the Israeli-Palestine Conflict:** On behalf of the Ad Hoc Working Group Karen Morris and Kathy Johnson reported on the steps taken thus far concerning the Minute from Swannanoa Valley Monthly Meeting which they presented to the previous business meeting. The committee has met several times; they have sent the amended minute to the list-serve for all who participate in that service; they have distributed copies of the minute; and they are planning a Forum for October 6 following potluck at which Maia Carter Hallward will be the primary presenter. Karen Morris read the Minute, as amended [which appears at the front of this newsletter].

**Scholarship Committee:** Caroline Morris reported that the Scholarship Committee has been able to award all three scholarships – to Emily Drabik-Stevens, Lincoln Herring and Willamae Boling – thanks to the generosity of AFM members and attenders. A special recognition was made of treasurer, Peter Sederberg, for his enthusiastic participation in this project.

**Minutes of July 2013:**

**Minute 8-18-13-02:** The Minutes of the July 2013 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business were approved as submitted.

Meeting closed with Silent Worship.

Respectfully submitted,  
Elizabeth Lamb, Recording Clerk  
David Foster, Clerk

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“Of late years a deep exercise hath attended my mind that Friends may dig deep, may carefully cast forth the loose matter and get down to the rock, the sure foundation, and there hearken to that divine voice which gives a clear and certain sound; and I have felt in that which doth not deceive that if Friends who have known the Truth keep in that tenderness of heart where all views of outward gain are given up, and their trust is only in the Lord, he will graciously lead some to be patterns of deep self-denial in things relating to trade and handicraft labour, and that some who have plenty of the treasures of this world will example in a plain and frugal life and pay wages to such whom they may hire, more liberally than is now customary in some places.”

-- John Woolman, *Journal* (ed. Moulton), p. 184

## Calendar for Ninth Month (September) 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, berts kellie@gmail.com.  
Sixth Day (Friday) (2<sup>nd</sup> 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

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Clerk of the Meeting: David Foster, afmclerk1@gmail.com  
Office Coordinator: Jonah McDonald, 404-377-2474

Treasurer: Peter Sederberg, afmtreasurer1@gmail.com  
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

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**ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING**  
**701 West Howard Ave., Decatur, GA 30030**  
**404-377-2474; atlanta.quaker.org**  
**Office: MWF 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.; afmquakers@hotmail.com**  
**Clerk: David Foster, afmclerk1@gmail.com**  
**Treasurer: Peter Sederberg, afmtreasurer1@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 afmannouncementssubscribe@yahoogroups.com.

**DEADLINE FOR 10<sup>TH</sup> MONTH NEWSLETTER:  
SEPTEMBER 21**

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.**