

# ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING NEWSLETTER



## March 2014

### Recognition and Appreciation of Service to Atlanta Friends Meeting, 2013

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Atlanta Friends Meeting recognizes the following Friends who completed the specified service during 2013, 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.

- David Foster, Clerk of Meeting, 2012-2013
- Don Bender, Clerk of Care and Counsel, 2011 –2013
- Caroline Noyes, Assistant Clerk, 2012-2013
- David Payne, Newsletter Editor 2012-2013
- Terri O’Neal, Clerk of Hospitality, 2011-2013
- Beth Ruddiman, Clerk of Nominating Committee, 2011-2013
- Heather Jezerowski, Nominating Committee, 2011-2013
- Karen Gold, Nominating Committee, 2011-2013
- Maia Hallward, Ministry and Worship, 2011-2013
- Stoph Hallward, Ministry and Worship, 2011–2013
- Kathy Johnson, Clerk of Green Friends, 2003-2013
- Lili Crymes – Clerk of Young Friends Support Committee, 2010-2013
- Herb Edwards – Nominating Committee, 2011-2013
- Lynn Leuzsler – Ministry and Worship Committee, 2009-2013
- Christina Repoley – Ministry and Worship Committee, 2009-2013
- Ron Nuse – Ministry and Worship Committee, 2011-2013

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.

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

### QUERY

*Live adventurously.  
When choices arise, do you take  
the way that offers the fullest  
opportunity for the use of your  
gifts in the service of God and  
the community?*

*Let your life speak.  
When decisions have to be  
made, are you ready to join with  
others in seeking clearness,  
asking for God’s guidance and  
offering counsel to one another?*

*- Britain Yearly Meeting*

## AFM Ground Project Challenge Drive

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Dear Friends,

As you know the Atlanta Friends Meeting is undertaking the most significant building project since the construction of the new Meeting House. The plans are ambitious, and we have already committed a total of \$70,000 to the project.

While we have Permanent Improvement reserves to cover this commitment, they will be substantially diminished. Moreover, we do not expect this existing commitment will cover the cost of two desirable features: the small arena carved into the side of the slope into the ravine and the garden house with the ravine overlook.

Consequently, we three members of the Finance Committee, Paul Mangelsdorf, Peter Sederberg, and Perry Treadwell, challenge the Meeting to meet our collective pledge of \$15,000 with an equal amount of special gifts. WE WILL MATCH EACH DOLLAR YOU GIVE TO THE PROJECT WITH ONE DOLLAR FROM OUR CHALLENGE FUND, until it is exhausted. Thus, if Friends give a total of \$9,000, we will match it with \$9000 from our "fund" and so forth. In short, if Friends challenge us to the max, we will raise an additional total of \$30,000.

As the say on late night TV: THIS IS A LIMITED TIME OFFER! ACT NOW! The campaign starts immediately and will end April 30. If you wish to make a special gift to this worthy community project, please write a separate check to the Atlanta Friends Meeting, putting "permanent improvements; grounds project" in the memo line. Jonah has created a special sub-account for this fund drive.

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions, please contact Peter Sederberg ([petersederberg@gmail.com](mailto:petersederberg@gmail.com)).

Friends, MAKE US PAY!

Peace and Project Prosperity,

Paul Mangelsdorf  
Peter Sederberg  
Perry Treadwell

## Q&A on Contributions to Meeting: Moving Beyond Red and Black Shirts

*Submitted by the Finance Committee*

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### 1. Where do my contributions go?

The Finance Committee prepares a comprehensive budget each year that itemizes the expenses of the Meeting. Copies are distributed at our Business Meetings and you can also obtain one online from the Bookkeeper ([afmbookkeeper1@gmail.com](mailto:afmbookkeeper1@gmail.com)). For example, your contributions pay for building and grounds maintenance, salaries of employees, first day school, activities of the various committees, insurance, utilities, and donations to major Quaker organizations. All contributions are tax deductible.

This year we are beginning a major renovation of our playground and adjacent lot (a messy undergrowth) that will cost in the ballpark of \$60,000 for the first phase, and result in better drainage, improved facilities for our toddlers and young people, as well as our entire congregation.

### 2. A recurring question from members is how much do I need to give?

The entire budget of Atlanta Friends Meeting is approximately \$154,000 for 2014. Rental income from sharing our facility with other community members comes to between 35 to 40 thousand. Subtracting rental, interest, and miscellaneous income, we rely on raising approximately \$120,000 from 160 giving units. We ask members to make contributions based on their own financial circumstances and giving philosophy. Some give many times over what a simple division would suggest and others give less.

### **3. Can I donate by credit card?**

We cannot debit your credit cards and we would incur a transaction fee if we did so. Members have different strategies for making donations on a regular basis including: monthly checks, quarterly checks, and having monthly contributions automatically deducted from their financial institutions. Cash donations are deductible if in an envelope with your name and address (if not in our directory).

### **4. I give to several funds that are under the care of the meeting or for the wider Quaker organizations. Does this count as a contribution?**

Though worthwhile causes and tax deductible, we suggest that donors consider these over and above their general contributions to the meeting.

It is helpful to have contributions coming in on a regular basis and not having to rely on an end of the year influx.

## **Announcements**

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### ***"Chasing Ice" Film on Climate Change Viewing on March 2***

Green Friends, Atlanta Meeting's environmental activist group, invites Friends to view "Chasing Ice." This film we plan to show on March 2 after potluck depicts the marvelous photographic adventure of James Blalog, a professional photographer and his crew who traveled to and climbed on four glaciers. They made a time lapse record over 4 years of the tremendous glacial melting happening. It is both beautiful and an inspiring story of strong dedication to accomplish their goal and of their personal struggles.

Please join us in the AFM Library at 12 Noon. Though it is fairly long (1 hr., 15 min, out in 2012), it is well worth it. This copy obtained through Georgia Interfaith Power and Light's Preach In project has been edited some. For questions contact Kathy Johnson, [404-371-4440](tel:404-371-4440).

### ***2014 Directory: Your Help Needed***

In February and March, the draft of the 2014 directory will be available in the greeting room so we can make sure all the information is correct and complete. Please check your information and make any changes needed or write OK if nothing needs to be changed. Please do this even if no information has changed, since errors sometimes creep into the computer. If you'd like to add a new or updated picture, please email a picture to [ninagooch@gmail.com](mailto:ninagooch@gmail.com) or see Nina after meeting to have a picture taken.

### ***Holding in the Light***

Ministry & Worship has confirmed that the names of those held in the Light during Meeting for Worship may be included in the newsletter, provided that inclusion is completely voluntary and that the privacy of the persons involved, the person who offered the concern and the person held in the Light, would be protected. Details about specific concerns will not be included.

This came out of a suggestion approved by Care & Counsel at a recent retreat. The thinking behind this idea is that it would allow for wider participation of Holding the concern, as well as foster the sense of community. Space will be allotted for this to be a regular feature in the newsletter.

## Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business February 16, 2014 (recorded pending approval)

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**Attendance:** Cathy Amanti, Micheal Allison, Katie Braun, Mark Bryans, Steve Collins, Cade Curtis, Mary Ann Downey, Alice Erickson, Julia Ewen, Sally Ferguson, Sadie Forsythe, David Foster, Jenny Foster, Eric Glenn, Clive Gordon, Judith Greenberg, Roland Heath, Julie Hliboki, Bill Holland, Martha Hutchins, Kathy Johnson, Bob Lackey, Lynn Leuszler, Georgia Lord, Rick Martinson, Sue May, Karen terHorst Morris, Caroline Noyes, Paul O'Connor, Chris Pifer, Beth Ruddiman, Aaron Ruscetta, Barbara Seal, Peter Sederberg, Bert Skellie, Karen Skellie, Jim Tolmach, Myrna Trapp, Perry Treadwell, Sarah Walton, Austin Wattles, Lara Wik, Ashley Wilcox, Nan O'Connor (Clerk), Elizabeth Lamb (Recording Clerk) (45 Friends).

**Clerk's Readings and Reflections:** The clerk shared her reflections on the depth of the meeting and the incredible amount of involvement below the surface as shown by the Minute of Appreciation and draft of the State of the Meeting report both of which will be shared as Clerk's items later in the meeting.

**Query:** Bill Holland presented the query: "Are your meetings for church affairs held in the spirit of worship and in dependence on the guidance of God? Remember that we do not seek a majority decision nor even consensus. As we wait patiently for divine guidance our experience is that the right way will open and we shall be led into unity."

**Ministry and Worship Committee:** On behalf of the Ministry and Worship Committee Bill Holland brought forth the following items for discernment:

1. Recognition of the Ministry of David Foster. A clearness committee has been meeting with David Foster to name, recognize and support his leading to use his photography of the natural world as a vehicle for the movements of the spirit. The meeting now recognizes his ministry by uniting with the following minute.

***Minute 2-16-2014-01:** David Foster has brought to the meeting a leading to deepen the spirit through faithfully sharing his photography of nature. The meeting has tested his leading through a clearness committee and finds David clear and faithful to follow the guidance of the spirit. Atlanta Friends Meeting recognizes David's growth in his ministry and his faithfulness. In sharing his gifts, he invites and inspires viewers to be aware of and engage with the natural beauty they encounter along their existing paths so as to experience it more fully and deeply. Through his exhibitions, David's ministry offers a point of access to nature that opens up for viewers a momentary connection to their soul space.*

2. Support/Anchoring Committee.

***Minute 2-16-2014-02:** On the recommendation of the Ministry and Worship Committee Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the formation of an anchoring committee comprised of Clive Gordon and Julie Hliboki to support David's faithfulness in ministry. We ask that they meet regularly with David and bring back a report to meeting on his faithfulness and growth in the ministry no later than January of 2015.*

A third member will be brought forth at a later meeting to join on this anchoring committee.

3. We have received a request from Megan Dowdy that we lay down her membership. She reports she has been led to other forms of worship and expressed her appreciation for the support the meeting provided her.

***Minute 2-16-2014-03:** On the recommendation of the Ministry and Worship Committee, we lay down the membership of Megan Dowdy on her request and wish her continued light as she continues her spiritual journey.*

4. Sojourning Member. We have received a letter from Putney Monthly Meeting introducing Sadie Forsythe. Sadie has asked to be recorded as a Sojourning member.

**Minute 2-16-2014-04:** *We welcome Sadie Forsythe as a sojourning member of Atlanta Friends Meeting and look forward to our growth together.*

5. Additional member of the Support Committee for Richard Allen.

**Minute 2-16-2014-05:** *We approve Karen Morris to serve on the Support Committee for Richard Allen's ministry.*

**Nominating Committee:** On behalf of the Nominating Committee Beth Ruddiman brought forth the following names for approval: Martha Jane Robinson as member of the Ministry and Worship Committee (3-year term) (This would be a re-appointment.) and Barbara Seal as Assistant Clerk of Atlanta Friends Meeting (2-year term).

**Minute 2-16-2014-06:** *Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Martha Jane Robinson as a member of the Ministry and Worship Committee and Barbara Seal as Assistant Clerk of Atlanta Friends Meeting.*

**Ministry and Worship Committee:** On behalf of the Ministry and Worship Committee Bill Holland brought forward the following items for the meeting's discernment in Third Month:

1. The Committee has received a membership request from Bob Lackey. A clearness committee has met with Bob and recommended his membership. Ministry and Worship unites with this recommendation. Bill read the letter from Bob to the meeting and on behalf of the Ministry and Worship Committee asked Friends to get to know Bob over the next month.
2. The Committee has received a request for Marriage under the care of the meeting from Elaine Ruscetta and Chad Gilmartin. These two young Friends who grew up in our meeting have now asked to be married under the care of our meeting. A clearness committee of Jim Tolmach, Sally Ferguson, Mary Ann Downey and Maggie Hasbrouck has met with the couple. Chad and Elaine are a committed couple and have deep spiritual roots in our community, despite their current residence out of Atlanta. We recommend their marriage. Bill read their letter to the meeting.

**Care and Council Committee:** Clive Gordon introduced himself as clerk of the Care and Council Committee and reported that his process of becoming clerk was very similar to that shared by the clerk of Atlanta Friends Meeting last month: he passed from a definite "no," to a "very unlikely," to the feeling that he was called to serve as clerk of the committee.

On behalf of the Care and Counsel Committee Cleve reported that the committee had a half-day retreat on the 8<sup>th</sup> of February at which they reviewed the committee's responsibilities as outlined in the Meeting handbook.

Much of what the committee is tasked with doing is aimed at strengthening our religious community by fostering a feeling of belonging and providing assistance when it is needed. This assistance is not just to individuals, but to the meeting as a whole by encouraging volunteers to do the various tasks for Meeting for Worship on Sundays. The committee sought ways to highlight the opportunities to serve our community. This week for the first time an article was included in the announcement sheet thanking last week's volunteers by name. The committee has also designed a new volunteer sheet for committees which will be circulated at least twice a year during potluck, instead of just once.

One of our considerations is how we respond to those who raise concerns during Meeting for Worship when they ask the Meeting to Hold in the Light a person or another concern. The committee has an intention to speak to those who raise concerns, especially painful ones. To facilitate this contact the members of the committee sit widely disbursed around the meeting room. An idea which came out of our retreat, and which Ministry and Worship agreed might be helpful, is to publish a note in the newsletter saying "Meeting for Worship was asked to hold in the Light [the names of those who desire to be named]." This opportunity for continued holding would be announced at the start of announcements and anyone wishing to participate would give their name to the nearest member of Care and Council. The nature of the concerns would not be

published and no one's name would be listed unless they requested it. Care and Council feels that this will afford a wider participation in holding the concern and might offer additional comfort to those offering and those being held. It would also add a personal aspect to our newsletter and help strengthen the bonds of our community.

**Finance Committee, Grounds project:** On behalf of themselves and Paul Mangelsdorf, Peter Sederberg and Perry Treadwell presented a letter outlining the Grounds Project Challenge Drive. *[Editor's Note: This letter is included in full and as approved, on page 2 of this newsletter.]*

**Nominating Committee:** On behalf of the Nomination Committee Beth Ruddiman bough forth Emily Lawson as Clerk of the Young Friends Support Committee. Her name will be brought forth next month for discernment.

**Naming Committees:** On behalf of the Naming Committee, Lynn Leuszler thanked Beth Ruddiman for her service as clerk of the Nominating Committee. He reported that Blake Williamson will be clerk of the Nominating Committee. The returning members are Carolyn Coburn-Allen, Carol Gray and Blake Williamson. New members will be Kofi Adams, Mary Bartlett and Mary Jahntz.

**Clerk's items:** The clerk read the following Letter of Introduction:

Dear Friends,

We send you warm greetings with our member, Cathy Amanti, who is relocating to Atlanta from here. Cathy has been a cherished member of Pima Meeting since March of 1993. She served on virtually every committee, usually as clerk, and was also clerk of Pima Meeting in 2002. Over the years she organized several clerking workshops. Never missing a beat, Cathy continued to participate in Meeting activities throughout her employment as a full-time teacher and school administrator, and, later, during her graduate work in education. We send her to you with our love. She will be missed!

Kind regards,

Jane Kroesen, Pima Monthly Meeting Clerk.

The clerk brought forward the Minute of Appreciation, which the meeting approved.

**Minute 2-16-2014-07:**

*Recognition and Appreciation of Service to Atlanta Friends Meeting, 2013. [Editor's Nolte: This Minute of Appreciation is printed in full and as approved on page 1 of this newsletter.]*

The prior clerk, David Foster read the "State of the Meeting Report, 2013 [draft]" noting that he could only include what he had been given. Three notable omissions were brought forth: Religious Education and the activities of the children, the Ferguson Cabin, and the Kirundi/English hymn book. David requested that each of those areas, and any other that is missing, provide him with a paragraph to be included in the report no later than February 28, 2014.

**Minutes of January 2013:**

**Minute 2-16-2014-08:** *The Minutes of the January 2014 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business were approved as submitted.*

Meeting closed with Silent Worship.

Respectfully submitted by:

Elizabeth Lamb, Recording Clerk; and Nan O'Connor, Clerk

## Calendar for Third Month (March) 2014

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### 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.<br>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.<br>360 E. Marietta St.; 779-720-4669 or <a href="mailto:wrlldpeas@mindspring.com">wrlldpeas@mindspring.com</a> .           |
| Every Second First Day            | 10:30 a.m. – Macon Friends Worship Group.<br>Contact Diana Day, 478-227-8892; <a href="http://maconquakers.org">maconquakers.org</a> .                                |
| First Fifth Day (Thursday)        | 12:10 p.m. – AFSC office, 60 Walton St. NW, Atlanta.  |
| Every Fifth Day (Thursday)        | 12:10 p.m. – East Lake Commons, Decatur.<br>For directions, contact Bert Skellie at <a href="mailto:bertskellie@gmail.com">bertskellie@gmail.com</a> or 404-680-4799. |
| Sixth Day (Friday)                | (Mid-August through May), 9:00 a.m. – Friends School of Atlanta.<br>Community Meeting Room, 862 Columbia Dr., Decatur, 404-373-8746.                                  |

### Weekly Events at the Meetinghouse

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|--|--|
| Every First Day (Sunday)                 | 9:00 a.m. Adult Religious Education, Library<br>9:15 a.m. Singing, Classroom A/B<br>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   |

### Atlanta Friends Meeting Contacts

**Clerk of the Meeting:** Nan O'Connor, [afmclerk1@gmail.com](mailto:afmclerk1@gmail.com)  
**Office Coordinator:** Jonah McDonald, [atlantaquakers@gmail.com](mailto:atlantaquakers@gmail.com)  
**Treasurer:** Peter Sederberg, [afmtreasurer1@gmail.com](mailto:afmtreasurer1@gmail.com)  
**Ministry & Worship:** Bill Holland, 404-892-2358  
**Finance:** Paul Mangelsdorf, 770-677-4280  
**Social Concerns:** Michael Allison, 770-832-3539  
**Care & Counsel:** Don Bender, [afm.care.counsel@gmail.com](mailto:afm.care.counsel@gmail.com)  
**Religious Education:** Alison Mawle, 404-944-9142  
**Library Clerk:** Cal Gough, [calgough@bellsouth.net](mailto:calgough@bellsouth.net)  
**Newsletter Editor:** Kate Shropshire Swett, [atlquakerltr@gmail.com](mailto:atlquakerltr@gmail.com)  
**Webmaster:** Aaron Ruscetta, [arxaaron@gmail.com](mailto:arxaaron@gmail.com)

ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING  
701 W. Howard Ave.  
Decatur, GA 30030-2902

### ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING

Office: MWF 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.; 404-377-2474

Web: atlanta.quaker.org [atlantaquakers@gmail.com](mailto:atlantaquakers@gmail.com)

Clerk: Nan O'Connor, [afmclerk1@gmail.com](mailto:afmclerk1@gmail.com)

Treasurer: Peter Sederberg, [afmtreasurer1@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:afmdiscussion-subscribe@yahoogroups.com). To receive announcements relating directly to the life of the meeting, send the same note to [afmannouncements-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:afmannouncements-subscribe@yahoogroups.com).

#### DEADLINE FOR 4TH MONTH NEWSLETTER:

**March 20**

Readers are encouraged to submit letters, articles, notices and anything else of interest to Friends. Items should be sent directly to [atlquakerltr@gmail.com](mailto:atlquakerltr@gmail.com) in plain text (Word, not PDF). Pictures should be in .jpg format. Submissions may be edited for length and format.