

ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING NEWSLETTER



July 2014

Independence Day: Pondering Peace and Patriotism *Editor's Submission*

As July 4th approaches, I look forward to taking time off of work, grilling out with family, and oohing and aaahing at fireworks (“scary fun” according to my toddler). In the midst of my holiday preparations and activities, the significance and historical context of Independence Day is largely forgotten, and when I do pause to think about it, I feel conflicted.

As much as I appreciate the holiday, and as deeply thankful I feel to be born to and living in these united states, I struggle with calling myself “patriotic.” Patriotism conveys an all-or-nothing stance that doesn’t fit how I experience my country – as complex, layered, and nuanced. I am generally proud to be a part of this country, but also deeply opposed to some of our structures, policies, and actions. If I am a patriot, am I inferring that I accept our nation as it is?

I am also uncomfortable that by proclaiming myself a patriot, I align myself with my nationality rather than my global citizenship. Although my passport says USA, I strive first to be cognizant of my role in the world, seeing my actions, contributions and impact through this wider lens instead.

Most of all, I am bothered that much of the rhetoric around patriotism is affiliated with military activity, so much so that *patriotism* and *pacifism* seem to be mutually exclusive. According to historian and author Brian Temple in *Philadelphia Quakers and the Antislavery Movement*, at the earliest celebrations of Independence Day “the Friends did not acknowledge any of the days set aside to celebrate July 4 or any American military victories, and this made

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

Do you endeavor to live "in virtue of that life and power which takes away the occasion of all wars"? Do you work to make your peace testimony a reality in your life and in your world? Do you weigh your day-to-day activities for their effect on peace-keeping, conflict resolution and the elimination of violence? Are you working toward eliminating aggression at all levels, from the personal to the international?

– Baltimore Yearly Meeting

some people very angry.” He notes that homes of Quakers not marking the original Independence Day celebration were ransacked by locals. Apparently the push and pull between being peaceful and patriotic is nothing new.

The seeming incongruence of peace and patriotism nags at me as I gear up for this Independence Day. Hoping to find evidence of harmony and meaning in their coexistence, I’ve sought perspectives of various thinkers – theologians, politicians, civic leaders. Some quotes that resonate with me can be found on page 6. I hope these may help stretch the way we think about patriotism.

I’ve also looked more deeply into how we think about and affirm peace, inspired by his month’s query, asking us to consider how we create and nurture peace in our daily life. In my efforts to reconcile patriotism with peace, I thankfully stumbled upon an online article by Gary Farlow of Xenia Monthly Meeting (www.easternillsfriends.org/peacetestimony.shtml), which provided a crash course on Peace Testimony in the Society of Friends.

Mary Lou Leavitt, who wrote a pamphlet for Philadelphia Yearly Meeting about Peace Testimony, explains:

On the simplest level, “testimony” means “bearing witness” and Friends’ long heritage of witnessing to peace can be found in public statements and personal reflections, in their refusal to bear arms in times of civil and international conflict, in acts of prophetic confrontation and of quiet, reconciling diplomacy. But these are merely outward and visible signs of inward conviction. This conviction springs from a living Spirit, mediated through the human experience of those trying to understand and follow its leadings. It grows afresh in every life, in every worshipping group, in every generation.

The New England Yearly Meeting’s Faith and Practice offers:

More than a mere refusal to participate in the military is required of the servant of peace. We are called to root out the causes of war from our own lives and from the political and social structures about us.

Chel Avery, who has contributed several publications on Quakers and peace, takes this a step further:

From there, various disciplines include a variety of concerns under the topic “Peace,” some of which include: eliminating the seeds of war in one’s employment and consumption practices, advocating for peace with government, working for social justice, resolving conflict nonviolently at the community and interpersonal levels, and teaching peace in the family.

I may have surfaced more questions than answers, but this holiday and this month seem an appropriate time to do so. It is important to consider how to develop and demonstrate patriotism that is both rooted in and promoting of peace. “Peace is Patriotic” is a catchy phrase, but I want to do my part to learn and show how this is lived out in daily life.

Meditation & Mindfulness Workshop July 19

This daylong Meditation & Mindfulness workshop is geared towards health care providers, massage therapists, yoga teachers, energy practitioners, hospice and social workers and anyone interested in deepening their relationship with mindful awareness and communication through the practice of meditation. In this workshop, you will experience the core areas of research-based mindfulness tools such as meditation, breath awareness, movement, sound and somatic practices as well as deep listening. Develop awareness of how mindfulness practice restores energy, increases awareness of body messages and helps shift unhealthy patterns to positive ones. The workshop is July 19 from 9:30-5:30 at the Atlanta Friends Meeting. Massage Therapists receive 7 CE's (NCBTMB for Ethics). For more information & to register, visit: www.traceymoon.com

Acting In Faith Newsletter/Blog

The American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) has a newsletter/blog for Friends called Acting in Faith. Recent and current topics include: AFSC's work in Gaza, a meeting's response to mass incarceration, visiting destroyed villages in Palestine and relief efforts in Burundi. To subscribe to the newsletter, go to <http://www.afsc.org/friends>.

Education Scholarship Applications

The Educational Scholarship Committee announces 3 applications from our young people. We are raising funds to assist them with their undergraduate studies as Quakers in the world. Support from this community extends our Quaker outreach and helps them continue their connection with their Quaker roots. Take a look at the notes on the bulletin board from this year's students to get a sense of their exciting experiences and accomplishments. Please make your checks out to Atlanta Friends Meeting for the Scholarship Fund by the end of June. For more information contact Caroline Morris, Mike Aland or Wendy Phillips.

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business – June 15, 2014 **Recorded pending approval**

Attendance: Paul Baker, Muireann Brennan, Julia Ewen, David Foster, Clive Gordon, Carol Gray, Judith Greenberg, Joe Guy, Lynn Leuszler, Georgia Lord, Alison Mawle, Caroline Noyes, Erica Schoon, Erin Schroder, Myrna Trapp, Perry Treadwell, Sarah Walton, Pat Williams, Nan O'Connor (Clerk), Elizabeth Lamb (Recording Clerk) (20 Friends).

Query: Caroline Noyes presented the query: "Do you, as the way opens, share Friends' principles with non-Friends? Do you witness to your Quaker faith by letting your life speak? Do you make non-Friends welcome in your meetings for worship? Do you find ways to encourage their continued attendance?"

Ministry and Worship Committee: On behalf of the Ministry and Worship Committee Caroline Noyes brought forward the following items:

Minute 6-15-2014-01: *Julie Hliboki brings to the meeting a leading to serve as a Quaker interfaith chaplain. Julie has a concern to serve as a faithful presence providing spiritual support to individuals facing many challenges particularly those at life's end. The meeting has tested her leading through a discernment process and we find Julie clear to continue exploring her faithfulness. While new to the meeting, Julie has already shared many of her gifts with our community. Julie draws on a lifetime of spiritual practice and cultivation of spiritual life. She has the gift of being with individuals and groups in ways that encourage a deep listening to Spirit. Her call to Quaker interfaith chaplaincy is both a spiritual path that deepens her own faithfulness and a witness inviting others to sink down to the seed that God sows in their heart. Atlanta Friends Meeting supports Julie's leading to a Quaker interfaith chaplaincy.*

Minute 6-15-2014-02: *We ask Mary Ann Downey, Jenny Foster and Maggie Hasbrouck to serve on an anchoring committee to support Julie's faithfulness in ministry. We ask that they meet regularly with Julie and bring back a report to meeting on her faithfulness and growth in the ministry no later than January of 2015.*

A question was raised as to how many such support committees are currently active in Atlanta Friends Meeting. The Ministry and Worship Committee will look into this and report at the next Meeting with Attention to Business.

Minute 6-15-2014-03: *In response to recently enacted State of Georgia legislation and in accordance with Friends Peace testimony, Atlanta Friends Meeting continues to be a weapons-free place of worship.*

If the Meeting approves, we would propose that we share this minute with the Mennonite church group because of their stated desire to unite with the Meeting on this issue.

Minute 6-15-2014-04: *Atlanta Friends Meeting will share the above Minute with the Mennonite church group.*

Nominating Committee: On behalf of the Nominating Committee Carol Gray brought forward Jennifer Dickey for approval as Clerk of the Religious Education Committee.

Minute 6-15-2014-05: *Atlanta Friends Meetings approves Jennifer Dickey as Clerk of the Religious Education Committee.*

Ministry and Worship Committee: On behalf of the Ministry and Worship Committee Caroline Noyes brought forward a proposal that the Meeting encourage young friends to shake hands with a few adult friends seated around them to recognize the close of meeting as they leave since this is the end of their Meeting for Worship. Some concern was expressed as to how this would impact both the young friends and the Meeting for Worship at large. The Ministry and Worship Committee and the Religious Education Committee will meet for further discernment on this matter. Anyone interested or concerned is asked to talk with Ministry and Worship. When the matter has ripened Ministry and Worship will bring it back to the Meeting for further discernment.

Caroline reported that, as requested at a prior meeting, Ministry and Worship has talked with Green Friends about suspending the picnic, but that no clear direction has yet been seen. Discussion will continue between and within these two committees.

Finance Committee: As treasurer, on behalf of the Finance Committee, Lynn Leuszler brought forward the following concerns:

The Finance Committee received a request from Green Friends to divest our holdings in PAX World Fund because 1.67% of the fund is held in Occidental Petroleum stock. He explained that PAX World Fund was chosen because it is a socially responsible fund, avoiding investments in war industries, gambling, alcohol and other socially suspect sectors. The Finance Committee asks for suggestions of alternative funds. It was pointed out that the Meeting would lose our voice to witness to the fund by divesting and that we might first wish to join in protesting to the fund managers about that investment. The Finance Committee requests that you share your concerns and suggestions as they continue to study our investments. Proposals will be brought forth in August or September. It was suggested that the Finance Committee present a forum sharing what they have learned in this search with the Meeting so that members could look more closely at their personal investments.

Lynn then reported that while contributions for the current year are ahead of schedule for special projects such as the playground and special leadings funds, they are behind for the general fund which is used to pay for the Meeting's budgeted expenses. One special fund that is behind is the Scholarship fund. To fund the requests received from the three students who have applied for aid, \$1500 is needed. The fund currently contains \$97. The Finance Committee is currently seeking a better way to handle special funds. The feeling is that if the Meeting feels led to fund a project, such as scholarships and refugee support, those projects should be a part of the budget. The Committee plans to bring a proposal on the matter to Meeting before the end of the year.

Clerk's Item: The clerk reported that there will be a called Corporate Meeting immediately following the Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business.

Minutes of May 2014:

Minute 6-14-2014-06: *The Minutes of the May 2014 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business were approved as submitted.*

Meeting closed with Silent Worship.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Lamb, Recording Clerk
Nan O'Connor, Clerk

On Patriotism and Peace: Selected Quotes

True patriotism hates injustice in its own land more than anywhere else.

-- *Clarence Seward Darrow*

The love of one's country is a splendid thing. But why should love stop at the border?

-- *Pablo Casals*

What we need are critical lovers of America - patriots who express their faith in their country by working to improve it.

-- *Hubert Humphrey*

There is no flag large enough to cover the shame of killing innocent people."

-- *Howard Zinn*

We must not confuse dissent with disloyalty. We will not be driven by fear into an age of unreason if we remember that we are not descended from fearful men, not from men who feared to write, to speak, to associate and to defend causes which were, for the moment, unpopular.

-- *Edward R. Murrow*

How is it that this debate has been twisted on its head, that somehow those that advocate peace and diplomacy are anti-American?

-- *Janeane Garofalo*

Peace is not the absence of war but the presence of justice.

-- *Harrison Ford*

Patriotism does not oblige us to acquiesce in the destruction of liberty. Patriotism obliges us to question it, at least.

-- *Wendy Kaminer*

Our country is not the only thing to which we owe our allegiance. It is also owed to justice and to humanity. Patriotism consists not in waving the flag, but in striving that our country shall be righteous as well as strong.

-- *James Bryce*

Unless our conception of patriotism is progressive, it cannot hope to embody the real affection and the real interest of the nation.

-- *Jane Addams*

I like to see a man proud of the place in which he lives. I like to see a man live so that his place will be proud of him.

-- *Abraham Lincoln*

The real and lasting victories are those of peace and not war.

-- *Ralph Waldo Emerson*

Patriotism is supporting your country all the time, and your government when it deserves it.

-- *Mark Twain*

It is lamentable, that to be a good patriot one must become the enemy of the rest of mankind.

-- *Voltaire*

I realize that patriotism is not enough. I must have no hatred or bitterness towards anyone.

-- *Edith Cavell*

I criticize America because I love her. I want her to stand as a moral example to the world."

-- *Martin Luther King, Jr*

When a whole nation is roaring Patriotism at the top of its voice, I am fain to explore the cleanness of its hands and the purity of its heart.

-- *Ralph Waldo Emerson*

Heroism on command, senseless violence, and all the loathsome nonsense that goes by the name of patriotism - how passionately I hate them!

-- *Albert Einstein*

What do we mean by patriotism in the context of our times? I venture to suggest that what we mean is a sense of national responsibility ... a patriotism which is not short, frenzied outbursts of emotion, but the tranquil and steady dedication of a lifetime.

-- *Adlai Stevenson*

**Quotes selected from
www.DoOneThing.org*



Please Hold in The Light:

Mary Ann Downey

John Adam's mother;
Panchita Alba

Carolyn Manley's granddaughter;
Emma

*Those who wish to have requests for
Holding included in this monthly
newsletter may give the names
to any member of Care & Counsel.*



Atlanta Friends Meeting Contacts

Clerk of the Meeting: Nan O'Connor, afmclerk1@gmail.com
Office Coordinator: Jonah McDonald, atlantaquakers@gmail.com
Treasurer: Peter Sederberg, 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: Clive Gordon, afm.care.counsel@gmail.com
Religious Education: Alison Mawle, 404-944-9142
Library Clerk: Cal Gough, calgough@bellsouth.net
Newsletter Editor: Kate Swett, atlquakerltr@gmail.com
Webmaster: Aaron Ruschetta, arxaaron@gmail.com

Calendar for Seventh Month (July) 2014

Area Meetings for Worship

Every First Day (Sunday)	10:00 a.m. – Meetinghouse, with a smaller group in the Library.
Every Third First Day	12:30 p.m. – Carrollton Friends Worship Group. St. Andrew's UMC Youth Center, 1106 Maple St.; contact Jean Hudson, judson30116@yahoo.com or 678-378-3368; carrolltonfriends.org .
Every Second and Fourth First Day	10:00 a.m. – Canton Friends Worship Group. 360 E. Marietta St.; 779-720-4669 or wrlldpeas@mindspring.com .
Every Second First Day	10:30 a.m. – Macon Friends Worship Group. Contact Diana Day, 478-227-8892; maconquakers.org
Every Fifth Day (Thursday)	12:10 p.m. – East Lake Commons, Decatur. Contact Bert Skellie at bertskellie@gmail.com or 404-680-4799.
Sixth Day (Friday)	(Mid-August through May), 9:00 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

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

Clerk: Nan O'Connor, 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.

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 (Word, not PDF). Pictures should be in .jpg format. Submissions may be edited for length and format.

THE DEADLINE FOR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS IS THE 20TH DAY OF EACH PRECEDING MONTH.

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