

ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING NEWSLETTER



November 2014

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

A Pilgrimage: November 20, 1988 **Submitted by Perry Treadwell**

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

The Washington Monument stabs the low clouds like a bayonet. The planes taking off from the National Airport scream unseen overhead. Enclosed in his marble temple, Lincoln looks down on the three wear-eyed combatants. They, in turn, stare off at a stark black slab which appears to have dug itself a trench in the grass.

The tree bronze warriors, larger than life, are surrounded by a semi-circle of silent worshipers. One by one they flash their cameras at the triumvirate. The light mist streaks the faces of the soldiers. Is it sweat or tears running their cheeks?

The curly hair of the black man on the right collects beads of moisture and the uniforms hang limp in the jungle humidity. Soggy notes and flowers rest beneath their feet. Someone has placed a MIA bracelet on the middle man. As long as they stand there, these men's sad eyes will view that black wedge filled with so many names.

Names. Damp names are hard to read in the wet, black marble. Descending the slippery path, the names become clearer where the mist has not flowed. Strung along the base of the wall are more notes and flowers, many American flags, here a Canadian maple-leaf flag, red poppies from November 11, and a garrison hat with its rain cover. People move down to the end then turn and come back holding little conversation. Some touch the wall with a tentative finger. Pain half closes their eyes.

QUERY

Are you honest in your daily work and in all your personal relationships? Do you maintain integrity in your dealings with government authorities and other outward concerns? Do you guard against covetousness, remembering that the quality of life does not depend on the abundance of possessions? Do you seek to discern how much of your time, talents and resources you should devote to the service of others?

- Ireland Yearly Meeting

Back along the Potomac, a scull, rowed by four women, slides up the stream. Cars displaying New York, Alabama, Ohio, California, North Carolina and Texas license plates line the parkway. A constant stream of visitors turns over the license plates of cars jockeying for a parking place. Some press on across the Memorial Bridge to Arlington.

In the parking lot another roster of license plates wait patiently for their occupants. They have wandered slowly up the hill, past the visitors center with its peeling paint, past fields of white markers mixed with larger granite stones, past the grave of "Evaline... wife of C. E Avery" and next to Clarence E. Avery, corporal 104 Signal Battalion, 29 Division, World War I, past graves of children of military personnel.

The rain has stopped and a brisk wind chills. The few leaves on the oaks are giving up and parachuting to the ground. Climbing more slippery, granite steps, the visitors are held back by a guard.

There, in front of the eternal flame, Eunis Kennedy Shriver and her family kneel. Upon leaving she thanks the visitors for coming. The visitors are allowed to surround the Kennedy marker. More camera flashes. There are more children here than at the Vietnam Memorial. They squirm, babble and ask questions. Some languages foreign to my ear come from all sides. Underneath another black slab lies Jack Kennedy flanked by two of his children. A girl asks her father who is buried in Patrick's grave. He can't answer.

People talk more after leaving the grave site. One man berates his child in a soap-box voice for not knowing some point of history: "They don't teach you anything in school anymore." I pass a group of Japanese men in business suits being guided by a Japanese woman. Farther on, I overhear one man say to his 12 year-old daughter: "If I had gone to Vietnam, kiddo, you wouldn't be here.

Which brings us around to the rhetorical question: Would there be a stark black memorial to over 50,000 military personnel if there weren't also a president lying under another black stone about a mile away? We'll never know. Maybe on the 22nd of November we recognize the day that hope began to die for a whole generation of Americans. Maybe, as Dr. Frederick K. Godwin, the director of the National Institute of Mental Health has suggested that we have not finished our grieving for something that never was to be. I know I haven't.

Modified slightly from the essay written upon returning from Washington, D.C. that year.
-- Perry

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Children November 9

On November 9 Atlanta Friends Meeting will hold a special Meeting for Worship to welcome new babies and recognize the children of the Meeting. Attenders and members of the Meeting will be invited to make the following promises to the children of the Meeting:

- Will you promise to welcome these children as full participants in this spiritual community, forming a community learning together across all ages?
- Do you acknowledge that these children bring many valuable gifts to our community and that we would be the poorer without the love, insights and questioning they provide?
- Do you promise to see our children as individuals we want to know and care for, and provide opportunities when they can get to know and care for us, growing together through sharing prosperity and adversity?
- Do you recognize that this Meeting as a whole shares a responsibility to impart to every child within it those values and practices that are central to our practice as Friends?
- Will you always strive to be mindful that the manner in which we live our lives should serve as patterns, as examples, of the Light within, teaching by example how to speak and to listen with love?

Parents may add brief individual or family promises. Each child participating will be presented with a certificate signed by the worshippers present that reflects the Meeting's promises to them. To ensure that all who wish to be included may fully participate, and that a certificate can be prepared in advance, we ask that interested families confirm their participation by contacting Jenny Foster, Karen Morris, Georgia Lord, Mary Jahntz, or Kate Swett.

Cracking the Codes: The System of Racial Inequity on November 23

On Sunday, November 23rd at 11:45 pm in the Library, Quakers for Racial Equality will be showing excerpts of a recent film by Shakti Butler, *Cracking the Codes: The System of Racial Inequity*, to facilitate a deep dialogue on bias, privilege, and racial inequity. Please join us! Contact Bert Skellie at bertskellie@gmail.com or [404-378-5883](tel:404-378-5883) or Susan Firestone at susanfires@gmail.com or [404-377-0875](tel:404-377-0875).

Citizens Climate Education Corps – Fund Raising Deadline December 7

Dear Friends:

On behalf of Green Friends, I have decided to serve again as a “bundler” for an initiative similar to the one I sponsored last two years to raise money for the Citizens Climate Education Corps. I also received notice that they are attempting to raise \$500,000 by the end of the year, so this can be our contribution to their effort.

To this end, I will again pledge to match every donation given by Friends to this initiative at a rate of 50 cents on the dollar, up to a maximum of \$500. That is, for every \$10 a Friend donates, I will add \$5, up to a maximum out-of-pocket for me of \$500, generating a potential total contribution of \$1500 from all Friends.

Since CCL is trying to raise substantial support before the end of the year, and I do not want to manage this process indefinitely, I *must* receive all donations by **First Day, December 7**. I will then bundle your donations and match as promised and send them to CCEC.

Make your *tax-deductible* donation out to: **Citizens Climate Education Corp or "CCEC"** (checks only, please – no cash) and include your name, full address, email and phone number along with the check. You may give donations to me directly at Meeting or mail it to my home address: *873 Castle Falls Drive, NE, Atlanta, GA 30329*. I will forward all donations to CCL.

Cordially, Peter C. Sederberg

16th Annual White Privilege Conference in Louisville – March 2015

Friends General Conference is one of the sponsors of the 16th annual White Privilege Conference (WPC), to be held in Louisville, Kentucky, in March, 2015. Founded by an African American professor, the White Privilege Conference is a multi-day opportunity to empower individuals to work for equity and justice through examining critical issues related to white privilege, oppression, race/ racism, and related concerns. The conference features well-known speakers, interactive workshops at different levels, and daily caucuses--separate ones for whites and for people of color--to allow people to process what they've heard and felt, and how to carry it all back to your work at home. Chris Harmer, from Louisville Friends Meeting, who serves on the WPC organizing committee, has shared information with us about the conference to encourage us all to spread the word among our contacts working on racial justice issues. Friends General Conference offers a discount for attending the WPC conference. Also AFM's Quakers for Racial Equality (QRE) may be able to help with a scholarship. Ellie Soler attended from our Meeting when the conference was in New Mexico and was impressed with the quality of the event. Here are links to the conference site and to the FGC page about the conference: <http://www.whiteprivilegeconference.com/schedule.html>. You may also take a packet from the QRE table for yourself or to share with another organization. Registration materials will be on the site by mid-January. (Submitted by Karen Morris for QRE)

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business – October 19, 2014

Recorded pending approval

Attendance: Carolyn Coburn Allen, Micheal Allison, Genevieve Beck-Roe, Katie Braun, Cade Curtis, Jennifer Dickie, Mary Ann Downey, Betsy Eggers, Julia Ewen, David Foster, Jenny Foster, Megan Gianniny, Eric Glenn, Judith Greenberg, Roland Heath, Bill Holland, Kathy Johnson, Chris Kohler, Lynn Leuszler, Georgia Lord, Becky Lough, Paul Mangelsdorf, Beth Martinson, Rick Martinson, Hannah Monroe, Liz Nicholson, Ronald Nuse, Erica Schoon, Peter Sederberg, Bert Skellie, Karen Skellie, Rebecca Sullivan, Elizabeth Tolmach, Jim Tolmach, Myrna Trapp, Perry Treadwell, Sarah Walton, Ashley Wilcox, Pat Williams, Nan O'Connor (Clerk), Elizabeth Lamb (Recording Clerk) (41 Friends).

Query: Bill Holland presented the query: “Are you alert to practices here and throughout the world which discriminate against people on the basis of who or what they are or because of their beliefs? Seek to understand the causes of injustice, social unrest and fear. Are you working to bring about a just and compassionate society which allows everyone to develop their capacities and fosters the desire to serve?”

Discernment Items

Ministry and Worship Committee: On behalf of the Ministry and Worship Committee Bill Holland brought forward the following: The Meeting has received an inquiry from Friends General Conference Nurturing Ministries Committee about our hosting their February 26 – March 1, 2015 meeting. Ministry and Worship was asked to season a recommendation for meeting in consultation with Carol Gray of the Hospitality Committee. We would have responsibility to provide hospitality and some meals for 22 – 30 Friends gathering from around the country. Discussion included a suggestion to have an interactive session with the visitors and AFM, perhaps in the form of a potluck and meeting; a suggestion to set aside some funds in the 2015 budget to cover any expenses; and a suggestion to have those present sign up as hosts, which was done. Ministry and Worship Committee will work with the Hospitality Committee on the preparation for this event.

- **Minute 10-19-2014-01:** On the recommendation of Ministry and Worship Committee we invite and welcome the FGC Nurturing Ministries Committee to hold their February 26 to March 1 Meetings at Atlanta Friends Meeting. We look forward to the opportunities to provide hospitality, share worship together and learn about the committee’s work.

Nominating Committee: On behalf of the Nominating Committee Carolyn Coburn-Allen brought forward Elizabeth Tolmach for approval to serve in Religious Education.

- **Minute 10-19-2014-02:** Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Elizabeth Tolmach to be a teacher in the Lower Grades (3 year old – 1st grade).

Reports

Ministry and Worship Committee: On behalf of the Ministry and Worship Committee Bill Holland reported that:

1. The Called Meeting for Worship to Celebrate the Marriage of Caroline Noyes and Susan Bacher was held on October 11 at the Meetinghouse. The gathering was well-attended. Prior to the October 11 event, Caroline and Susan were married in Santa Fe, New Mexico. On behalf of the meeting, we asked for Santa Fe Meeting Friends to support the marriage and several local Friends did so. We have written a letter thanking Santa Fe Friends for their loving support.
2. Ministry and Worship Committee is continuing to encourage practices to deepen our spiritual life together. We have been reminded that all of our meetings are held as meetings for worship, discerning how the Spirit leads us. In this next year, we hope to work with committees to deepen our work and worship together.

Finance Committee: On behalf of the Finance Committee Paul Mangelsdorf presented a report showing all of the Special Funds since 2009. The report was prepared to answer the meeting's previously raised questions about special funds. He then presented a proposal to close certain of these funds: The Advancement Fund, Archives Fund, and War is Not the Answer Fund would be closed and the balances transferred to the General Fund; the College Scholarship Fund and Special Leadings Fund would be closed and the balances transferred to the General Fund, with line items added to the Operating Budget to cover future needs; the Social Concerns Fund would be closed to future contributions and the Social Concerns Committee would be consulted about how the current balance could best be used. These proposals will be brought forward for discernment at the next business meeting. The following funds would be retained as Special Funds: The Ferguson Cabin Fund and the Suchitoto Scholarship Fund. The Discretionary Fund and the Refugee Fund would be combined and renamed the Members Special Needs Fund. This also will be brought forward for discernment.

Green Friends: On behalf of the Green Friends Katie Braun and Cade Curtis brought forward a Shared Statement by Quakers Groups addressing the challenge of climate change. This statement was prepared prior to the People's Climate March earlier this year, but the hope is that more groups will sign the statement and that it can be used in the future to bring about needed change. The statement will be brought forth for discernment by AFM as to whether we are led to sign the statement.

Clerk's Item: The clerk appointed the following as members of the Naming Committee: Elizabeth Tolmach, clerk, Folami Adams and Mary Ann Downey, members.

Minutes of September 2014:

- **Minute 10-19-2014-03:** The Minutes of the September 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.



Please Hold in The Light:

Obede Nzigimana and family
Zawadi Marian, Floribert Nijimbere, and family

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



Calendar for Eleventh Month (November) 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 wrlpdeas@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 9:30 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 Contacts

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ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING

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Clerk: Nan O'Connor, afmclerk1@gmail.com

Treasurer: Lynn Leuszler, 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 Emily Lawson at elawson7@gmail.com or 404-200-8479. 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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