

ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING NEWSLETTER



August 2015

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

Quaker Voluntary Service Announces New Fellows

Quaker Voluntary Service in Atlanta is pleased to introduce you to our five new wonderful volunteers! Please give them a warm welcome as they arrive to join our community in late August. If you're interested in being involved in any way with QVS this year, please contact Liz Nicholson – liz@quakervoluntaryservice.org.

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

The 2015-2016 Fellows are:



Laura Landaw graduated from Macaulay Honors College at The City College of New York in May 2015. She grew up in a suburb of New York City with a religiously mixed family, which left her with a desire to explore religion and religious histories more throughout college. Majors in Jewish Studies and International Studies

enabled her to learn more about the world and its many religions. She spent the summer of 2013 volunteering in a girl's shelter in Peru and the subsequent summer interning in South Africa at Sinovuyo Caring Families Project. From her experiences abroad she learned about the importance of community and communal living. Upon her returns back to the United States she developed yoga and aerial yoga practices. Academically, she then pursued a minor in women's studies. She melded her academic and personal interests, by writing her senior thesis on women in the circus entitled "Her-cus: An Exploration of How Circuses Treated Female Performers." Laura is excited to explore Atlanta in the upcoming year and will serve at the Phillip Rush Center.

QUERY

Is your meeting one to which all can feel a sense of belonging, taking their full share in its concerns and practical work? Do you as a meeting maintain a loving and watchful care over all who worship with you including those who are unable to attend?

- Ireland Yearly Meeting



Kiera McNicholas spent her childhood just outside Philadelphia, PA and has lived many places since. After attending Guilford for 3 semesters she decided to take a different approach to her education, left college, and traveled for 8 months. Growing up she always had a natural hunger for learning, this has stayed very strong and has recently deepened in self-exploration, community life, and interactions. Kiera has a great interest in environmental education and all that encompasses. She is a nature girl who loves sleeping under the stars, sitting around fires, foraging, going for walks

and exploring, walking barefoot where appropriate, and playing in the garden, etc. It is clear in her life that her spirituality is connected to a deep care for mother earth. Kiera is an environmentalist who really tries to 'be the change.' She has taken a year-long course in practical sustainability, based in Bristol, England, which has included roundhouse building practical, visiting a community wind turbine site, learning about permaculture, introduction to woodland management, community development, and much more. In her free time from the course she gathered (foraged/dumpstered) food and was a nanny. Over the last 3-4 years, Kiera has found herself again and is living her dream, and as her dream changes so does her life. Living in community, with intentional and consistent support through self-exploration, and working in an alternative school - that is a dream of hers which she will engage in during this QVS year. A life motto she has is with hard work and flexibility, it all works out! Kiera will be serving at The Kindezi School in Old Fourth Ward for the 2015-2016 service year.



JJ Krehbiel grew up in the small town of McPherson, Kansas. In 2013, he graduated from Bridgewater College, a liberal arts institute in Virginia with degrees in Sociology and International Studies. He studied abroad in India and South Africa where he gained a deep appreciation for social justice work. In college he was an active member of his campus Habitat for Humanity chapter, an environmental activism club, his school's newspaper, and performed in several college theatre productions. JJ has interned for nonprofits promoting human rights, civic participation, and social well-being. Upon graduating, he has volunteered in India as an English and

theatre teacher and has worked with Protestant and Catholic youth from Northern Ireland. JJ will be serving at Atlanta Habitat for Humanity where he is excited to gain more experience working in the nonprofit sector. Although JJ is not Quaker, he looks forward to learning more about the Society of Friends.



Adrian Nelson has been asking questions of the world around zir* as soon as ze was old enough to articulate this. Almost a "birthright Friend," ze grew up in the loving arms of McHenry Friends Meeting in the Chicagoland area, learning to hear God amongst pine trees and clucking chickens before moving to Chicago to attend Shimer College and worship with Northside Friends, where ze is currently a member. A great love of reading and human beings has propelled zir through studies of philosophy, sociology, feminism, queer studies, and racial justice. This love has also kept zir heavily involved in Quakerism at multiple levels, and activism for social justice in the Chicago area, most recently with the SURJ (Showing Up for Racial Justice) Chicago

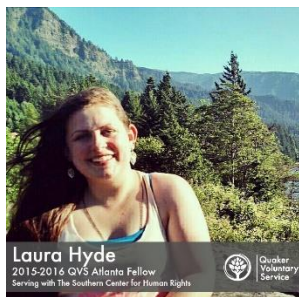
affiliate. Zir experience with cultural exchange and immersion comes from years spent abroad in Mexico (Campeche) and England (Oxford). Ze will talk your ear off about James Tiptree, Jr and Octavia

Butler if given the chance, dearly adores vegan baking/cooking, grew up a devoted Trekkie, and enjoys running/hiking as a way to connect with the world. Ze is leaving a job working in Shimer's admission office for the past four years to come to QVS. Adrian will be serving with L'Arche, and looks forward to building multiple communities during zir time in Atlanta.

**Adrian prefers using ze/zir or they/them gender neutral pronouns*



C.J. Green was born in Colorado then immediately headed southeast to North Carolina. Raised in Creedmoor, North Carolina CJ grew up around his older relatives often. After graduating from South Granville High school in 2010, CJ went on to attend Guilford College in Greensboro, North Carolina. At Guilford, CJ studied English and Theatre although he feels that he studied life. During this time CJ developed a passion for understanding multifaceted problems to varying degrees. During his summers, CJ usually goes home to help his family, and explore his craft for writing and art. His interest are wide, ranging from chess, basketball, poetry, espionage, and philosophy to name a few. CJ will be working for The Friends School of Atlanta in the 2015-2016 year.



Laura Hyde was born and raised in the Quaker community in the small town of Yellow Springs, Ohio. She graduated with her BA in Women's, Gender and Sexuality studies, French, and Global Studies in 2013 and her MA in African studies in 2015 from Ohio University. Laura has really enjoyed working to help serve the underserved through Camp Joy, Upward Bound and the Ohio University Survivor Advocacy Program. Laura has also worked as an English pronunciation tutor and loves learning about different cultures and languages. Laura has also been blessed with opportunities to travel and has studied abroad in Quebec, Avignon and Dakar. When she is not working or

studying she is cooking, reading, or hiking. Laura is incredibly excited for this opportunity where she can challenge the systems of oppression and simultaneously continue to explore her Quaker faith. Laura will be serving at The Southern Center for Human Rights in the 2015-2016 service year.

Atlanta Friends Begin Search for Friend in Residence (FiR)

The Friend in Residence position at the Atlanta Friends Meeting will come open in 2016 -- as early as January but no later than September. We are accepting applications now through September 15, 2015 for a Friend who would reside at the Meetinghouse, bringing a ministry or working in an established ministry of the Meeting. The Meeting is searching for someone who brings a "leading," a personal ministry that will enrich the life of our meeting. This leading could be one for which the person has been recognized as a Released Friend, one of their own leading, or one that involves working with an established ministry of Atlanta Friends. The Ministry and Worship committee will establish a support committee for the FiR and the ministry. The FiR must reside at the Meetinghouse (a 600 SF apartment is provided) and help with Meetinghouse tasks, serving on and reporting to the Administration committee for this role. The position is for two years, with the possibility of an extension. For more information and a job description, please email atlantaquakers@gmail.com.

Celebration for Marriage Equality August 22

Saturday, August 22 from 5:00-8:30 pm, Care and Counsel will host a celebration of the recent Supreme Court decision affirming marriage equality. We will honor the work that led made this decision possible, look forward to the work that still needs to be done and provide a space to honor and celebrate couples affected by the decision. Worship sharing and a little music by Deidre McCalla will be followed by a potluck and socializing. This is an intergenerational event with child care provided for those who need it.

Alternatives to Violence (AVP) Workshop August 22-23

Do you want to be better at knowing what to do to resolve conflict non-violently? Have you ever been shown methods you can implement to help reduce violent conflict? You can be part of a learning workshop that lets you practice using creative conflict resolution!

- **When:** August 22-23 9:30am-5:30pm (Saturday & Sunday)
- **Where:** Columbia Theological Seminary, 701 S. Columbia Dr, Decatur, GA 30030
- **Why:** To learn how to respond nonviolently to situations where injustice, prejudice, frustration and anger can lead to violent behavior.
- **What:** Learn proven strategies and methods for implementing nonviolent alternatives in your life.
- **How:** Two day workshop where participants learn via interactive exercises, games and role-plays new ways to find alternatives to violence. (Lunch is provided)
- **Who:** Open to all.
- **Cost:** Suggested donation: \$20.00 (No one excluded due to lack of funds)

More detailed information:

- **On the Web:** Facebook at "AVP Atlanta" and www.avpusa.org
- **By Phone:** Call Heather at 315-263-1502.
- **To Register:** Email Heather at heather.pincock@gmail.com.

All facilitators at AVP workshops are unpaid volunteers. The AVP Workshop series consists of 3 workshops: Basic, Advanced and Training 4 Facilitators. Those who complete all three workshops are eligible to apprentice on workshop facilitation teams and to become AVP facilitators. This workshop will be a Basic/Advanced hybrid workshop. Those attending their first AVP Workshop will earn their Basic certificate and those attending their second AVP workshop will earn an Advanced certificate.

SAVE THE DATES! AVP-ATL will host another Basic/Advanced Workshop on September 19-20 followed by a Training 4 Facilitators Workshop on October 17-18 (9:30am-5:30pm, location TBD). Those who attend two Basic/Advanced hybrid workshops and the T4F will become Apprentice Facilitators and can start working on teams to deliver AVP workshops!

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business – July 19, 2015

Recorded pending approval

Attendance: Cathy Amanti, Paul Baker, Don Bender, Muireann Brennan, Mark Bryans, Steve Collins, Jennifer Dickie, Betsy Eggers, Julia Ewen, Sally Ferguson, Nina Gooch, Clive Gordon, Dwight Harriman, Jack Honderd, Katthy Johnson, Chris Kohler, Lynn Leuszler, Georgia Lord, Karen terHorst Morris, Liz Nickolson, Ronald Nuse, Erin Schroder, Bert Skellie, Karen Skellie, Rebecca Sullivan, Jim Tolmach, Myrna Trapp, Sarah Walton, Nan O'Connor (Clerk), Elizabeth Lamb (Recording Clerk) (30 Friends).

Query: Paul Baker presented the query: “Do you 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? 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?”

Discernment Items

Administration Committee: On behalf of the Administration Committee Steve Collins brought forward the prioritized list of meetinghouse projects. It was noted that this list does not include ongoing maintenance or minor repairs which do not come out of the Permanent Improvement Fund.

- **Minute 07-19-2015-01:** *Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the prioritized list of Meetinghouse Projects for the second half of 2015 and 2016: Meeting room carpet \$8,500 (3Q15), Library renovations \$11,500 (less any proceeds from auction of old library furnishings)(3&4Q15), Gutter and minor siding repairs \$3,000 (4Q15), major siding repair or replacement \$32,000 (1-3Q16), New exterior sign \$4,000 (4Q15), Landscaping maintenance \$2,000 (4Q15&1Q16), Kudzu remediation \$2,000 (3&4Q15).*

Nominating Committee: On behalf of the Nominating Committee Ron Nuse brought forward the following names for discernment:

- **Minute 07-19-2015-02:** *Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Brittney Thornbury as a teacher for 2nd through 4th grade First Day School.*
- **Minute 07-19-2015-03:** *Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Dwight Harriman as a teacher for 5th through 7th grade First Day School.*
- **Minute 07-19-2015-04:** *Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Beth Ensign as a teacher for 5th through 7th grade First Day School.*
- **Minute 07-19-2015-05:** *Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Katie Smillie as a nominated member of the Care and Council Committee.*

Ron then asked Jennifer Dickie to present the revised Religious Education Committee description for approval. A question was raised as to whose duty it is (Administration, Nominating or Religious Education) to provide the list of new teachers to the Business Manager to ensure that the proper background checks are made. Jennifer will look into this and, if necessary, add that to the duties of the Religious Education Committee.

- **Minute 07-19-2015-06:** *Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the revised description of the Religious Education Committee (with the possible addition noted above).*

Reports

Friend in Residence Search Committee: On behalf of the Friend in Residence Search Committee, Steve Collins reported that the search has begun for a Friend in Residence to begin service between January 2016 and September 2016. Applications are due by September.

Care and Council Committee: On behalf of the Care and Council Committee Nina Gouch reported that a Celebration of the Supreme Court's decision about marriage will be held August 22, 2015 from 5-8:30 PM. An ad hoc committee has been formed to reach out to the community and to plan the celebration service. The committee is also working on a Minute showing AFM's support to be brought forward at next month's Meeting for Business. A preliminary draft minute was shared and anyone with suggestions as to what should be included in the minute is asked to contact Muireann Brennan or Elizabeth Tolmach.

Finance Committee: On behalf of the Finance Committee Lynn Leuszler presented the Balance Sheet and Income & Expense Report for the first half of the year, noting that we have spent approximately \$5000 more than we have taken in.

Nominating Committee: On behalf of the Nominating Committee Ron Nuse ceded to Steve Collins to present and explain the revised Administration Committee description. If you would like a copy or have any comments or suggestions, please see Steve. The revised description will be brought forward next month for discernment.

Ron then reported that on August 30 the Nominating Committee will be hosting a "Committee Fair" during which committees will have the opportunity to show what their committees do and encourage any interested members or attenders to seek how they feel led to serve. Each committee will design their own presentation, but some are sure to include tasty treats relevant to the committee's work!

Clerk's Item: The clerk reported that members of the Evangelical Friends Church – Eastern Region would like to visit Atlanta Friends Meeting this fall as we work together to help our Burundi Friends establish an Evangelical Friends Church with services to be held in English, Swahili and Kirundi, most likely in Clarkston.

Minutes of June 2015:

- **Minute 07-19-2015-07:** *The Minutes of the June 2015 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:

John Rogers Thurber, brother of
Shelly Thurber;
Frank Cummings;
Julia Ewen;
Mary Ann Downey;
Bianka Kucelin and her family.

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



Atlanta Friends Meeting Contacts

Clerk of the Meeting: Nan O'Connor, afmclerk1@gmail.com
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Treasurer: Lynn Leuszler, afmtreasurer1@gmail.com
Ministry & Worship: Bill Holland, 404-892-2358
Finance: Paul Mangelsdorf, 770-677-4280
Social Concerns: Michael Allison, 770-832-3539
Administration Clerk: Steve Collins, shcollins75@gmail.com
Care & Counsel: Clive Gordon, afm.care.counsel@gmail.com
Religious Education: Jennifer Dickie, michaeljen@bellsouth.net
Library Clerk: Cal Gough, calgough@bellsouth.net
Newsletter Editor: Kate Swett, atlquakerltr@gmail.com
Webmaster: Aaron Ruscetta, arxaaron@gmail.com

Calendar for Eighth Month (August) 2015

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, jhudson30116@yahoo.com or 678-378-3368; carrolltonfriends.org .
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.
<i>Currently on hiatus</i>	Canton Friends Worship Group. Contact Roy Taylor at 770-720-4669 or wrlldpeas@mindspring.com .

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
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: 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. Emily Lawson is also the contact to request mailing list removal.

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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