

ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING NEWSLETTER

November 2015



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

A Minute in Memory of Margaret 'Peg' Wolf Kaiser

Our Friend, Peg Kaiser passed away quietly at her home on August 21, 2015 just a week before her 97th birthday. Atlanta Friends Meeting held a memorial meeting on October 3 to celebrate and remember some of the many contributions she gave our community.

Margaret (Peg) was born to Andrew Wolf and Edna Wilson on August 29, 1918 in Freeburg, Illinois. She moved with her family to Greenlawn Farm in McNabb, Illinois when she was 5 weeks old. Their ancestors came to this country from England with William Penn. She grew up on a working farm in a Quaker community, and as a child, she learned Bible verses and Quaker history in the Clear Creek Meeting. Peg's sister Eleanor recalls that after they married there were many summer vacations spent at Greenlawn farm with their parents and with their brother Bud and his family. She graduated from high school in 1936 and then went on to George School, a Quaker boarding school for a year in Newtown, Pa. After boarding school she attended Illinois State University located in Normal, Illinois for two years. Peg moved as a young adult to Chicago where she attended 57th Street Meeting and later Oak Park Meeting. She worked as a telephone operator and in credit department of Marshall Field before moving to an advertising firm where she met John (Jack) Kaiser who also worked there. They were married on October 14, 1946 in the Thorndyke Hilton Chapel on the University of Chicago campus by Garfield Cox, a professor at the College and a Quaker minister.

Peg and Jack Kaiser moved with their two sons to Atlanta in 1951. They joined the group of founding members of the Atlanta Friends Meeting in the fall of 1951 when the official organization of the meeting was finalized. Peg started the First Day school for children in 1952. She recalled that in the early years of the meeting members served on several committees. Peg and Jack's third son was born in 1958. Over the years as the meeting grew, in addition to teaching First Day school, she served on the board of trustees, ministry and counsel, volunteered as meeting secretary, News/Views publication, and a women's discussion and lunch group. During the 60's, the Meeting hosted integrated discussions and worked with leaders in the civil rights movement. As part of that work, Peg served on a meeting project in Vine City to be a lead teacher in one of the first Head Start programs in Atlanta. Carrying signs that read, "Quaker

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

QUERY

How do you try to live simply, knowing that a simple lifestyle freely chosen is a source of strength? Are you able to not be persuaded to buying what you do not need or cannot afford? Do you keep yourself informed about the effects your style of living is having on the global economy and environment?

– *Britain Yearly Meeting*

Peace Witness, 1660-1960", Peg joined Friends from Atlanta, 38 states, D.C., Canada and Costa Rica, (1,073 registered participants) November 12-14, 1960 to stand in silence at the Pentagon.

The meeting history records a letter to President Nixon on December 27, 1973 during the Watergate scandal signed by Margaret Kaiser, Clerk, for the Atlanta Friends Meeting, urging him "to examine your conscience...and to do whatever is necessary to restore the faith of the nation in the executive branch of our government. If your resignation is the only way to achieve this, we urge that you take this action". And referring to the war in Vietnam, the letter said "we strongly urge you to stop the repeated use of military destruction in this and all other areas of the world. We...ask that you examine your decisions in the light of your Quaker upbringing. We pray that God will strengthen you in the very difficult days that lie ahead."

Peg was also active in wider Quaker organizations. In the early 1960's, she and Jack began meeting annually with other Friends in Crossville, TN for the Southern Appalachian Association of Friends (SAAF) and were founding members when that group became the Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association (SAYMA) in May, 1970. They were yearly meeting representatives to Friends World Committee for Consultation triennial meetings in Australia in 1973 and Switzerland in 1976. She also found time to serve the community as a Dekalb Medical Center volunteer for 40 years from 1961-2001. In the late 1990's she worked with other founding members to write and publish, **As Way Opened: A History of Atlanta Friends Meeting, 1943-1997.**

Friends remember Peg as a warmly accepting, and welcoming Friend to all who came to meeting. She was kind, inquisitive and known for speaking plainly. As a life-long avid reader with an excellent memory, she enjoyed discussing a wide range of subjects and had a wonderful sense of humor. After moving to a retirement community, she began a discussion group on current events with people she met there who did not share her views. In the last years of her life, she spoke of being ready to die, of hoping to be with Jack again and to know that the family was all well. She was predeceased by her husband of 39 years, John (Jack) Kenneth Kaiser. She is survived by three sons, all living in Georgia, Michael (Duanne) of Sautee Nacoochee, Kirk of Dacula, and Jeffrey (Shelia) of Snellville; four grandchildren; four great grandchildren; sister Eleanor Harker of Sandy Springs, Maryland; sister-in-law, Betty Wolf of Peru, Illinois; and a number of nieces and nephews.

Lives and Callings: The Spiritual Journey – November 1

If you are new to our meeting, considering membership or a long-time member who enjoys hearing a story, you are invited to the meeting library at 9 a.m. on November 1, to hear member Tara Doyle. You are also invited to tell your story and can call Mary Ann Downey at 678-938-8030 to volunteer or to get more information. Save the date for members Julie Hliboki (December 6), and Jack Hondred (January 3, 2016).

FLGBTQC Potluck November 22

Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Concerns will be having a potluck November 22 after meeting for worship at the meetinghouse. Everyone is welcome to join, regardless of how you identify. If you have questions or would like to be on the FLGBTQC email list, contact Nina Gooch at ninagooch@gmail.com.

Childcare Allows Parents to Participate in Second Hour Activities

Parents have requested childcare for 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays after Meeting for Worship to allow them to participate more actively in committee meetings, Meeting for Business, and Forum Sundays. The

Meeting has listened! A paid caregiver will be in the nursery after Meeting for Worship (11:45 - 1 pm) on 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays to care for children from nursery age through 9 years. The Meeting continues to provide paid childcare for nursery-aged children every Sunday during Worship. For more information, see Karen Morris, ([404-797-8079](tel:404-797-8079)).

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business – October 18 2015

Recorded pending approval

Attendance: Paul Baker, Rebecca Burley, Steve Collins, Jennifer Dickie, Julia Ewen, Sally Ferguson, Clive Gordon, Carol Gray, Roland Heath, Chris Kohler, Lynn Leuszler, Georgia Lord, Caroline Morris, Erica Schoon, Erin Schroder, Kelly Singer, Rebecca Sullivan, Brittney Thornbury, Jim Tolmach, Myrna Trapp, Nan O'Connor (Clerk), Elizabeth Lamb (Recording Clerk) (22 Friends).

Query: Sally Ferguson presented the query: "In decision making, do we promote a spirit of love, understanding and patience as we seek unity on an appropriate course of action? Do we keep our remarks simple and speak only as the Spirit leads? Are we able to unite in good grace with the Sense of the Meeting when our personal desires tend in another direction? Do we maintain respect for others, however strongly our opinions may differ?"

Discernment Items

Ministry and Worship: On behalf of the Ministry and Worship Committee Sally Ferguson shared that in 9th month we reported that Mary Jahntz had submitted a letter applying for membership. A clearness committee has met with her and recommended her for membership. Ministry and Worship united with this recommendation and we now ask for the meeting's approval.

- **Minute 10-18-2015-01:** *On the recommendation of the Ministry and Worship Committee, we approve Mary Jahntz as a member of Atlanta Friends Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends.*

She then reported that in 5th Month we approved taking the marriage of Brittany Thornbury and Becca Burley under our care. A called meeting for worship for the purpose of marriage was held on October 10, 2015 at the meetinghouse. Ashley Wilcox clerked the meeting. In a rich, joyful occasion, Brittany and Becca exchanged their vows that "Friends, I take this my friend [name] to be my wife, promising, through divine assistance, to be unto her a loving and faithful wife, so long as we both on earth shall live." Joyful, tearful ministry followed with many expressions of love and tender support for the marriage. The couple closed the meeting with one of the most elaborate closing handshakes the meeting has seen.

- **Minute 10-18-2015-02:** *We will joyfully support the Marriage of Brittany Thornbury and Becca Burley and look forward to our journey with them.*

Sally then reported that on Saturday, October 3 a called meeting for worship was held at the meetinghouse to remember the life of Margaret "Peg" Kaiser. Friends and family remembered the many ways that Peg served, living a life of quiet service. There was rich testimony given to her loving, welcoming witness as a founding member of the meeting, as a mother, neighbor and friend. A memorial minute has been prepared and we ask meeting to include this in the minutes and share it widely as testimony of a life well-lived.

- **Minute 10-18-2015-03:** *[Minute is printed in full starting on the first page of this newsletter, entitles Minute in Memory of Margaret 'Peg' Wolf Kaiser]*

Nominating Committee: On behalf of the Nominating Committee Carol Gray presented Dwight Harriman for clerk of the Retreat Committee.

- **Minute 10-18-2015-04:** *Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Dwight Harriman as clerk of the Gathered Meeting Retreat Planning Committee.*

She then brought forward the following committee description revisions for approval:

- **Minute 10-18-2015-05:** *Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the description of the Personnel Liaison Position, as presented at the September meeting for business.*
- **Minute 10-18-2015-06:** *Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the revised description of the Office Coordinator Position, as presented at the September meeting for business.*

Reports

Religious Education Committee: On behalf of the Religious Education Committee Jennifer Dickie shared some insights into the classrooms in First Day School. The Lower Elementary Class (3 year olds through 1st grade) has up to thirteen active children, some more active than others. In order to serve the needs of each individual, it is very important to have a second adult in the classroom with the teacher. The Middle Grades Class (2nd to 4th grades) has nine children. In this classroom it would also be helpful to have a second adult present. These second adults serve in the role of Door-keeper. You can volunteer by signing up on the volunteer sheet online or on the clipboard passed around after Meeting for Worship. It is not necessary to prepare a lesson or undergo a background check to fill this important role – just sign up, come and enjoying getting to know the young people in the Meeting.

Nominating Committee: On behalf of the Nominating Committee Carol Gray brought forward the following names:

- Betsy Eggers, as Clerk of the Meeting
- Lissa Place, as Assistant Clerk of the Meeting
- Perry Treadwell and Judith Greenberg, as Co-archivists
- Sally Ferguson, as Clerk of the Ministry and Worship Committee
- Julie Hliboki, as member of the Ministry and Worship Committee

These names will be brought for discernment next month.

Carol Gray then brought forward the revised description for the position of Clerk of Meeting. The only change is to add “12: Provides instructions in the Clerk’s role to the Assistant Clerk, to enable him/her to feel more comfortable in filling in, should the need arise.”

Finance Committee: On behalf of the Finance Committee Lynn Leuszler presented the Balance Sheet and Income & Expenses Report for the first three quarters of the year. We are about where we usually are at this point in the year and the Finance Committee thinks that we will reach our goal. There are, however, some permanent improvements which are much needed in 2016 and for which there are not enough funds in the Permanent Improvements Fund. Traditionally, when the Meeting receives more than was budgeted for a year, the excess is put into the Permanent Improvements Fund. If enough extra is not contributed this year to cover expected costs, the Finance Committee will consider re-working the budget for 2016, possibly reducing the amount allocated to committees or gifts made to affiliate organizations. If you have any suggestions, please contact the Finance Committee.

Clerk’s Item: The clerk appointed Kelsey McNicholas, Carolyn Morris and Henry Slack to the Naming Committee.

Minutes of August 2015:

- **Minute 10-18-2015-07:** *The Minutes of the September 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:

Tom Bartlett, brother of Mary Bartlett
Bette Turlington and her family
Laurel Muff, sister of Cynthia Berg

*Those wishing to have requests for
Holding included in this monthly
newsletter may give the names to a
member of Care & Counsel;
Linnis Cook is the point person for
November.*



Atlanta Friends Meeting Contacts

Clerk of the Meeting: Nan O'Connor, afmclerk1@gmail.com
Office Coordinator: Jonah McDonald, atlantaquakers@gmail.com
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 Russetta, arxaaron@gmail.com

Calendar for Eleventh Month (November) 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, judson30116@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 wrltpeas@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, Classroom A/B and playground
Every Fourth Day (Wednesday)	8:30 a.m. Morning Worship, Library First and third Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m. Mid-Week Worship at David & Freer Jarvis' home
Every Fifth Day (Thursday)	7:00 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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