

ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING NEWSLETTER

February 2016



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

Request for Membership Letter *Submitted by Elizabeth Lamb*

November 29, 2015

Dear Friends,

As this year draws to an end and yet another one begins, I find myself asking: "If not now, when?" The first time I attended Atlanta Friends Meeting, on Easter several years ago, I felt that I had come home. And yet I did not apply for membership. Why? Many reasons have come to mind, but few have been at all compelling and all have fallen away except one: procrastination. Talking with F/friends and seeing many of them join AFM, I have realized that it is time to end my procrastination. So I am (finally) asking for membership.

I grew up in the Methodist church, which I attended every Sunday and Wednesday until I left for college. At times I felt very close to the church and at other times I felt very keenly the hypocrisy of those who "preached" equality but actively discouraged blacks from attending. I then spent several years without attending any church before I found myself on a Methodist mission station in Zaire (the Congo) and once again started attending church services. The actual services were hard to follow since my Swahili never reached the required level, but the missionaries all truly lived their beliefs and radiated happiness and the sense that they knew they were exactly where they belonged. The prayer group was awesome, and it was in French so I had no trouble following. Teachers, theology school students, missionaries, high school students, anyone interested was welcomed. We shared any thought or question or belief, knowing it would be lovingly heard and discussed within the group, but never to those not in the group. We grew very close. To each other and to God.

After six years at the Methodist station I came back to the States on a one-year furlough, during which I planned to obtain a Masters at Emory and try out living in the U.S. again, so I could decide whether to spend the rest of my life in Africa. During my year at Emory I attended the Methodist church where I met

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

QUERY

Does worship deepen my relationship with God, increase my faithfulness, and refresh and renew my daily life, both inwardly and in my relationship with others? Have I experienced in worship that direct leading to listen or to speak, and have I been faithful to my own experience?

– *Philadelphia Yearly Meeting*

George. While I did finish my degree, I did not return to Africa when the year was up because by that time I was married and pregnant. We continued to attend the Methodist church until our children graduated from high school. Once again I had become uncomfortable with the hypocrisy I perceived and the amount of the budget spent on our own services and comfort rather than on helping the less fortunate. So when George stopped attending church, I stopped with him.

After several years not attending church I felt the need to find a spiritual home. While I was researching possibilities I thought of my paternal Grandmother. She was the woman I most admired growing up, even though I seldom spent time with her because we lived so far apart. She was a Quaker, as were her ancestors going back at least 300 years. Although she had lived a hard life, she had an inner calmness and a depth of faith that I wanted. So I looked up Quakers online and found the Atlanta Friends Meeting not five miles from our house. I felt it was meant to be. The first meeting I attended felt like I was returning home. George attended for a few years before losing interest, but this time I continued to attend without him.

The people at Atlanta Friends Meeting feel real, comfortable being who they are, and live with integrity. They lovingly accept people with many different beliefs, but all seem to believe in the goodness of humankind. While some people clearly have very strongly held beliefs, I feel no judgment by those whose beliefs are different. Atlanta Friends Meeting feels like a warm, loving, truthful, accepting place where each one is seeking to learn, to listen to the guide within and to be the best person he or she can. I am happy here and proud to be a part of a wonderful, loving family. I feel it is time that I make my relationship with the Quakers official and I humbly request membership in Atlanta Friends Meeting.

--Elizabeth Lamb

Luncheon Honoring Frank Cummings – February 6

Friends of Frank Cummings are sponsoring a light luncheon at Atlanta Friends Meetinghouse on February 6th at 1 PM. There will be time for sharing our stories of our times with Frank and for expressing our appreciation for his contribution to our community. We also look forward to hearing his thoughts. We gather to support Frank in his illness and to hold him in the healing light. Lunch will be provided. If you are able to attend please respond to either Don Bender (djbender76@gmail.com or 912-596-8922) or Marcia Klenbort (marcia.klenbort@comcast.net or 404-874-9826)

Lives and Callings: The Spiritual Journey – February 7

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 February 7 to hear from Paul Mangelsdorf about his spiritual journey. Save the date for Jack Hondred on March 6. 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.

Welcome Dr. Wayne Evans – February 7

On Feb. 7, Dr. Wayne Evans, General Superintendent of the Evangelical Friends Church, Eastern Region (EFC-ER), will visit Atlanta Friends Meeting to further explore the possibility of Burundian Friends starting an Evangelical Friends Church. Dr. Evans's visit follows up on correspondence begun in March 2015 when Atlanta Friends Meeting authorized beginning a dialogue with EFC-ER on how an Evangelical Friends Church might be formed to serve the spiritual needs of Burundian Friends in AFM. Burundian Friends

envision keeping a connection with AFM while starting an Evangelical Friends Church that would meet after AFM worship, most likely in the Clarkston/Stone Mountain area, and serve to bring together African refugees and immigrants from different ethnic and national groups. During his visit, Dr. Evans will meet members of the Burundian community at potluck and then meet with an ad hoc committee from AFM including the Clerk, representatives from Ministry & Worship, Care & Counsel, and three representatives from the Burundian families. Please give Wayne Evans a warm welcome on his visit to AFM.

Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) Upcoming Workshops

- **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. All facilitators at AVP workshops are unpaid volunteers.
- **When:** See calendar below for dates; all workshops are Saturday-Sunday 9:30am-5:30pm
- **Where:** Athens, Atlanta, and Kennesaw.
- **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
- **Contact:** Heather at 315-263-1502. To register: Heather@georgiaavp@gmail.com

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

AVP Upcoming Workshop Calendar

February 21-22 2016	Kennesaw GA	Basic/Advanced, open to all
March 19-20 2016	Atlanta GA	Basic/Advanced, open to all
April 16-17 2016	Kennesaw GA	Basic/Advanced, open to all
May 14-15 2016	Atlanta GA	Training for Facilitators, open to those who have completed at least one AVP workshop

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business – January 17, 2016

Recorded pending approval

Attendance: Mike Aland, Paul Baker, Cynthia Berg, Kelly Callaway-Singer, Nylgia Callaway-Singer, Steve Collins, Dee DeBra, Jennifer Dickie, Mary Ann Downey, Julia Ewen, Sally Ferguson, Susan Firestone, Waman French, Clive Gordon, Carol Gray, Roland Heath, Bill Holland, Rick Martinson, Susan May, Karen terHorst Morris, Nan O’Connor, Lissa Place, Bert Skellie, Karen Skellie, Henry Slack, Rebecca Sullivan, Myrna Trapp, Sarah Walton, Pat Williams, Betsy Eggers (Clerk), Elizabeth Lamb (Recording Clerk) (31 Friends).

Query: Paul Baker presented the query: “Are our meetings for worship held in stilled, expectant waiting upon God? As we worship is there a living silence in which we are drawn together by the power of God in our midst?”

Clerk: Betsy Eggers, clerk of meeting, brought forward the following minute which was approved:

- **Minute 1-17-2016-01:** *As they pass their positions on to new servants, Atlanta Friends Meeting would like to thank the following for their years of faithful service to the meeting: Jim Tolmach, clerk of the Meetinghouse; Bill Holland, clerk of Ministry and Worship; Carol Gray, clerk of Nominating; Karen Morris, nursery liaison; Lissa Place, clerk of the Gathered Meeting Retreat; Judith Greenberg, assistant treasurer; Mary Jahntz, RE liaison to Nominating; Mary Ann Downing, Folami Adams and Elizabeth Tolmach, members of the Naming committee. We thank you all for a job well done.*

Nominating Committee: On behalf of the Nominating Committee Carol Gray brought forth the following names for approval:

- **Minute 1-17-2016-02:** *Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Rebecca Burley as the Nursery Liaison.*
- **Minute 1-17-2016-03:** *Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Mary Jahntz as SAYMA Representative beginning January 2016.*

Naming Committee: On behalf of the Naming Committee Henry Slack brought forward the following:

- **Minute 1-17-2016-04:** *Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Waman French as a member of the Nominating Committee.*
- **Minute 1-17-2016-05:** *Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Linnis Cook as a member of the Nominating Committee.*

Henry Slack then brought forward Ron Nuse to serve as clerk of the Nominating Committee. His name will be brought forward next month for approval.

Ministry and Worship Committee: On behalf of the Ministry and Worship Committee Sally Ferguson reported that out of several configurations tried, the current arrangement of chairs in the meeting room has received the most approval from members and attenders. This arrangement will be maintained for four weeks during which time please contact someone on Ministry and Worship with any comments or suggestions.

Sally Ferguson then reported that Ministry and Worship currently supports anchoring committees for seven members in their ministry: Mary Ann Downing, Richard Allen, David Foster, Ashley Wilcox, Sarah Walton, Christina Repoley and Julie Hliboki. Elizabeth Valera has asked to lay down her anchoring committee.

Myrna Trapp then reported that Ministry and Worship has received an application for membership from Elizabeth Lamb. A clearness committee has met with her and found her clear. Myrna Trapp read her letter to those assembled and it will be published in the newsletter. Ministry and Worship unites with this request and will bring a recommendation for approval next month.

Memorial Minute: Mary Ann Downing then reported that she was recently asked by Friends Journal for our memorial minute concerning Courtney Siceloff and realized that we had never published one. She then brought forward the following:

- **Minute 1-17-2016-06:** *[Editor's Note: This minute appears in its entirety on page 6.]*

Administration Committee: On behalf of the Administration Committee Steve Collins reported that the ad hoc Library Committee working with librarian Cal Gough has almost completed the work of redecorating

the library (new carpet, painting, etc.) and cataloging the books. Once approved by the Library Committee a cataloguing kiosk PC should be ready to use. Twenty five new stackable, cushioned chairs have been ordered, with delivery to be in 8 – 10 weeks.

Steve Collins then reported that the new Friend in Residence, Kelsey McNicholas, will officially begin her term as Friend in Residence on Monday, February 15, 2016.

Please contact Jim Williams, Jonah McDonald or Steve Collins if you know of other repairs or improvements that need to be undertaken.

Care and Counsel Committee: On behalf of the Care and Counsel Committee Clive Gordon reported that Friends of Frank Cummings are sponsoring a light luncheon at Atlanta Friends Meetinghouse on February 6, 2016 at 1 PM. There will be time for sharing our stories of our times with Frank and for expressing our appreciation for his contribution to our community. We also look forward to hearing his thoughts. We gather to support Frank in his illness and to hold him in the healing light. Lunch will be provided. (This is not a potluck.) If you are able to attend please respond to either Don Bender (djbender76@gmail.com or 912-596-8922) or Marcia Klenbort (marcia.klenbort@comcast.net or 404-874-9826). Frank will be in Atlanta February 3 – 9 and will be staying with the Klenborts.

State of the Meeting Report: Prior clerk, Nan O'Connor, presented the first draft of the State of the Meeting Report. It was suggested that the report acknowledge visitors to Meeting and the active participation of the Burundi Friends. Please contact Nan with any comments or questions.

Minutes of December 2015:

- **Minute 1-17-2016-07:** *The Minutes of the December 2015 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business were approved as submitted.*

Announcements: On behalf of the Nominating Committee Carol Gray reported that the revised handbook has been uploaded to our website and thanked Aaron Ruscetta for his work in getting that done. She requested that committees continue reviewing their descriptions and revising the descriptions as needed. Betsy Eggers, clerk, asked that everyone save the date March 5, 2016 on their calendars for the Rise Up Singing / Rise Again concert. Susan Firestone is the contact person for this event.

There will be a Meeting of the Corporation immediately following this meeting.

Meeting closed with Silent Worship.

Respectfully submitted by:
Elizabeth Lamb, Recording Clerk
Betsy Eggers, Clerk.

Courtney Parker Sicheloff

Courtney Sicheloff was born January 4, 1922 to John Andrew Sicheloff and Mary Margaret Powell, and died on January 28, 2014.

Born the son of a Methodist minister who moved every 3 or 4 years to small towns in north Texas, he learned to make friends wherever he was. At Southwest Methodist College in the early '40s, he became involved in discussions with a Methodist student movement to understand problems of racism and pacifism, and joined a peace caravan led by AJ Muste and Bayard Rustin. Graduating in 1943 from Haverford College when most of the young men he knew volunteered for World War II, Courtney chose to be a conscientious objector working for Civilian Public Service in forestry camps, before volunteering in 1946 for the UN Relief effort to send cattle to Europe. He worked for AFSC for several years in the south of France in post-war reconstruction and support for refugee populations. Courtney met his future wife, Elizabeth Taylor, on a Quaker study tour to Scandinavia and they were married in 1949.

In 1950 Courtney and his wife Elizabeth traveled to the small community of Frogmore (now St. Helena), South Carolina, a place they would call home for almost two decades. Courtney became the director of Penn Center, previously Penn School, founded in 1862 to educate newly freed slaves as teachers and artisans. Under his leadership it thrived as a community development center and a vital link in the fight for civil rights in the South. In the early 60's, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference held retreats there and Martin Luther King Jr. visited several times. A racially diverse staff of talented community organizers and activists worked in health care, property ownership and farm cooperatives.

In 1969, Courtney resigned from Penn to open the way for a new generation of leadership, and accepted a position as Deputy Director of the Peace Corps in Afghanistan. The family lived in Kabul, Afghanistan for four years. During this period Courtney and his team worked to provide education and health care in villages across the country.

The Sicheloffs moved to Atlanta in 1973, and Courtney worked with the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights meeting community groups across the south to ensure projects receiving federal funds were free of racial bias. Courtney became a member of the Atlanta Friends Meeting serving in many ways including presiding clerk, the construction and move to a larger meeting house, and the start of a Friends school. He educated and inspired Friends by his example of a constant, strong and gentle witness.

He also served on the Southeast Regional and National Executive Committee for AFSC. "We looked to Courtney for guidance in turbulent times and times of joy. His integrity, his pursuit of justice, his commitment to nonviolence and his Quaker capacity to find the good in everyone were luminous beacons to us all," said one of his fellow American Friends Service Committee members, former AFSC regional director Elizabeth Enloe of New York City.

Courtney and Elizabeth regularly attended Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Friends General Conference Gathering. After his retirement, and well into his eighties, he continued to work for racial equality, for women's rights, for non-violence, and for the eradication of poverty. He often stood with other Friends in demonstrations holding a "war is not the answer" sign.

"Courtney was so compassionate," said a friend, Sally Ferguson of Atlanta. "He was touched by the plight of a homeless schizophrenic woman we knew who would scream and rant if she felt the slightest offense. Courtney built a two-room dwelling with heat and plumbing for her beneath the Sicheloff family's back porch. For several years he or his wife would take a hot meal to her each evening. I think he appreciated the woman for allowing him to do good for her."

Courtney's loving wife of 53 years, Elizabeth Taylor Sicheloff, passed away in 2003 and a son, John in 2015. He is survived by a daughter, Mary, in Savannah; and grandson, Andrew, in New York City; and an extended family of cousins, nieces and nephews, whose lives have all been enriched by Courtney's extraordinary life and his vision of a better world.



Please Hold in The Light:

Frank Cummings;
Doug Unfug and Harriet Unfug;
Former AFM attender
Denny Webster

Those wishing to have requests for Holding included in this monthly newsletter may give the names to a member of Care & Counsel; Katie Smillie is the point person for February.



Atlanta Friends Meeting Contacts

Clerk of the Meeting: Betsy Eggers, afmclerk1@gmail.com
Office Coordinator: Jonah McDonald, atlantaquakers@gmail.com
Treasurer: Lynn Leuszler, afmtreasurer1@gmail.com
Ministry & Worship: Sally Ferguson, sallyferguson@earthlink.net
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Calendar for Second Month (February) 2016

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 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, 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: Betsy Eggers, 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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