

ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING NEWSLETTER

July 2016



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

Friend in Residence (FiR) Update *Submitted by Kelsey McNicholas*

Below are some highlights since the beginning of this FiR term in February:

Alternatives to Violence Project National Conference (FiR Ministry Work)

- I was privileged to attend as one of six National AVP Peace Fellows this year. Hundreds of AVP Facilitators from all over the nation gathered in Denver, Colorado, to conduct AVP business, share ideas and inspiration, and learn from each other. A large part of my role was seeking ways to increase spaces for young and returning citizen (people who are re-entering from being incarcerated) voices to be heard inside and outside of the organization.
- Some other pieces of my recent work with AVP include:
Atlanta: Steering committee meetings; May Day Festival organizing and table; Visioning, rallying, and encouraging new facilitators; Co-hosting nonviolence social; Hosting a Facilitators Gathering; Hosting an AFM Open House; Support team cooking; Co-facilitating a Basic/Advanced workshop at Columbia Theological Seminary; Co-Facilitating a weekend long AVP Training for Facilitators; Training authorizing me to enter Arrendale Women's Prison for future workshops; Currently scheduling to co-facilitate at Arrendale Women's Prison on teams with folks currently incarcerated at Arrendale.
National: Bylaws committee; Board meetings; Peace Fellows meetings and collaborations; Fundraising committee & strategies

News from the Meetinghouse side of things:

- Attending Administration Committee meetings has been wildly helpful. Recent renters at AFM have included: camps, schools, sewing classes, concerts, activist meetings, faith based meetings, and many others! Many thanks to those who served as substitutes for me during this busy season. It feels very good to be spending more time at AFM these days.

QUERY

How does our Meeting work to overcome social, legal, economic, and political injustices, locally and in the wider world? Does our Meeting encourage those seeking clearness for their convictions of conscience to hold up such convictions with prayerful openness to the Light?

– *Philadelphia Yearly Meeting*

Quaker work (non-explicitly FiR related):

- *FWCC World Gathering in Pisac, Peru*, January 19 – 27, 2016. Just before my FiR residency began, I joined Friends from 37 countries, 77 yearly meetings, 8 independent monthly meetings, and 2 worship groups, in Pisac, Peru. 320 Friends plus an additional 60 Friends from Peru and Bolivia joined us for the weekend. Ninety Friends were Young Adult Friends (under the age of 35). Approximately 1/3 were native Spanish speakers. I was present in Young Adult consultations, served as an Elder for business meeting for the section of the Americas, and am serving in an ongoing capacity as an elder for a Young Adult Friends group that emerged.
- *Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting & Association, Jr. Yearly Meeting*. Mary Jantz and I co-coordinated Jr. Yearly Meeting this year for SAYMA. Mary did the *pre-work*, mostly over email, and I did the *there work*, mostly in NC. The age range of Jr. Yrly Meeting is 4yrs-12yrs, but this year there were many under 4's. Friends under 4 joined us with a parent or other volunteer (most of the time), and we had a wild & energetic group of sixteen 2-11 year olds. The theme this year was Unravel Racism. We read thematic books, played thematic running games, and made an Unravel Racism peace flag for a part of our epistle for the adult body.

What do I do when I'm not being the FiR?

- *Arbor Montessori Outdoor Program*. Imagine co-leading a three-day camping trip with a mingled group of 4th-6th graders. Now imagine co-leading a different one of these trips every week for *five consecutive weeks*! Some elements of camp include: a fire challenge, a botany hike, storytelling, cooking, cleaning, pitching tents. Some roles I play: leader, timekeeper, bus driver, older sister/mother figure, accountability check, safety monitor, and fun instigator.
- *Xocolatl Chocolate*. Ongoing shift work at Xocolatl Small Batch Chocolate in the Krog Street Market. I help make and sell bean to bar chocolate. We hand sort cacao beans, roast them, crack, winnow, grind, temper, cool, wrap, and sell the bars all right there in the Krog Street market. You could always stop by for some samples!

In Love, Light, & Gratitude,
-Kelsey

Women's Weekend at Lake Burton Cabins

Do you enjoy hiking, swimming, kayaking, canoeing, sharing meals, playing games, reading, sunning or conversation in a mountain cabin on a beautiful lake with other women?

Just sitting on the dock looking out at the lake and the mountains in the distance restores one's soul and brings a sense of peace. What a gift Dwight and Irene Ferguson gave the Meeting to share! If you've never been there, pick up a cabin brochure at Meeting for more information. Cost is \$20 a night in the newer cabin (Irene) or \$13 for the original cabin or any of the other bunkhouses.

Please consider joining us this August. Dates are Thursday August 4 through Sunday, August 7. You can come for any part of the time, though most people are there Friday evening to Sunday afternoon. Contact Karen Skellie at [404-378-5883](tel:404-378-5883) or kskellie@gmail.com to reserve your space at the cabins or get more information.

Immersed in Prayer: The Fourth Annual Gathering of Friendly Mystics

*A retreat organized by the editors of What Canst Thou Say
September 30 – October 3 at Cenacle Center, Chicago Illinois*

During our first three annual gatherings, we have listened to each other and the Spirit. We will continue in those practices, with an emphasis on our prayer lives. The first two days will be spent in large and small groups, including some interest groups. The final morning will be devoted to extended worship.

- *Accommodations:* The Cenacle Center is a Catholic retreat center that will be comfortable with our contemplative practices. We chose it in part because it is conveniently located for any type of public transportation. Please see their website for directions.
- *Schedule:* The retreat starts at 5:30 pm Friday, September 30th. Supper is provided for those who arrive before 6:30 pm. Small and large groups will be held for the first two days, followed by extended worship on Monday morning. The gathering will end after lunch on Monday, October 3rd.
- *Mystics' Open Mic:* On Saturday evening, participants are invited to bring something to share, a poem, story, song, or interpretive dance, for example. We suggest the following queries for you to consider as you prepare: Has a spiritual experience transformed your life? What have been your reflections on that experience? How does your spiritual life enter into your interpersonal relationships?
- *Art Fair:* Participants are invited to bring books, music or artwork to sell. A table will be provided with envelopes for payment on an honor system basis.
- *To Register:* Contact Michael Resman at reesmanmh@aol.com for a registration form. Complete and return it with your deposit (checks to WCTS) for the retreat to Michael Resman, 815 9th St SW, Rochester MN 55902 so he receives it by September 1st, 2016. Participation will be limited to the first 25 participants, so early registration is encouraged.
- *Allergies and Limitations:* Please indicate any food allergies or mobility limitations on the registration form where indicated. Also indicate any special scheduling issues of arrival and departure. Participants are asked to use only fragrance-free personal products.
- *Cancellations:* Deposits are nonrefundable after June 30, 2015.
- *Scholarships:* Funds are limited, but some WCTS scholarships are available to supplement. If you need a scholarship, please first request support from your Meeting. Donations to the scholarship fund are encouraged. Questions can be directed to Mike at resmanmh@aol.com.

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business – June 19, 2016

Recorded pending approval

Attendance: Mike Aland, Katie Braun, Steve Collins, Jennifer Dickie, Mary Ann Downey, Julia Ewen, Sally Ferguson, Julie Foster, Larry Foster, Clive Gordon, Gabnelle Hammons, Bill Holland, Kathy Johnson, Shahina Lakhani, Lynn Leuszler, Georgia Lord, Judy Lumb, Alison Mawle, Susan May, Noelle McAfee, Kelsey McNicholas, Bethany Nanamaker, Liz Nicholson, Ronald Nuse, Aaron Ruscetta, Erin Schroder, Bert Skellie, Karen Skellie, Roy Taylor, Jim Tolmach, Myrna Trapp, Austin Wattles, Ashley Wilcox, Pat Williams, Lissa Place (Assistant Clerk), Elizabeth Lamb (Recording Clerk) (36 Friends).

Query: Sally Ferguson presented the query: “How does our Meeting help to create and maintain a society whose institutions recognize and do away with the inequities rooted in patterns of prejudice and economic convenience? What steps are we taking to assure that our Meeting reflects our respect for all and are free from practices rooted in prejudice?”

Discernment

Green Friends: On behalf of Green Friends Katie Braun reported that Quaker Earthcare Witness has requested to hold their biannual meeting at Atlanta Friends Meetinghouse April 20 – 23, 2017. Roy Taylor then explained that Quaker Earthcare Witness is a wider Quaker organization comprised mainly of yearly meeting representatives who meet twice a year at various meetings to work on matters crucial to the Earth's health. He expects there to be 25 – 30 people attending. In addition to their meetings they plan to hold a potluck dinner on Saturday open to any from AFM who wish to attend. They have already discussed their proposed meeting with the Hospitality Committee, the Office Coordinator and Green Friends at AFM.

- **Minute 06-19-2016-01:** *Atlanta Friends Meeting approves inviting Quaker Earthcare Witness to hold their meeting at the meetinghouse April 20 – 23, 2017.*

Reports

Religious Education: On behalf of the Religious Education Committee Jennifer Dickie reported that the teaching positions for 2nd grade through high school have been filled. There is still need for five or six teachers, each teaching once a month, for the 3 and 4 year old class and the Kindergarten – 1st grade class. This year's focus is Quaker Values. Please see Jennifer if you feel called to this service. There will be a workshop for all teachers at the end of July. With 61 children currently attending First Day School on a regular or semi-regular basis, the program will need six classrooms beginning the second week of August. With the nursery needs and the faith and play curriculum, the Religious Education wing will work best divided into five classrooms. The need for a sixth space has been brought to Ministry and Worship and to Administration seeking both a short-term and a long-term solution for this wonderful problem. The short-term solution is to divide one of the classrooms into two classes, which would curtail the creative expression portion of the lessons. RE is now asking the Business Meeting to brainstorm possible long-term solutions. The following suggestions were brought forward: (1) have the two classes divided for the first part of the lesson, then combine them for the crafts, (2) have supplies on a rolling cart in order to do crafts in the atrium or outside, depending on weather, (3) have a "tiny house" built on site to be used as a classroom, (4) use the library temporarily for class, with the small worship group meeting earlier in the meeting room (which would also allow the teachers to attend worship before teaching), (5) find a way to use the outdoor space, (6) rotate days off, with a different class off each First Day so that only 5 classes met on any given day, (7) have one class meet outdoors, no matter what the weather (with rain gear, coats, etc. provided as needed) If you have other suggestions, please see Jennifer.

Nominating Committee: On behalf of the Nominating Committee Ron Nuse reminded the meeting that the term of service for teachers is one year from July through June. He then presented the following names for teachers: Angie Love, Carol Gray, Elizabeth Valera, Blake Williamson, Kacy Brubaker, Brittney Thornbury, Gwen Davies, Beth Ensign, Maggie Hasbrouck and Katie Smillie. These names will be brought forth next month for approval.

Administration Committee: On behalf of Administration Committee Steve Collins asked Sue May to report on the greeting room. Sue May reported that for several weeks she has been freshening up the bulletin boards, tables, and pamphlet rack in the greeting room with an eye to removing outdated postings, featuring our various Quaker organizations, and giving space for both our committees and our community handouts. She said that she has had feedback from both committees and individuals, but invites everyone to take a look at the various displays in the greeting room. Do they communicate our beliefs? our work? our community involvements? Let her know.

One aspect of tidying up has been to clean in the hidden places near some of the areas where there are bulletin boards, such as behind the pamphlet rack and in the sliding window tracks. A friend is helping her remove the dirt and mold in those areas. In fact, the window tracks throughout the building needed cleaning, and they expect to complete this next Wednesday morning. These areas will need to be maintained once or twice a year.

Sue will be out of town all summer and is trusting us all to be “ministers to the bulletin boards” while she is gone!

Mike Aland, Personnel Liaison, then reported that our current nursery caregiver is moving away from Atlanta, so he has begun the search for a new nursery caregiver to begin in August. If you know anyone interested, let Mike know. This is a paid position. There is a possibility of staffing with several people on a rotating basis, so let him know if you would be interested in that option.

Steve Collins then reported that Administration has been considering ways to rework the outdoor space, but that they need someone to head that project. Let Administration know if you are interested or want to suggest someone for the job.

Quaker Voluntary Service: Liz Nicholson, city coordinator for QVS, thanked and recognized AFM for helping with the start-up of QVS and continuing to help with the Atlanta chapter. The national group will soon meet to determine the next city in which to begin a QVS program. The clerk of the local support group, Kelsey McNicholas, is stepping aside and the new clerk will be Julie Hliboki. This committee is under the care of Ministry and Worship. In the fall 8 new fellows will move into the new, larger house. These volunteers will be introduced and needs for the new house will be published in the newsletter. Finally, there will be a closing celebration for this year’s fellows on July 17 at Jenny and David Foster’s house.

Ministry and Worship Committee: On behalf of Ministry and Worship Sally Ferguson reported that they are reworking the guidelines for greeters and closers. There is concern that latecomers and the general activity in the first 15 – 20 minutes of meeting reduces the time meeting has to center down into deep worship. Ministry and Worship welcomes your thoughts. The meeting room seating will remain as it is.

Bethany Nanamaker and Steve Morrison have asked to be married under the care of the meeting. A meeting for clearness was held and the members of the clearness committee (David Foster, Ashley Wilcox, Steve Collins and Sally Ferguson) feel they are clear for marriage under the care of the meeting. They plan to exchange the following vows:

Both: I choose to marry you.

I choose to build a happy, weird, and loving home with you, our own civilization.

I choose to learn and grow with you, to explore and adventure with you,

And to experience life’s ups and downs with you.

With the support of our community, guided by the Inner Voice,

Bethany: I promise to talk with and listen to you even when it’s hard.

I promise to be the guardian of your solitude and an encouragement in your pursuits.

I promise to love you and to attend to our relationship faithfully.

Steve: I promise to celebrate you.

I promise to show you the colors you don’t notice and how they are instances of the light.

I promise to love you and to attend to our relationship faithfully.

The marriage will be brought forth next month for approval.

Announcements

Lissa Place, Assistant Clerk, made the following announcement:

The meeting has become aware of a long-standing pattern of an older male member of our community approaching young women seeking personal meetings that are seen as inappropriate and threatening.

These approaches have persisted even when the offers have been declined. We want the meeting to be a safe and comfortable place for all.

The Clerk (Betsy Eggers) has appointed an ad hoc committee and have asked the following Friends to serve on the committee: Mary Ann Downey (Clerk); Sally Ferguson, Nan O'Connor, Julie Hliboki, Clive Gordon, Bill Holland, and Steve Collins. The committee is charged with three objectives:

1. To alert the meeting of a pattern of sexual harassment by an older male member of meeting and encourage anyone who feels they have been a target by anyone to contact the committee or clerk of meeting.

The committee should see that business meeting, the discussion group and the meeting community is alerted to this ongoing problem and any further incidents acted upon promptly.

Proposed Announcement:

We want our meeting to be a safe and comfortable place for all. We have learned that an older male member of our community has been seeking to connect with young women in meeting through conversation, phone and email communication seeking personal meetings that are perceived as inappropriate and threatening. If you are contacted and feel threatened, we recommend you say no in a direct and immediate manner and report the contact to the clerk of meeting. Report any subsequent attempts to contact you.

2. To meet with the individual, to confront him with his pattern of behavior and establish clear boundaries with expectations and consequences. To form a plan of action that would include support for the individual and the opportunity to restore his place in the community.

3. Develop recommendations on a sexual harassment policy for the meeting.

Minutes of April 2016:

- Steve Collins noted that he had proposed a slight change in the wording for his report concerning the Burundi community's plan for establishing an Evangelical Friends Church.

Meeting closed with Silent Worship.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Lamb, Recording Clerk
Lissa Place, Assistant Clerk



Please Hold in The Light:

Carol Murphy,
Cousin to Greg Johnson;
Bill Deck

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: 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
Finance: Paul Mangelsdorf, 770-677-4280
Social Concerns: Chris Kohler, chriskohler@mailc.net
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Calendar for Seventh Month (July) 2016

Area Meetings for Worship

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| 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. |

Regular Events at the Meetinghouse

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| Every First Day (Sunday) | 9:00 - Adult Religious Ed, Library 9:30 - Singing, Classroom A/B 10:00 - Meeting for Worship 5:00 - Atlanta Mennonite Fellowship, Meeting Room |
| Second Day (Monday) | Every other Monday at 6:30 - Spiritual Nurture Group, Library (contact Lewis Fuller for info on how to join) |
| Third Day (Tuesday) | 6:00 - Alex Zinnes Yoga, Nursery Second and fourth Tuesdays at 7:00 - Deep Waters Center for Prayer & Exploration, Meeting Room |
| Fourth Day (Wednesday) | 8:30 a.m. Morning Worship, Library First and third Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m. Worship at David & Freer Jarvis' home |
| Fifth Day (Thursday) | 7:00 p.m. Bible Discussion, Library |
| Sixth Day (Friday) | Every third Friday, Meeting for Business, Meeting Room |
| 18 th of Each Month | Newcomers Welcome Dinner, rotating location |

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.

To receive the Newsletter via e-mail, send a blank e-mail to afmnewsletter-subscribe@yahoogroups.com from the address where you want to receive the newsletter. You will receive a note back from Yahoo asking you to confirm your subscription; hit reply and you will be added to the list at no charge. To receive general announcements and to participate in discussion, follow the same instructions, but address the note to afmdiscussion-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. To receive announcements relating directly to the life of the meeting, send the same note to afmannouncements-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.