

ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING NEWSLETTER

September 2016



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

The Care Quilt Story

Submitted by Mary Ann Downey

In 2013 I had a stroke that affected my vision and balance. As I lay in the hospital feeling the room spinning, the prayer, "Come Lord, be with us, and bless what thou hast given to us," often came to mind. I wondered why it was the prayer of my heart, but accepted the comfort it gave me. One very tangible blessing came to me when AFM members Pete and Renda McCaughan visited and brought the Meeting's Care Quilt, made of squares stitched by Friends, and passed around to those in need. It didn't occur to me when I helped make the quilt that I would need it, but the experience of resting and recovering under it was a daily dose of wonderful medicine. It was a great way to be literally 'under the care of the meeting'. The Care Quilt also brought compliments and questions from the hospital staff and gave me a chance to tell them about the loving support I had from our Quaker community.

In May this year, Julie Hliboki took the same Care Quilt to Jenny Foster at Emory Hospital while she rested after surgery. Julie wrote, "I wish you could have been present when I saw Jenny after surgery with the AFM Care Quilt. She wrapped it around her and was thrilled to have it. Over the past two days, she has been telling all who entered her hospital room about it with great love and affection. People have responded likewise. I am so happy that she has it for her recovery time." When asked for her reflections, Jenny wrote, "I have thought of the many ways this quilt has brought comfort to me since my surgery. There are specific material ways. Its softness is palpable every way it is applied. Unfolded, it has been my blanket; folded, it has been my back support, my front support, and a pillow under my head or under my knees. It has been a shawl in heavily air conditioned spaces. Sometimes I don't need it for any of those functions, but I want it by my side, anyway. The love and community from Atlanta Friends is imbued in every thread of it; and there is something very healing to have it near. When another Friend needs it, I will hurry to bring it to them, full of gratitude for my healing and eagerness to share the care and comfort that its presence carries."

These are just two of the many stories from members of our meeting community who have experienced the power of this symbol of our love. The Care Quilt was created when Sue May recruited volunteers to make squares for the quilt in 2000. She provided fabric and instructions as well as the final assembly. Each

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

QUERY

Is the Meeting concerned that human interaction with nature be responsible, guided by a reverence for life and a sense of the splendor of God's continuing creation? Are the decisions of the Meeting and its committees relating to the uses of property, goods, services, and energy made with sensitivity toward the environmental impact of those choices?

– Philadelphia Yearly Meeting



square was made with love and a prayer for healing. It hung in the greeting room between visits to Friends who needed it, but was kept in frequent circulation. It has been a healing presence to many Friends in our meeting for the last sixteen years.

Some of us have talked about the need for more than one care quilt for several years and recently Julie Hliboki offered to donate the fabric and work with me to make another. When she asked for volunteers, we quickly had enough Friends for two

more quilts. We will have at least one more this summer. The story of the care quilts continues.

SPICES and the Elementary Children

This year the children will be learning about Quaker Values in First Day School. In the elementary class we are starting by learning about Simplicity, the first S in SPICES. Join us as we seek to simplify our lives while also meeting the needs of our neighbors. Baskets will be outside the elementary classrooms to collect gently used items (clothes, toys, etc.) to be donated to a local children/family organization. If you have any questions please contact Kacy at KacyLeighBrubaker@gmail.com.

Sarah Walton to speak at End New Jim Crow Action Group September 14th at 7 pm

Please plan to attend the next End New Jim Crow Education Meeting to learn more about what we each can do to advocate for fair and impartial policing locally. We will meet at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation, at Cliff Valley Way and the northbound I-85 access road between Druid Hills Road (exit 89) and Clairmont Road (exit 91). The main entrance is off of the I-85 access road.

Our speaker will be attorney, Sarah Walton, from our Meeting, who will share resources from a toolkit she is developing for individuals and groups to use to learn more about the police policies, training, and practices in local communities to increase the safety for all. For examples using the suggestions in the toolkit, community members can obtain and review local police agency standards and training records and compare them with various model policies and training programs as well as, learn how to engage in community meetings and dialogues about police standards, training, transparency and accountability, especially with respect to racial profiling and the use of force. I hope to see many of you there.

Karen Morris, Damon Stewart, Dr. Jean Kennedy, for ENJC Education committee

Alternative to Violence (AVP) Basic/Advanced Workshop September 17-18

What: Two day workshop where participants learn new ways to find alternatives to violence via interactive exercises, games and role-plays

Where: Kennesaw State University, Burruss Institute, 3333 Busbee Dr NW, Kennesaw GA 30144, #317 KSU Center West Entrance

When: September 17-18 9:30am-5:30pm (Saturday & Sunday), open to all.

Cost: Suggested donation: \$20.00. Lunch is provided both days. No one excluded due to lack of funds.

More information: Facebook at "AVP Atlanta" and www.avpusa.org, Karen at [404-797-8079](tel:404-797-8079)

Register: Email georgiaavp@gmail.com

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. All facilitators at AVP workshops are unpaid volunteers. Additional dates are October 15-16 (Basic/Advanced) and November 12-13 (Training 4 Facilitators)

Immersed in Prayer: The Fourth Annual Gathering of Friendly Mystics

September 30 – October 3 at Cenacle Center, Chicago Illinois

The retreat starts at 5:30 pm Friday, September 30th. 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. Activities Highlights include the Mystics' Open Mic and an Art Fair. To Register, contact Michael Resman at reesmanmh@aol.com for a registration form, to be completed and received by September 1st, 2016. Participation is limited to the first 25 registrants. Questions regarding scholarships can be directed to Mike at resmanmh@aol.com.

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business – August 21, 2016

Recorded pending approval

Attendance: Mike Aland, Paul Baker, Don Bender, Rebecca Burley, Sallie Carpentier, Linnis Cook, Cheryl Cowherd, Dee DeBra, Mary Ann Downey, Julia Ewen, Sally Ferguson, Susan Firestone, Jenny Foster, Waman French, Jeremiah Gold-Hopton, Clive Gordon, Julie Hliboki, Bill Holland, Bill Hooson, Kathy Johnson, Suzan Kenworthy, Tom Kenworthy, J.J. Krehbiel, Lynn Leuszler, Georgia Lord, Becky Lough, Beth Martinson, Rick Martinson, Emmy Mathis, Kelsey McNicholas, Karen ter Horst Morris, Liz Nicholson, Ron Nuse, Lissa Place, Kedre Roca, Peter Schantz, Erin Schroder, Kelly Singer, Bert Skellie, Karen Skellie, Rebecca Sullivan, Brittney Thornbury, Elizabeth Tolmach, Jim Tolmach, Myrna Trapp, Sarah Walton, Ashley Wilcox, Pat Williams, Betsy Eggers (Clerk), Elizabeth Lamb (Recording Clerk) (50 Friends).

Query: Sally Ferguson presented the query: "Do I treat conflict as an opportunity for growth, and address it with careful attention? Do I seek to recognize and respect the Divine in those with whom I have a basic disagreement? Do I look for ways to reaffirm in action and attitude my love for the one with whom I am in conflict?"

Discernment

Suchitoto Fund Committee: On behalf of the Suchitoto Fund Committee Bert Skellie brought forward the committee description:

- **Minute 08-21-2016-01:** *Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the following committee description:*

THE SUCHITOTO FUND COMMITTEE

Approved XX/2016

Purpose: This committee is responsible for stewardship of a fund established by a gift from Frank Cummings. The purpose of the fund is to support youth development in the Suchitoto, El Salvador, area. A further goal is to turn over the funds to an El Salvador-based entity before 2021.

Membership: Members and attenders of the Atlanta Friends Meeting. The committee has at least three members/attenders including the Clerk of the Committee.

Meetings: Scheduled as needed, at least once a quarter. Meetings are open to all, with time and location announced at least a week in advance.

Duties:

1. Works with Cummings family members, former youth scholarship recipients and others to help establish or discover an entity in El Salvador which will be capable of responsibly administering a Youth Development Program in the Suchitoto area.
2. Approves expenditures associated with establishing the entity described in duty #1 above. Checks will be written only to organizations or to individuals who have no interest under the Last Will and Testament of Frank Cummings.
3. Reports at least quarterly to Monthly Meeting, including any expenditures since last report.
4. Prepares a narrative and financial report annually for the Meeting for Business.
5. Recommends to Monthly Meeting turning over remaining funds once an entity in El Salvador is determined by the Committee to be ready to accept the funds. Or recommends to Monthly Meeting an alternate course of action if no responsible entity has been found or established by December 31, 2020.
6. Adheres to wishes of Frank Cummings, as described in following summary by Lynn Leuszler and Paul Mangelsdorf:

On February 7th (2016) after Meeting for Worship, Lynn Leuszler and Paul Mangelsdorf met with Frank Cummings to discuss his proposed bequest to Atlanta Friends Meeting. Frank indicated that he planned to leave approximately \$140,000 to the Meeting for the Suchitoto Fund. He stated that he intended to leave the money from certain of his TIAA-CREF accounts. He expected that members of the meeting along with his sons would oversee the distribution of the funds. He wanted the funds to be used for education in El Salvador, continuing along the lines they have since the creation of the Suchitoto Fund (formerly the El Sitio Fund).

Lynn and Paul expressed the meetings gratitude for the donation to this ministry and for all of his work in El Salvador over the years.

The following issues /concerns were addressed with Frank:

- Paul stated that it is the practice of the meeting that any income earned from special purpose funds is credited to the general fund and is not credited to the special purpose fund. Frank indicated his agreement.
- Lynn asked if the donated funds could be used to cover any extraordinary expenses required to support the distribution of the funds (e.g., wire fees, bank fees, legal expenses etc.). Frank agreed that the funds could be used for such a purpose at the discretion of the Meeting.
- Paul inquired what would be the disposition of the funds if at some future date the meeting could not legally send funds to El Salvador or if at some future date the Meeting didn't feel it could support the ministry of the fund. Paul proposed that under those circumstances that the Meeting would not retain the funds for its own use, but rather would be permitted to donate the remaining funds to a charity of comparable purpose selected at the discretion of the meeting. Frank agreed that this was an acceptable alternative.

Bert Skellie further clarified that this committee replaces the present "Atlanta Central America Committee" and that the Suchitoto Fund replaces the present "Suchitoto Scholarship Fund," with any funds remaining in the scholarship fund to be transferred to the new fund. The new committee and fund will include but go beyond scholarships. Proposed members of the new committee are Bert Skellie, Clerk (subject to review by Nominating Committee and approval by Monthly Meeting), Don Bender, Paul Mangelsdorf, Lynn Leuszler, Judy Lumb, Andrew Cummings and Jenny Foster. The Committee will also solicit other members to join in its work. The Committee has been in touch with a US-based nonprofit which has tentatively agreed to supervise the work and expenses of Andrew Cummings and others in El Salvador. Andrew and others will be leading the development of an entity in Suchitoto which will take on the Youth Empowerment work. That entity and its development will be supported by the AFM Suchitoto Fund. Finally, Bert reported that the Suchitoto Fund Committee has tentatively agreed to make the following two donations to institutions which Frank Cummings had requested be supported and which fit

within the general wishes for the Suchitoto Fund: \$27,000 to the Cummings Family Scholarship Fund and \$10,000 to INSU, a local high school.

SAYMA position: The clerk reported that three members of Atlanta Friends Meeting have applied for the job opening at SAYMA. She read a letter of recommendation and support which states that all three are in good standing with the meeting and are worthy candidates for the position.

- **Minute 08-21-2016-02:** *Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the letter of recommendation read by the Clerk, Betsy Eggers and recommends that it be forwarded to SAYMA.*

Reports

Sexual Harassment Ad Hoc Committee: On behalf of the Ad Hoc Committee Mary Ann Downey reported they have made an announcement requesting that anyone who has felt harassed report it to the committee. The committee has met with the man accused of harassing women, sent a formal letter to him regarding the behavior and is working toward restoring right relationship between him and the meeting. The committee is currently working on an AFM policy regarding harassment based on the FGC Gathering Policy or a minute from La Jolla Meeting which they will bring forward next month. It was suggested that a threshing meeting or an educational forum be set up around the issue and Mary Ann agreed that the committee would set one up.

Ministry and Worship: On behalf of Ministry and Worship Sally Ferguson reported that Bethany Nanamaker and Steve Morrison were married under the care of the meeting on August 6, 2016. Ashley Wilcox read their promises to the meeting. She stated that in working on this marriage committee some gaps in the marriage guidelines became apparent and that she plans to work with Ministry and Worship on clarifying the guidelines. Sally Ferguson then reported that Bob Lackey has moved to N.C. and has requested that his membership be moved to the Asheville meeting. The letter of transfer to the Asheville clerk was read. Finally Sally reported that there have been complaints that the number of latecomers to meeting makes it difficult for some f/Friends to center. This past week 84 people were counted entering after 10 AM. Ministry and Worship asks that friends consider how we can individually contribute to a spirit-led meeting for worship.

Police/Community Safety Project: On behalf of the Police/Community Safety Project Sarah Walton and Emmy Mathis reported on progress and needs to date. Sarah Walton stressed the urgent need to bring compassion to changing police policies and practices and to involve communities in the healing process. She, Gabby Hammons and Emmy Mathis are working on tool kits which provide step by step guides on how to obtain information, review it and then engage one's local community and police department to change policies to the benefit of all. At present, through repeated trauma, minorities are afraid of the police and the police are afraid of them. Education and compassion are needed to overcome this fear. Starting where we live people are needed to test these tool kits, host support groups and hold dynamic compassion workshops. The goal is to eventually function at a national level with resources available online. In the beginning the group will focus on three toolkits dealing with: police based bias, overuse of force and obtaining consent for searches. Financial support is needed, especially to pay stipends to those putting in many hours (to date well over 400 hours), to provide materials and to launch the website. It has been suggested that the project set up a 501(c)3 corporation, which will also require a financial input. One means of support is through the Special Leadings line in the budget. Members can make donations to AFM, indicating "for special leadings" to help support Sarah's leading. The group is also requesting \$500 from the Social Concerns Fund at this time to help with applying for 501(c) 3 status. Any help with this process would be greatly appreciated. Meeting the continuing need for funds will become easier once nonprofit status is achieved, but that process takes time and the need to get people engaged as a

community and show others how to engage compassionately is immediate. On behalf of the **Finance Committee**, Karen Morris and Lynn Leuszler reported that there is a budgeted line item of \$2000 per year for special leadings. Recent donations have been credited as a contra expense. The line item currently has a balance of \$1050 which Lynn Leuszler, treasurer will write to Sarah Walton now. If there are more donations this year, additional funds can be written to Sarah between now and the end of the year.

- **Minute 08-11-2016-03:** *Atlanta Friends Meetings supports Sarah Walton's leading to work for racial justice in the criminal justice system. The Meeting approves disbursement of \$1050 to Sarah Walton, to be drawn from the line item for Special Leadings in the AFM budget.*
- **Minute 08-21-2016-04:** *AFM approves that \$500 from the Social Concerns Fund be given to Sarah Walton to continue to work on setting up a 501(c)3 corporation for the project.*

Quaker Voluntary Service: On behalf of QVS JJ Krehbiel reported that he and CJ Green will be staying in Atlanta, Laura Landaw will return to New York and Adrian Nelson will go to Tacoma to work with L'Arche there. He then read a brief Epistle from the four of them to AFM. Liz Nicholson reported that seven new fellows will be arriving in two weeks. They will be welcomed on September 18 at the newcomers' dinner and then they will host the dinner on October 18. The new support committee has been formed.

Nominating Committee: On behalf of the Nominating Committee Ron Nuse brought forward: Bert Skellie as clerk of the newly formed Suchitoto Fund Committee, Pat Williams, Mary Jahntz and Sally Ferguson as religious education teachers for 2016-2017, and Mark Bryans, John Carpentier, Sallie Carpentier, Joan Thompson, Fred Stevens, Caroline Morris and Mike Aland as members (reappointed) of the Ferguson Cabin Committee. These names will be brought forward next month for approval. Ron Nuse then reported that there will be a Committee Fair on September 25th. This is a chance for committee clerks or representative to showcase their committees and for members and attenders to what is happening at AFM. If you have ever wondered what a particular committee does, this will be the time to find out.

Ferguson Cabin Stewards Committee: The clerk reported that she had received a report from the committee, but that it was too late to fit into the agenda. That report will be presented next month. She asked what information AFM would like to have included in an annual report. Suggestions were: the number of days used (by how many people, whether it was the same people multiple times or different people, their ages, whether members of meeting or not), how to find out when cabins were available, an expense report (showing funding, rental fees, expenses), needs, and the long-term vision for the property.

Minutes of July, 2016:

- **Minute 08-21-2016-05:** *The Minutes of the July 2016 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business were approved as submitted.*

Announcements

The search committee has hired a nursery caregiver. Amanda Gendreau is a current attender at AFM with her husband Craig, and her infant son Rory. She is a preschool teacher at Lake Windward Elementary, and a Parent Advisor, and State-wide Trainer with Georgia PINES, (Georgia Parent Infant Network for Education Services). She also has current first aid and CPR training. She has been a volunteer in the nursery.

Meeting closed with Silent Worship.

Respectfully submitted by: Elizabeth Lamb, Recording Clerk; and Betsy Eggers, Clerk



Please Hold in The Light:

Claire Loe, in cancer treatment at MD Anderson;
Margie Rece, adjusting to memory care facility
Walter Stevens, brother of Fred Stevens;

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
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Calendar for Ninth Month (September) 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
Sixth Day (Friday)	11:00-11:45 a.m. – East Lake Commons, Decatur. Contact Bert Skellie at bertskellie@gmail.com or 404-680-4799. (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

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.

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