

# ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING NEWSLETTER

## September 2017



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

### Memorial Minute for Maria Ladd

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Maria Barbara Lenz was born in Pomerania, Germany, in the town of Wittkow, on December 3rd, 1925. After getting an education through her younger years, she was the last to leave her family farm during World War II, where her father, Anton Lenz, a seed potato farmer, and her mother, née Martha Brose, had predeceased their nine children. As the Russians stormed in from the Eastern Front, she left home in 1945, got a ride on the back of a truck to the train station of the local town, eventually making her way to Bremen. As a refugee in Bremen, she first encountered Quakers at a soup kitchen, and clothing center and went to college there to become a teacher. She met and married Edward T. Ladd, a civilian working with the Allied Military Government. They moved to New Haven Connecticut in 1948, and to Atlanta in 1958 when Edward became head of the Education Department at Emory University.

She became active in the work of Atlanta Friends Meeting for integration of the Atlanta public schools under the leadership of John Yungblut. With Dwight Ferguson as a mentor, she was hired by the meeting in 1978 to work 20 hours a week to coordinate the meeting's outreach for Social Concerns. She reported, "The job was demanding, but it gave me a good education!" Maria worked with community organization with parallel concerns, especially the Christian Council, and on behalf of the Meeting, acquired a film, "War Without Winners", showing it in many forums and workshops including the dedication of the King Center in Atlanta.

She was also active with the southeast regional American Friends Service Committee, in local work for Friends Committee on National Legislation programs and with the World Council of Churches. In 1984, with support from the Meeting, Maria went to the Soviet Union as one of 262 church delegates in an exchange program between the World Council of Churches and the Russian Orthodox Church. She remained active in the meeting until her move to Friends House in Sandy Springs, Maryland for retirement. When she offered her spiritual journey to Atlanta Friends she posed the questions, how do we meditate and how can we be still. Her answer was that meditation is about emptying our minds, letting go of our attachments and our individualism. She was a deep thinker, and her messages in Atlanta Meeting offered insight and wisdom from a centered place.

She was a mother of two children, Christopher and Monica, and a grandmother, a supporter of civil rights, a party-giver for academic, political, and social gatherings, a potter, a graduate of the Atlanta College of Art, a

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

### QUERY

PEACE

Are you willing to work cooperatively with those of other faith traditions to promote peace and justice, and to help the poor, marginalized, and disadvantaged?

- **Queries/open-ended questions for interfaith peace makers**  
<https://universalistfriends.org/weblog/queriesopen-ended-questions-for-interfaith-peace-makers>
- **Friends Consider Peace**  
<http://www.fgcquaker.org/resources/quakers-consider-peace>

sculptor, an instructor of art history at Atlanta Area Technical School, and always a gardener. She asked pointed questions, was an elegant dresser, and committed to peace and justice.

She was predeceased by her husband, Edward in 1973 and is survived by her children Christopher Ladd (Christine), Monica Ladd (Oliver Frederick Clark), grandchildren, Maria Alexandra Clark, Joanna Lenz Ladd, Thatcher Bondi Ladd and Nikita Robitscher Ladd.

### **Lives and Callings: the Spiritual Journey – September 3<sup>rd</sup>**

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All are invited to come to the meeting library at 9 am on the first Sunday in each month to listen to how one Friend in our meeting answers questions of God's leadings as well as questions about what brings them to this meeting, what led them to become a member or why not, and what they believe now. Anna Hutto will share her journey on September 3<sup>rd</sup> and Susie Lippold on October 1<sup>st</sup>. 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.

### **Alternatives to Violence (AVP) Workshop – September 9<sup>th</sup>**

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We are trying to train new facilitators to work with youth, community, and especially in prison settings. It takes three workshops to earn your facilitator status. The AVP Workshop series consists of 3 workshops: Basic/First Level, Advanced/Second Level and Training 4 Facilitators. Those who complete all three workshops are eligible to apprentice on workshop facilitation teams and to become AVP facilitators. The September workshop will be a Basic/First Level workshop only. If you have already attended an AVP workshop and earned your Basic certificate, see our workshop calendar for Advanced/Second Level workshop dates.

- **When:** Sept 9-10 9:00am-6:00pm (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.
  - **Who:** Open to all aged 18 and over.
  - **Cost:** Requested contribution: \$30.00. Lunch is provided both days. No one excluded due to lack of funds.
- \*\*\*All facilitators at AVP workshops are unpaid volunteers.\*\*\*

For more detailed information:

- **On the Web:** Facebook at "AVP Atlanta" and [www.avpusa.org](http://www.avpusa.org)
- **By Phone:** Call Karen at [404-797-8079](tel:404-797-8079)
- **To Register:** Email [georgiaavp@gmail.com](mailto:georgiaavp@gmail.com). REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Wednesday September 6<sup>th</sup>.

SAVE THE DATES! AVP 2017 Community Workshop Calendar

Dates*	Location**	Details
October 7-8	Kennesaw State University	Basic/First Level, open to all aged 18 +
November 4-5	Columbia Theological Seminary	Advanced/Second Level, open to participants who have completed the Basic/First Level workshop
December 9-10	Grady Memorial Hospital	Basic/First Level, open to all aged 18 +

\* All workshops take place Saturday and Sunday 9:00am-6:00pm

\*\*Exact workshop locations will be announced to registered participants.

## Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business – August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017

### Recorded pending approval

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**Attendance:** Mike Aland, Paul Baker, Beth-Ann Buitekant, Steve Collins, Cheryl Cowherd, Jennifer Dickie, Mary Ann Downey, Julia Ewen, Susan Firestone, Waman French, Clive Gordon, Bill Holland, Jack Honderd, Bill Hooson, Kathy Johnson, Art Jones, Teri Key-Hooson, Elizabeth Lamb, Lynn Leuszler, Becky Lough, Alison Mawle, John M. Michael, Caroline Morris, Karen terHorst Morris, Liz Nicholson, Lissa Place, Sara Patenaude, Aaron Ruscetta, Bert Skellie, Karen Skellie, Rebecca Sullivan, Rebecca Thornburley, Myrna Trapp, Sarah Walton, Pat Williams, Betsy Eggers (Clerk), Bethany Morrison (Recording Clerk) (37 Friends).

**Query:** Steve Collins presented the query for Eighth Month: "How do I maintain simplicity, moderation, and honesty in my speech, my manner of living, and my daily work? Is the life of our Meeting so ordered that it helps us to simplify our lives? Do I recognize when I have enough?"

### Discernments

**Nominating Committee:** On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Waman French brought forward the following names for approval:

- **Minute 08-20-2017-01:** Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Caroline Coburn-Allen for the position of Personnel Liaison, which is a three-year term beginning in January 2018.
- **Minute 08-20-2017-02:** Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Laura MacNorlin for the position of religious education teacher (preschool) for July 2017-June 2018.
- **Minute 08-20-2017-03:** Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Angie Love for the position of religious education teacher (lower elementary) for July 2017-June 2018.

**Suchitoto Fund Committee:** On behalf of the committee, Bert Skellie read the annual report of the committee's status and activities:

The Suchitoto Fund Committee was established in July 2016 as a result a large bequest by Frank Cummings to the Meeting's existing Suchitoto Fund. 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.

Since December 18, 2106, when we last reported to the Meeting, the Committee has reached agreement with a 501c3 nonprofit, "IDEAS," to supervise the work of a youth organization and other youth development work. The youth organization has now been established. Today we bring a minute for discernment for the Meeting to contract with that nonprofit (see below the minute and background, which is incorporated into this report).

As of August 11, 2017, the Suchitoto Fund had approximately \$131,000. Current members of the Committee include Don Bender, Andrew Cummings, Lynn Leuszler, Judy Lumb, Paul Mangelsdorf, and Bert Skellie (Clerk).

Bert Skellie also brought forward the following minute for discernment:

- **Minute 08-20-2017-04:** Atlanta Friends Meeting agrees to contract with IDEAS (The Institute for Development, Evaluation, Assistance and Solutions) as the financial and project manager for youth

development work in the municipality of Suchitoto, El Salvador. IDEAS will report to the AFM Suchitoto Fund Committee, which is responsible for stewardship of the AFM Suchitoto Fund. The fund was recently materially supplemented by a large bequest from Frank Cummings.

**Black Lives Matter Sign:** In the Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business in Seventh Month, Jennifer Dickie brought a request to plant a Black Lives Matter sign in the front yard of the meetinghouse. After much conversation, the meeting in July decided to continue and expand the conversation to more Friends by holding a forum after the Rise of Meeting on July 23rd. The Quakers for Racial Equality hosted the forum and 26 people attended.

At today's Meeting for Business and on behalf of Quakers for Racial Equality, Karen Morris shared a report on the forum, which utilized small group discussion to hear from more participants. To summarize, the participant groups had heartfelt conversation, sharing individual stories and referencing the history of oppressed peoples in this country. All groups were in favor of posting a Black Lives Matter sign outside the Meetinghouse.

She reported that most contentious discussions occurred around the query, "Is this a political statement?" There was not agreement about whether a BLM sign is political or personal.

Furthermore, there was a general sense that the sign would be a beginning, an outward symbol that every person is welcome. However, more work would need to be done by the Meeting to ensure that the testimony of equality, as indicated by the sign, would be practiced for Black lives inside the Meetinghouse.

The following friends were present for the forum:

Present: Olivia Frank, Ronald Nuse, Carolyn Manley, Micheal Allison, Sarah Walton, Brother John Adams, Folami Adams, Shahina Lakhani, Mark Watson, Bert Skellie, Cathy Amanti, Kumar, Gabrielle Hammons, (recording clerk), Elizabeth Lamb, Elizabeth Tolmach, Sara Patenaude, Julia Ewen, Art Jones, Penny Summers, Eric Glenn, Richard Allen, Rebecca Sullivan, Paloma Ackroyd-Esales, John Michael, Cheryl Cowherd, Karen Morris (clerk) (26 people)

The full report is on file with the recording clerk.

After Karen Morris shared the report, the participants of the August Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business considered the recommendation of the forum to post a Black Lives Matter sign. At the end of this conversation, the meeting voiced the following minute of exercise.

**Minute of Exercise:** There was broad and strong support at Meeting for Business for Eighth Month for planting a Black Lives Matter yard sign in the front yard of the meetinghouse. Individuals voiced disappointment and concerns about hurting friends of color in our community by a decision to not move forward with the sign right away. One individual, however, had strong concerns that a Black Lives Matter sign was not inclusive to other groups facing their own challenges. The individual left the meeting without standing aside. Following this action, several people expressed a leading to wait a month in order to work towards a sense of the meeting and to reach out to individuals with concerns about the sign decision. Three Friends in particular agreed to reach out to the individual who left the meeting. In addition, Waman French, Karen Morris, Jennifer Dickie, Lissa Place, Beth-Ann Buitekant, Julia Ewen, and Liz Nicholson

volunteered to make themselves available at the Rise of Meeting over the next month to talk with friends about the sign. This information will be shared during announcements at Rise of Meeting.

### **Reports:**

**Nominating Committee:** On behalf of nominating committee, Waman French brought forward Claire Hannapel for the position of religious education teacher (preschool) for July 2017-June 2018.

He brought forward Lynn Leuszler for the position of Treasurer, which would be a one-year extension of his current position ending in December 2018.

Finally, he brought forward Aaron Ruscetta for the position of Webmaster for January 2018-January 2019.

The names above will be brought forth next month for discernment and approval.

**Ministry and Worship Committee:** On behalf of Ministry & Worship, Steve Collins reported a membership request from Sara Patenaude. A meeting for clearness was held, and the members of the committee felt that she was clear for membership. Steve read Sara's letter requesting membership to the business meeting. In the letter, she discussed how the community has supported both her and her son Joe. She wrote "I have made great friendships and wonderful acquaintances, and feel at home every time I step into the Meetinghouse. Likewise, the testimony of SPICES serves as a daily reminder to strive to improve the impact I have on my friends, our community, and the physical world." A copy of the complete letter is archived with the recording clerk.

Sara's name will be brought forward next month for final approval.

**Administration Committee:** On behalf of the Administration committee, Steve Collins read the draft of the new Atlanta Friends Meeting Signage Policy, which will be brought forward for discernment at the Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business in Ninth Month. The following is the full draft of the new policy:

1. All installed and temporary signs should be reviewed by the Atlanta Friends Meeting (AFM) Administration committee before they can be approved and placed on Meeting grounds. Factors that the committee will consider in its review include size (number of square feet), general design, location (such as distance from street), length of time to be installed, materials to be used, other relevant factors listed in the latest City of Decatur sign ordinance, and compliance with basic Quaker "SPICE" principles (Simplicity, Peace, Integrity, Community, and Equality).
2. For signs to be placed by renters on the permanent metal sign near the parking lot entrance, the Administration committee will use the following criteria to determine which renter(s) may hang a sign there, assuming space is available: average number of days per month Meetinghouse space is rented by renter, average monthly rent paid by renter, and length of time that renter has been renting space at AFM.
3. Installed renter signage will be reviewed by the Administration committee annually prior to the beginning of the renewal period for each group's rental contract to determine if the signage will remain.

4. Renters must pay for the design, fabrication and installation of any signs they request, after first obtaining AFM's written approval.
5. The signage policy also covers temporary signs placed on the AFM "sandwich board" sign holder. This board is intended to accommodate removable/temporary signs for the Meeting, renters, forums, memorial services, and weddings. Those wishing to use the sandwich board should position it outside no sooner than two (2) hours before an event and return it to its storage place in the Meetinghouse immediately after the event.

In addition, Steve Collins informed the meeting that new AFM street-sign will include a row for the phrase "All Are Welcome" and the time of Worship services.

**Ad Hoc Archivist Committee:** On behalf of the Ad Hoc Archivist Committee, Rebecca Thornburley shared a report from the committee's initial meeting:

Three members of the Ad Hoc Archivist committee met on June 26 to look at the current state of the archives and try to make plans for how to manage them. The archives have been sorely neglected for the past decade, meaning the archival project is going to be a huge undertaking that will require the help of many Friends over an extended period of time. We brought forward ideas for how to manage this over time. Some ideas were work days where we ask Friends to volunteer to help us sort through the neglected archives to organize them. We also need to make firm decisions about what records we really need to keep and what we need to get rid of. We are going to look for input from other committees about what records related to their work they think should be saved. Digitizing the current records is also a task that will probably need to be undergone at some point.

We are thankful for the opportunity to serve the Meeting in this way. It is going to be a long process beginning with figuring out the best ways to proceed from here.

**Minutes of July 2017:**

- **Minute 08-20-2017-5:** The Minutes of the Seventh Month 2017 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business were approved with no corrections.

Meeting closed with Silent Worship.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bethany Morrison, Recording Clerk  
Betsy Eggers, Clerk



### Please Hold in The Light:

The family of Maria Ladd

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](mailto:afmclerk1@gmail.com)  
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### Calendar for Ninth Month (September) 2017

#### Area Meetings for Worship

Every First Day (Sunday)	10:00 a.m. – Meetinghouse (AFM), with a smaller group in the Library. 1:30 p.m. - Stone Mountain Friends Church (Evangelical), at Rock of Ages Lutheran Church, 5135 Memorial Dr, Stone Mountain, GA 30083
Every Third First Day	12:30 p.m. – Carrollton Friends Worship Group. St. Andrew's UMC Youth Center, 1106 Maple St.; contact Jean Hudson, <a href="mailto:judson30116@yahoo.com">judson30116@yahoo.com</a> or 678-378-3368; <a href="http://carrolltonfriends.org">carrolltonfriends.org</a> .
Every Second First Day	10:30 a.m. – Macon Friends Worship Group. Contact Diana Hensley, 478-227-8892; <a href="http://maconquakers.org">maconquakers.org</a>
Sixth Day (Friday)	11:00 a.m. – East Lake Commons, Decatur. Contact Bert Skellie at <a href="mailto:bertskellie@gmail.com">bertskellie@gmail.com</a> 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 7:00 - 8:30 pm: Semi-programmed worship at AFM. Contact Ashley Wilcox: <a href="mailto:ashleymwilcox@gmail.com">ashleymwilcox@gmail.com</a> , 206-300-5836.
Fifth Day (Thursday)	7:00 p.m. Bible Discussion, Library
Sixth Day (Friday)	Every third Friday, Meeting for Business, Meeting Room
18 <sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:atlantaquakers@gmail.com)

Clerk: Betsy Eggers, [afmclerk1@gmail.com](mailto:afmclerk1@gmail.com)

Treasurer: Lynn Leuszler, [afmtreasurer1@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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 20<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF EACH PRECEDING MONTH.**

To receive the Newsletter via e-mail, send a blank e-mail to [afmnewsletter-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto: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](mailto:afmdiscussion-subscribe@yahoogroups.com). To receive announcements relating directly to the life of the meeting, send the same note to [afmannouncements-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:afmannouncements-subscribe@yahoogroups.com).