

ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING NEWSLETTER



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

December 2017

Book Group Forming to Focus on People of Color

A new book group is forming to read writings by and about people of color. The first selection is Colson Whitehead's *The Underground Railroad* and readers will meet at the meetinghouse to discuss the first six chapters of the book on November 28 at 7:15 pm. All are welcome. Be on the lookout for future books and gatherings. Contact Susan Cole or Karen Morris with ideas or for more information.

Open House for The Friends School of Atlanta – Dec. 2nd

The Friends School of Atlanta (FSA) will be holding an Open House on Saturday, December 2, from 10:00 am to noon. We invite all families of children who will be age three through eighth grade next school year to drop in and meet with other FSA families, chat with teachers in their classrooms and tour the campus. No reservation necessary. Future Open Houses will be hosted on January 13, February 3 and April 14, always from 10:00 am to noon. If you'd like to attend a two-hour parent-only tour for a more in-depth introduction to FSA during the school day, please go to FSA's website at friendsschoolatlanta.org to see available tour dates. For more information, contact Nancy Bent, Director of Advancement and Admissions, at nancy.bent@friendsschoolatlanta.org or [404-373-8746 x8135](tel:404-373-8746).

Alternatives to Violence (AVP) Workshop – Dec. 9-10th

AVP workshops are a series of hands-on, experiential, workshops where participants learn how to respond nonviolently to situations where injustice, prejudice, frustration, and anger can lead to violent behavior. Learn proven strategies and methods for implementing nonviolent alternatives in your life.

Take this workshop for personal growth or as a first step toward volunteering as a workshop facilitator in the community or in our prisons.

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

QUERY

STEWARDSHIP

Do you practice simplicity in speech, dress, and manner of living, avoiding ostentation? Do you bear in mind that your standard of living is a material reflection of your spiritual convictions? Do you exercise stewardship of your possessions, sharing them with others? Are you careful in your choice of ways to use money, time, and energy?

- A Guide to Our Faith and Practice, Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association
http://sayma.org/online_documents/faith_and_practice/F&P2012final.pdf
- Being Friends Together - Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre
<http://together.woodbrooke.org.uk/asset.php?a=Q3162P1>

Location: Emory Faculty Office Building, adjacent to Grady Hospital
Saturday & Sunday, December 9th and 10th, 9:00 am-6:00 pm
Open to all aged 18 and over.
Register at [Eventbrite](#) (search for AVP in Atlanta, GA)

All AVP administrators and facilitators are volunteers. Lunch is provided both days and **registration is required by Wednesday, December 6th at 9:00 pm** for all participants. No one is excluded due to lack of funds. The AVP Workshop series consists of 3 workshops: Basic/First Level, Advanced/Second Level and Training for 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/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.

Holiday Bazaar December 10th – Calling Craftspeople and Artists

The Holiday Bazaar is coming! Are you a baker, a knitter, a woodworker? A crafts person or an artist? Whatever your medium, please consider bringing your items to sell at the annual **AFM holiday bazaar on December 10**. Proceeds from the sales of all goods go directly to you, the crafts person! Artist's participation cost is a donation to the middle school young friend's charity of choice. Contact Jennifer Dickie to reserve a table [404-313-8770](tel:404-313-8770), michaeljen@bellsouth.net

An Easy Way to Increase Financial Aid at FSA – Deadline December 15th

It is so simple to bring more financial aid dollars to The Friends School of Atlanta (FSA) without spending an extra dime. If you pay income taxes to the state of Georgia, you can redirect all or part of what you owe to a pot of financial aid money designated for FSA. To learn more about the program, the allowed tax credit amounts and how to participate, just go to the Apogee Scholarship Fund website at apogee123.org and fill out your application for a 2018 tax credit by the **application deadline of December 15, 2017**. Once your application is approved in January, you'll have 60 days to pay the money to Apogee. Then when you file your 2018 state income tax return, the money you would have owed to the state is now a tax credit that has gone to support diversity at The Friends School of Atlanta. We have raised nearly \$70,450 in 2018 tax credit funds to date. Thanks to our friends for these funds! Our goal is \$120,000! For more information, contact Nancy Bent, Director of Advancement and Admissions, at nancy.bent@friendschoolatlanta.org; [404-373-8746](tel:404-373-8746) x8135.

Recruiting an Administrative Assistant for SAYMA

I am writing to you on the part of the Personnel Committee to ask for your help in advertising a job opportunity in SAYMA. Our yearly meeting is seeking an administrative assistant as our current AA, Liz Dykes, is retiring from the position as of July 2018. The job is part-time, 53 hours per month. It does not carry health benefits, but does include a payment in addition to the hourly wage to use toward the purchase of health care insurance as well as a short-term illness bank of leave days. The administrative assistant attends our representative meetings (2) and the yearly meeting gathering in early summer. The person hired can work out of his/her home and can flex hours as work load ebbs and flows.

A job description and an application form for that position can be found at sayma.org. We are accepting applications now through February 15, 2018. If you have questions please contact Barbara Esther, Assistant Clerk of SAYMA and clerk of the Personnel Committee at (828) 683-4839 or cell/text (828) 301-4845, or barbaraannesther@gmail.com.

Message from Transferred Member Sharon McDonnell

The following is from Sharon McDonnell, who has requested her membership be transferred to Portland (Maine) Friends Meeting. She and her son, Morgan, were active in this meeting, and she joined AFM in 1998. They moved to New England in 2001.

Dear Friends and Clerk Greetings!

I am a member of AFM but way back in 2001 I left the southeast to move to New England. All these years later I realize I have found a new home and would like to transfer to the Portland Maine Friends Meeting.

What I do want everyone to know is that sometimes we do not know all the lives that are nurtured by our care and efforts. Do not underestimate the importance to others that live at a distance but remain connected by memories, the newsletters, and Friendships with Meeting for Worship. Despite my distance the Atlanta Friends Meeting has been very important to me and changed my life. The Friends School (FSA) was where my son found a wonderful community and also joined the meeting. The Meeting was my spiritual home.

Thank you so much for your kindnesses to me and my family. Please stay in touch and welcome to all if you are in Maine.

Sincerely,

Sharon McDonnell

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business – November 19th, 2017 Recorded pending approval

Attendance: Mike Aland, Juan Allende, Cathy Amanti, Steve Collins, Danae Evans, Julia Ewen, Susan Firestone, Waman French, Josh Gough, Claire Hannapel, Jack Honderd, Bill Hooson, Suzan Kenworthy, Tom Kenworthy, Teri Key-Hooson, Kathy Johnson, Elizabeth Lamb, Lynn Leuszler, Susan Lippold, Georgia Lord, Paul Mangelsdorf, Alison Mawle, Kelsey McNicholas, Caroline Morris, Karen terHorst Morris, Liz Nicholson, Ronald Nuse, Lissa Place, Mina Rhee, Bert Skellie, Karen Skellie, Myrna Trapp, Sarah Walton, Pat Williams, Brent Wolff, Nanseera Wolff, Betsy Eggers (Clerk), Bethany Morrison (Recording Clerk) (38 Friends).

Query: Steve Collins shared the query for Eleventh Month: “Am I teaching my children, and do I show through my way of living, that love of God includes affirming the equality of people, treating others with dignity and respect, and seeing to recognize that of God within every person?”

Discernments

Nominating Committee: On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Ronald Nuse brought forward the following names for approval:

- **Minute 11-19-2017-01:** *Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Alison Mawle for the position of Clerk of Hospitality Committee for a three-year term beginning in January 2018.*
- **Minute 11-19-2017-02:** *Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Bill Holland for the position of Clerk of Meeting for a two-year term beginning January 2018.*
- **Minute 11-19-2017-03:** *Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Paul Mangelsdorf for the position of Clerk of Finance Committee, which is a one-year extension beginning in January 2018.*

Reports

Nominating Committee: On behalf of Nominating Committee, Ronald Nuse brought forward John Adams, Mark Watson, Richard Allen, Karen Morris, and Sara Patenaude for the positions of Appointed Members of Ministry & Worship Committee, which are 3-year terms beginning January 2018.

Ronald brought forward Clive Gordon for the position of Member of the Ministry & Nurture Committee of the Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association.

He also brought forward Bert Skellie for the position of Clerk of Social Concerns Committee, which is a 3-year term beginning in January 2018.

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

Ron also announced a withdrawal of nomination (the result of a miscommunication) for Kate Shropshire Swett as Newsletter Editor for January 2018-January 2019. While Nominating Committee looks for a replacement, Kate will continue to serve as Newsletter Editor, a service which may extend into early 2018.

Naming Committee: On behalf of the Naming Committee, Mina Rhee has brought forward the names of Myrna Trapp, Clive Gordon, Cathy Amanti, and Nanseera Wolff for positions on nominating committee. The names will be brought forward next month for discernment and approval.

Care & Counsel Committee: On behalf of Care & Counsel Committee, Bill Hooson shared that Georgia Lord, Elizabeth Tolmach, and Clive Gordon have resigned from the committee as they have been led to serve in new capacities. Ruby Williams and Karen Skellie have joined Care & Counsel, and the committee is looking forward to their contributions.

Care & Counsel has processed a new harassment/inappropriate behavior issue in the meeting. Members of the committee have met with two women who have accused a man of this behavior, and they have met with the man accused. The man accused has agreed to stay away from AFM meeting and meeting activities for one year.

Care & Counsel has created a new one-page "Welcome brochure" to replace the previous welcome packet. The meeting will discern the "Welcome Brochure" at next month's Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. If approved, the committee's next step will be to have a "Welcome Notebook" or Bulletin Board with more detail and information for newcomers.

Administration Committee: On behalf of Administration Committee, Steve Collins reported the following:

- The Black Lives Matter sign that the Meeting approved earlier this year has been installed.
- The new Meetinghouse storm drainage work and landscape/pathway lighting has been completed. Myrna Trapp put in new plantings where the drain pipe work was done.
- Beginning Dec. 1, 2017, Administration will conduct a six-month trial of a new staff position in the Meeting – that of "Property Coordinator." Jonah McDonald, AFM Office Coordinator, will fill the role during the trial period and collect information to help the committee re-define the job description and pay structure before Meeting for Business is asked to approve a new position.
- Based on input from members and attenders, Administration plans to place new signs on the two main Meetinghouse restrooms to indicate that they are "gender neutral". The initial signage will be temporary

(for three months). The goal is to make our space more welcoming and inclusive. Though it has taken various forms in other Meetings, the basic idea is to allow anyone to use either restroom. All we would have to do is label each with an inclusive symbol (such as a Man/Woman symbol) and the word “Restroom” and then identify what equipment is found in each restroom (such as “Urinal” or “Changing Table”). In this way, we would only identify what is in the restroom, not who can or cannot go into it. The committee asks for your comments and feedback during this trial period.

The report on gender-neutral restrooms led to a few comments: one Friend suggested that Administration consider changing the actual equipment in the bathroom to avoid the restroom-without-urinals becoming overused. Another Friend suggested symbols and/or signage on the doors that were gender non-binary rather than a man/woman symbol.

Finance Committee: In October Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, Finance Committee took charge of a request from SAYMA for input about revising the assessment system that informs SAYMA’s requests for financial contributions from monthly meetings.

On behalf of Finance Committee, Paul Mangelsdorf proposed the following response for consideration:

Atlanta Meeting has considered the SAYMA proposed guidelines for a Revised Assessment System. We are in unity with principles 1, 4 and 5. However, we do not think that a sized based assessment (as reflected in principles 2 and 3) is practical for a meeting of our size to implement. Further, we believe that a size based assessment system does not necessarily reflect each meeting’s financial resources and ability to pay the assessment. Accordingly, we propose the following:

1. We ask that SAYMA explore modifying the manner of determining Monthly Meeting assessments to one that bases Meetings’ assessments upon a percentage of the donations that were received by each Monthly Meeting during the prior calendar year.
2. To determine the potential impact of such a proposed change in policy, and to set an appropriate percentage for assessments, we recommend that SAYMA collect information from each of its member Monthly Meetings regarding the total amount of financial contributions received by each Meeting during the prior two years.

In addition, we think that SAYMA should seek to reduce its reliance on assessments as the only source of funding. Specifically, we recommend that SAYMA conduct an annual direct mail appeal for contributions.

After the proposal, a few questions were raised: how would death bequests factor into a donations-based approach to determining financial contributions? Given that AFM constitutes a sizable portion of SAYMA contributions, how would this proposal affect SAYMA? Would it result in a sizable change in our support to the organization?

After discussing our response to SAYMA’s request, Paul Mangelsdorf reported on the proposed 2018 budget for AFM. He provided worksheets and notes to explain the proposal, which are available from members of finance committee and from the recording clerk.

Ferguson Cabins Committee: On behalf of the committee, Mark Bryans read the annual Ferguson Cabins Report 2016-2017, which summarizes cabin usage, rental income, yearly expenses, completed work projects of the year, upcoming projects, cabin renovations, and current cabin stewards and committee members. Please contact Caroline Morris or the recording clerk for the complete report.

Ministry & Worship Committee: On behalf of the committee, Steve Collins reported a request to transfer membership. Sharon McDonnell has requested her membership be transferred to Portland (Maine) Friends Meeting. She and her son, Morgan, were active in this meeting, and she joined AFM in 1998. They moved to New England in 2001. A letter has been written to Portland Friends Meeting stating she is a member at AFM and is requesting her membership be transferred to PFM.

AFM Suchitoto Fund Committee: Bert Skellie updated the meeting on Committee activity since the annual report was presented in August 2017:

Since the Committee's annual report was prepared on August 16, the Meeting approved the minute for contracting with the 501c3 nonprofit, IDEAS. The Meeting paid IDEAS \$31,800 to supervise the work of a youth organization and other youth development work in Suchitoto. We have also paid IDEAS \$31,000 for scholarships, which IDEAS will help administer. The total remaining in the Suchitoto Fund as of 11-16-17 was approximately \$68,200.

Minutes of October 2017:

- **Minute 11-19-2017-04:** *The Minutes of the Tenth Month 2017 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business were approved with a minor correction.*

Announcements:

If you haven't already done so, Committees, please send brief, end-of-the-year reports to the Clerk of Meeting for our State of the Meeting report for SAYMA.

Several members of Finance Committee have been led to other projects. Paul Mangelsdorf encourages Friends to join Finance Committee! Friends can show up at Finance Committee meetings on Second Sunday or get in touch with Paul to learn more.

Liz Nicholson shared her own work on QVS's social media presence and an interest in improving the social media presence of AFM in collaboration with other Friends. Please get in touch with Liz if you share her interest.

Betsy Eggers shared an interest in a small project quantifying the amount of volunteer hours donated to AFM each month, and asked whether other Friends are interested in pursuing the question with her. Claire Hannapel shared her interest in the project. If other Friends share their interest, please reach out to Betsy.

Meeting closed with Silent Worship.

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



Please Hold in the Light:

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
Administration: Steve Collins, shcollins75@gmail.com
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Calendar for Twelfth Month (December) 2017

Area Meetings for Worship

Every First Day (Sunday)	10:00 a.m. – Meetinghouse (AFM), with a smaller group in the Library. 10:30 a.m. – Peachtree Friends Meeting (Christian-friendly, affirming, open to all), 3980 Florida Ave, Norcross GA, peachtree.quaker.org 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, judson30116@yahoo.com or 678-378-3368; carrolltonfriends.org .
Every Second First Day	10:30 a.m. – Macon Friends Worship Group. Contact Diana Hensley, 478-227-8892; maconquakers.org
Sixth Day (Friday)	11:00 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 7:00 - 8:30 pm: Semi-programmed worship at AFM. Contact Ashley Wilcox: ashleymwilcox@gmail.com , 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 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: atlantaquakers.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 afmannouncement-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.