

# ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING NEWSLETTER



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

## March 2018

### **Gathered Meeting Retreat – May 4-6th**

AFM's Gathered Meeting Retreat will be Friday, May 4th – Sunday, May 6th at the beautiful Charlie Elliot Retreat Center, about 1-¼ hours east of Atlanta. Come enjoy community and deepen Friendships as we explore our retreat theme: *Building stronger community through deep, compassionate, careful listening*. Folami Adams will be our facilitator.

All ages are welcome. Family registrations, as well as full and partial Scholarship requests, are due April 6. Adult registration deadline is April 20. Hope everyone can attend! Questions? Email Clive at [cmgord28@gmail.com](mailto:cmgord28@gmail.com).

### **Intergenerational Dinner & Discussion – March 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm**

Come join Quaker Voluntary Service (QVS) Fellows in monthly intergenerational potluck dinner and discussions. Evening themes will include topics like racism, sexism, sexual fluidity, gender fluidity, etc. Our hope is to bridge intergenerational divides and foster meaningful conversation.

The first Dinner and Discussion will take place at Atlanta Friends Meeting on Tuesday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. We invite Friends to bring a dish to share and an open mind. Look out for the upcoming discussion theme to be announced in the weekly announcement sheets! Or, contact the Atlanta QVS Fellows for more info: [atlantahouse@quakervoluntaryservice.org](mailto:atlantahouse@quakervoluntaryservice.org)

### **Book Group Meeting – March 13th**

The book group organized to read writings by and about People of Color will meet again on Tuesday March 13, 2018 at the Meetinghouse at 7:15 PM. We will be discussing the first half of *Americanah*, by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. All are welcome.

### **Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business – February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Recorded pending approval**

**Attendance:** Richard Allen, Micheal Allison, Carolyn Coburn-Allen, Mary Ann Downey, Julia Ewen, Sally Ferguson, Susan Firestone, Wendy Giere-Frye, Clive Gordon, Dwight Harriman, Suzan Kenworthy, Tom Kenworthy, Kathy Johnson, Elizabeth Lamb, Lynn Leuszler, Georgia Lord, Susan May, Caroline Manley, Karen terHorst Morris, Lissa Place, Bert Skellie, Karen Skellie, Henry Slack, Elizabeth Tolmach, Jim

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

#### QUERY

*In what ways do we  
support each other in  
our spiritual journeys, in  
our search for God's will  
and in our efforts to  
increase understanding  
of humanity's  
relationship to life on  
earth?*

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting,  
Faith and Practice

Tolmach, Myrna Trapp, Sarah Walton, Brent Wolff, Jackie Yates, Mark Yates, Bill Holland (Clerk), Steve Collins (Acting Recording Clerk) - 32 Friends

**Query:** Elizabeth Lamb shared the query for Second Month: "How are we engaged in the issue of racial justice and recognizing the contributions of people of color during Black History Month?" In response to the query, a Friend shared a recent experience with some young Friends that helped him see them as prophetic witnesses.

### **Discernment**

**Nominating Committee:** On behalf of Nominating Committee, Myrna Trapp brought forward Claire Hannapel's name for approval as Newsletter Editor.

**Minute 02-18-2018-01: Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Claire Hannapel as Newsletter Editor for a one-year term.**

**Naming Committee:** Bill Holland, Clerk of Meeting (who forms the Naming Committee), brought forward Clive Gordon's name for approval as Clerk of Nominating.

**Minute 02-18-2018-02: Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Clive Gordon as Clerk of Nominating Committee for a three-year term, 2018-2020.**

**Ministry & Worship:** Elizabeth Lamb, on behalf of Ministry & Worship, brought for approval the transfer of membership request for Elizabeth Tolmach. She read the letter from 57<sup>th</sup> Street Meeting of Friends, Chicago, releasing Elizabeth (attached).

**Minute 02-18-2018-03: Atlanta Friends Meeting approves receiving the transfer of membership of Elizabeth Tolmach from 57<sup>th</sup> Street Meeting of Friends. We joyfully welcome her to our fellowship.**

### **Reports**

**Ministry & Worship Committee:** Elizabeth Lamb reported that Ministry & Worship has recently received two requests for membership -- from Wendy Giere-Frye and Mark Yates. Membership clearness committees have been formed, and Ministry & Worship will provide updates at an upcoming meeting.

Elizabeth also reviewed the work Ministry & Worship has done on behalf of the Meeting related to making recommendations to the SAYMA Faith and Practice Revision Committee on behalf of the entire Meeting regarding proposed revisions to the SAYMA Guide to our Faith & Practice Queries. Ministry & Worship, while appreciating the SAYMA Committee's work, is recommending several changes to the proposed revisions and an additional round of revisions by Monthly Meetings. One key concern that Ministry & Worship is sharing with SAYMA is that many of the queries seem to invite a short paragraph as an answer rather than inviting deep contemplation. The specific suggestions are attached. The Meeting very much appreciates Ministry & Worship's work on this and looks forward to further updates as the revision process continues.

**Threshing Meeting Report:** Lissa Place provided a brief report on the January 28, 2018 threshing session that the Meeting requested after the Black Lives Matter sign was approved. The session was held around the query "Where there is distrust, injustice or hatred, how am I an instrument of reconciliation and love?" Fifty-four people attended, and most of the time was spent discussing the sub-query "How has racism impacted my life?" Friends shared from the heart and expressed interest in continuing this work in some form. Lissa, who clerked the session, is working with interested individuals to discern what these next steps might be. It seemed useful to people to have a forum to discuss racism as a community as sort of a "Meeting for Worship with Attention to Racism." We look forward to seeing where this work will lead as we take on anti-racism work as a Meeting instead of leaving all the work to a few people on a

committee. A written report will be made available and added to the Meeting minutes and the newsletter in the near future. A Friend expressed his appreciation for the threshing session and for those who attended.

**Suchitoto Fund Committee:** Bert Skellie shared the committee's quarterly report, prepared February 18, 2018. The purpose of the Suchitoto 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 the committee's last report (November 2017), future individual scholarship fundraising has been turned over to IDEAS, Inc., the non-profit which is managing the youth development project for the Meeting. A new youth-run non-profit will work to enhance entrepreneurial skills and employment opportunities for young people. The Association of Current and Graduated Scholarship Students from Suchitoto (ABESUCHI) is in the final stages of legalization, awaiting approval from the mayor. They plan to hire staff soon. The committee plans to turn over the balance of the Fund to ABESUCHI in stages, as they are able to use the money. Meanwhile, IDEAS has set up an account earning seven percent interest in a credit union in Suchitoto for scholarships and youth development work. As of February 13, 2018, the Fund had \$68,750 in the AFM account. Committee members include Don Bender, Andrew Cummings, Lynn Leuszler, Judy Lumb, Paul Mangelsdorf, and Bert Skellie (clerk).

**Administration Committee:** On behalf of this committee, Steve Collins provided updates on the committee's recent work, most of which was coordinated by Jonah McDonald (who is piloting the Property Coordinator staff position for the meeting). A new refrigerator was purchased for the Meetinghouse to replace the old one that was not very functional and needed repairs. The old one, instead of being discarded, was moved by volunteers to the QVS house to serve as the Fellows' downstairs "backup" refrigerator. The new, more welcoming signs for the restroom doors that were approved last month at Meeting for Business have been installed. A group of volunteers reinstalled the LED light strips in the greeting area. These energy efficient lights, which remain on all the time, were taken down about two years ago while leaks in the sprinkler system were being repaired.

**Minutes of January 2018:**

**Minute 02-18-2018-04: *The Minutes of the First Month 2018 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business were approved.***

**Announcements**

The Clerk announced 1) that the Annual Meeting of the Atlanta Friends Meeting Corporation was on January 21, 2018 and 2) the State of the Meeting Report has been sent to SAYMA.



**Please Hold in the Light:**

*Pat Williams*

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: Bill Holland, [afmclerk1@gmail.com](mailto:afmclerk1@gmail.com)
- Office Coordinator: Jonah McDonald, [atlantaquakers@gmail.com](mailto:atlantaquakers@gmail.com)
- Treasurer: Lynn Leuszler, [afmtreasurer1@gmail.com](mailto:afmtreasurer1@gmail.com)
- Ministry & Worship: Elizabeth Lamb, [gslpc@bellsouth.net](mailto:gslpc@bellsouth.net)
- Finance: Paul Mangelsdorf, 770-677-4280
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- Bookkeeper: Jonah McDonald, [afmbookkeeper1@gmail.com](mailto:afmbookkeeper1@gmail.com)

**Calendar for Third Month (March) 2018**

**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, <a href="http://peachtree.quaker.org">peachtree.quaker.org</a> 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:jhudson30116@yahoo.com">jhudson30116@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 a.m. - Adult Religious Ed, Library Every second Sunday, 9:30 a. m. - Singing, Classroom A/B 10:00 a.m. - Meeting for Worship 5:00 p.m. - Atlanta Mennonite Fellowship, Meeting Room
Second Day (Monday)	Every other Monday at 6:30 p.m. - 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: atlantaquakers.org, [atlantaquakers@gmail.com](mailto:atlantaquakers@gmail.com)**

**Clerk: Bill Holland, [afmclerk1@gmail.com](mailto:afmclerk1@gmail.com)**

**Treasurer: Lynn Leuszler, [afmtreasurer1@gmail.com](mailto:afmtreasurer1@gmail.com)**

**Are you a newcomer to the Atlanta Friends community?**

We would be happy to make you a permanent nametag. You can 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 Brent Wolff at [rbkwolff@gmail.com](mailto:rbkwolff@gmail.com). Please indicate if you want to be in the directory, receive the newsletter by mail, or both.

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. 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).