

ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING NEWSLETTER



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

April 2018

Gathered Meeting Retreat – May 4-6th

AFM's Gathered Meeting Retreat will be Friday, May 4th – Sunday, May 6th. Family registrations, as well as full and partial Scholarship requests, are due April 6. **Adult registration deadline is April 20.** To read more about this gathering, see page 2.

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

Intergenerational Dinner & Discussion – April 3rd 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.

Our second Dinner and Discussion will take place at Atlanta Friends Meeting on Tuesday, April 3rd 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

QUERY

*Do we find that we are
spiritually refreshed,
enriched and sustained
by Meeting for Worship?*

- Friends General Conference

Book Group Meeting – April 10th

The book group organized to read writings by and about People of Color will meet every second Tuesday of the month. Our upcoming meeting will be on Tuesday, April 10th at the Meetinghouse at 7:15 PM. We will be discussing the first half of Swing Time, by Zadie Smith. All are welcome.

Undoing Racism Workshop – April 13-15th

The People's Institute is hosting an Undoing Racism Workshop in April. Atlanta Friends has access to the community partner rate of \$200 for the workshop. If this cost is a barrier, Quakers for Racial Equality (QRE) and Social Concerns still has money in their budgets to support individuals interested in scholarship funds. Contact QRE Clerk, Susan Firestone, to learn more: susanfires@gmail.com

Lives and Callings: Spiritual Journey Sharing on First Sundays

On the first Sunday of each month, we listen to how one Friend in our meeting answers questions of God's leadings as well as questions about what brings them to the this meeting, what led them to become a member or why not, and what do they believe now. We call these stories of spiritual journeys, stories where Friends describe their understanding of God and religion in their life. Peter Sederberg will share on April 1st. Sara Patenaude will share May 6th. Come hear more: 9-9:55 on 1st Sundays in the library.

Quaker Men's Retreat – April 6-8th

Atlanta Friends Men's Retreat will take place Friday, April 6 through Sunday, April 8 at the Ferguson Cabins, one of the best places to get away from the city. We will canoe, hike, fish, be with nature, and offer space for self and group reflection. Cost is \$20/person per night plus cost of food. The retreat will start at 4 pm on Friday afternoon. We will conclude Sunday around 1 PM following a morning worship and a meal. Contact Eric Glenn ([770-899-3182](tel:770-899-3182); eric.glenn64@gmail.com) for more info. Eric & Bert will shop for food, and we will all share food costs. Let Eric know of any dietary restrictions. Sign up with Eric by April 1. Scholarships are available if the cost is a barrier to attending. Let Eric know. We will also help organize carpools.

Friendly Spotlight: Folami Adams, Gathered Meeting Retreat Facilitator

We are excited to gather for our annual Gathered Meeting Retreat this coming May and even more excited to be under the care of Folami Adams' facilitation. Read below for a peak into what led Folami into this work:

- **What has led you to this moment of facilitating the Gathered Meeting Retreat?**
The Gathered Meeting Retreat (GMR) committee asked me and I was honored. I am a professional facilitator and have wanted to lend my talents to the GMR for several years but never offered myself as facilitator. I am excited and honored to have been asked and look forward to bringing my approach to facilitation to the Atlanta Friends community.
- **Have you attended past Gathered Retreats? What did they offer you?**
I have and I love them! I was all set to bring my 3-year-old granddaughter last year and I got really sick and could not come. I see the GMR as a wonderful introduction to our community. It's such a relaxed setting. No one has to think about food with three meals provided in the cafeteria. The rooms are simple and comfy. I have gotten to know Friends in our community at the retreat who I otherwise may have never gotten to know at Meeting. The setting is beautiful as well. There is a lake, trails, and a variety of outdoor seating. There is also some down time... to take a nap, play with a child or read a book. And then there's the multigenerational talent show. Oh, what fun!
- **What sort of space are you hoping to create for Friends at the Gathered Retreat?**
I am hoping to create a nurturing space in which the theme is consistently reinforced. The theme is Building Stronger Community Through Deep Compassionate Listening. Friends will be provided with facilitated time to listen to self, others, nature, music, children and God / a higher power. Most of these activities will also provide an opportunity to build the AFM community. Attendees will get to know people who they have never met and learn more from those who they have known for a long time.

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*. **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.

Looking For a Way You Can Serve the AFM Community?

Care and Counsel is updating and expanding the Meeting's list of those willing and able to help those in need in our community. We occasionally get requests for assistance with transportation to the hospital or a doctor's visit, meals for those who might be in need, and those who might require assistance with simple repairs or cleanup. Also, we need a list of folks who would like to visit members and attenders who are hospitalized or homebound. Maybe you might enjoy reading to someone or taking short walks with them. There are many ways you can help someone! Just leave a note in the Care and Counsel pigeonhole in the Meeting Office with your name, contact information, and what you would be willing to do and how often you might be willing to do it. Or, contact Care and Counsel directly: afm.care.counsel@gmail.com

New Items in the Meetinghouse Library

Over the past eighteen months, 30 new items have been added to the Meetinghouse library! Our library (located across the lobby from the sanctuary) has special collections devoted to particular topics including Race and Racism, Quaker History & Theology, and Environmentalism & Climate Change. Some of the new items were purchased from funds budgeted for library purchases, some were donated by Meetinghouse attenders, and five titles were selected and paid for by the Meeting's Quakers for Racial Equality committee. Bert Skellie shared reviews of two titles added to our collection:

- [Birth of a White Nation: The Invention of White People and its Relevance Today](#) by Jacqueline Battalora (2013). I was glad to be able to read this book and appreciated the detailed explanation of how the system of race was put into law to benefit those in power. An explanation of how the laws differed from British law was especially good. The writing is clear and is helpful knowledge for anyone who wants to work to end white supremacy. Quakers for Racial Equality has a copy that you can borrow.
- [The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America](#) by Richard Rothstein (2017). I had read other accounts of how the racist practice of neighborhood "red-lining" was not just done by private realtors and lenders. I knew that VA and FHA loans were based on discrimination by race as well. But I learned a lot more detail in this book, as Rothstein highlighted examples from all over the country, as well as examples of building wartime housing. He makes a strong case that the government created racial segregation, and that therefore it should be required, and legal, for the government to correct its errors. You can get this book at the DeKalb County library as well as from the AFM library. Additionally, a full review may be read here: <https://www.friendsjournal.org/color-law-forgotten-history-government-segregated-america/>

2017 Summary of Ministry Under the Care of the Meeting: Mary Ann Downey

My anchoring committee, Dave Thurman, Nan O'Connor, Lewis Fuller and Bill Holland, continue to meet with me monthly to offer support, direction and eldering, and I am grateful. They are true anchors for my discernment about the work that springs from Spirit's leadings and not just my impulse to say 'yes'. The committee helps me consider each request and see what is mine to do.

This year, Bill and I offered workshops on Clerking and Consensus at Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting, to the Quaker Voluntary Service fellows, for Atlanta Friends Meeting and I gave a short presentation about Consensus to L'Arche at a meeting of regional and national board members. The

handouts we created for the Clerking workshop are now posted on the meeting website, and we've worked with nominating to create a one page guide for new committee clerks.

Julie Hliboki, Chaplain at Clairmont Oaks Assisted Living facility invited me to share a message at the Sunday evening Vespers service and I spoke in August and November. I am glad to see this as a new leading for my ministry.

Quaker Voluntary Service continues to be the primary focus of my ministry as coordinator of spiritual nurture on the Local Support Committee (LSC). I work with Liz Nicholson to select a meeting member or attender to be a spiritual guide for fellows, provide orientation for them as well as support during the year. This year I served as one of the nurturers and asked 2 fellows who grew up in Quaker meetings to offer their spiritual journey stories to the adult religious education class. Four fellows also spoke about their year with QVS at a meeting forum. I arranged for a group of spiritual nurturers from the last 5 years to meet with Mike Huber (a QVS supporter and Portland LSC clerk) who was evaluating the work of the organization in each city served.

With the death this year of Harry LeFever, and Maria Ladd, I felt honored to compile memorials about their lives of ministry for the meeting minutes, newsletter and for Friends Journal. I also organized a memorial meeting for Maria at AFM attended by members, family and friends in Atlanta.

I continue to help plan the adult education class, primarily by recruiting friends to share spiritual journeys. I enjoy offering individual support for the ministry of others in meeting along with service on clearness committees. A significant part of my ministry is being available to nurture young leaders in our meeting, to address conflicts among us and to provide guidance to clerks of committees and of the meeting.

Bill and I also visited both the Carrolton and Macon Friends Worship Groups that are under the care of our meeting. My message at the August Vespers service closed with a meditation, "Each Day" from the book, "Always We Begin Again". It ends with the advice "Be gentle with this life and use the light of life to live fully in your time". I'm learning to follow this advice.

AFM REPORT

On Feb. 17 about a half dozen members of AFM met to share talents and perspectives in AFM's second annual Embodying Spirit-Healing Arts Sampler. Among the healing-related topics discussed were the history of George Fox's **Book of Miracles** and the nature of what it means to be a channel of healing. Some points made during that discussion included:

- Although controversial and largely rejected over the centuries of Quakerism, Fox's early experience with healing "through Christ" present powerful examples of spirit connecting to material. Unknown to many Friends today, healing was an integral part of the history of early Quakerism. Healings happened through words, presence or touch with their capacity to ignite the self-healing potential of another individual by the personal connecting with the inner light.
- As individuals, each of us has a unique channel with its own shape, contours, shadings, etc. suited to particular actions and outcomes in service to Spirit. These channels come in many traditional healing modalities including words, language, or artistic expression that yield healing to its viewers and listeners. But working with the channel is about more than outcomes. Healing means a personal process of understanding one's own channel, and what keeps it clear and attuned to Spirit.

Toward facilitating an awareness of Spirit and personal channel, those present for the Feb. 17 Embodied Spirit-Healing Arts Sampler feel that there is much healing and outreach that can be accomplished by holding regular meetings for healing. Such a group and its gatherings can maintain an opening way toward any and all needs for healing. It can provide an ancillary support to the work of various committees and ministries, where the healing element might have been subsumed into the larger work of the committee, or where an ongoing nurturing and healing presence might be critical to the self-care of the ministry's lead participant.

Examples of such committee and outreach work include Sarah Walton's PE+ACE and community justice ministry, Julie Hliboki's chaplaincy work, the Committee on Undoing Racism, Kelsey McNicholas' social activism, and the ongoing ministry of Care and Counsel. And these are just the ones that come to top of mind most easily. There are many needs and concerns that can be held to the Light in silence and with a special focus by a meeting for healing on a regular basis. Underlying these practical and pro-active supports, a gathering for healing can serve the needs of individual members of AFM who feel in need of healing or extra nurturance. The underlying cause may come from one's internal physical, mental, emotional or psychological worlds. The pain and suffering may have arisen from interactions and issues in the outside world, including concerns within the meeting.

With that goal in sight, those gathered on Feb 17 agreed to begin sitting together in silence on Wednesday evenings in the junior high school room (Classroom D) with attention to healing. That gathering has been ongoing since Feb. 21 and will continue until further notice. **All are welcome at AFM on Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 pm, in Classroom D.** Those who cannot attend in person are welcome to send requests for healing or to be held in healing light to either Sarah Walton, 404-333-5347, (www.policecommunitysafety.org), or Ann Ritter, 404-569-1434.

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business – March 18th, 2018, Recorded pending approval

Attendance: Juan Allende, Micheal Allison, Carolyn Coburn-Allen, Mary Ann Downey, Julia Ewen, Susan Firestone, Waman French, Wendy Giere-Frye, Alberta Ghise (sp?), Clive Gordon, Bill Hooson, Teri Key Hooson, Elizabeth Lamb, Lynn Leuszler, Georgia Lord, Susan May, Caroline Manley, Karen terHorst Morris, Lissa Place, Bert Skellie, Karen Skellie, Elizabeth Tolmach, Myrna Trapp, Sarah Walton, Mark Watson, Jackie Yates, Mark Yates, Bill Holland (Clerk), Steve Collins (Acting Recording Clerk) - 29 Friends

Query: Elizabeth Lamb shared the query for Second Month: "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

Discernment

No discernment items this month.

Reports

Ministry and Worship

- Elizabeth Lamb reported that Ministry & Worship formed a clearness committee which met with Wendy Giere-Frye, and the committee found her clear for membership. In her letter seeking membership, Wendy stated that the Meeting's silent worship spoke to her and that she sees

becoming a member as part of a continuing pilgrimage while completing her pastoral care giver education and becoming more involved in the Meeting. Her name will be brought forward next month for the Meeting's discernment.

- M&W also formed a clearness committee for Mark Yates' membership request, met with him, and found him clear for membership. Mark's letter seeking membership spoke of his appreciation of the Meeting's simplicity, silent worship, and involvement in peace and justice and other social concerns. M&W will bring his name forward next month for discernment.
- Elizabeth reported on a recent update from the Macon Worship Group (MWG), which is under the care of the Meeting. Meeting monthly, the worship group has been averaging 8-12 attendees each meeting; new attendees are active in work with the homeless. The MWG founders, Diane and John Day, are moving to Blairsville, Georgia, and the group is considering alternatives to keep the MWG active, including having virtual meetings.
- AFM received an update from the SAYMA Faith and Practice Revision Committee (attached) regarding the Meeting's recent comments and suggestions on revisions to SAYMA's proposed queries. The SAYMA committee welcomes additional comments, recognizes that the queries need more seasoning, and plans to prepare a revised draft for approval in June 2019. M&W will form an ad hoc committee to work on both writing queries on racism and discrimination in any form and modifying any suggested queries that need to have unwanted assumptions removed. Karen Morris has agreed to clerk this committee, Sara Patenaude and Elizabeth Lamb will serve on it, and others are strongly encouraged to join them.

Administration

- For the committee, Steve Collins reported that the six-month pilot of a possible new Meeting position – that of Property Coordinator – continues into its 4th month. Jonah McDonald has been making minor repairs, working with contractors on bigger issues like gutter cleaning and leaks caused by frozen pipes, conducting walk throughs to identify possible problems, and collecting more data to help the committee and the Meeting in the decision-making process once the pilot is over.
- Aaron Ruscetta, Webmaster, and Claire Hannapel, Newsletter Editor, have been working with Jonah to develop a survey of Meeting members and attenders to see how the AFM web site is being used, how people access it, and what enhancements people might like to see. The survey will be distributed soon.
- Major permanent improvements for 2018 tentatively include painting and flooring replacement in the atrium/common area outside the classrooms (July) and parking lot repairs and re-striping (2nd half of year). A Friend asked that the committee continue to seek improvements to the Meeting's assisted listening system. Steve reported that new solutions are being researched, several technologies at different price levels are being considered, but that viable options are somewhat limited by the shape of our Meeting room.
- A Friend asked that carpeting in the nursery be cleaned twice a year, rather than just annually.

Announcements

- A Friend thanked those in the Meeting for helping with today's celebration of women following Meeting for Worship.
- Another Friend mentioned the need for two new SAYMA representatives from AFM and asked that anyone interested in serving in this role contact the Nominating Committee.

Clerk's Items

The Clerk of Meeting discussed the inconsistent ways that AFM reports on and documents births, adoptions, marriages, and deaths in the Meeting. While memorial services are currently minuted, other events generally are not. The Meeting agreed that minuting births and adoptions is a good first step to establishing a more consistent policy.

Minutes of February 2018:

Minute 03-18-2018-01: The Minutes of the Second Month 2018 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business were approved.

CLOSING POETRY PAGE

A gardener watches the
sky break into song, cloud wobbly with
what it is. Bud, thorn, the same.

Wind, water, wandering this essential
state. Fire, ground, gone. That's

how it is with the outside. Form
is ecstatic. Now imagine the inner:

soul, intelligence, the secret worlds!
And don't think the garden loses its

ecstasy in winter. It's quiet, but
the roots are down there riotous.

- Excerpt taken from Rumi's *Form Is Ecstatic*

The Source, by Nanseera Wolff

Our heartbeats were the
Hollow bump of jerrycans
In the green-grey morning.
Only shouted greetings could compete with
The sound of the water as it splashed
Into the world above ground.
To a four year old, the scene was deafening:
Two loud spouts in a cement wall calling
Every woman and child to come and collect
What they needed. And the plastic lid
Sealed tightly with a bag, meant
The day's labour, not finished, but just beginning.
I was too small, then, to carry such weight on my head,
So with two empty syrup jugs I was sent.
My small containers filled with envy
As I watched women lift twenty liter crowns onto their heads,
Barely wincing beneath the burden.
I followed my aunt home
Trying to balance two quarts of inadequacy on my small fingers.
I still carry jugs that cut into my skin,
Though I could lift those liters if given the chance.
But the burden I carry holds two waters within.
To balance them both, I must use my hands.

My tongue is divided into two

BY QUIQUE AVILÉS

My tongue is divided into two
by virtue, coincidence or heaven
words jumping out of my mouth
stepping on each other
enjoying being a voice for the message
expecting conclusions

My tongue is divided into two
into heavy accent bits of confusion
into miracles and accidents
saying things that hurt the heart
drowning in a language that lives, jumps, translates

My tongue is divided by nature
by our crazy desire to triumph and conquer

This tongue is cut up into equal pieces
one wants to curse and sing out loud
the other one simply wants to ask for water

My tongue is divided into two
one side likes to party
the other one takes refuge in praying

tongue
english of the funny sounds
tongue
funny sounds in english
tongue
sounds funny in english
tongue
in funny english sounds

My tongue sometimes acts like two
and it goes crazy
not knowing which side should be speaking
which side translating

My tongue is divided into two
a border patrol runs through the middle
frisking words
asking for proper identification
checking for pronunciation

My tongue is divided into two
My tongue is divided into two

I like my tongue
it says what feels right
I like my tongue
it says what feels right



PLEASE HOLD IN THE LIGHT:

*Pat Williams
Suzanne Murdock & Dave Erickson
Mary Bartlett's brother
Joanna Reid
Bethany & Steve Morrison*

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
Office Coordinator: Jonah McDonald, atlantaquakers@gmail.com
Treasurer: Lynn Leuszler, afmtreasurer1@gmail.com
Ministry & Worship: Elizabeth Lamb, gslpc@bellsouth.net
Finance: Paul Mangelsdorf, 770-677-4280
Social Concerns: Bert Skellie, bertskellie@gmail.com
Administration: Steve Collins, shcollins75@gmail.com
Care & Counsel: Bill Hoosen, afm.care.counsel@gmail.com
Quakers for Racial Equality: Susan Firestone, susanfires@gmail.com
Religious Education: Jennifer Dickie, michaeljen@bellsouth.net
Library Clerk: Cal Gough, calgough@bellsouth.net
Newsletter Editor: Claire Hannapel, atlquakerltr@gmail.com
Webmaster: Aaron Ruscetta, arxaaron@gmail.com
Bookkeeper: Jonah McDonald, 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, 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 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: 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: Bill Holland, afmclerk1@gmail.com

Treasurer: Lynn Leuszler, 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. 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 in plain text. 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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