

# ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING NEWSLETTER



## August 2018

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

### Lives and Callings: Spiritual Journey Sharing on First Sundays

On the first Sunday of each month, we listen to how a 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 not, and what they believe now. We call these stories of spiritual journeys, stories where Friends describe their understanding of God and religion in their life. On August 5<sup>th</sup> we will listen to the spiritual journeys of Mary Bartlett. Come hear more: 9-9:55 on 1<sup>st</sup> Sundays in the library.

### Book Group Meeting – August 14<sup>th</sup>

The group reading books by and about people of color will meet again on Tuesday, August 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:15 PM in the junior high room at the Meetinghouse. The book for discussion this month is The Color Purple by Alice Walker. Please join us. All are welcome.

### Fellowship of Friends of African Descent Gathering August 24-26<sup>th</sup>

We are so excited to announce this year's Fellowship of Friends of African Descent Gathering. This year promises to be like no other. We are celebrating the role of music in our spirituality and fight for freedom. We are asking folks to bring their instruments including voices, their CDs, albums, testimonies about music, and be prepared to make a joyful noise. We welcome all musical forms and any and all abilities. We are especially looking forward to a musical Spirit Led Jam and talent share on Saturday night and as well as a viewing of the film *Amandla: Revolution in Four Part Harmony* on Friday evening after the BBQ and Fellowship. For more information and to register: <http://www.friendsofad.org/>

### Sign up for Quaker Voluntary Service Newsletter

Want to stay up-to-date about the spiritual life, vocational journeys, and justice work Quaker Voluntary Service Fellows are engaged in during the year? Sign up for QVS's monthly newsletter here: <https://bit.ly/2JYHx6G>

### A note from Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, and Queer Concerns (FLGBTQC)

You may have noticed blue, pink and white stickers and stickers saying "My Pronouns Are" next to the rainbow stickers on the bulletin board in addition to new signs on the restroom doors. These are

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

#### QUERY

*"Art thou a child of light and  
hast thou walked in the light,  
and what thou speakest, is it  
inwardly from God?"*

- Margaret Fell  
*Remembering the words of  
George Fox from her first  
encounter with him.*

ways of making it clear that the Meeting specifically welcomes trans\*, genderqueer, and non-binary people, something Friends for Lesbians, Gay, Bisexual and Trans Concerns (FLGBTQC) felt strongly about, since FLGBTQ and FLGBTQ-friendly organizations have not always been good about truly including trans and genderqueer/non-binary/genderfluid people.

The pink, blue and white stickers are the trans flag and a visual way to show your support. The "My Pronouns Are" stickers allow people to indicate pronouns easily (she/her/hers, they/them/theirs, he/him/his, for example). The new bathroom signage, approved by January's Meeting for Business, reads "Atlanta Friends Meeting welcomes everyone to use the restroom that most closely reflects their gender identity" and is meant to reassure trans and genderqueer/non-binary/genderfluid people that they can safely use our restrooms. The specific wording was chosen to acknowledge that we do not have a truly gender-neutral option for those for which that would be most comfortable.

While these things were being discussed in Meeting for Business, FLGBTQC became aware that many people in the meeting did not seem to have much exposure to what it's like to be trans or genderqueer/non-binary/genderfluid, and we would like to help provide some resources.

What questions do you have? How would you like to get your information? Books? Webpages? A forum? If you're on the AFM discussion list or a member of the AFM facebook group, would you like to see posts about trans/genderqueer/non-binary/genderfluid issues? If you're not cisgendered\*\*, what has made you feel unwelcome in this meeting? What could the meeting do to make you feel more welcome?

You can share your thoughts online at [tinyurl.com/afmtgngsurvey](https://tinyurl.com/afmtgngsurvey) or contact Nina Gooch.

#### SOME DEFINITIONS:

\*A trans or transgendered person is someone whose gender identity, their concept of themselves as male or female or somewhere in between, differs from the biological sex they were assigned at birth. A trans man is someone who was assigned female at birth but now identifies as male. A trans woman is someone who was assigned male at birth but now identifies as female.

\*\*A cisgendered person, on the other hand, is someone whose gender identity matches the biological sex they were assigned at birth. Non-binary and genderqueer aren't quite the same, but both refer to people who identify as neither male nor female or both or somewhere in between and who may believe that gender can't be divided neatly into male and female. Genderfluid refers to someone whose gender identity changes from time to time. For more details, see <https://tinyurl.com/transdefinitions>.

### **Report from the Forum on Patriarchy and Toxic Masculinity**

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By Jonah McDonald and Guthrie Armstrong

On Sunday, May 27, 2018, a group of twelve men from Atlanta Friends Meeting gathered to consider ways we can avoid making others feel unsafe, unwelcome, or unseen, and to hold each other accountable for changing the culture in our Meeting. In preparation for this conversation, we asked

people who identify as women, transgender, or non-binary to anonymously share their experiences within the Atlanta Friends Meeting community, particularly related to gender, patriarchy, and harassment.

Each of us present at the forum read aloud stories from this anonymous survey. It was powerful to hear all the stories, one after another. The assembled group noticed trends, particularly around dominance by men. Many women, trans, and non-binary people have been talked over, often having their ideas discounted or re-explained. Men regularly stand too close, use their bodies in an imposing manner, and act in ways that communicate that our needs are more important than yours.

Other themes that emerged from the survey include...

- Men commented on the age, youth, and appearance of young respondents
- Men treated interactions with respondents as opportunities to serve only their own interests
- Some respondents have felt unable to end conversations with men without seeming rude

The group of forum attendees lifted up reactions such as:

- We want to change the culture in our Meeting to prevent these behaviors from overwhelming the many positive relationships in our community.
- We'd like to provide information about these stories to the wider community so men can "keep our antennae up" and notice and speak out when things like what were reported in the survey happen.
- Remind men that when people who identify as women, trans, or non-binary ask for equal treatment, it is not an attempt to emasculate them.
- The work to respond to and end toxic masculinity in our Meeting should be connected to our testimonies of equality and integrity.

And we discussed possible next steps, including:

- Expressing the concerns of the survey respondents to the wider Meeting community, to alert men to these problems.
- Considering offering some sort of "Process Noticing" during Meeting for Business with the goal of noticing dynamics that might occur during our monthly business meeting. The goal would not be to shame anyone, but to simply note facts about who speaks, who is in leadership, and other dynamics present at Meeting for Business.
- Providing an ongoing space for people to share their experiences of toxic masculinity with our Meeting, perhaps in similar fashion as the anonymous survey that was conducted before this forum.
- Starting a men's group to continue to listen and address this problem.

Those present at the forum seemed in agreement that this gathering was a good step and we look forward to further conversations and actions. If you'd like to learn more and participate in the future, please contact Jonah McDonald or Guthrie Armstrong.

**Two Poems from Perry Treadwell's Funeral Service – Submitted by Steve Collins**

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*The Way of Friendship: Meditations on Love and Friendship*  
By Perry Treadwell

The simple life is not simplistic.  
Simplicity requires inner peace  
To be clear about real needs.  
Not desires and wants.

Possessing things and receiving honors  
Substitute for Friendship,  
Are simplistic,  
Are the easy way  
Which has no heart.

Friendship takes energy,  
And the courage to reach out.  
If your life is too busy to reach out,  
Simplify.  
Remember, that in the end,  
The only things to hold on to  
And will hold on to you  
Are friends.

Center down to the depths of unthinking.  
Find your inner calm.  
See how the world moves  
In its rhythm.

Feel the rhythm of the universe  
To which all things belong  
And to which they return.

If you don't feel the rhythm  
You remain confused in darkness.  
Coming from and returning to the light,  
You accept, trust.  
Distance brings closeness.  
Calm brings laughter.  
Open your heart.  
Be a Friend.  
Being a Friend to your Self,  
You can float through the  
Ups and down of Life,  
And prepare for death.

Attendance: Richard Allen, Michael Allison, Carolyn Coburn-Allen, Steve Collins, Kellie Divis, Mary Ann Downey, Susan Firestone, Nina Gooch, Clive Gordon, Alberta Guise, Bill Hooson, Kathy Johnson, Teri Key-Hooson, Elizabeth Lamb, Sara Longwell, Paul Mangelsdorf, Elaine Meyer-Lee, Ann Ritter, Bert Skellie, Myrna Trapp, Austin Wattles, Bill Holland (Clerk), Bethany Morrison (Recording Clerk) (22 Friends).

Query: Elizabeth Lamb shared the query for Seventh Month: “What daily practices do I need to embrace to strengthen my gifts that serve others?”

**Discernment**

Local Support Committee for Quaker Voluntary Service: Mary Ann Downey described the work of the Local Support Committee (LSC) for Quaker Voluntary Service (QVS). The committee has been reporting to Ministry and Worship for the last several years. As QVS has grown, the purpose of the LSC has been clarified with greater uniformity across the country. The LSC will now be a standing committee of AFM. Mary Ann presented a committee description that lays out the purpose and duties of the LSC committee along with its membership processes. They produced the following description for the AFM handbook:

- Purpose: This committee welcomes and cares for the spiritual and practical needs of QVS fellows during their year of service for Atlanta area organizations. They encourage full participation in the Meeting community and offer resources to QVS Alumni who remain in the Atlanta area.
- Membership: Members and attenders of the Atlanta Friends Meeting. The committee has 6-8 members/attenders including the Clerk. The clerk and two members of the Committee are nominated and approved by the Monthly Meeting. In the absence of the Clerk, either of the appointed members will serve as Clerk.
- Terms: Terms are nonconsecutive and usually for three years.
- Duties:
  - Hospitality: prepare welcome for each new group with practical help (i.e. rides from the airport, stocking the pantry, meals for the first week, rides to meeting,) and celebrations during the year (i.e. birthdays, end of year)
  - Spiritual Nurture: discern, invite, orient and support mentors. These mentors, selected from meeting members or attenders, meet monthly with each fellow to listen and support their spiritual journey.
  - Housing: Create a safe, clean and comfortable home for fellows, maintaining and addressing repairs as needed.
  - Fundraising and Event Planning: Host events to inform Friends about the work of QVS, encouraging involvement to meet the needs of the program. Recognize and appreciate donors with notes annually.

AFM approves the following minutes:

- **Minute 07-15-2018-1:** On the request of the QVS Local Support Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the Local Support Committee description as amended. We ask nominating committee to include this description in the meeting handbook.
- **Minute 07-15-2018-2:** On the request of the QVS Local Support Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting asks that Nominating Committee assumes responsibility for bringing to meeting nominations for Clerk and two appointed members as terms expire. Steve Collins is nominated as Clerk of the LSC. Mary Ann Downey and Elizabeth Valera are nominated as the appointed members of the QVS Local Support Committee. The names of these Friends will be presented for discernment and approval at 8th Month Meeting. It was suggested that the individuals proposed have staggered terms to enable continuity. The QVS LSC will bring back the names and proposed terms in 8th Month.

## Reports

Administration Committee: Steve Collins provided an update on the committee's work. The Meeting pilot for a Property Coordinator position has been extended. Administration committee members are working with Jonah McDonald to define in more detail the following: the job description; how the Meetinghouse, Landscape, and Administration committees would interact with and support the coordinator; what specific types of projects the coordinator would be responsible for completing versus those where contractors would be required; and various salary options. Administration will formulate next steps at the completion of the pilot. The Meetinghouse parking lot repair, re-sealing, and re-striping is behind schedule due to rainy weather that has affected the contractor's other jobs. The committee hopes to see work begin in July. The City of Decatur has begun work to narrow West Howard Avenue to two car lanes and add two bike lanes from the East Lake MARTA station to Commerce Drive near downtown Decatur. According to the City, the lane narrowing will be done so that future adjustments could be easily made. On-street parking near the Meetinghouse will be minimally affected. Jonah plans to have all carpets in the building cleaned during late-July when summer camps are over. Aaron Ruscetta, a member of Administration, helped acquire a compact, portable public address (PA) unit, which has been rented by several building renters in recent weeks.

Finance Committee: Paul Mangelsdorf presented the quarterly report of finances. In addition to a spreadsheet on Year-to-date income and the balance as of 06/30/2018, Paul shared the following notes on the Meeting's finances:

- As of June 30, 2018, AFM is running a \$4,742 deficit YTD. A deficit through the part of the year is not unusual as contribution income is largely received in the 4th quarter. However, the deficit is \$12,117 favorable to the same period last year and \$15,787 favorable to budget.
- Income YTD is \$12,390 ahead of prior year primarily driven by significantly higher rental income (\$8,844 higher than last year). Contributions are also favorable to last year by \$3,823. However, this in part due to differences in timing to several large donations. Contribution income is \$823 over budget. Despite higher rental income, we will still need to maintain the pace of contributions for the rest of the year.
- Expenses are running \$5,014 higher than the prior year. Several categories are notably higher:
  - Social Concerns is \$1,124 higher than last year, but this is a timing issue, they have spent \$9,082 of their \$12,550 budget.
  - Ministry and Worship is \$1,966 less than last year.

- The Gathered Meeting Retreat came in a \$2,567, which is \$1,316 less than last year and only \$67 more than budget.
- Employee expense is higher than last YTD by \$6,251 due to the addition of the paid building coordinator position and the annual salary increases.
- Permanent Improvements is higher than the prior year by \$2,500 due to the increase in budget from \$15,000 in 2017 to \$20,000 for 2018.
- Gifts & Affiliations is \$1,100 more than last year due to the increased SAYMA assessment. Compared to budget, expenses are \$1,005 less than budget YTD.
- The timing of Social Concerns spending resulted in \$2,807 over YTD budget this will be self-correcting over the remainder of the year.
- Utilities are higher by \$852 (a timing issue).
- Employee expense \$1,330 favorable to budget.
- Various other categories have minor favorability to budget

Ministry and Worship Committee: Elizabeth Lamb informed the meeting that AFM has been asked by the DeKalb County Commissioners to provide an inspirational speaker at one of their upcoming meetings. Ministry and Worship thought this was a good opportunity for AFM to be recognized in the community and provide service to the county. The Clerk of Meeting, Bill Holland, has graciously offered to represent AFM. This will be a 5 – 10 minute presentation at the beginning of one of their meetings.

Care and Counsel Committee: Bill Hooson reported on behalf of Care and Counsel Committee.

- Care and Counsel received a time sensitive request from Alex Cubahiro. A financial gift was requested from AFM, which would be matched by Guilford College as a college scholarship. Care and Counsel was polled and agreed to the gift. The request was forwarded to Clerk of Meeting for Business, Bill Holland, and Lynn Leuzler, Treasurer, and it was approved.
- Meeting member Perry Treadwell died on June 25, 2018 at his home. A memorial service will be held on Saturday July 21, 2018 at 2pm at the meetinghouse. The members of the Memorial Committee for Perry Treadwell are: Don Bender, Clerk, Judith Greenberg, Gilbert Treadwell, Sally Ferguson, Bob Lough, Elizabeth Lamb, and Bill Hooson. As the preparations for the Memorial Service for Perry Treadwell move forward, Perry's partner, Judith Greenberg, and his family would like to donate an outdoor meditation bench in Perry's memory. Bill Hooson and Myrna Trapp will meet with family members to discern an appropriate place for the bench.

Nominating Committee: On behalf of nominating committee, Clive Gordon brought forward Beth Ensign and Elaine Meyer-Lee to serve as Co-clerks of Religious Education for three-year terms. Their names will be brought forward again next month for discernment and approval.

Macon Worship Group: Kellie Divis, Clerk of the Macon Worship Group, shared an update on the state of the group to AFM. Long-time leaders of the group, John and Diana Day have left the area, but remain supportive the group. The group recently moved its meeting to the Unitarian Universalist Church in Macon. It meets at 2:30 PM on the second Sunday of the month. We noted that the AFM materials on area worship groups should be updated to reflect the new location and worship time.

The group has prioritized promoting awareness of the group in Macon. To do so, they have written a welcome letter to give to new attendees, they plan to update their website, and they are starting an outreach service project with a local day shelter. The group seeks to strengthen their ties to Atlanta Friends Meeting. They hope to learn more about resources and opportunities in Atlanta. In addition, they'd like to learn about the process and records necessary to become a monthly meeting in the future. Kellie invited AFM Friends to join the bi-monthly email list for Macon attenders in order to keep apprised of what the group is doing. Friends can email [maconquakers@gmail.com](mailto:maconquakers@gmail.com) to reach out to Kellie or join the email list. The meeting thanked Kellie for her update and look forward to further developments.

Minutes of Fifth Month (May) 20, 2018

- **Minute 07-15-2018-3:** The Minutes of the Fifth Month 2018 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business were approved.

### **Clerk's Items**

The American Friends Service Committee will give a forum (as part of a speaking tour) on August 26 after rise of Meeting. Angie Love and Terri Rushing were married under the care of the Meeting on June 9, 2018. It was a lovely ceremony. Atlanta Friends Meeting celebrates with them this new step in their lives together. Perry Treadwell passed away on Monday, June 25, 2018. Please continue to hold Judith and his children, Gilbert, Gail, Sally and Susan in the Light.

Meeting closed with Silent Worship.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bethany Morrison, Recording Clerk  
Bill Holland, Clerk



**PLEASE HOLD IN THE LIGHT:**

*Perry Treadwell and Judith Greenberg  
Terri Rushing and Angie Love  
Suzanne Murdock and David Erickson  
Debra Uwimana and family*

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  
Social Concerns: Bert Skellie, [bertskellie@gmail.com](mailto:bertskellie@gmail.com)  
Administration: Steve Collins, [shcollins75@gmail.com](mailto:shcollins75@gmail.com)  
Care & Counsel: Bill Hoosen, [afm.care.counsel@gmail.com](mailto:afm.care.counsel@gmail.com)  
Quakers for Racial Equality: Susan Firestone, [susanfires@gmail.com](mailto:susanfires@gmail.com)  
Religious Education: Jennifer Dickie, [michaeljen@bellsouth.net](mailto:michaeljen@bellsouth.net)  
Library Clerk: Cal Gough, [calgough@bellsouth.net](mailto:calgough@bellsouth.net)  
Newsletter Editor: Claire Hannapel, [atlquakerltr@gmail.com](mailto:atlquakerltr@gmail.com)  
Webmaster: Aaron Ruscetta, [arxaaron@gmail.com](mailto:arxaaron@gmail.com)  
Bookkeeper: Jonah McDonald, [afmbookkeeper1@gmail.com](mailto:afmbookkeeper1@gmail.com)

**Calendar for Seventh Month (July) 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 our Meetinghouse 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).