

# ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING NEWSLETTER

## MARCH 2020

SAYMA REPRESENTATIVE MEETING IN ATLANTA  
Friday & Saturday, March 13 & 14

---

*Our yearly meeting meets, as the name indicates, once a year, this year June 11 to 14. (See below for information about submitting workshop proposals.) Several times a year, representatives from each monthly meeting in Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association (SAYMA) meet to do business and to prepare for the yearly meeting. In March, the SAYMA Rep Meeting will be in Atlanta.*

### HOSPITALITY NEEDED

#### Friday & Saturday March 13 & 14:

AFM is hosting SAYMA representatives for their meeting on March 14 and we need accommodation for about 22 guests. Most need accommodation for Friday and Saturday night. If you can provide a room for a fellow Quaker, please contact Alison Mawle at 470-494-3442 or [zumilla@gmail.com](mailto:zumilla@gmail.com).

### WORSHIP SHARING + CATERED MEET & GREET

#### Friday, March 13

SAYMA's Uplifting Racial Justice committee (SAYMA URJ) invites everyone in Atlanta Friends Meeting to join them along, with other SAYMA Friends, for worship sharing, followed by an informal catered meet and greet fellowship hour on Friday March 13th at 6:PM at the Atlanta Friends Meetinghouse. The Worship Sharing and Meet & Greet event is the evening before SAYMA's March Representative Meeting, but you do not need to be going to the SAYMA Representative Meeting to attend. The worship sharing will begin promptly at 6:00 p.m. In order to plan the amount of food for the catering, Please RSVP by MARCH 1 to Sharon "Star" Smith, clerk of SAYMA-URJ at [starsmith13@gmail.com](mailto:starsmith13@gmail.com)

#### SAYMA REPRESENTATIVE MEETING – Saturday, March 14

if you want to attend the Rep Meeting on Saturday, March 14, please register at <http://www.sayma.org/> as soon as possible.. Please scroll past the questions regarding housing to answer the question about special food needs.

### GREETING DIVERSE NEWCOMERS

---

*From the editor: The information on the following pages has been recreated from a Friends General Conference poster suggested by the Committee on Undoing Racism in the Atlanta Friends Meeting (CUR-AFM). It strikes me as an excellent way for all of us to approach conversations with those we may not know well. I encourage you to think of more open-ended questions and more reasons "why it matters."*



Atlanta Meeting of the Religious  
Society of Friends (Quakers)

All are welcome

Meeting for Worship  
Each First Day (Sunday)

10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

701 W. Howard Avenue

Decatur, GA 30030

### QUERY FOR MARCH

Let your life speak.

When decisions have to be made, are you ready to join with others in seeking clearness, asking for God's guidance and offering counsel to one another?

-- Advices and Queries of  
Britain Yearly Meeting

## Transforming Quaker Welcoming

### Advice for Greeting Diverse Newcomers

As we engage with newcomers, let's approach them with an open heart and mind, asking questions that invite them to share their experiences and build relationships.

If you're an older Friend encountering a young adult:

Avoid saying

- Our meeting needs more young people.
- Are you new here?

Say instead

- Glad to meet you.
- I don't believe we've met. I'm Susan.

Why it matters?

- Everyone likes to be seen as an individual in their wholeness, not as a token member of a group. The younger Friend may have been worshipping with you for years; you just hadn't noticed.

If you're a Friend of European descent encountering a person of African descent:

Avoid saying

- This must have been a very different kind of service than the ones you're used to.

Say instead

- How did you experience the worship this morning?

Why it matters?

- The person of African descent might be, for example, a Quaker from another meeting — or from any number of other backgrounds. The open-ended question invites the possibility of a conversation about your shared experience of worship.

If you're a more able-bodied Friend approaching a person in a wheelchair:

Avoid saying

- How can I help you?

Say instead

- May I grab you a cup of coffee? I'd love a chance to chat with you, if you'd like.

Why it matters?

- The initial question focuses on a disability. The other is helpful, but says, "I'd like to talk with you, but I can understand if you have another agenda."

## If you're a politically progressive Quaker making an announcement:

### Avoid saying

- We are circulating a petition to recall the governor over his anti-union activities. I know that as Quakers, you are all with me on this, so please sign it at the rise of meeting.

### Say instead

- I believe that supporting unions strengthens our democracy. I have a petition to recall the governor because of his anti-union policies, and I invite people to talk to me about it at the rise of meeting.

### Why it matters?

- Our civil society needs full participation of all citizens, and our Meetings benefit from a diversity of political opinions.

## If you're connecting across class differences:

### Avoid saying

- What is your major, or Where did you go to college?
- What do you do for a living?

### Instead say:

- So tell me about yourself. What interests/excites you/makes you curious these days?
- What brings you here?

### Why it matters?

- Not everyone's adult life trajectory matches yours. 30% of Americans have a college degree. Some people choose to join a skilled trade.
- Many people who work in the service industry are proud of their contribution.

## Welcoming a person whose gender is not readily apparent to a Friend:

### Avoid saying

- Hi, we have a very active lesbian community in our meeting. Let me introduce you to Beth.

### Say instead

- Hi, my name's Jack, what's yours?

### Why it matters?

- You cannot tell someone's sexual orientation or gender based on their appearance. Making assumptions emphasizes a perceived "otherness" or difference rather than the whole person.

## When in doubt, remember to:

- Introduce yourself
- Make friends.
- Be interested.
- Reach out.
- Respect Boundaries.
- Ask open-ended questions like "Hi! I'm \_\_\_\_\_. How was meeting for you?"

*Recreated from an FGC flyer, which was adapted with permission from the Unitarian Universalist Association, [www.uua.org/youngadults](http://www.uua.org/youngadults)*

## SAYMA WORKSHOP PROPOSALS DUE – Friday, February 28

---

Workshop Proposals Invitation for the SAYMA 2020 Yearly Meeting, (June 11-14): This year's theme is "Feed, Shelter, Serve: Our Bucket List Now!", so there is plenty of fertile ground for your workshop ideas. To submit your proposal, please use the 2020 Workshop Proposal Form link at <http://SAYMA.org>. Submissions are due Feb. 28th. Your proposed workshop may be one day, or a two-part workshop, one section on each day. You will be asked to indicate the needed day(s) in the proposal form itself. Workshops will be held Friday, June 12 and Saturday June 13 at 1:15 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. If your idea does not need the full 1 hour and 45 minutes you can use less time." For questions, please contact the workshop coordinator Teree Jeanne by VM or text at 865-386-5181 or email at [warriorofmercy@gmail.com](mailto:warriorofmercy@gmail.com)

## SPIRITUAL JOURNEY – Sunday, March 1

---

Each first Sunday of the 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. For details of March's spiritual journey, please see the announcement sheet.

The second, fourth and fifth Sundays of each month in Adult First Day School are devoted to book discussion. Currently, we're reading *Our Life is Love* by Marcelle Martin. The third Sunday is a worship sharing session based on that month's query or, occasionally, a query chosen by that day's leader. Join us any Sunday at 9:00 in the library.

## MEETING FOR THRESHING FOR SAYMA – Sunday, March 1

---

There will be a Meeting for Threshing on March 1, 2020 after pot luck from 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM in the AFM meeting room. This meeting is in response to an email received from the SAYMA (Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association, our yearly meeting) Ministry and Nurture Committee (M & N). SAYMA's M & N has reached out to each meeting and/or worship group because they were hearing from meetings were feeling tension and conflict around the SAYMA Uplifting Racial Justice Committee (SAYMA URJ). They are encouraging SAYMA Meetings to engage in conversations about these issues in threshing sessions and/or small group discussions. We are asked to reflect on our history in preparation for the March 14, 2020 Representative Meeting which will be held at the Atlanta Meeting. For more information, contact Free Polazzo, one of our SAYMA Representatives, at [freepolazzo@gmail.com](mailto:freepolazzo@gmail.com). (John Adams is our other SAYMA Rep.) More information about Meetings for Threshing in general can be found in last month's newsletter.

## OFFICE CLOSURE – Monday, March 2

---

The office will be closed on Monday, March 2, but email and voicemail will be checked.

## BOOKS BY AND ABOUT PEOPLE OF COLOR BOOK GROUP – Thursday, March 5

---

The book group reading books by and about people of color will continue to meet at 1:30 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month in the Meetinghouse library. The book for March 5 is *A Place for Us*, by Fatima Mirza and for April 2, *The Water Dancer*, by Ta-Nehisi Coates. All are welcome. If you have questions, contact Karen Morris ([karenth.1415@gmail.com](mailto:karenth.1415@gmail.com)) or Susan Cole ([cole2544@bellsouth.net](mailto:cole2544@bellsouth.net)).

## HELP ASYLUM SEEKERS – Saturday, March 7

---

As an outgrowth of the 7th and 8th grade study of contemporary immigration, the Friends School of Atlanta community has partnered with the Atlanta Friends Meeting and Innovation Law Lab to provide support for Defend Asylum Workshops to assist asylum seekers build their legal cases to remain in the United States. Since January 2019, the Defend Asylum program in Atlanta has supported dozens of asylum seekers as they complete their paperwork for applying for asylum or obtaining a work permit. The next Defend Asylum workshop for asylum seekers is Sat. March 7, from 9:00 - 3:00 p.m. Please follow this link to sign up and volunteer for food provision, IT support, translation, transportation/errand running and other services to make our asylum seeking Friends and their lawyers feel welcome and cared for and supported. Sign up at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090E49A9AE2FA5F94-sat4>. If you have questions, contact Alex Zinnes at [azinnes@friendsschoolatlanta.org](mailto:azinnes@friendsschoolatlanta.org)

## BENEFIT CONCERT FOR DECATUR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE MINISTRY – Saturday, March 14

---

The Decatur Civic Chorus (in conjunction with the Avondale Pattillo United Methodist Church Choir and Columbia Presbyterian Church's Silver Trail Band) presents a concert benefitting the Decatur Emergency Assistance Ministry on Saturday, March 14 at 4 pm at the Avondale Pattillo United Methodist Church, 3260 Covington Highway, Decatur, 30030. Admission is free, but cash donations or donations of canned food, packaged cereal and pasta, paper goods and basic toiletry essentials to benefit DEAM will be collected. DEAM provides emergency help for local residents to prevent homelessness and hunger. Support for DEAM comes from twenty-two local churches, including Atlanta Friends Meeting, and from individuals.

## MARCH WELCOME DINNER – Wednesday, March 18, 6:30 pm with Farm Tour at 6 pm

---

Bert & Karen Skellie invite all who are new to the Meeting and all who would like to meet newcomers to come to our house for supper at 6:30 PM on Wednesday, March 18. Newcomers are invited to be our guests, and others encouraged to bring a potluck dish. Contact us at 404-378-5883 or [bertskellie@gmail.com](mailto:bertskellie@gmail.com) We live in East Lake Commons, an intentional community about 3 miles south of the Meetinghouse. If you would like to have a brief tour of our five-acre farm, come early at 6 pm!

If you would like to host a Newcomers Welcome Dinner, held the 18th of each month, please contact Jim Tolmach at [jimtolmach@icloud.com](mailto:jimtolmach@icloud.com).

## FRIENDLY HIKE – Saturday, March 21

---

All adults and children are welcome to join us for relatively easy walks of about three miles each month! On Saturday, March 21, we will meet at the Meetinghouse parking lot at 9 am to take a hike in the largest green space in Decatur, the cemetery and nearby woods. We should get back by about 11:30. This will allow time to attend David Jarvis' memorial service at the Meetinghouse at 1 pm.

Email [bertskellie@gmail.com](mailto:bertskellie@gmail.com) or call Bert Skellie at [404-680-4799](tel:404-680-4799) if you have questions, or if you have an emergency and need us to wait for you at the Meetinghouse longer than 5 minutes.

The next hike will be led by Melanie Fuller on April 11. We will visit Sope Creek and related trails. (<https://www.atlantatrails.com/.../a-getaway-close-to.../> ) More details to come. We generally plan for second Saturdays, but flex when needed, such as to avoid SAYMA rep meeting in March

## DAVID JARVIS MEMORIAL SERVICE – Saturday, March 21

---

A memorial for David Jarvis will be held at the meeting house on March 21 at 1 pm. More details will be in the announcement sheet in coming weeks. David died at Emory Hospital Wednesday morning, February 12, after a major surgery a week before. Please hold his wife Freer and his family in the light at this hard time. Cards can be sent to Freer at 3640 N. Druid Hills Road, Decatur, GA 30033.

## HONORING TEACHERS AND EDUCATORS – Sunday, March 29

---

The Ministry & Worship committee plans to honor teachers and educators at a special worship service, followed by a reception, Sunday March 29. Ahead of time and during worship, we will share queries for worship and encourage responses from adults *and* youth, who will be worshipping with adults that morning, as it is a 5th Sunday. See announcement sheet for more details!

## REMEMBERING & HONORING VICTIMS OF LYNCHING IN DEKALB COUNTY, GA - March 29

---

On Sunday, March 29 at 2pm, at Manuel J. Maloof Auditorium, Decatur, The Dekalb Remembrance Project: a Journey of Remembrance and Reconciliation hosts an Unveiling Ceremony for the marker honoring the victims of lynching in Dekalb County. See article below for more details. Atlanta Friends meeting is one of more than 50 members of the Dekalb Remembrance Project.

## DECATUR DINNERS – Sunday, March 29

---

On Sunday evening March 29, people will gather in various homes and venues to "sit down, share stories, and talk honestly to learn what divides us and what brings us together in the City of Decatur." For more information or to register, visit <https://www.decaturdinners.com/>. If you would like to specify dining at the Atlanta Friends Meeting with CUR-AFM, please use our group name, "AtlantaFriendsMeeting".

## TURTLE KIENTZ MEMORIAL SERVICE – Saturday, April 4

---

Cookeville Monthly Meeting will be celebrating Turtle Kientz's life on April 4th at 2:00 pm at the Wesley Foundation in Cookeville, TN in the basement. Please come help us remember Turtle. If you have any questions, please contact Annie Black at [rablolly5@gmail.com](mailto:rablolly5@gmail.com).

## QUAKER MEN'S RETREAT – Friday to Sunday, April 17 to 19, 2020

---

On Friday, April 17 through Sunday, April 19, there will be a Men's Retreat at the Ferguson Cabins, one of the best places to get away from the city. There will be canoeing, hiking, fishing, being with nature, and space to get to know more about yourself. Cost is \$20/person per night plus cost of food. Total of \$60 for two nights and all meals. The retreat will start as early as 4 pm on Friday afternoon. We will conclude after morning worship and a meal on Sunday at about 1:00 pm. Contact Eric Glenn ([770-899-3182](tel:770-899-3182); [eric.glenn64@gmail.com](mailto:eric.glenn64@gmail.com)) for more info. Eric & Bert will shop, and we will all share food costs. Let Eric know of any dietary restrictions. Sign up with Eric by April 12. Scholarships available if cost is a reason not to come. Let Eric know. We will also help organize carpools.

## REMEMBERING & HONORING VICTIMS OF LYNCHING IN DEKALB COUNTY, GA

---

Unveiling Ceremony: Sunday, March 29 at 2pm, at Manuel J. Maloof Auditorium, Decatur  
The Dekalb Remembrance Project: a Journey of Remembrance and Reconciliation

*by Nicholas Vila Byers and Susan Cole*

***“History, despite its wrenching pain, cannot be un-lived, but if faced with courage, need not be lived again.” Maya Angelou***

More than 4400 racial terror lynchings occurred in 12 Southern states, and 300 lynchings occurred outside the South, during the period between the end of Reconstruction in 1877 and 1950. Dekalb County is the location of at least 4 of the nearly 600 documented lynchings that took place in Georgia during that period.

The Equal Justice Initiative, based in Montgomery Alabama, has developed a Community Remembrance Project as part of a campaign to recognize the victims of lynching by collecting soil from lynching sites, erecting historical markers, and creating a national memorial that acknowledges the horrors of racial injustice. The goal of the project is to illuminate America's history of racial injustice and to advance truth and reconciliation in order to confront the legacy of racial inequality that has never been adequately addressed in America.

The Dekalb Remembrance Project is a Coalition of more than fifty organizations and individuals, including the Atlanta Friends Meeting, working in partnership with the NAACP Dekalb and the EJI to honor the Dekalb County victims of lynching. The goal is to acknowledge Dekalb's involvement in racial terrorism, to begin a conversation about racial injustice, and to initiate reconciliation and healing.

As a result of the Coalition's work, the Dekalb County Board of Commissioners passed a resolution in November, 2019 stating:

. . . that a permanent marker [shall] be erected on the ground of the historic Dekalb County Courthouse commemorating and memorializing the lives of those Dekalb residents impacted by racial terrorism, especially those victims of lynching and other extrajudicial mob violence.

The resolution also “acknowledges the impact this violence and other forms of domestic and racial terrorism have had on communities of color within Dekalb County.”

The Dekalb marker will honor Reuben Hudson, Jr., who was murdered on July 26, 1887, in Redan, Georgia, after a train conductor said Hudson resembled a man wanted for assaulting a white woman; several unnamed Black men who were murdered in Lithonia, Georgia on April 3, 1892, after being pursued by a white mob; and Porter F. Turner, a Black taxi driver, who was murdered on August 21, 1945 by the KKK in a Druid Hills neighborhood for picking up white passengers.

The unveiling ceremony for the Dekalb marker honoring these victims is planned for Sunday, March 29, 2020.

Along with the unveiling ceremony, scholarships and monetary prizes will be awarded to winners of essay contests and an art contest.

Two additional Dekalb County markers will eventually be installed in Dekalb County, one in Lithonia to honor Mr. Hudson and the unknown victims who were lynched there, and one in the Druid Hills area to honor Mr. Turner.

Soil from the area of the Druid Hills lynching was collected last year in a private ceremony with members of Mr. Turner’s family and Coalition representatives. Soil from the Lithonia locations will be collected in a ceremony in April. A jar of soil from each of the three Dekalb lynching locations will be delivered to the EJI for display in the Legacy Museum in Montgomery.

At a future date, Dekalb County will claim the steel monument bearing the names of Dekalb’s lynching victims, which is now in a park surrounding the EJI’s National Memorial for Peace and Justice and is identical to a monument permanently installed in the Memorial. The Dekalb monument is one of more than 800 monuments representing each county where racial terror lynching took place, waiting to be claimed and installed in the counties they represent. Dekalb’s monument will be installed next to the marker on the Dekalb County Courthouse grounds.

In partial answer to the question why it is important to remember and honor victims of lynching, the EJI’s description of its Community Remembrance Project explains:

Public acknowledgment of mass violence is essential not only for victims and survivors, but also for perpetrators and bystanders who suffer from trauma and damage related to their participation in systematic violence and dehumanization.

Black writers such as James Baldwin and Claudia Rankine have demonstrated that racial lynching is a foundational aspect of White American history and identity. Although revisionist histories often cast racial lynching as a violent, secretive activity of a few white supremacists, photographs of those events show that lynchings often drew crowds of thousands of white people, who would picnic during these



scenes of torture and mutilation. For example, in her book *Citizen*, Rankine includes a partial photograph of the scene at a lynching showing young white women and men in the mob, enjoying themselves amidst unspeakable violence.<sup>1</sup>

Baldwin's short story "Going to Meet the Man" features a white Southern sheriff named Jesse, who recalls the first time he attended a lynching as a young child. Although the young Jesse is at first scared by the violence of the lynching, by the end of the story, he understands that his family has "carried him through a mighty test," that will be "the key to his life forever."<sup>2</sup>

As *Citizen* and "Going to Meet the Man" indicate, racial lynching were primal scenes for white Americans, where young children learned how to engage in violence against Black people. If true reconciliation and healing are to occur, these lessons must be unlearned.

The Dekalb Remembrance Project asks us to actively investigate and document the true history of racial lynching in America, particularly the South. The further inquiry for Quakers is to seek and acknowledge the truth of the part Quakers have played in this country's history of racial injustice—neither exaggerating it nor minimizing it. As the EJI states: "[T]ruth and reconciliation are sequential. We must address oppressive histories by honestly and soberly recognizing the pain of the past." Only then can we "confront the continuing challenges that racial inequality creates."

Although Quakers are often commended for their historic involvement in racial justice movements, an account of Quaker history that features only the antiracist actions of Quakers disregards the complex ties between white supremacy, Christianity and anti-Black racism. While some Quakers offered housing accommodations to people escaping slavery via the underground railroad, some historians note that this role is often exaggerated and inappropriately gives more credit to "the assistance given freedom seekers by whites, particularly Quakers" than to "the larger story of African-Americans liberating themselves."<sup>3</sup>

Several Quakers, including an antiracist journal publisher Catherine Impey, played important roles in anti-lynching campaigns, but others may have a connection to the racial terror of lynching.<sup>4</sup> One example is Judge Charles Lynch.

In the late 1750s, Mr. Lynch organized a Quaker meeting in Bedford County, Virginia. He also spearheaded the fundraising efforts for a building to house the Quaker meeting, which became the first house of worship in the area. Lynch served for several years as the clerk of the meeting and as trustee of the group's meeting house, and was also a delegate to the Quaker Assembly in Virginia. In 1767, Mr. Lynch became a justice of peace in Bedford County, thus separating himself from the Quaker community which forbade the practice of taking public office. In 1780, during the American Revolutionary War, Lynch repeatedly sentenced Loyalists in Bedford County to harsh penalties, including corporal punishment, following only a summary trial at an informal court. Despite criticism of his extralegal actions, Judge Lynch stood by them, describing them as "Lynch's Law."

Many historians believe that the term "lynching" to describe organized but unauthorized punishment of alleged criminals derived from "Lynch's Law." Although some say that the term gained racial connotations later in American history, Christopher Waldrep points out that Judge Lynch once wrote that "Lynch's Law" could be used "for dealing with the negroes."<sup>5</sup>

These accounts suggest that the history of Quaker involvement in racial injustice and the measures taken to address it may be more complex than commonly portrayed. The work of the DeKalb Remembrance Project offers an opportunity for Friends to engage in truth-telling about racial terror and its legacy in Dekalb County and throughout America, the role of Quakers in this painful history, and the reconciliation and healing that can follow. By recognizing the historical ground that we stand

on, Friends can begin to reckon with that history, for the sake of those who came before us, and those who will come after.

**Footnotes:**

<sup>1</sup>Rankine, Claudia, *Citizen: An American Lyric*. Minneapolis, Minnesota: Graywolf Press, 2014

<sup>2</sup>Baldwin, James, *Going To Meet the Man*. New York: Vintage Books, 1995.

<sup>3</sup>Densmore, Christopher, "Quakers and the Underground Railroad: Myths and Realities." Friends Historical Library of Swarthmore College, retrieved from:

[http://web.tricolib.brynmawr.edu/speccoll/quakersandslavery/commentary/organizations/underground\\_railroad.php](http://web.tricolib.brynmawr.edu/speccoll/quakersandslavery/commentary/organizations/underground_railroad.php)

<sup>4</sup>Jordan, Brucella Wiggins, "Ida B. Wells, Catherine Impey, and Trans -Atlantic Dimensions of the Nineteenth-Century Anti-lynching Movement" (2003). West Virginia University Graduate Theses, Dissertations, and Problem Reports.

<https://researchrepository.wvu.edu/etd/1845>

<sup>5</sup>Waldrep, Christopher, "Lynching and Mob Violence." In Finkelman, Paul (ed.). *Encyclopedia of African American History 1619–1895*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2006. p. 308.

## SECOND MONTH MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS

February 16, 2020

Recorded Pending Approval

---

Attendance: Suzanne Cole Sullivan, Judith Greenberg, Israel Vance, Austin Wattles, Kathy Johnson, Karen Skellie, Myrna Trapp, Elizabeth Lamb, Dalia Kijakazi, Karen terHorst Morris, Ronald Nuse, Georgia Lord, Lynn Leuszler, Jim Tolmach, Steve Collins, Sally Ferguson, David Small, Rebecca Grant, Bert Skellie, Mary Ann Downey, Bill Holland, Leeland McPhail, Shelly Thurber, Lissa Place (Clerk), Rebecca Cole Sullivan (Recording Clerk)

Friends gathered near the appointed hour with opening worship. A member of Ministry and Worship shared the Second Month Query out of the worship: "When choices arise do you take the way that offers the fullest opportunity for the use of your gifts in the service of God and the community?"

**Clerk Appreciation:** Since I began my tenure as Clerk, a number of people have come up with ideas of things they would like to do to help improve our experience here together for all of us. One such idea came from Brent Wolf to include a list of people on committees in the directory in order to make it more public the number of people who are involved in making Atlanta Friends Meeting the vibrant place that it is. By making committee participation more public, we are showing how many people are involved in our meeting in order to make it run smoothly, and encourage others to do so. Thanks Brent!! And many thanks to all who contribute to the life of Atlanta Friends Meeting.

### **Discernment Items**

**Nominating Committee:** Clive Gordon reported on behalf of the nominating committee. Nominating brought forward the revised Social Concerns Committee description.

Minute 02-16-2020-01: On the recommendation of Nominating Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the revised Social Concerns Committee description.

Hosting Interfaith Opioid Training: Bill Holland, former clerk of meeting, has been attending an interfaith gathering of Faith leaders representing Protestant, Catholic, Jewish and Muslim congregations as a representative of our meeting. (This is an initiative of the Clinton Foundation

working with Morehouse School of Medicine and the Georgia Department of Behavior Health and Developmental Disabilities.) The purpose of the gathering has been to involve and educate the faith community to respond to drug and mental health problems. The particular focus is upon the widespread use of opioids, the resulting addiction and deaths from drug overdoses. The goal has been to build broader community understanding and the capacity to respond in compassionate, informed manner.

Bill has been struck by the generosity and compassion that has been broadly at work in the group. Based on this experience, Bill is asking the meeting to support an event to be held in the next several months at the meetinghouse. We would extend an invitation to members of area faith communities to participate in a half to full day training on recognizing and intervening in drug and perhaps mental health crises. This will provide us an opportunity to interact with other congregations and educate ourselves.

Minute 02-16-2020-02: On the recommendation of former Clerk, Bill Holland, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves hosting a training event on opioid addiction awareness and intervention.

**State of the Meeting Report:** Bill Holland, former clerk of AFM, read the State of the Meeting Report reflecting on the work and Spirit in the Meeting in 2019.

Minute 02-16-2020-03: On the recommendation of the Clerk of Meeting, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the State of the Meeting Report for 2019 with corrections.

**Minute of Appreciation:** The following minute of appreciation was read to thank those who finished their term of service in 2019.

Minute 02-16-2020-04: Atlanta Friends Meeting would like to thank those who have left their positions in 2019: Bill Holland, Lynn Leuszler, Bill Hoosen, Beth Ensign, Michael Kramer, Hannah MacNorlin, Claire Hannapel, Nanseera Wolff, and Brittney Thornburley. We are grateful for your support and leadership to Atlanta Friends Meeting.

**Ministry and Worship:** Elizabeth Lamb, clerk of Ministry and Worship, reported on behalf of the committee. Last month, Ministry and Worship read part of Susan Lippold's application for membership and asked Friends to get to know her. Today we bring her name forward for approval. She has already become an active participant in the life of the meeting, and we look forward to deepening our relationship with her.

Minute 02-16-2020-05: On the recommendation of Ministry and Worship, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Susan Lippold for membership.

## **Reports**

**Ministry and Worship:** Elizabeth Lamb reported on behalf of the committee. Ministry and Worship has received an application for membership for Folami Adams. A clearness committee has met with her and finds her clear for membership. Please get to know her over the next month. Her name will be brought forth in March for approval.

Sunday, March 29, the Ministry & Worship Committee and the Quaker Life Committee at the Friends School of Atlanta will honor teachers and educators at a special worship service, followed by a reception. Ahead of time and during worship, we will share queries for worship and encourage

responses from adults and youth. Youth will be worshipping with adults that morning, as it is a 5th Sunday.

**Discussion:** Last month, the clerk asked us to sit with the query: “How do we show our support to Friends who have not been Attending Meeting?” We spent some time in worship sharing ideas to help continue this work. Ministry and Worship, Care and Council, and the clerk will continue to hold this concern as we figure out the answer to this question.

Most of the answers reminded us that we are a community and it takes everyone to make this work. Even if a representative from a committee is in charge of reaching out to people who have not been present lately, it will take the meeting to raise the names of those who have not attended recently. Friends were also aware of the fine line between being seen and missed vs. tracked and shamed, and wanting to be aware that we are building a connected community.

**SAYMA Conflict of Interest Policy:** There has been a request from the SAYMA finance committee to review a Conflict of Interest Policy and send comments by February 29. This has been sent to finance committee to review. The policy will also be posted on the list serve for all to review. We will make sure to talk more about this at the March 1st threshing session. Some initial comments were brought forward during a period of worship. One friend, asked if this would redefine the sense of the meeting, because those who might be a recipient from the financial decision might need to remove themselves from the decision. Another Friend raised the question about if it is necessary? Might it add to elements of institutional racism? Also there has been an ask from within the yearly meeting for a conflict resolution process that would answer some of the same concerns this policy might be trying to solve?

#### Approval of Minutes

Minute 02-16-2020-06: Friends approved the First Month Minutes with corrections.

#### Events in the Life of the Meeting:

David Jarvis died February 12, 2020.

#### Closing Worship:

Friends closed with a moment of open worship.

## *HOLDING IN THE LIGHT:*

Freer Jarvis and family  
Jane and Peter Lang  
Beth-Ann Buitekant  
Daniel Gold-Hopton  
Katie Smillie

*Those wishing to have requests for holding in the light included in this monthly newsletter may give the names to a member of Care & Counsel.*

## Atlanta Friends Meeting Contacts

Clerk of the Meeting: Lissa Place, [afmclerk1@gmail.com](mailto:afmclerk1@gmail.com)  
Office Coordinator: Nina Gooch, [atlantaquakers@gmail.com](mailto:atlantaquakers@gmail.com)  
Treasurer: Judith Greenberg, [afmtreasurer1@gmail.com](mailto:afmtreasurer1@gmail.com)  
Ministry & Worship: Elizabeth Lamb, [gelds@comcast.net](mailto:gelds@comcast.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: Karen Skellie, [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: Elaine Meyer-Lee, [eemeyer87@earlham.edu](mailto:eemeyer87@earlham.edu)  
and Tina Bovermann, [Bovermann@me.com](mailto:Bovermann@me.com)  
Library Clerk: Cal Gough, [calgough@bellsouth.net](mailto:calgough@bellsouth.net)  
Nominating, Clive Gordon, [afm.nominating@gmail.com](mailto:afm.nominating@gmail.com)  
Newsletter Editor: Nina Gooch, [atlquakerltr@gmail.com](mailto:atlquakerltr@gmail.com)  
Webmaster: Aaron Ruschetta, [arxaaron@gmail.com](mailto:arxaaron@gmail.com)  
Bookkeeper: Jonah McDonald, [afmbookkeeper1@gmail.com](mailto:afmbookkeeper1@gmail.com)

## **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](http://peachtree.quaker.org)  
1:30 p.m. - Stone Mountain Friends Church (Evangelical), at St. Timothy United Methodist Church  
5365 Memorial Dr, Stone Mountain, GA 30083
- Every Second & Fourth First Day 2:30 p.m. – Macon Friends Worship Group.  
Contact Kellie Divis at [MaconQuakers@gmail.com](mailto:MaconQuakers@gmail.com); [maconquakers.org](http://maconquakers.org)
- Every Third First Day 11:45 p.m. – Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, Meeting room  
12:30 p.m. – Carrollton Friends Worship Group.  
St. Andrew's UMC Youth Center, 1106 Maple St.; contact Jean Hudson,  
[jhudson30116@yahoo.com](mailto:jhudson30116@yahoo.com) or 678-378-3368; [carrolltonfriends.org](http://carrolltonfriends.org) .
- Fourth Day (Wednesday) 8:30 a.m. Morning Worship, Library
- Sixth Day (Friday) 11:00 a.m. – East Lake Commons, Decatur. Contact Bert Skellie at  
[bertskellie@gmail.com](mailto: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.

## **Other Regular Events at the Meetinghouse**

- First Day (Sunday) 9:00 a.m. - Adult First Day School, Library  
10:00 a.m. - Meeting for Worship  
Third Sunday of every month, 11:15 a.m. - Listening Ear for those with a concern about racism  
Third Sunday of every month, 11:45 am, - Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business  
5:00 p.m. - Atlanta Mennonite Fellowship, Meeting Room
- Second Day (Monday) Every other Monday at 7:00 p.m. - Spiritual Nurture Group, Library
- Third Day (Tuesday) Second & fourth Tuesdays at 7:00 - Deep Waters Center for Prayer & Exploration, Meeting Room
- 18<sup>th</sup> of Each Month Newcomers Welcome Dinner, rotating location (No Welcome Dinner in December)

Atlanta Friends Meeting  
701 W. Howard Avenue  
Decatur, GA 30030-2902

#### ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING

Office: Mon-Thurs 10 am to 1 pm and Friday by appointment

phone: 404-377-2474 – web and email: [atlantaquakers.org](http://atlantaquakers.org), [atlantaquakers@gmail.com](mailto:atlantaquakers@gmail.com)

Clerk: Lissa Place, [afmclerk1@gmail.com](mailto:afmclerk1@gmail.com) Treasurer: Judith Greenberg, [afmtreasurer1@gmail.com](mailto:afmtreasurer1@gmail.com)

#### **Are you a newcomer to the Atlanta Friends community and would like a nametag?**

We would be happy to make you a permanent nametag. You can leave a request in one of the baskets on the front table. When Carol Gray has made one for you, it will be placed in the black file box on the greeting table.

#### **Atlanta Friends Meeting has three email lists:**

*To receive the announcement sheets and other announcements relating directly to the life of the meeting, send a blank email to*

[afmannouncements-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:afmannouncements-subscribe@yahoogroups.com).

*To receive announcements AND posts about a broader range of topics relating to being a Quaker, send a blank email to*

[afmdiscussion-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:afmdiscussion-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

*To receive the newsletter by email, send a blank email to*

[afmnewsletter-subscribe@yahoo.groups.com](mailto:afmnewsletter-subscribe@yahoo.groups.com). When asked to confirm, select the option to confirm by email.

#### **Would you like to appear in future AFM Directories?**

Send your name and contact information to Brent Wolff at [afmdirectory@gmail.com](mailto:afmdirectory@gmail.com).

#### **What does investing in your spiritual community look like for you and your family?**

Atlanta Friends Meeting accepts contributions of your time, resources, and money! You can place a financial contribution in the slot marked "Contributions" in the greeting area of the Meetinghouse or mail to the Treasurer at our mailing address.

To donate online with a credit card, visit [atlantaquakers.org/contact.htm](http://atlantaquakers.org/contact.htm). Thank you!

#### **Want to submit an announcement, letter, article, and anything else of interest to Friends for the newsletter?**

Send items to [atlquakerltr@gmail.com](mailto:atlquakerltr@gmail.com). Submissions may be edited for length and format. THE DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS IS THE 20<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF EACH PRECEDING MONTH.

*This newsletter is a publication of the Atlanta Friends Meeting. Views expressed are those of the authors and not necessarily that of the Meeting.*