

ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING NEWSLETTER



Meeting for Worship
Each First Day (Sunday)
In Person & via Zoom
10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

OCTOBER 2021

Current and back issues of the newsletter are always available at <http://atlantaquakers.org/archive.htm>

SUNDAY WORSHIP IN PERSON & VIA ZOOM

Sunday morning Meeting for Worship continues at 10:00 am thru the end of the year as a blended meeting with in-person meeting for worship at the meetinghouse combined with worship via Zoom. Nursery care for children under three will be available at the meetinghouse. First Day School for both adults and children and teens also continues both in person and via Zoom.

Zoom information below and on next page.

Things to know:

- Please wear a mask inside the meetinghouse, even if you are vaccinated. If you speak during worship, please leave your mask on. (Children under two do not need to wear a mask.)
- Children can continue to join Meeting for Worship for the first 15 minutes or can go directly to Religious Education, as they and their parents / guardians prefer.
- There will be no coffee hour or potluck, but you are welcome to socialize after Meeting for Worship. Just bring your own beverage in your own container.
- Please do not come if you do not feel well, have tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 10 days, or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 within the previous 14 days.

For more details and for more information about First Day School and childcare, see <https://tinyurl.com/52u3waus> or contact the office: atlantaquakers@gmail.com or 404-451-5974.

DETAILS FOR WORSHIP AND FIRST DAY SCHOOL AT ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING

For the most up to date information, see the most recent announcements each week at www.atlantaquakers.org/_announcements/Announcement_Sheet.pdf or check your email inbox.

Sundays:

MEETING FOR WORSHIP with new Zoom info as of September 5

Combined in person and Zoom

10 a.m. Sundays

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89686276751?pwd=M29EYlIFWEhSQUtZRlVVPaFFYmVDQT09>

Meeting ID: 896 8627 6751

Passcode: 789456

QUERY FOR OCTOBER

How do you address inequality in all forms? For example:

How do you work to support equality in relation to race, gender, class, sexual orientation, and religion?

How do you work for equality in criminal justice, housing, education, and civil and human rights?

How are you working to bring about opportunities for those who suffer discrimination?

– source: Atlanta Friends Meeting

ADULT FIRST DAY SCHOOL (See under Events for more details for each Sunday.)

Combined in-person and Zoom

9:00 to 9:50 am Sundays

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86063665797?pwd=Nms0Vm5MSW91UXdWRGJSOXA5NWRjZz09>

Meeting ID: 860 6366 5797

Passcode: 013191

FIRST DAY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH with new Zoom info as of September 5

Zoom for younger children: Sundays 9:30am

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7279961727?pwd=ck1ROVZIRWRCVDgzdGRocFhQWEduUUT09>

Meeting ID: 727 996 1727

Passcode: Quaker!

In-person for all ages, with blended option for teens: Sundays 10:15 am

Children can continue to join Meeting for Worship for the first 15 minutes or can go directly to Religious Education, as they and their parents / guardians prefer. The teens will meet in person with an option for a blended FDS class from 10:15-11:00. For more info, contact Laura MacNorlin.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT THE MEETINGHOUSE

Now that we've returned to the meetinghouse, we will need greeters each week as well as one volunteer in the nursery and one to help as a doorkeeper in the pre-school thru elementary class. Beginning in October, we will also need Zoom hosts at the meetinghouse to set up equipment, monitor the zoom half of the blended meeting, and put away the equipment.

If you are attending meeting for worship at the meetinghouse, we encourage you to consider if you can help once every month or every two months. Sign up at <http://tinyurl.com/afmvolunteers> or in person at the meetinghouse. If you're interested in being a Zoom host, contact Alison Mawle at zumilla@gmail.com. If you have questions in general, please contact the Office Coordinator at atlantaquakers@gmail.com or 404-377-2474.

QUERIES FOR EXPLORING "HYBRIDITY" AND THE FUTURE

From "Exploring Hybridity," June 2's online Midweek Experiments in Faithfulness from Beacon Hills Friends' House in Boston (<https://bhfh.org/video-archive/>), facilitated by David Colletta and Jen Higgins-Newnan, :

Jen Higgins-Newnan, Program Manager at Beacon Hills Friends House, describes "hybridity" as a "possibility of mixture." She introduced the program by saying: "As the world changes quickly around us, it is unclear what the future of programming will look like exactly. What we do know is that we have learned a lot about the value of both in-person gatherings (as we reflect on what we've missed) and online opportunity (for things like accessibility and connecting across geographical areas). As we move into the future, creating and being together, how can we learn from this year and think creatively in engaging the future?"

- How can we create the experience we want, focusing on the people and the activity, using the resources we have, whether that's an in-person space or the technology of online?
- Who gets to define "good" In questions like "Is this a good space?" as we decide what works and what doesn't work?
- How can we capture the best of both in-person and online?
- How do we deepen our connections to each other and create a wider and more inclusive circle?

ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING – CLERKS SINCE 1951

1951	Bruce McDuffie
1952	Emory Via
1953	Phern Stanley
1962	Alvin Gaines
1963	Elizabeth Hendricks
1964	Pat Westervelt
1966	Frank Burford
1968	Noyes Collinson
1969	Tom Kenworthy
1972	Peg Kaiser
1974	Suzan Kenworthy
1977	Courtney Sicheloff
1979	Sue Williams
1981	Jim Cain
1983	Steve Meredith
1984	Joan Thompson
1985	Marianne Bradley
1986	Bert Skellie

1988	Janet Minshall
1990	Perry Treadwell
1992	Sandra Beer
1994	David Thurman
1996	Mary Ann Downey
1998	Tom McGuigan
2000	Valerie Barlow
2002	Susan Cozzens
2004	Karen Morris
2006	Sally McEwen
2008	Steve Collins
2010	Georgia Lord
2012	David Foster
2014	Nan O'Connor
2016	Betsy Eggers
2018	Bill Holland
2020	Lissa Place

SOCIAL CONCERNS REQUESTS SUPPORT FOR THE SAFETY OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN

The Social Concerns Committee has created the following statement, which was read during Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, and is sharing it widely throughout the meeting.

During these tragic and dangerous times, the welfare of women and children is daily being threatened by violent military and paramilitary actions, by a global pandemic, by immigrations due to natural disasters of changing climates, by relocations as refugees from war zones. Additionally, increased economic and political worldwide instability place women and children in harm's way due to lack of shelter, limited or unavailability of health care, lack of adequate food and water, and inadequate physical safety.

Members of Social Concerns committee ask that we hold in the light women and children of the world and renew our efforts to support actions to protect these vulnerable members of society. Centuries of continued marginalization of the welfare rights and freedom rights of women and children by male dominated governments and fundamentalistic religious and political factions aimed at controlling the lives of women and children to be used as property must stop.

Patriarchal controlled governments and religious traditions that adhere to settler colonial enslavement cultural practices that continually place the welfare of women and children at risk of death and abuse must be challenged to change these harmful immoral practices. These are changes that require constant individual commitment to simplified living, commitment to loving others without conditions and actions that protect our fragile environment.

Continued subordination of women and children at the national and world level is inhuman and violates the moral principles of the Society of Friends' Testimonies. Actions to halt the mistreatment of women and children requires constant involvement by all as we strive to develop a more peaceful world. A world looking for that of God in all things.

Please help us find that more loving way through our service.

AN INTRODUCTION TO QUAKER VOLUNTARY SERVICE

Quaker Voluntary Service (QVS) began in Atlanta in 2012 and is now in five cities across the US. The QVS website (<https://quakervoluntaryservice.org/>) describes QVS “as an experiment, living at the intersection of transformational spirituality and activism.” QVS Fellows work full-time in professional positions at community based organizations addressing a wide range of issues, while living in intentional community, sharing day to day life and supporting each other throughout the year. Fellows receive support from QVS staff, spiritual nurturers and local Quaker meetings.

MEET THE 2021 – 2022 QUAKER VOLUNTARY SERVICE FELLOWS

George Edison (he/him) was born and raised in El Paso, Texas and recently graduated from [Vassar College](#), where he majored in Environmental Studies. His academic work on the relationships between people and places were influenced by his job as a grounds gardener at Vassar as well as summer jobs and internships working outdoors and promoting environmental justice. While lacking a background in organized spirituality, he looks forward to further developing his sense of place and community with QVS. Outside of school and work, George loves playing saxophone, taking long walks, and reading. He is excited to intern with the [Furniture Bank of Metro Atlanta](#).



Justin Sykes (he/him) was born in Durham, North Carolina and raised just south of Richmond, Virginia. He attended college at Appalachian State University and got his bachelor's in Sustainable Development. Growing up he attended Shiloh Quaker Camp and worked there as a counselor and staff member for many years. Through this experience he became deeply involved in the Baltimore Yearly Meeting community. In his free time, he loves to utilize movement as a form of meditation through hiking, running, unicycling, slacklining, and weightlifting. When he's not on the move he loves to collage and make zines. Activism is also a large part of his day to day. He is deeply passionate about advocating for LGBTQ and BIPOC rights. During his year with QVS, he is excited to grasp a deeper sense of community and work with Partnership for Southern Equity.

Maria Alejandra Martinez (she/they) was born and raised in Bogota, Colombia, but moved to a small town in New Jersey when she was 11 years old. They graduated from Brown University with a double major in Cognitive Science and Contemplative Studies. During her time at Brown they worked in the university's media services department, in the division of campus life, and became a Peer Mental Health Advocate with Project LETS, a national grassroots organization led by and for people with lived experience of mental illness, Disability, trauma, and neurodivergence. Over the past year Maria Alejandra worked as a Project Associate at Understood, a non-profit that seeks to provide support for children with learning disabilities. In her free time she loves to spend time with friends, travel, learn about astrology and watch shows. They are very excited to partner with Purpose Built Schools over the next year.





Selena Faith (she/her) recently graduated from Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana, where she double majored in Sociology-Anthropology and Studio Art with a focus in Photography. Even though she spent the last four years in the Midwest, she still calls North Carolina home, which is where she was first introduced to Quakerism as a lifer at Carolina Friends School and a camper at Camp Celso. She has a passion for learning about individuals and systems and has taken many opportunities at Earlham to further these interests; she conducted health psychology research in Sweden, managed a student-run health club called Sexual Health Peer Educators, studied abroad in Greece with a focus in art, and branched out into her school’s community by working on food access at her local Farmers Market. She is excited to bring her passion into the QVS community and her work at the Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

Rebecca Rubenstein (they/them) is originally from New York City but has lived in several states and three countries. They are passionate about community organizing, abolition, and developing a feminist, non-carceral negotiation of difference. They are excited to work and grow with Global Growers in Atlanta, Georgia.



Sam Wilson (he/him) grew up in Indianapolis, Indiana, and attended school at [Indiana University Bloomington](#), where he majored in International Studies with minors in Religious Studies and East Asian Languages and Cultures. He studied Chinese for three years, including one semester abroad his junior year in Nanjing, China. He also had the opportunity to travel to Taiwan twice as part of the Taiwan America Student Conference (TASC). Sam’s experience learning about Taiwan and working with students from across both countries in this student-led, multidisciplinary conference proved to be one of the most rewarding experiences of his life. He also participated in a variety of student activities throughout his college career, including orchestra, Taekwondo club, and Oxfam Club, and was able to explore a wide range of classes

as well, including art classes such as photography. After graduating, he tried various opportunities, including staying at an organic farm in Florida, before eventually moving to Thailand to teach English, where he lived for over a year and a half. He enjoyed the opportunity to see a new part of the world and learn from new experiences. Other interests and hobbies of his include spending time in nature, sustainability, biking, meditating, drawing, photography, learning foreign languages, and talking with friends. Sam grew up attending a Quaker church and going to Quaker summer camps, but only in the past few years or so did he become more interested in Quakerism. He is looking forward to more deeply exploring Quakerism and spirituality during his year at QVS. Additionally, he hopes that QVS will help him develop a more in depth understanding of important modern-day issues, such as inequality, and how we can address them. Sam is excited to begin work as a QVS Fellow at [Southern Education Foundation](#) in Atlanta!

QVS HOUSE REQUESTS

The new cohort of Quaker Voluntary Service (QVS) Fellows, busy making their Grant Street house a home, have requested a few things: work boots (women size 8) and work pants (~32" or size 12), front porch bench and/or chair, non-stick frying pan, toaster, hammock, access to a Costco card. If you can donate any of these, please let Steve Collins know, shcollins75@gmail.com.

RECORDINGS AND RESOURCES FROM RECENT ANTI-RACISM FORUMS AND EVENTS

Vanessa Julye's "Radical Transformation, long overdue for the Religious Society of Friends": If you missed Vanessa Julye's Pendle Hill lecture September 13 or would like to view it again, visit: <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=zuYwKDS6mjU>. Please feel free to share, and thanks to Liz Dykes of (SAYMA (Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association) and Folami Adams of AFM for forwarding the link.

Vanessa Julye is the co-author of *Fit for Freedom, Not for Friendship: Quakers, African Americans, and the Myth of Racial Justice*. This is the introduction she sent out before the lecture: "How have Friends collaborated with and sustained the global system of White Supremacy? George Fox, the founder of the Religious Society of Friends envisioned a revolutionary religion which professes the belief that every person has a direct relationship with God. Early Friends proclaimed our capacity for spiritual wholeness comes from the seed of God planted in our hearts. What structures are preventing Friends from living into these beliefs and growing God's seed?"

Recording and questions from Hal Weaver's "Black Lives Matter: Black Quaker Lives Matter": Here's your chance If you missed Atlanta Friends Meeting's August 22 Forum viewing and discussing African American Quaker scholar activist Dr. Hal Weaver's SAYMA (Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association) plenary, "Black Lives Matter: Black Quaker Lives Matter." This presentation covers the Black Quaker Project, retrospective justice/reparations, systemic racism with an emphasis on housing justice, and what Quakers need to do for reparative justice.

Link to edited version of Hal Weaver's SAYMA plenary: Weaver_2021SAYMAPlenaryEdited.mp4
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1AWdLsAPw3lyc52T3vmFwQ9IN5n9OSXou/view?usp=sharing>

Link to Aug. 22 forum agenda, outline of video, and questions for discussion/ reflection:
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1M8i0BHVvC2ftYhPXVKZT8W-YEfB1WO2r/edit?usp=sharing&oid=108995711048204362426&rtpof=true&sd=true>

Recordings from "Decolonize Decatur: Genocide Cannon Teach In":

The August 22 Teach In was organized by the Beacon Hill Black Alliance for Human Rights (<https://beaconhillblackalliance.org>), which currently strives to remove the "genocide" cannon placed in the Decatur courtyard in 1906 by the Daughters of the Confederacy. The relic memorializes the removal of indigenous peoples following the Creek Indian War of 1836 and reflects a settler colonialist mindset that continues to be reflected in the current displacement of black Decaturites by wealthy, white families with mega mansions. AFM member Sara Patenaude describes the bulldozing of Decatur's Beacon Hill community, the current state of gentrification in the city of Decatur, and how to build affordable, equitable, diverse housing through mandatory, inclusive zoning policies. This information is valuable for anyone who wants to live in an area with diverse housing sizes, types, and prices rather than mega mansions. Visit for Sara's presentation: <https://youtu.be/1JpIMzCa9hE>.

To watch the entire Teach In, click the playlist below:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL0rkfuVYih4oTEDIQW5wmh4jBtu7t8y19>

HELP FINISH MEDITATION AREA IN RAVINE

The landscape committee (Myrna Trapp and David Small) have been beautifying the ravine, including removing kudzu and other invasive species. They are now creating a path and meditation area. They could use large cardboard boxes or pieces of cardboard (appliance boxes would be perfect), a bench, and help moving mulch. If you can help, please notify Myrna or the office.

CASA ALTERNA: UPDATE & HOSPITALITY WISH LIST FOR OUR ASYLUM-SEEKING GUESTS

In the past month Casa Alterna at the Atlanta Friends Meeting has hosted 40 asylum seekers and guests from eight different countries. The print and online versions of the Atlanta Journal-Constitution also ran an in-depth piece on Casa Alterna on September 24 at <https://tinyurl.com/33ja5njs>. The number of guests we've welcomed has doubled compared to our first year of radical hospitality, and so have our needs. Below is our current wish list (all items can be gently used):

- Backpacks
- Android phones
- Phone chargers
- Laptops or chromebooks
- Water bottles
- Belts
- Women's casual fall clothing
- Combs
- Volunteers to help prep the meetinghouse for guests or to help accompany asylum seekers at the airport.

For more information or to contribute items on the wish list, please contact Anton Flores-Maisonet, Friend-in-Residence, at 706-302-9661 or anton@casaalterna.org.

CARDS FOR SUZAN KENWORTHY'S FAMILY

Suzan Kenworthy died Monday, September 6. A celebration of her life will be held at a later time. You can send cards of condolence for her family to Lauren Jarrell, 1102 Lanier Blvd., Atlanta, GA 30306. Suzan's spiritual journey from 2008 can be heard at: <https://tinyurl.com/kv5rj5w3>.

HOLDING IN THE LIGHT:

Kenworthy family
Elizabeth Valera
Cindy Berg
Donna Roberts
Janet Minshall

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

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Treasurer: Judith Greenberg, afmtreasurer1@gmail.com
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For information about these committees, download the AFM Handbook from <http://atlantaquakers.org/members.htm> (scroll down to the bottom)

SPIRITUAL JOURNEYS AND ADULT FIRST DAY SCHOOL – Sundays, October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

Adult First Day School will meet in person at the meetinghouse and people will continue to be able to join us via Zoom. (See above for Zoom details.)

Each first Sunday of the month in Adult First Day School, 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 spiritual journeys, stories where Friends describe their understanding of God and religion in their life. On October 3, we will hear the spiritual journey of Dee DeBra.

(To hear Sara Patenaude's spiritual journey from September 5, visit <https://tinyurl.com/wvvy85u> .

On third Sundays, Adult First Day School will have worship sharing, usually on that month's query. On other Sundays, we will be discussing *The Great Conversation, Nature and the Care of the Soul* by Belden C. Lane. Please join us, even if you haven't read the book.

BOOKS BY AND ABOUT PEOPLE OF COLOR – Thursday, October 7

The book group reading works by and about people of color meets at 1:30 p.m. on the first Thursday of the month via Zoom. On October 7, the group will discuss *Transcendent Kingdom* by Yaa Gyasi. For questions or the Zoom link, contact Susan Cole (cole2544@bellsouth.net)

SAYMA FALL REPRESENTATIVE MEETING – Saturday, October 16

Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association's (SAYMA's) fall Representative Meeting will be October 16, online.

MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS – Sunday, October 17

Meeting for business for August will be a blended meeting, combining in-person and Zoom. Simply stay after Meeting for Worship, whether you attend Meeting for Worship in person or via Zoom. See announcement sheet for Zoom details. Minutes from last month are below. For more info about meeting for business, see these guidelines approved by Atlanta Friends Meeting in 1996:

http://atlantaquakers.org/_site_pdf_docs/Guidelines_for_Meeting_for_Business.pdf

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE FOR NEXT MONTH – Wednesday, October 20

Please send articles, announcements, information about upcoming events, and other submissions to atlquakerltr@gmail.com by October 20. Please send as an email or in Word or other text format.

PETER SEDERBERG MEMORIAL IN SOUTH CAROLINA – Friday, October 22

A memorial for Peter Sederberg will be held at 2:00 pm on October 22 in the Rutledge Chapel at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, SC with a reception following. Masks will be required. Peter died July 31, 2020, and was a member of this meeting. For more about Peter's life, see the memorial minute in the Minutes in the March 2021 newsletter:

http://atlantaquakers.org/_afm_newsletters/AFM_Newsletter_2021-03.pdf

FORUM – ASYLUM-SEEKERS AND MIGRANTS IN AN ERA OF MASS DETENTION: A GEORGIA PERSPECTIVE – Sunday, October 24

What are the connections between mass incarceration and immigrant detention? What's happening in Georgia that scores of asylum seekers are being left to fend for themselves at the Atlanta airport after weeks and months in for-profit detention facilities without legal counsel? What are human rights organizations doing to abolish immigration detention in Georgia and nationwide? How can I get involved?

Join us Sunday, October 24 at 11:45 am for this hybrid forum at the Atlanta Friends Meeting as we explore this topic with a panel of activists and those directly impacted by the policies and practices of Immigration and Custom Enforcement (ICE). Confirmed speakers include Priyanka Bhatt (Project South staff attorney), Ariel Prado (Innovation Law Lab's Anticarceral Legal Organizing Program Director) and Nilson Barahona (formerly detained by ICE for over a year). The forum, sponsored by Quakers for Racial Equality and the Committee on Undoing Racism in Atlanta Friends Meeting, will be moderated by Anton Flores-Maisonet, founding director of Casa Alternativa and the Atlanta Friends Meeting's Friend-in-Residence. This forum will use the same Zoom information as meeting for worship.

FORUM – MEMBERSHIP IN ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING – Sunday, October 31

On October 31, the Ministry and Worship committee will offer a forum on membership in our meeting. Sara Patenaude and Folami Adams will share their experience and reasons for becoming members. We will answer questions and provide guidelines for requesting membership. All are welcome. See announcement sheet for details.

SUMMARY – NINTH MONTH MEETING FOR BUSINESS

Held in person and via Zoom as a hybrid meeting on September 19.

Began with silent worship and the reading of the month's query.

Discernment:

- Ministry and Worship:
Friends approved Alberta Guise as a new member of the meeting and approved hybrid or combined or in-person/zoom meeting thru the end of the year.
- Administration:
Friends approved the extension of Anton Flores-Maisonet's term as Friend in Residence for a third year.

Reports from Committee:

- Administration reported on continued maintenance and upkeep of the meetinghouse and grounds. Installation of the solar panels should begin in December. Landscaping has requested large cardboard boxes as part of the continued beautification of the ravine at the back of the property. AFM will host an in-person SAYF (Southern Appalachian Young Friends) retreat October 22 to 24.
- The Cabin Committee reported on the ongoing lawsuit regarding the rezoning of the adjacent property next to the meeting's cabin on Lake Burton.

- Social Concerns presented a statement requesting support for ensuring the safety and welfare of women and children.
- The Working Group on the Use of the Meetinghouse gave a brief update on the return to meetinghouse of Sunday worship, other meeting groups, and renters.
- The Clerk announced the new members of the Naming Committee, which will choose the Nominating Committee.

During Committee Corner, Sue May reported on the work of the Atlanta FCNL (Friends Committee on National Legislation) Advocacy Team.

There will be a Forum on Membership on October 31.

For full minutes, see below.

MINUTES

NINTH MONTH MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS

September 19, 2021, held as a hybrid meeting with both in person and Zoom attendees

Minutes Recorded Pending Approval

Attendance: Bill Hooson, Teri Key-Hooson, Mary Ann Downey, Aaron Ruscetta, Alberta Guise, Alison Mawle, Austin Wattles, Charlotte Flores, Becky Lough, Big Softy Wells, Brent Wolff, Bert Skellie, Karen Skellie, Cathy Amanti, David Small, Diane Rowely, Elizabeth Lamb, Glenn Plyler, Georgia Lord, Henry Slack, Jennifer Dickie, Jennifer Thompson, Judy Lumb, Julia Ewen, Karen Morris, Kathy Johnson, Mary Place, Mark Yates, Myrna Trapp, Micheal Allison, Nina Gooch, Nan Roark, Ronald Nuse, Sallie Carpentier, Sue May, Susan Firestone, Steve Collins, Lissa Place (Clerk), Coryn Murphy (Recording Clerk)

Friends gathered near the appointed hour with opening worship. A member of Ministry and Worship shared the Ninth Month Query out of the worship: “How does the meeting’s committee structure allow for and encourage the expression of gifts from those in the meeting community?” Friends responded out of the silence.

Discernment:

Ministry and Worship

Report of Clearness committee:

The Clearness Committee for Membership for Alberta Guise, met with with her in response to her letter requesting membership. She has become a vital part of our meeting community since 2015 offering her insight and energy to Care and Counsel, QVS, Undoing Racism and others. Ministry and Worship Committee joyfully recommends that we approve Albert’s request for membership.

Minute 09-19-2021-01: On the recommendation of Ministry and Worship, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the request for membership of Alberta Guise.

Report on Meeting for Worship in hybrid form:

Last month, we agreed to hold meeting for worship in person and online beginning August 29, and to evaluate our experience with this hybrid form. We have now had 3 meetings that were hybrid and one that was parallel with in person and online at the same time due to lack of internet. Based on input from Friends and the evaluation of members of M&W we recommend continuing the hybrid form of meeting for worship through the end of 2021. If interested in signing up to help please contact Allison Mawle.

Minute 09-19-2021-02: On the recommendation of Ministry and Worship, The Atlanta Friends Meeting approves continuing meeting for worship in hybrid form through 2021.

Administration Committee

Steve Collins reported for the Administration Committee. Anton Flores, Friend-in-Residence (FiR) for AFM since the summer of 2019, has agreed at the request of the Administration Committee to serve a 3rd year. As prescribed in the Meeting's Handbook, Meeting for Business approval is required for such an extension. Below is the relevant excerpt from the FiR job description.

Term: Two year minimum, with an option to extend the term for up to two extra years with approval of the Meeting for Business. For any subsequent years thereafter, the Friend in Residence may apply for consideration for reappointment. Such reappointment could only be made after a search committee is formed, a search process for candidates is conducted, and any other applicants are genuinely considered.

Minute 09-19-2021-03: The Meeting approves the extension of Anton Flores for a 3rd year of service as Friend in Residence through July 31, 2022.

Reports:

Administration:

Steve Collins, Clerk of the committee, reported.

Kevin Wong, Property Coordinator, continues to maintain the Meetinghouse and plan for upcoming projects. Additional mulch was spread in the playground area, more mulch was delivered for use elsewhere on the grounds, the sidewalks around the building were pressure washed, balky entrance doors are being repaired, and new metal furniture was delivered for the rear patio and the back door area. The approved solar panel project should get underway by December 2021.

Myrna Trapp, Clerk of the Landscaping Committee, has requested cardboard donations to spread in the lower area pathway behind the playground to inhibit invasive plant growth. A bench for that area is also needed. As always, volunteers to help spread mulch are appreciated.

The Southern Appalachian Young Friends (SAYF) Program and Steering Committee are planning a retreat at the Atlanta Meetinghouse for the weekend of October 22-24. Potential Friendly Adult Nurturers (FANs) are encouraged to contact Aaron Ruscetta to assist with the retreat. Aaron, interim AFM Young Friends Program Coordinator, is the Lead FAN for that weekend.

Quaker Voluntary Service (QVS) Local Support Committee

Steve Collins reported for the QVS Support Committee.

The 2021-2022 cohort of Atlanta Fellows -- George Edison, Selena Faith, Maria Alejandra Martinez, Rebecca Rubenstein, Justin Sykes and Sam Wilson -- moved into the Grant Street QVS house in early September. The local support committee, Rachael Carter (the Local Coordinator) and the Fellows sincerely thank those in the Meeting who have provided food, donations and transportation, as well as those who helped ready the QVS house and grounds for their arrival.

As the Fellows begin to make the house their home for the next year, they have requested a few things. If you can offer any of them, please contact me at shcollins75@gmail.com. Some of the things on their wish list include a toaster, work boots, work pants, nonstick pan, and a front porch bench/couch and access to a Costco membership card. Details are in the AFM weekly announcement sheet.

The committee is always looking for new members to join in our mission of supporting QVS and the Local Coordinator. This role looks like attending our monthly meeting and supporting QVS activities as capacity allows. Are you interested in learning more? Reach out to Jillian Eller, former Fellow and a member of the committee, at eller.jillian.k@gmail.com.

Cabin Committee:

Update on Litigation Challenging Rezoning of Property Adjacent to Ferguson Cabin

At the Sixth Month Meeting for Business, the Meeting decided to become one of several plaintiffs in a lawsuit challenging the recent rezoning of property adjacent to the Ferguson Cabin property. The property on the other side of the property line from the Treetops Cabin was rezoned from Agricultural to Commercial Business, and the owner of that property is planning the construction of a large storage facility. A group from the neighborhood hired counsel to explore possible litigation challenging the recent rezoning. They sought our help, asking the Meeting to join their group in bringing this litigation. The group was particularly eager to have our support because no one else was available who owned property directly adjacent to the rezoned property.

A lawsuit has been prepared. The parties bringing the suit are Friends of Murray Cove, LLC; the Lake Burton Civic Association, Inc., and our Meeting. The defendants named in the suit are the Rabun County Board of Commissioners and the property owner, Taywood, LLC.

The lawsuit would challenge the rezoning on several grounds. These include:

- Inadequate published notice of the proposed change.
- Inadequate posting of notice of the proposed change on the property; the posting was placed far inside the five-acre tract, was letter sized, and was not located on the subject property for the required period of time.
- The application was very vague and did not include such required materials as a current plat, proof of the need for the proposed zoning change, information about provision for utilities, any plan regarding the risk of water or sediment runoff, any plan regarding traffic impact, or any setback information.
- The only information provided regarding the proposed use for the land was a statement that it would be used for a boat storage facility.
- The Commission failed to consider the impact of the change upon adjacent property owners.
- The Commission's decision provided that approval was "contingent" upon the property owner having a topographic survey and site plan done, rather than requiring the property owner to provide such information for the Commission to review prior to making this zoning decision.
- Conflicts of interest, in that a member of the Board of Commissioners owned the property until shortly before the zoning application was filed, that he transferred it to close relatives, that these relatives owned the property at the time the Commission approved the zoning application, and that the Commissioner in question did not recuse himself.

A local newspaper published a story about the dispute on July 28th. At the request of some of the other plaintiffs, Georgia provided a written comment to the reporter preparing the story, and was quoted in the news article as follows:

“The property our congregation owns on Lake Burton is used for worship, contemplation, and fellowship. We gather there to connect with nature’s beauties and cultivate a sense of peace and simplicity. The proposed use for the adjacent property is not only inconsistent with our long-time usage of our property but also seems likely to cause damage to our property through runoff of water and pollutants.”

Georgia also provided the following statement, which was not included in the article:

“We recognize that sharing a property line can be challenging and would like to work with our neighbors to devise a plan that allows fair use for all of us.”

The Meeting is not being asked to commit to provide financial support for the costs of this suit. If anyone would like further information about the suit or would like to see a copy of the proposed complaint, please contact Georgia Lord at georgia@decaturlgal.com."

Update: The lawsuit was filed on July 20th. All of the Judges in the Superior Court of Rabun County have recused themselves from the case, citing possible appearance of the absence of impartiality. A Senior Judge from outside the county has been assigned to the case: Grant Brantley.

Georgia asked Friends to keep in mind that one likely outcome may be that the Rabun County Commission considers this zoning question again. We have no right to insist that the property next to us remain undeveloped. We (and other neighbors) do have the right to insist that the proper procedures be followed and that provisions be implemented that prevent damage to our property.

Sallie Carpenter added that they county seems to be working through the depositions currently.

Social Concerns: Glenn Plyler reported for Social Concerns Committee. SCC members request support for ensuring the safety and welfare of women and children of our nation and the world. During these tragic and dangerous times, the welfare of women and children is daily being threatened by violent military and paramilitary actions, by a global pandemic, by immigrations due to natural disasters of changing climates, by relocations as refugees from war zones. Additionally, increased economic and political worldwide instability place women and children in harm’s way due to lack of shelter, limited or unavailability of health care, lack of adequate food and water, and inadequate physical safety.

Members of SCC committee ask that we hold in the light women and children of the world and renew our efforts to support actions to protect these vulnerable members of society. Centuries of continued marginalization of the welfare rights and freedom rights of women and children by male dominated governments and fundamentalistic religious and political factions aimed at controlling the lives of women and children to be used as property must stop.

Patriarchal controlled governments and religious traditions that adhere to settler colonial enslavement cultural practices* that continually place the welfare of women and children at risk of death and abuse must be challenged to change these harmful immoral practices. These are changes that require constant individual commitment to simplified living, commitment to loving others without conditions and actions that protect our fragile environment.

Continued subordination of women and children at the national and world level is inhuman and violates the moral principles of the Society of Friends’ Testimonies. Actions to halt the mistreatment of women and children requires constant involvement by all as we strive to develop a more peaceful world. A world looking for that of God in all things.

Please help us find that more loving way through our service.

Working Group on Use of the Meetinghouse: Allison Mawle reported for the working group The working group on the use of the meeting house is very happy to report that the reopening of our meeting house has gone smoothly, and we recommend continuing using the current COVID19 precautions.

Harmony School is back in the building and things are going well. Anton's ministry also continues, and we believe that the requirements for sharing the space safely are in place.

Our urgent need now is for people who are willing to act as zoom hosts at the meeting house for our blended meeting. This is not difficult, and we will provide training. If we have around 10 -12 volunteers, it would only be a commitment once every 2-3 months. Please contact Alison Mawle (zumilla@gmail.com) if you're interested.

Naming Committee: Lissa Place, clerk of meeting appointed the Naming Committee as Natalie McLaughlin as clerk, Marylin Johnson, and Mark Yates.

Committee Corner: FCNL Advocacy Team- Sue May reported for the FCNL Advocacy Team-Friends Committee on National Legislation (Atlanta).

Today I speak on behalf of our peace advocacy team that began five and a half years ago, when a fellow at the Friends Committee on National Legislation, or FCNL, came to Atlanta with a clear and compelling message: if we organize, we can do something to stop our endless wars. I still have a photo of 36 people there in the meetinghouse when she spoke. Briana Bauer immediately said she'd like to lead the group, and so the FCNL Atlanta Advocacy Team began.

Here I'd like to explain how our Team's 15 active members (12 Friends and 3 from the community) puts our mission into action and how our relationship with FCNL works. I'll review what we've accomplished, but the most important thing we'd like to communicate is what keeps us coming to monthly meetings and writing letters to the editor and lobbying our members of Congress. Lobbying can evoke images of backroom deals and even bribes. We lobby the Quaker way, with respect and the moral authority of our values to urge them to do the right thing. We research the facts and consequences of the bill we're working on. We share personal experiences that relate to the issue. We listen and learn what the stumbling blocks might be for the legislator on the bill, seeking common ground.

A Team member acts as liaison to each Congressional office, and makes the request for a lobby visit (via Zoom during the pandemic), stating our ASK and including a one-page background paper. When we have a date, the Team has a special meeting to strategize and assign roles. We might have only 20 -30 minutes, so we follow a specific plan with a leader, notetaker, and one or two to give 2 minute personal stories. Introductions, repeat why we're here; thanking the member of Congress for an action; state our ASK; give a few facts; one or two personal stories; dialogue; ASK again, and leave with a time to get back to them. And we do keep going back, with calls and emails when we can't visit in person, the dialogue deepening as they come to trust us. We also write letters to the editor that call out our members of Congress to act. We have Facebook and Twitter accounts that also reach both the public and our legislators. We have begun to write press releases and now have a list of 15 Georgia media contacts. We send out action alerts to our list of 14 allies, most of whom are Quakers. One major effort to reach out to other faith communities didn't succeed. We found these congregations active in many social concerns but no longer had a peace committee.

An early victory was with the passage of the Audit the Pentagon bill. We pushed to end our military support for bombing Yemen. We lobbied against fraud, waste, and abuse at the Pentagon and called for reducing their budget. We supported the Iran Nuclear Treaty and the Complex Crisis Fund of the State Department. We lobbied to end the militarization of local police forces. And for the last three

years, we have built enough support that we now have the votes to repeal the 2002 Iraq Authorization for the Use of Military Force without a filibuster in the Senate. On the horizon is a tougher issue, repeal of the 2001 Afghanistan AUMF, now being used to fight the “War on Terrorism” in 18 countries. A nonpartisan, grassroots organization with Quaker governance, FCNL is rooted in “the belief in the inherent dignity and worth of each person.” Their extraordinary staff trains us how to lobby in this belief, in monthly Zoom meetings, with top experts as guest speakers. Forty staff at the office on Capitol Hill do research and build relationships with the DC offices of Congress members on all these issues and more: immigrants and refugees, voting rights, gun violence prevention, nuclear weapons, economic justice, environment and energy. Their Action Alerts go out to 10,000 people! Rep. Barbara Lee credits FCNL as “an invaluable ally in our shared efforts to end war and advance human rights and needs.”

We’re not alone in this work. Our FCNL Atlanta Advocacy Team is one of 125 Teams in 45 states, with over 2,000 advocates. FCNL analysts strategize each year to determine which peace issue needs the most attention and select one or two issues a year that need attention, thus amplifying the effort to pass the legislation. It’s all about building relationships with those offices over time, with at least one Team member a constituent. We lobby the offices of our two Georgia Senators and in the 4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th Congressional districts.

We have a committed and persistent peace team! When I asked why they joined and what keeps them coming, one response was this: leadership that was encouraging, kind, and hopeful led me to join; the clear purpose, dignity and effectiveness of the work of FCNL keeps me coming back. New members are always welcome. Learn about advocacy teams [@fcni.org](https://www.fcni.org) team toolkit, then if interested in joining our Atlanta Team, contact Sue May: susanmay1@icloud.com or any of the Team members listed below.

TEAM members: Don Bender, Carolyn Coburn-Allen, David Small, Jennifer Thompson, Ashe Kazanjian, Alberta Guise, Sara Patenaude, Julia Rademacher-Wedd, Bill Holland, Julia Ewen, Sue May, Helen Thompson, Joy Lewis, Patti Wood, and Ellen Slack.

Announcements:

Karen Skellie announced Sept 4 a Memorial Service was held for Cathy Amanti’s husband Michael.

Peter Sederberg will have a memorial service at University of South Carolina in Columbia on October 22, 2021.

Mary Ann Downey announced for Ministry and Worship Committee: On October 31, M&W will offer a forum on membership in meeting. Sara Patenaude and Folami Adams will share their experience on becoming members. We will answer questions and provide guidelines for requesting membership.

Approval of Minutes for August 2021

The minutes from 8th Month meeting for business were not approved due to needing changes to being clear about knowing what the meeting approved.

Events in the life of the Meeting

Susan Kenworthy died September 6, 2021

Clark Poling died September 12, 2021

The meeting closed with a period of a silent worship.

Atlanta Friends Meeting
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ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING

Office Coordinator working at the meetinghouse, but hours by appointment

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Clerk: Lissa Place, afmclerk1@gmail.com Treasurer: Judith Greenberg, afmtreasurer1@gmail.com

Ways to communicate and share information:

- You may receive the announcement sheets and other announcements relating directly to the life of the meeting. This is the announcement email list. (The announcement sheet is also posted online.)
- You may receive announcements AND posts about a broader range of topics relating to being a Quaker via email. This is the discussion email list.
- You may receive notification that the newsletter is online. This is the newsletter email list.
- To join any of these email lists above, please email the office at atlantaquakers@gmail.com
- To receive weekly emails with details about Zoom and in-person meetings for worship and First Day School, email atlantaquakers@gmail.com
- To join the meeting's Facebook page, search for Atlanta Friends Meeting & click the + **Join Group** button.

If you need a directory:

Email atlantaquakers@gmail.com or call 404-377-2474

Would you like to appear in future AFM Directories?

Do you need to correct your directory information? Send your name and contact information to Brent Wolff at 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 or paypal, visit atlantaquakers.org/contact.htm. Thank you!

Want to submit an announcement, letter, article, and anything else of interest to Friends for the newsletter? Send to atlquakerltr@gmail.com. Submissions may be edited for length and format. THE DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS IS THE 20TH 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.*