

ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING NEWSLETTER

MAY 2022

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



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

TO WALK SWEETLY . . .

in 1667, early Quaker Isaac Pennington wrote:

"Our life is love, and peace, and tenderness . . . Oh! wait to feel this spirit, and to be guided to walk in this spirit, that ye may enjoy the Lord in sweetness, and walk sweetly, meekly, tenderly, peaceably, and lovingly one with another."

PLEASE JOIN US ON SUNDAYS FOR WORSHIP AND FIRST DAY SCHOOL

We are continuing to worship on Sunday at 10:00 am in person at the meetinghouse in combination with worship via Zoom. Please choose the option that is best for you.

MEETING FOR WORSHIP

Combined in person and Zoom
10 am Sundays

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89686276751?pwd=M29EYlIFWEhSQUtZRVVPalFFYmVDQT09>

Meeting ID: 896 8627 6751

Passcode: 789456

ADULT FIRST DAY SCHOOL (see under Events below 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)

In-person for all ages: 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. This class is also available via Zoom at 10:00. Teens will meet in person from 10:15 to 11:00. For more info, contact Laura MacNorlin (laura.norlin@gmail.com, 404-762-3540).

Zoom for younger children: Sundays 10:00 am

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

Meeting ID: 727 996 1727

Passcode: Quaker!

For the most up to date information: www.atlantaquakers.org/_announcements/Announcement_Sheet.pdf

QUERY FOR MAY

Do you recognize the needs and gifts of each member of your family and household, not forgetting your own? Try to make your home a place of loving friendship and enjoyment, where all who live or visit may find the peace and refreshment of God's presence.

Source: *Britain Yearly Meeting, Advices and Queries #26*

RECENT CHANGES AT THE MEETINGHOUSE:

As of March 6, masks are optional at the Atlanta Friends meetinghouse. You may wear a mask or not as you choose, **except for** the Nursery and First Day School for children and teens where masks are still required for everyone two and over. (In addition, groups meeting at the meetinghouse may also choose a stricter policy.)

Coffee hour resumed April 17 on the patio (or inside with the doors open if the weather is bad). We will be using all disposable cups, etc, in case you wish to bring your own cups. No potluck yet.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT SUNDAY MORNINGS:

Nursery care for children under three will continue to be available at the meetinghouse. First Day School for both adults and children and teens also continues both in person and via Zoom.

If you attend in person, we do continue to ask that you sign in **every week** so we will know who was present in case we need to do contact tracing. Please print legibly and include contact information so we can reach you if needed.

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.

RESOURCES FROM FRIENDS JOURNAL

"What does it take for us to be in and to build the beloved community that was the dream of early Friends and is still my hope?" Mary Ann Downey on what holds our meeting together.

October 2005: <https://www.friendsjournal.org/2005100/>

How do meetings "care for and spiritually nourish . . . young people and families"?

February 2022: <https://www.friendsjournal.org/how-to-retain-young-families-in-quaker-meeting/>

"Can I imagine my spiritual home, that of Quakers and meetinghouses, being more vast and inclusive than ever? I know as we begin to return to our meetinghouses and worship spaces, the logistics of connection and accessibility will begin to dominate our conversations. We often focus on what we know well: the logistics of what is and the maintenance of our own status quo (though we may never venture to name it so). The possibilities of what can be are often laid to the back burner, to a sometimes already tired committee tasked with making sense of our drastically shifting community. I am hoping we can collectively imagine so much more."

June 2021: <https://www.friendsjournal.org/transformative-return-for-quaker-communities/>

"How limited is our love, and whose truth do we dare to tell?" Kathleen Bell and Trudy Baker discuss how modern Friends might confront the history of William Penn, a leading figure in colonial Quakerism . . . and an enslaver of other people."

In January 2022's Quaker Heroes issue: <https://www.friendsjournal.org/flawed-quaker-heroes/> and <https://www.friendsjournal.org/rethinking-william-penn/>

Friends Journals going back to 1955 can be found at www.friendsjournal.org/issue-archive/.

The early issues had a section of REGULAR MEETINGS, including this listing from July 2, 1955:

ATLANTA, GEORGA – Meeting for worship and First-day school, 10 a.m.; discussion period, 10:45 a.m., Y.M.C.A., 145 Luckie Street, N.W. Mrs. John W. Stanley, Clerk, 525 Avery Street, Decatur, Ga.

THE FERGUSON CABIN: A MOST PRECIOUS GIFT

by Jennifer Thompson

The Lake Burton property is a jewel beyond most of our means. And to have it there at our disposal for generations is a gift beyond imagination. This last aspect is what has struck me lately. I know many people that grew up going there. Long time AFM family lives are laced with Lake Burton memories. Children taking their first steps on Dwight's wooden floor, tentative forays into the water, making sand mounds, and learning to fish from the dock. Next are swimming lessons, taking out canoes and kayaks, and challenging swim meets. Nights by a lakeside fire feature frog song so loud it's hard to hear each other. Fireflies and owl calls. The years go by, and these children are now grownups who return to the cabin for the hours of peace and beauty.

Don't get me wrong; individuals are also part of Burton life. The sight of my border collie Kevin swimming along the shore's edge for hours still makes my heart sing, a wonderful sight for a shelter rescue. Another Friend says that while kayaking, a bald eagle flew so close overhead, she could almost touch it. The pounding of rain on Dwight's roof and the wonderful sight of bats circling Irene. And the once in a lifetime experience of the Complete Solar Eclipse was shared by families at the open house. Murray Cove, the section of Lake Burton where the cabin is located, was one of the few view sites for miles that had open sky as nearby Clayton poured rain that day.

Lake Burton (and Seed and Rabun) are areas that I, for one, would never have seen due to ignorance of their existence as well as lack of funds. These are not tourist destinations and are exclusive by their nature. Dwight purchased the property of 7 acres and a simple lodge in the 1950s. The original cabin still stands as the room attached to the wonderful screen porch Dwight and a neighboring friend added. The porch's roughhewn beams geometrically placed for stability harken to a time of craftsmanship and functional design. Dwight was very proud of the cabin's antique glass windows and the functioning antique telephone he installed in the original cabin, now named Dwight in his honor. He also added 2 more buildings: Squirrel House for his 3 daughters, and Treetops, which was planned to be a kiln. There are grape arbors along the driveway from which Dwight produced homemade wine.

It's impossible to miss the small island in the lake at a triangular point between our property and our neighbor's. Dwight built that piece himself. This small piece houses birds' nests, turtles, plants, and small trees, and breaks the waves from passing watercraft. Yet it appears so timeless and natural that I never knew it was manmade until I was told. The cabin committee continues to be dedicated to preserving that island as a buttress against shore erosion from water flows.

For the Fergusons, this was a place of love, industry, dreams, and creativity. It was part of their lives; and when the time came to determine the distribution of the land, the whole family with all the children made the joint decision to gift the property to the meeting. Essentially the family opened their second homestead to the meeting itself. An active member of FCNL and other Quaker yearly meetings, Dwight originally thought it would be a retreat center, but the family members all feel he would have been delighted to know how much the property has meant to so many people over the decades. A fourth cabin, Irene, was designed and built by Friends in the same manner of timeless craftsmanship, simplicity, and comfort with the added convenience of indoor facilities, hot running water, and baseboard heating for chilly nights.

With the extraordinary generosity of Dwight Ferguson and family, this slice of beauty is available to use by AFM attendees and other nearby Quakers like a second home. It is part of our meeting, a place for all of us, and part of our lives throughout generations.

To schedule a reservation, contact Joan Thompson by calling or texting 404 273 3489.

LETTER FROM QUAKER VOLUNTARY SERVICE

April 2022

Dear Friends,

In 2020 we knew that the COVID-19 pandemic would profoundly impact Quaker Voluntary Service and require us to be nimble in making adaptations to protect each other and our loved ones from the virus. We were creative in our responses and had two impactful years of service during COVID. What we could not have known is that these years of off-and-on remote school and work would cause our young adult applicant pool to become increasingly dispersed over time. This isolation and remote schooling has frayed our most effective recruitment tool: connections between current and recent Fellows and younger applicants. Additionally, the early 2022 surge in COVID-19 cases from the Omicron variant canceled in-person opportunities during the peak recruitment season for the 2022-2023 fellowship year. This has resulted in a much smaller class of incoming Fellows.

For this reason, QVS staff and board have made the decision to take a sabbath year from serving in Atlanta. A sabbath year in Atlanta will allow us to fulfill our mission and center the experiences of incoming Fellows. Because there are fewer applicants this year, we want to ensure that there are enough Fellows for full and robust intentional communities in as many cities as possible.

QVS was born in Atlanta, and we've had a house there since 2011. QVS has grown into the organization we are today because of this birthplace. We have deep roots, trust, relationships, and we believe that we'll be able to faithfully discern our next steps together. By taking a sabbath year in Atlanta, we will be able to retain staff expertise through internal QVS staff shuffling. Additionally, the Atlanta house we are renting for QVS Fellows will soon become unavailable to us; a transition in houses was already imminent.

Faith-based service organizations as well as colleges and internship programs are experiencing similar challenges and low application numbers. As we prepare for a sabbath year in Atlanta, QVS staff are considering new recruitment strategies for a world that involves fewer in-person visits, a changing job market, inflation and rising cost of living, and reduced capacity of career services staff and connectors. We will be looking to each other, our peers, and the Religious Society of Friends for innovations that will both get the word out about QVS as well as make the program a good fit for a broader range of young adults. One concrete way you can help is by letting young adults know about the opportunity to apply to QVS. We are accepting applicants on a rolling basis.

As it turns out, we began 2022 intending to focus on planning for the future. We are already in the midst of beginning a strategic planning process that will last through the end of 2022. We are excited to have the opportunity to celebrate our 10 years of transformative work. And, we firmly believe that making this tough decision to pause the Atlanta program will ensure that we will continue for another 10 more years and beyond. This process will certainly include conversation about the current context and recruitment strategies for the future. We look forward to sharing more with you in the coming months about how you can engage with us in this process.

We are so glad to be on this journey with you, through the celebrations and the challenges.

Hilary Burgin, QVS Executive Director
Damon Motz-Storey, Presiding Clerk of QVS Board
Beth Henricks, Assistant Clerk of QVS Board

For more information about Quaker Voluntary Service, visit <https://quakervoluntaryservice.org>.

UPDATE ON BETH-ANN BUI TEKANT

Message (originally from social media) from Beth-Ann's daughter, Ruby Beth:

"It is hard to continue to share difficult news about my mama on social media but so many people love her and this medium reaches a lot of folks.

"My mama is love and needs love. Her health is declining. Her brain continues to betray her and it has made movement very difficult - she can no longer walk on her own. She is in regular physical therapy which she enjoys. The more difficult update is that her cognitive state has shifted tremendously. Because of her blindness and degenerative brain condition, she has a tough time holding onto processes, knowing where she is, and most apparently she hallucinates a great deal. Thankfully seeing people who aren't there hasn't been scary for her and is sometimes welcomed company. She is still at AG Rhodes Boulevard facility and still accepting visitors. She particularly loves visitors who bring food. Visits can be confusing or upsetting for some folks so knowing what you expect helps. She may speak to people you can't see or maybe lose her train of conversation with you. But she still feels you being there. If you have specific questions about how to be with her in ways that work for all, don't hesitate to ask.

"As for me, I am heartbroken and so thankful to be her daughter. I am snuggling little Lazuli extra hard these days (therapy fund for infant forthcoming). I have learned countless things from my mother but one that is sticking with me during this time is that being present is the best thing you can do for yourself. In moments of panic or sadness or stress to try to be present in all you do. '*Being here now*' is harder than it usually is but still feels like the best we can do."

Here's a spreadsheet where you can sign up to visit Beth-Ann (meals should be vegetarian or fish):
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/121CRIhrrg-JYi3M1mdDPHMk_52wEufRZgucQPyr1dPY/edit

PLEASE HOLD IN THE LIGHT:

Mark Bryans
Beth-Ann Buitekant
Ruby Beth Buitekant
Judy Lumb

*If you wish to have requests
for holding in the light included
in this monthly newsletter,
please give the names
to a member of
Care & Counsel.*

Atlanta Friends Committees and Other Contacts

Clerk of the Meeting: Jennifer Dickie, afmclerk1@gmail.com
Office Coordinator: Nina Gooch, atlantaquakers@gmail.com
Treasurer: Lynn Leuszler, afmtreasurer1@gmail.com
Ministry & Worship: Bill Hooson, bhooson@aol.com
Finance: Paul Mangelsdorf, 770-677-4280
Social Concerns: Glenn Plyler, 207-522-5295
Administration: Steve Collins, shcollins75@gmail.com
Care & Counsel: Karen Skellie, kskellie@gmail.com
Quakers for Racial Equality: Susan Firestone, susanfires@gmail.com
Committee on Undoing Racism in AFM: Lissa Place, lissaplace@yahoo.com
Religious Education: Laura MacNorlin, laura.norlin@gmail.com
Library: Cal Gough, calgough@bellsouth.net
Nominating: Lissa Place, lissplace@yahoo.com
Newsletter Editor: Nina Gooch, atlquakerltr@gmail.com
Webmaster: Aaron Russetta, arxaaron@gmail.com
Bookkeeper: Jonah McDonald, afmbookkeeper1@gmail.com

For information about these committees, download the AFM Handbook from <http://atlantaquakers.org/members.htm> (scroll down to the bottom to *AFM Documents to Download*) OR contact the Clerk of the committee.

HELPING CASA ALTERNA

Thank you to all of you who have volunteered to provide groceries and other needed resources to Casa Alterna over the past two years. Your support has enabled Casa Alterna to provide hospitality to over 400 guests. While the number of asylum seekers greeted at the airport remains strong (about 100 per week), we have seen a reduced and intermittent number of new friends needing overnight hospitality at the Atlanta Friends Meeting. Therefore, we have made changes to this quarter's sign-up list (April to June) as a way of adapting and still engaging with each of you and your compassionate generosity. This quarter there are slots for volunteers to sign up every other week. In addition, for weeks when groceries or other items are not needed, we invite you to consider providing non-store specific gift cards in the amount of \$25. One tradition that has emerged is that for guests who are here for lunch or dinner, Anton or a volunteer will often treat guests to a meal from their homeland. Your gift card will help make that possible and Anton will let you know when your gift is used and a little about the recipient. The sign-up list is at <https://bit.ly/3NpCZ6q>. Please reach out to Cathy Amanti (cbamanti@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

RECORDING AND RESOURCES FROM QRE FORUM ON WHITE PRIVILEGE CONFERENCE

Quakers for Racial Equality (QRE) thanks Folami Prescott Adams for leading the presentation on the White Privilege Conference (WPC) and to Kevin Moran for presenting along with Folami and Susan Firestone. We are also grateful to Friends General Conference for providing discounts to Quakers to encourage attendance at the WPC. See below for a pdf with links to the recording of the March 27 forum, slides from the presentation, resource list, and list of WPC sessions that presenters attended. Contact Susan Firestone (susanfires@gmail.com) if you have any problem with the links. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Rfyn4zzD6Oa2RSdbNQoTq7grCZMV6Br2/view?usp=sharing>

RESOURCES & RECORDING FROM FORUM ON QUAKERS & INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

On April 10, 2022, Paula Palmer joined AFM for an online forum about Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples (TRR), Quaker Boarding Schools, and what Boulder Friends Meeting and community members in Boulder are doing to build and repair relationships with indigenous peoples whose homelands are in the Boulder area. Judy Lumb is working with Paula Palmer to write a book about Quaker Boarding Schools.

Recording of April 10, 2022 forum with Paula Palmer (link that anyone can view):

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1fjuwiEiVpAeKQodJvVKjAV2fK5h0R4vc/view?usp=sharing>

Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples, Friends Peace Teams: friendspeacetteams.org/trr/

The National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition (Jerilyn DeCoteau, Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa, TRR's Co-Director, is a former board member): <https://boardingschoolhealing.org/>

Slide presentation about Quaker Indian Boarding Schools: <https://vimeo.com/192219802/376f2f1ddb>

JIM CROW'S PINK SLIP

Dr. Leslie T. Fenwick was one of three panelists for April 24's online forum on "Racial Disparities in Education and the Wealth Gap," sponsored jointly by the Friends School of Atlanta and the Atlanta Friends Meeting. Dr. Fenwick is Dean Emerita of the Howard University School of Education where she is a tenured professor of education policy. Her book *Jim Crow's Pink Slip: The Untold Story of Black Principal and Teacher Leadership*, about the systemic dismissal of black educators after Brown vs. Brown, will be released May 3. Use the code JCPS22 for a 20% discount thru September 3 when you order at www.hepg.org/hep-home/books/jim-crow's-pink-slip#.

"QUAKER HOUSE" IN DRUID HILLS TOUR OF HOMES – Friday, April 29 to Sunday, May 1

"Quaker House" at 1384 Fairview Road, the meeting's home from 1959 to 1989, will be in the Druid Hills Tour of Homes April 29 to May 1. The current owner of the house, Robin Critz says, "This house has incredible energy and a unique talent at bringing people together. I credit the quaker work for this." If you stop by, please introduce yourself and share your stories about the house. Tickets for the tour and general info are at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/historic-druid-hills-home-and-garden-tour-tickets-254596183037>. More info about the house is in *As Way Opened*, the history of the meeting, which can be checked out of the meeting library. If you'd like your own copy, they're \$20 (plus the cost of shipping if needed); contact the Office Coordinator.

SPIRITUAL JOURNEYS AND ADULT FIRST DAY SCHOOL – Sundays, May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Adult First Day School will meet in person at the meetinghouse, and people will continue to be able to join 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 May 1, Lynda Kerr will share her spiritual journey. (Sa'ed Atshan's spiritual journey, shared April 3, was not recorded, but you can find out more about him at <https://www.pym.org/quakers-in-education-saed-atshan/>. He has recently transferred his membership to Atlanta Friends Meeting and is now teaching at Emory. To hear or read previous spiritual journeys, contact Mary Ann Downey.)

On second Sundays, Adult First Day School will have worship sharing, usually on that month's query. On other Sundays, we will discuss *Biblical Literacy: The Essential Bible Stories Everyone Needs to Know* by Timothy Beal. Please join us, even if you haven't read the book.

GREEN FRIENDS -- Sunday, May 1

Green Friends will meet Sunday, May 1 at approximately 11:45 AM in the library at the meetinghouse as well as over Zoom. Newcomers welcome.

<https://citizensclimate.zoom.us/j/93713127848?pwd=UjRxZUJNWVdhNk9lck9TUGRwZStuQT09>

Meeting ID: 937 1312 7848

Passcode: 123

WEDNESDAY AM MEETING FOR WORSHIP ZOOM ONLY – Wednesdays, May 4, 11, 18, 25

8:30 am. This meeting for worship is both in person and Zoom again. Watch announcement sheet for updates. Contact Bert Skellie at 404-680-4799 for general info.

<https://zoom.us/j/92038862952>

Meeting ID: 92038862952

Password: 726229

WEDNESDAY EVENING WORSHIP WITH MACON WORSHIP GROUP – May 4, 11, 18, 25

The Macon Worship Group, which is under the care of Atlanta Friends Meeting, worships via Zoom every Wednesday at 7:00 pm.. They invite us to join them! For more information, contact Bill Holland and Mary Ann Downey.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84095899009?pwd=SFhhOGNnWHZFbDdKRUhVnFqdFk0dz09>

Meeting ID: 840 9589 9009

Passcode: 542278

BOOKS BY AND ABOUT PEOPLE OF COLOR – Thursday, May 5

The book group reading works by and about people of color meets at 1:30 p.m. on the first Thursday of the month. On May 5, the group will be meeting in person in combination with Zoom and will be discussing *When the Emperor Was Divine* by Julie Otsuka, an intense historical fiction account of a Japanese family's experience in internment during and after WWII. Otsuka's recently published book *The Swimmers* will be an optional additional book. Both are short and based on the experience of Otsuka's mother. For questions or the Zoom link, contact Susan Cole (cole2544@bellsouth.net).

SAYMA ANNUAL RETREAT & SESSIONS – Thursday thru Sunday, June 16 to 19

Request scholarship from AFM by Saturday, May 7

Register for in person attendance by Friday, May 20

Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association (SAYMA), our yearly meeting, will hold its Annual Sessions and Retreat from June 16 to 19 at beautiful Warren Wilson College in Swannanoa, North Carolina. This is a wonderful opportunity to get to know Friends from across the southeast, participate in worship and workshops and commune with beautiful nature. This year the basic adult package is \$300 for a shared room, \$280 for teens, and no cost for children. Some events and programming will also be virtual at no cost to participants. Atlanta Meeting encourages interested members and attenders to participate. (Our Clerk Jennifer Dickie is the Yearly Meeting Planning Committee Clerk!) Information about registration and programming and events for all ages is at <https://tinyurl.com/8utw2u5u>. This site will continue to be updated in the coming weeks, so check back as needed.

The Registration deadline for in person attendance is May 20. Atlanta Friends Meeting will provide scholarship assistance for your onsite attendance. Check out the registration site above, then assess your needs, talk to other F/friends and let us know how we can help you attend. Just let Ministry and Worship know your name, contact information and amount requested. Submit your scholarship request by May 7 to Bill Hooson, Clerk of Ministry and Worship Committee at bhooson@aol.com.

SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE MEETING – Sunday, May 8

The Social Concerns Committee, which encourages and supports individual members and attenders in their social concern leadings, will hold its every-other-month meeting at 1:00 pm on May 8 via Zoom. Newcomers are welcome. For questions, contact Glenn Plyler.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4922576045?pwd=WDBiTHlhVDgzMjVNZDA3RHVleTIsUT09>

Meeting ID: 492 257 6045

Passcode: Friends

READING & DISCUSSION: AGING INTO WISDOM -- Tuesday, May 10

Join AFM member Julie Hliboki May 10 at 7 pm for an online reading from her new book *Going to Essence: Aging into Wisdom with Intention and Grace* followed by a Q&A discussion on what it means to age into wisdom. The book's forty-seven poems and vignettes are based on Julie's work (under the care of the meeting) providing spiritual healthcare and well-being over the past decade, particularly five years as a chaplain with 450 senior residents living in two affordable housing communities in Atlanta.

The book available at (<https://amzn.to/3re3PVU>), is a compilation of forty-seven poems, vignettes, haiku, and accompanying full-color nature photographs. These offerings invite the reader to cultivate the wisdom that arises through the ache and awe of aging. Julie writes in her introduction, "Being human means we will ache; we will suffer. We will find ourselves at times confused, lonely, in pain, grief-stricken, outraged, fearful, depressed, hopeless—the ache we all have felt in body, mind, and spirit. And being human means we will experience awe in the miracles we witness every day—wonder, gratitude, friendship, love, kindness, beauty, and compassion. As we age, we have an opportunity to move more deliberately toward awe even as our aches increase. We can move toward acceptance and gratitude and away from resistance and bitterness. We can move toward love and compassion and away from judgments and condemnation. We can move toward wholeness and grace even as age unravels our body and mind. It is our essence—our essential nature—to become wise from our lifetime of experiences."

In her work, Hliboki says, she has "witnessed incredible courage, strength, dignity, faith, love, and friendship in the face of impossible hardship, unbearable pain, and intense suffering. The people I have accompanied are stellar examples of what it means to cultivate wisdom as we age—not ever easy but necessary for our spiritual, emotional, and mental health. Wisdom enhances our well-being no matter our physical condition." Included with each poem and vignette is an invitational Intention and Grace meditation prompt for the reader to practice cultivating their own inherent wisdom. She adds, "May you embrace the aging process—allowing it to reveal your essence, to cultivate your inherent wisdom, and to help you live with intention and grace."

Please register in advance for the reading at

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcqceCgqDwvH9MkivYPJRIJqxRIQXfiUoHc>.

You will receive a confirmation email with zoom details.

MONTHLY QUAKER HIKE – Saturday, May 14

Bert Skellie says: "Our next monthly hike will be Saturday, May 14. We will meet at 8:30 am at the AFM parking lot to carpool. We will drive to Lake Charlotte Nature Preserve (see link below) for a 2-3 mile walk. The two-mile option will have some hills. Taking the 3rd mile option will include some bushwhacking next to a creek. You can also meet us directly at the park near this address (look for entrance sign): 2770 Forrest Park Rd SE, Atlanta, GA 30354. This is a brand new park recently opened. A friend and I have explored it once, and I will be happy to show you what we saw!" <https://saportareport.com/inside-lake-charlotte-the-citys-new-nature-preserve/columnists/johnruch/> Call Bert at 404-680-4799 if you have questions or need the group to wait more than 5 minutes at the meeting house.

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR BRUCE BURTON – Saturday, May 14

Friends will gather to mourn the passing and celebrate the life of Bruce Burton, husband of Marcia Pauley, on Saturday, May 14 at 2:00 pm in the meeting room. Please come and share your memories of his light and life with us. All are invited.

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR BETTE TURLINGTON – Sunday, May 15

Friends will gather to mourn the passing and celebrate the life of Bette Turlington on Sunday, May 15 at 4:00 pm in the meeting room and online. Please come and share your memories of her light and life with us. All are invited. If joining by Zoom, use the link from Sunday morning meeting for worship.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89686276751?pwd=M29EYlIFWEhSQUtZRVVPalFFYmVDQT09>

Meeting ID: 896 8627 6751

Passcode: 789456

GUILFORD DIALOGUES: BUILDING STRATEGIES FOR ECONOMIC INCLUSION -- June 7 to 10 **Registration deadline -- Friday, May 20**

Guilford Dialogues invite leaders from a cross-section of fields, generations, viewpoints, and regions to Guilford College in Greensboro, NC to consider relevant social problems and strategize on values-based solutions. This is an in person event. This year's theme, *Building Strategies for Economic Inclusion*, features speakers and interactions to map out challenges and hone strategies for building economies that can better include all races, genders, newcomers, workers, and organizations.

Registration for the event is now open at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/guilford-dialogues-registration-277809314137>. The registration deadline is May 20.

AFM's GATHERED MEETING RETREAT – Saturday May 28

Our meeting's Gathered Meeting Retreat returns this summer to consider *Pandemic Discoveries: What have you discovered that guided your spirit, and gave you hope in the last two years?* On Saturday, May 28, we will gather in the meeting room and online to share our experience on this journey of "Pandemic Discoveries," get to know recent attendees, and enjoy the day together from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. Mary Ann Downey, Rachael Carter, Alison Mawle and Alberta Guise will facilitate our worship, small and large group reflection. Open time for lunch, walk, chat, yoga, and rest 12:00 to :30. Child care will be provided. No registration required, but if you need child care, please email Mary Ann at madowney@mindspring.com in advance. If you have questions, call Mary Ann at 678-938-8030.

WORKSHOP: Choosing Hope: A Path from Despair to Action – Saturday, June 4

9 :00 am to 4:00 pm in person at the meetinghouse. This workshop, sponsored by Green Friends, offers participants a chance to explore how our grief, anger and despair connects us all through our Love of the Earth and can inspire us for planetary transformation. Facilitated by Beth Remmes. FREE. Includes lunch.

FGC GATHERING 2022

Friends General Conference Gathering *online* – Sunday to Saturday, July 3 to 9

YAY - Young Adult and Youth Event *in person* – Wednesday to Sunday, July 6 to 10

Friends General Conference (FGC) is an umbrella organization for yearly and monthly meetings, including our yearly meeting. They offer many resources (<https://www.fgcquaker.org>) and host an annual Gathering each summer. This summer's Gathering will still be virtual with opportunities for worship, workshops and fellowship. The theme is . . . **and follow me** . For more information, see <https://www.fgcquaker.org/fgcprograms/the-gathering/>.

However, FGC is hosting **YAY**, an in-person event for **Young Adults, Youth & Families**, hosted by FGC's Junior Gathering, High School and Adult Young Friend Committees. Children, parents, youth & young adults are invited to join them at Radford University, Radford, Virginia, July 6 to 10. This event will run at the same time as the 2022 FGC virtual Gathering. However, it is not a hybrid event: YAY will only focus on in-person activities. YAY will have separate sessions for [Junior Gathering](#) (birth to rising 9th grade), [High School](#) (rising 10th to graduating seniors), [Adult Young Friends](#) (ages 18-37), and [Parents & Sponsors](#) (for parents & sponsors of youth & children ages 0-18 at the event). There will also be daily intergenerational activities for all groups to play, worship & learn together. Adult Young Friends and High School participants will each have their own separate dorms. High School participants must attend with a parent or sponsor. Registration will begin in May. See <https://www.fgcquaker.org/fgcprograms/the-gathering/yay/> for more details.

ABSENCE OF EVIDENCE

from Karen Morris, "a message that didn't rise to the surface during Meeting for Worship"

"Absence of evidence isn't the same as the evidence of absence." In meeting for worship during the Easter season I found myself reflecting on this phrase, so often used by archeologists when trying to form an understanding of the evidence they have found and not found to explain ancient cultures, customs, migrations, trade routes, familial and societal organization, and, religious understandings. Often the lack of evidence leads scholars to incorrect conclusions. Later, when more artifacts are found, understanding and conclusions must be changed.

My own thoughts went immediately to the empty tomb. Absence of evidence! Where had Jesus' body gone? The evidence was never found. Yet, the people believed the words they remembered Jesus saying that he would rise on the third day. They believed him to be present in their lives. Jesus, Spirit, God, the Divine, the Light, are present to us as Quakers today, inwardly and outwardly, individually and collectively, through calm listening, individual and communal discernment, and affirming actions. I am comforted to think that even though my own thoughts and memories may not have visible evidence to support them, that my beliefs in goodness and Spirit in each of us doesn't diminish my Light in the eyes of others, and in fact, may even draw me closer to those who disagree with me or find me lacking, and impel me to search for and listen to Spirit in those with whom I may disagree.

MINUTES FOR FOURTH MONTH MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS

April 17, 2022, held in person and via Zoom in a blended meeting

Minutes Recorded Pending Approval

Attendance: Aaron Ruscetta, Anton Flores-Maisonet, Bert Skellie, Karen Skellie, Becky Lough, Brent Wolff, Caroline Morris, David Small, Elizabeth Lamb, Emma Bingham, Free Polazzo, Georgia Lord, Lynn Leuszler, Glenn Plyler, Judy Lumb, Julia Ewen, Karen Morris, Kevin Moran, Micheal Allison, Myrna Trapp, Paul Mangelsdorf, Richard Allen, Sallie Carpentier, Steve Collins, Susan Firestone, Jennifer Dickie (Clerk), Coryn Murphy (Recording Clerk)

Friends gathered near the appointed hour with opening worship. A member of Ministry and Worship shared the Fourth Month Query out of the worship: Are you able to contemplate your death and the death of those closest to you? Accepting the fact of death, we are freed to live more fully. In bereavement, give yourself time to grieve. When others mourn, let your love embrace them.

Source: Britain Yearly Meeting, Advices and Queries #30
<https://qfp.quaker.org.uk/passage/1-02/>

Discernment:

Karen Skellie reported for Ministry and Worship committee.

Minute 4-17-22:01- The Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the following memorial minutes for John Stabler.

John Roberts Stabler was born in New Rochelle, New York in 1932 to Norman and Elizabeth Stabler. John was born into a family of many generations of Quakers. Both his maternal grandparents and his parents met each other at George School and spoke using “thee” and “thou” to John. His mother was a devout Quaker who taught him the value of studying hard in school and getting an education, as well as the importance of always trying to think for oneself.

He made a lifelong attempt to follow two adages. One from Horace Mann: “Be ashamed to die until you have won some victory for humanity,” and the other from Socrates: “The unexamined life is not worth living.”

As was expected of all four Stabler boys, he got his first job at the age of 14. After struggles in public school following his parents’ divorce, John attended Mount Hermon, a Christian prep school for boys in Massachusetts. The support and encouragement he received from his teachers helped him greatly during the emotionally turbulent times of his high school years. It was here at Mount Hermon he realized he had the potential to excel academically and learned how to learn.

After high school, John was part of an AFSC work camp in Missouri where he assisted a traveling rural librarian. He attended Johns Hopkins for a year during the Korean War during which time he applied for and received conscientious objector status. He transferred to Antioch College where he thrived on their work/study program and gained insights into the people he met in many varied work situations. He also met his future wife, Joan (Jody) Obrist and earned his undergraduate degree in psychology.

While at Antioch, John was required to write an autobiography as a way to self-understanding. This was a very powerful influence on his life, resulting in his request that all of his students write their autobiographies and John’s writing biographies of many of his family members.

Although gaining CO status, John later felt that he needed the structure of the service as well as feeling guilt that someone else had gone into the service in his place. He volunteered for

the Army and spent two years in Texas as an intelligence testing specialist using his psychology training before attending Southern Methodist University for his master's degree and The University of Texas in Austin for his doctorate. His children, Suzanne and Michael, were born during these years.

John began teaching college-level courses in 1957, as well as doing research at Louisiana State University. In Baton Rouge, John and Jody were founding members of the Baton Rouge Friends Meeting. He was recruited to teach at Georgia State University in 1969. Over his lifetime, he estimated he taught over 8,000 students, won research grants, and headed a committee to increase the racial diversity of both faculty and students at Georgia State. Teaching was his way of making a difference in the lives of others and was something he loved and valued.

While in Atlanta, John and the family attended the Atlanta Friends Meeting for a time, but stopped when their teenage children, Suzanne and Michael, were not happy with the teen group. In 1991 after he retired after nearly 40 years of teaching, John and Jody returned to the Atlanta Meeting. John gave service faithfully as a volunteer to mow the lawn for many years.

John and Joan made many trips to Europe, Scandinavia, Russia, Malta, Greece, Alaska, China, Thailand, and Bhutan. While traveling, he always made a point of sharing his enjoyment of his travels by sending dozens and dozens of postcards with funny observations to family members back home. One of his greatest pleasures was playing and spending time with his four grandchildren, taking them on vacations and to the many entertainments around Atlanta. Many of them remember the fun of discovering and exploring with Granddad the many fancy hotel restaurants and skyscrapers downtown. John was also blessed with eight great-grandchildren.

Reports:

Ministry and Worship Report - Membership Request

Richard Allen reported for Ministry and Worship committee.

Lynda Kerr is recommended by Ministry and Worship for membership in Atlanta Monthly Friends. If you don't know Lynda Kerr already please take the next month to reach out and meet her. We will bring her membership for approval at 5th month MfB.

Good morning, Bill,

This is Lynda Kerr from Zoom First Day School. I am interested in becoming a member of Atlanta Friends Meeting. Since it's not easy to get to know people on Zoom, I've attached a brief biography that will help you learn a little more about me.

Last Monday I had a wonderful Zoom conversation with Bill Holland and Mary Ann Downey, in which I peppered them with questions. They were very helpful.

As long as I can remember, I've searched for freedom, the presence of God, and the expansion of possibilities in life. Since high school I've had an active interest in religions and anthropology, especially the relationship of humans to the Creator.

On the Illinois prairie where I grew up, I loved walking in the fields of our family's farm. The farm was filled with abundance—horses, cows and corn; wheat and soybeans; foxes, birds and frogs. And of course, our beloved dogs and cats. The wide sky was so blue it seemed infinite, and the ponds shimmered in the sun. It was in the fields that I felt closest to the Creator. I would walk and talk to God, and I was able to listen with gratitude.

I was born into a Catholic family and attended 11 years of Catholic school. But that theology made little sense to me. It did not relate to my experience of the world—things I know to be true. I tried a few liberal churches, but spent most of my life without church membership.

About fifteen years ago, my great-aunt completed a family genealogy. It showed we were descendants of General Nathanael Greene, the Revolutionary War's "Fighting Quaker." I researched Quakerism and was instantly fascinated. Since then, I haven't stopped reading about the Quakers and their beliefs.

In 2019 I requested my email to be added to the AFM newsletter so I could learn more. Beginning in 2020, Zoom gave me the chance to attend worship and First Day School every Sunday, which I enjoy very much.

As I read about Quaker history and beliefs, and listen in meeting, my mind is filled with a wide, sunlit landscape like the prairie. The freedom, the joy, and the expansion of possibilities I seek are all here. I'm attracted to the peace and clarity of a Buddhist-informed Quakerism. My goal is to live my life with humor, discernment, grace, gratitude, and joy.

I believe our purpose here is to become human beings of kindness and integrity. We do this using learning and creativity. Words and images are important.

The divisiveness of the current culture is destructive to the evolution of humankind. The world has major threats right now: authoritarianism, racism, and threats to the earth and public health. The question is, how can we cope with those threats and still be a human being of kindness and integrity?

Words, images, and emotions matter. The Japanese biologist Dr. Masaru Emoto said,
"Our emotions and feelings have an effect on the world moment by moment. If you send out words and images of creativity, then you will be contributing to the creation of a beautiful world. However, by emitting messages of destruction, you contribute to the destruction of the universe."

Answering that of God in every person is a way of contributing to a positive world.

I would like to join with like-minded people to contribute to a world of simplicity, peace, integrity, community, equality, and sustainability. But joining Atlanta Friends Meeting is not the destination. It is, I hope, a gateway in the field that opens to further seeking God.

Sincerely,
Lynda

Ministry and Worship Report- Use of Kenworthy bequest for YAF scholarships to SAYMA

The Ministry and Worship committee approved allocating up to \$1000 from our budget to provide scholarship assistance for 2022 SAYMA Sessions and Retreat. Bill Holland will clerk the Scholarship subcommittee and two or three other Friends are invited to participate. If you are interested in being on the committee please contact the clerk of Ministry and Worship, Bill Hooson.

Ministry and Worship Report - Upcoming Memorial services

Bruce Burton: a memorial committee has been formed to celebrate the life of Bruce Burton. Bruce was the husband of Marcia Pauly. The memorial meeting will be held at the meetinghouse on May 14 at 2 pm in the afternoon. Members of the committee are Karen Morris (clerk), Sally Ferguson, Susan Firestone and Bill Hooson.

Bette Turlington: a Memorial Service will be held for Bette Turlington on Sunday, May 15 at 4 pm. The memorial committee is Mary Ann Downey (clerk), Dave Thurman, Nan O'Connor, Maggie Turlington and Bill Holland.

SAYMA Representative Report

Free Polazzo reported as the SAYMA representative explaining a letter from SAYMA clerk, Bob McGahey (attached) suggesting the SAYMA clerks committee be assigned the task of transitioning SAYMA to a year or two of minimized business to overcome the current difficulties. The SAYMA representative also shared a minute from Nashville Friends Meeting. The clerk read the Nashville Minute (attached).

Ad Hoc Committee for SAYMA' s Transition Guidance

The SAYMA clerks committee will serve in this ad hoc role, charged with working out details of SAYMA's staffing and reduced activities during suspension of regular business meetings for one to two years, as proposed in the Nashville minute. SAYMA will continue to sponsor an annual retreat at the time of its yearly sessions in June 2023 and 2024. The committee will act as a liaison, aided by the administrative assistant, with FCRJ as they pursue the racial justice work that SAYMA has requested and was agreed to in a letter addressed to SAYMA and FCRJ August 20, 2021, signed by the Presiding Clerk.

As stated in several minutes reviewed at RM 148, SAYF will continue to function under its present structure, and be financially supported by SAYMA. Specific details for other necessary yearly meeting functions during this period of renewal during suspension of regular business will be worked out by the committee and presented to the body at YM 51 for approval. Among these procedural details, it is important to decide who gives authority for dispensing funds, and who has check-signing privileges. The committee may designate sub-committees to work out some of the details (for instance, financial ones) and may also recruit others from SAYMA with necessary skills or information, as needed.

The ad hoc committee will terminate its functions at the close of YM51, and be laid down.

Nashville Friends Meeting Statement Regarding SAYMA (Approved on 3/6/22)

Rufus M. Jones once wrote of Quakers' ability to "'speak right on,' in plain, blunt fashion and tell us in yeoman language of the inward battles which they have fought." Our commitment to speaking plainly calls on us to name things for what they are, without euphemism, elision, or unnecessary complication. When it comes to the issues currently facing SAYMA, that means stating clearly what is going on and what is under consideration.

The conflict in SAYMA began with disagreements surrounding a sizable budgetary allocation made to the Uplifting Racial Justice Committee ("URJ"). Those funds have been spent and that annual budget has been superseded. If any budget item is allocated to URJ (or any other committee) in the future, it will inherently involve new funds, committed through a new process. While some have voiced concerns about various aspects of how the earlier money was allocated and/or spent, there is nothing that can be done about that budget or those dollars now. There is no live conflict involving that budget to resolve.

What continues now is, instead, a conflict with no solvable core, perpetuating itself— and indeed growing—through its own momentum, rather than being driven by any piece of business that must be resolved or goal that must be attained. It is the strong sense of Nashville Friends Meeting that SAYMA must either move beyond that self-perpetuating conflict or, if that is impossible, reconsider whether SAYMA, as a body, should continue to exist.

Moving on does not mean ignoring what we have learned and still can learn from where we have been. The URJ process has illuminated issues that we should, and indeed must, continue to address, including with regard to the ways that we have departed from Quaker process. SAYMA's failures surrounding URJ have also brought to light many of the ways that we have privileged some voices (particularly white and male voices) over others, including by vesting those favored voices with the mantle of authority and dismissing those who disagree as outsiders. These problems are bigger, harder to solve, and far more important than any budgetary or interpersonal disagreement.

While the struggles for justice and against racism must continue, there is no need for the unproductive acrimony that has dominated SAYMA meetings for the last few years to persist in monopolizing our efforts and attention. To that end, Nashville Friends Meeting would support:

- Prioritizing the conflict transformation process led by Friends Committee for Racial Justice, with an understanding that SAYMA will prioritize building a healthier foundation for the future, not relitigating the past;
- A suspension of ordinary SAYMA business (with exceptions for core functions that must be performed);
- For SAYMA to devote its shared time primarily to worship-sharing related to issues of spiritual grounding and Quaker process, followed by attention to antiracism and social justice;
- Monthly meetings doing their own anti-racism work/confronting white privilege on a local level using outside resources;
- Monthly meetings reporting to SAYMA the anti-racism work that they are doing/have done; and
- More small regional meetings of monthly meetings that would build regional Friends knowledge and understanding.
- After our spiritual bonds have been tended to, we may be able to move forward as a Yearly Meeting.

One Friend reluctantly stood aside from the consideration of this Minute.

Finance Committee Report - Quarterly Report

Paul Mangelsdorf reported for the Finance Committee. He gave the [quarterly update](#) and the [budget document](#) will be attached. *[Editor's Note: Click on links to read these documents.]*

As of March 31, 2022, AFM is running a \$10,856 deficit YTD. A deficit through this part of the year is usual, as contribution income is largely received in the 4th quarter. The deficit is \$1,948 less than was budgeted through March.

Income YTD is \$677 higher than the same period in the prior year primarily driven by the higher revenue particularly rental income as compared to the first quarter of last year. In addition, contributions were \$646 higher than 2021 (4% more)

Expenses are running \$4,988 more than the prior year driven by employee expense. Additionally, we are making contributions to the Permanent Improvement Fund this year which was \$1,875 each quarter this year. All other expense categories are in line with budget and with prior year except that Occupancy expense at \$9,316 was \$970 than last year's \$8,246 which was a result of higher utility expenses and higher building maintenance.

Compared to year-end, our balance sheet is \$35,055 smaller. This is the result of the YTD deficit of \$10,856 and payment of the initial amount due on the solar system installation and by minor changes in the balances of the other funds. On the asset side of the balance sheet Checking balances are \$10,696 lower and receivables (Undeposited funds and Due from Pay Pal) decreased by \$24,366.

Finance Committee Report - Kenworthy Bequest

Paul Mangelsdorf reported for the finance committee on the Kenworthy bequest.

The Finance committee met to discern the appropriate recommendation for the use of the Kenworthy Bequest. Our recommendation is drawn from the ideas brought forth in the threshing session that was held on March 6th. We as a committee are committed to holding a large portion of the bequest in our reserves (the General Fund and the Permanent Improvement Fund). We recommend the following:

1. In recognition of the Kenworthy's longstanding support for wider-Quaker organizations and for younger Friends, we recommend the creation of a special fund to be used to provide financial assistance to younger friends (including but not limited to Young Adult Friends and Young Friends) to attend meetings or gatherings or wider-Quaker Organizations. We propose to use \$10,000 of the bequest for this fund. We further purpose that Ministry & Worship be charged with distributing these funds.
2. In recognition of the environmental impact of gas appliances and the age and condition of the current stove, we recommend that funds from the bequest be used to purchase a new commercial electric stove, paying for any upgrades to the electrical system as required and if necessary, replacing the existing exhaust vent. We further purpose that the Administration Committee be charged with selecting the appropriate stove and overseeing its installation.
3. We propose to provide the Grounds Committee with up to \$10,000 to use as they deem fit to upgrade the grounds. In particular, we hope that the Grounds Committee finds an appropriate change/upgrade to the grounds that will be an appropriate memorial to the Kenworthy's. We propose that these funds will be held in the Permanent Improvement Fund until they are used by the Grounds Committee
4. While the idea of a battery system for use with the Solar Panel System is intriguing to us, we do not have sufficient information to determine the total cost and thereby a cost/benefit analysis. We also are not clear on any other issues with such an installation. We propose that the Administration Committee work with Green Friends and Georgia Interfaith Power and Light (GIPL) to determine the feasibility and appropriateness of acquiring a battery system.

Ferguson Cabin Litigation Update

Georgia Lord reported on the ongoing Ferguson Cabin Litigation. Supporting documents attached.

[Editor's Note: They can also be viewed at <https://tinyurl.com/yw89vrfr>.]

As previously reported to the AFM Meeting for Business, the Meeting is one of several plaintiffs in a lawsuit challenging the recent rezoning of property adjacent to the Ferguson Cabin property. The property is located near Lake Burton.

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 boat 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 was filed last year. The parties bringing the suit were 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 challenged the rezoning on a number of grounds that included claims that the procedures used were inadequate, that the one of the persons voting on the change had a conflict of interest, and that the Commission had failed to consider the impact of the change upon adjacent property owners. The Meeting has not been asked to commit to provide financial support for the costs of this suit.

The plans proposed for the adjacent property would have a very bad impact on our use of the property. The property involved runs along ours next to Treetops Cabin, at a high point on our property. The owner's plans required removal of all of the trees and extensive grading of the property, up to within 15 feet of our property line. The planned boat storage facility would be taller than the Treetops Cabin. Runoff from that property (along with any chemical residue from boat washing, refueling, etc.) would run over our property. A stormwater detention pond was planned for part of the area right next to our property line.

There was a hearing in the case on March 31st. At the end of the hearing, the Judge announced that he intended to grant the request to set aside the zoning decision. He concluded that Rabun County had not given adequate notice of the proposed change.

This was good news. It prevents construction for now. The property owner is required to wait at least 6 months before reapplying. It seems likely that they will reapply, however.

There have been efforts by our counsel and some of the neighbors to negotiate a purchase of the land at issue. We do not yet know whether those negotiations will be successful and whether the Meeting will be asked to agree to anything in connection with those negotiations.

There are underlying frictions in the community that are, to some extent, playing out in this dispute. In recent years, some local, full-time residents have resented efforts by weekend residents to restrict development near Lake Burton. Some local people see such restrictions as attempts by rich people to prevent local people from getting a fair rate of return on their property. There are also tensions between those who own lakefront property and those that have difficulty getting access to the lake.

Attached are a copy of a topographical map that shows the location of our property; a recent survey of our property; a survey of the adjacent, rezoned property; a sketch of the structure proposed for that property; and a news article about the recent hearing. The portion of our property that runs alongside the rezoned property is near the right, top corner of the survey of our property and near the left, top corner of the sketch of the other property. On the topographical map, the other property runs between the right end of our property and Bridge Creek Road.

[Editor's Note: These documents can be viewed at <https://tinyurl.com/yw89vrfr>.]

Sally Carpentier, Mike Aland, and I attended the hearing. If anyone would like further information about the suit, please contact one of us. I can be reached at georgia.lord @outlook.com.

Sallie Carpenter and Georgia Lord spoke about class and financial tensions within the community. There is only one small boat dock which provides public access with very limited parking and no bathroom access. The storage facility that is proposed so close to the cabin does allow for more public access creating more tension.

There were several questions about the value of the property itself and adjacent properties, as well as sunshine laws that would require any further action taken on the property to be adequately advertised. Georgia and Sally shared that there are many conflicts present in the current situation including those related to local residents vs. distant residents from Atlanta, wealthy landowners vs. poorer landowners, residents' frustration with being limited in how they can use their own property. Georgia stated that none of the conflicts revolve around issues of race or racism.

Committee Corner:

QVS Local Support Committee

Steve Collin reported for the QVS Local Support Committee.

Hilary Burgin, National QVS Executive Director, shared with the Atlanta QVS Support Committee via Zoom on April 7 that they are "enacting a sabbath for the Atlanta QVS program" for the upcoming year. The 2021-2022 year will be the last one in Atlanta until they feel there are enough applicants nationwide to fill all thirty-six Fellowship positions in the five QVS sites. The current five cities, in addition to Atlanta, are Boston, Philadelphia, Minneapolis, and Portland, Oregon.

By pausing the Atlanta QVS program next year, the hope is that this will ensure enough Fellows for "full and robust intentional communities in as many cities as possible." This was a very difficult decision for the QVS Board and national organization, especially considering that Atlanta was the founding site and there has been a QVS house here since 2011.

There are normally over 70 applicants for the 36 positions in the five cities. For the upcoming 2022-2023 QVS year, there have been only 24 applicants. Hilary said, "We want to center the experience of the incoming Fellows and provide the transformational experience that includes living in an intentional community of 6-8 people. This means we cannot fill five houses."

She added that, "In 2020 we knew that the COVID-19 pandemic would profoundly impact Quaker Voluntary Service and require us to be nimble in making adaptations to protect each other and our loved ones from the virus. We were creative in our responses and had two impactful years of service during COVID. What we could not have known is that these years of off-and-on remote school and work would cause our young adult applicant pool to become increasingly dispersed over time. This isolation and remote schooling have frayed our most effective recruitment tool: connections between current and recent Fellows and younger applicants. Additionally, the early 2022 surge in COVID-19 cases from the Omicron variant canceled in-person opportunities during the peak recruitment season for the 2022- 2023 fellowship year. This has resulted in a much smaller class of incoming Fellows."

She also stated that, "As it turns out, we began 2022 intending to focus on planning for the future. We are already in the midst of beginning a strategic planning process that will last through the end of 2022. We are excited to have the opportunity to celebrate our 10 years of transformative work. And, we firmly believe that making this tough decision to pause the Atlanta program will ensure that we will continue for another 10 more years and beyond. This process will certainly include conversation about the current context and recruitment strategies for the future. We look forward to sharing more with you in the coming months about how you can engage with us in this process."

We are so glad to be on this journey with you, through the celebrations and the challenges. Thank you for your continued understanding, your support, and your belief in QVS and its mission."

The QVS Local Support committee asked the National QVS office why Atlanta was the location that was selected for a sabbath year. The reply was that most applicants, when asked where they wanted to be, ranked Atlanta at the bottom of the list. There is also uncertainty about the continued use of the current QVS house, and Rachael Carter will be moving to Philadelphia to work for QVS there and no longer be the Atlanta Coordinator.

Announcements:

SAYMA Sessions and Retreat is June 16-19. Registration is due by May 20. *SAYMA Sessions and Retreat Advance Program* and registration link are available at SAYMA.org as is a call for workshop proposals.

AFM Forum on SAYMA concerns, Thursday, April 28, 2022, 7:00-9:00 via Zoom.

There will be a Memorial for Bruce Burton, husband of Marcia Pauly, on Saturday May 14, 2022, at 2 pm. All are invited.

A Memorial Service will be held for Bette Turlington on Sunday, May 15 at 4pm. All are invited

The Atlanta Support committee is making plans for a potluck-type gathering in the coming weeks at the Grant Park QVS house. Details will be forthcoming.

Approval of Minutes from 3rd month 2022

Minute 4-17-2022:02: The Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the third month minutes.

Closing Worship

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

ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING

Regular Office Hours have resumed: Monday thru Thursday, 10 am to 1 pm and Friday, by appointment
web and email: atlantaquakers.org, atlantaquakers@gmail.com voicemail/phone: 404-377-2474
Clerk: Jennifer Dickie, afmclerk1@gmail.com Treasurer: Lynn Leuszler, 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.

Do 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.
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