

Atlanta Friends Meeting Newsletter

Atlanta Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, Quakers. All are welcome.



Meeting for Worship
Each First Day (Sunday)
10:00 - 11:00 a.m.
701 W. Howard Ave.
Decatur, GA 30030

February 2011

Query: "How might we encourage committee or business meetings to become times of refreshment, of a renewed worship in our sense of giving ourselves and affairs over to God, of being drawn into living, loving, fellowship with one another – rather than a crowded, anxious, hurried burden on already burdened lives?"
Patricia Loring, in *Listening Spirituality* Vol. II.

Book Review by Karen Morris

By Land and By Sea: Quakers Confront Slavery and Its Aftermath in North Carolina

By Hiram Hilty, c 1993

I bought the book, "By Land and By Sea: Quakers Confront Slavery and Its Aftermath in North Carolina," when touring some of the historic Quaker houses and Meetings near Greensboro, NC, a few years ago. I recommend it because of its concise and interesting explanation of how North Carolinian Quakers tried to act on their beliefs during the time of slavery and later racial injustice in their state. I was intrigued by the stories of individuals because it brought into the open personal and institutional struggles toward the value of freedom for all – stories of the search for Truth, of conflicts of interest and actions of great courage, as well as actions that today we might judge demeaning or furthering of injustice.

Beginning in 1777 in coastal Perquimans County with the story of Thomas Newby, the first known NC Quaker planter to free his slaves, the book describes the stir he created among Friends in his monthly meeting for business because many of them were slaveholders. This course of action was recommended by North Carolina Yearly Meeting, which had struggled with the concern for years.

Quakers were among the first of the white settlers of NC, many moving from Pennsylvania. The first governor of NC in 1695 was a Quaker, John Archdale, who believed in friendly relations with the Native peoples. His term was short, and he was soon recalled to England before slavery became an issue for Friends. George Fox and John Woolman each visited NC and urged NC Friends to manumit their slaves, and many moved forward to stop enslaving Africans in the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

The book details the many actions of individuals and Yearly and monthly meetings from the coastal plains to the Piedmont working to end slavery either through legal means in the courts and legislatures or through circumventing the law, for instance, manumitting enslaved persons to NC Yearly Meeting. Also described are the journeys of Quakers such as Levi Coffin, who moved formerly enslaved persons from NC to free states in the Northwest Territories, the earliest beginnings of the Underground Railroad in NC. A third way Quakers coped with slavery was to transmit enslaved persons to Liberia should they choose to return to Africa. Working with the American Colonization Society, Quakers in NC and Philadelphia raised over a thousand dollars for one particular voyage in 1827 to transport freed Blacks to Liberia, making them clothes and paying for the journey.

In the first years, after the Civil War ended Quakers felt relief from the mounting tensions of living under the burden of a slaveholding society with their conciseness focused on the injustices of the institution of slavery. The number of Quakers in NC was far less in 1865 than before the war and most were very poor as were all North Carolinians because of the war. When NC was a part of the Union, Quakers were exempted from military service. Under the Confederacy, many Quakers, not just those of draft age, resisted conscription by moving to the north to join relatives or went into hiding. Quakers who remained received material and food aid from northern Quakers in Baltimore and Philadelphia to help rebuild their lives. Hilty notes that work with the freed slaves was part of the mission of northern Friends, but took second place to rebuilding the Society of Friends in NC. (Continued on page 3)

Announcements

TRAVELING THROUGH HISTORY

SLIDE SHOW Feb 27, 11:45-1:00, Library
From Sea to Shining Sea by Perry Treadwell
History can be fun on U.S. 20 from Boston to Newport, Oregon. Come view more of the sights you can experience on this trip across the continent

Adult Religious Education in February

Ellie Soler will offer the story of her spiritual journey on February 6. In preparation for the Gathered Meeting Retreat in March, we will read and discuss Listening Spirituality: Personal Spiritual Practices among Friends by our retreat leader, Patricia Loring. For those new to Friends, this is an excellent introduction to Quaker practice as well as a sound guide for our spiritual journey at any stage. Copies of the book are available from Bill Holland, and the class meets in the library every Sunday from 9:00-9:50. All are welcome.

The Task Force for the Homeless is trying to meet the needs of more than 700 men currently seeking shelter at Peachtree and Pine. In addition, its Day Service waiting room is filled with women and children who have no other place to go. The need for blankets, prepared food, water, toilet paper and many other supplies is extreme. Please help in whatever way you can. Financial donations can be made online at <http://www.homelesstaskforce.org/donation&ourneeds.html> Metro Atlanta Task Force for the Homeless | 477 Peachtree Street | Atlanta, GA 30308 | Admin: 404.230.5000 Shelter Hotline : 404-447-3678 www.homelesstaskforce.org

AFM "Movie Night" a Success The evocative, welcoming smell of popcorn wafted through the lobby to mark the debut of AFM Movie Night, Friday, January 21. Over 30 people enjoyed the welcoming ambience.

The big screen in the Meeting Room was lit up by

Invictus (2009), directed by Clint Eastwood, starring Matt Damon and Morgan Freeman. *Invictus* is the inspiring story of how the national rugby team mobilized behind Nelson Mandela's appeal to unity to win the 1995 Rugby World Cup for the new South Africa.

Before the movie, Johnny Mason and Gillian Grable shared their experiences working for equal rights in South Africa; they were official observers in the historic 1994 elections. Their firsthand accounts (and passed-around exhibits) of those remarkable times provided an indelible extra dimension to the film.

A special thank you to Georgia Lord, Lynn Leuszler and others for bringing Movie Night to AFM.

Don't miss the next AFM Movie Night, Friday, February 11 when we will present three-time Oscar winner, *Crash* (2004) a compelling film that reveals the dangers of bigotry and xenophobia.

Invictus

Out of the night that covers me,
Black as the Pit from pole to pole,
I thank whatever gods may be
For my unconquerable soul.

In the fell clutch of circumstance
I have not winced nor cried aloud.
Under the bludgeonings of chance
My head is bloody, but unbowed.

Beyond this place of wrath and tears
Looms but the Horror of the shade,
And yet the menace of the years
Finds, and shall find, me unafraid.

It matters not how strait the gate,
How charged with punishments the scroll.
I am the master of my fate:
I am the captain of my soul.

Clerk of the Meeting Georgia Lord	Treasurer Meredith Reynolds	Ministry & Worship Suzan Kenworthy 770-493-6878	Social Concerns Julia Parker Ewen 404-534-3043 John Adams 404-755-6481
Assistant Clerk of the Mtg Bill Holland 404-692-2358	Finance Paul Mangelsdorf 770-677-4280	Religious Education Mary Jahntz 404-627-7699	Office Coordinator Jonah McDonald
Recording Clerk Caroline Noyes 770-452-0736	Care & Counsel Dwight Harriman 404-226-1232	Newsletter Editor Perry Treadwell	Friend in Residence John Roberts

(Continued from page one) Hilty ends the book by describing the ways Quakers continued to support the freed peoples after Emancipation. The money from northeast Quakers built several schools for freed Blacks, one of which was under the joint care of NY Yearly Meeting and the Freedmen's Bureau in Asheboro. Later it moved to High Point, expanded several times and eventually was sold to the city of High Point, becoming the Black public high school in 1923. In the 1968 this school, named after William Penn, merged with the newly integrated Andrews High School and the principal of Penn, Black S.E. Burford became the new principal of both schools. In the early 1990's a new foundation set out to restore the historic school.

Many Friends in NC readily embraced the separate but equal laws of Reconstruction well into the middle of the 20th century when some began working toward integration of the public schools as well as Guildford College. Hilty admits that Quakers have more work to do toward achieving racial equality in the 21st century. In fact, today's culture is strongly supportive of this cause, "out-Quakering the Quakers."

I encourage you to read the book, which is available in our library. For your own copy, contact North Carolina Friends Historical Society or NC Yearly Meeting.

Recent Additions to the Meeting's Library

The Spirit of the Quakers

by Geoffrey Durham (Yale University Press, 2010)

Extended quotations from well-known historical and contemporary Quakers, introduced by a British friend.

Quaker Writings: An Anthology, 1650-1920

by Thomas Hamm (Penguin, 2010)

Writings from prominent Friends, giving a balanced, international view of Quaker history; explores daily life, beliefs, movements, and activism.

The Wisdom to Know the Difference: When to Make a Change - and When to Let Go

by Eileen Flanagan (Tarcher, 2010)

Drawing on her Quaker faith as well as on a range of other religious and spiritual traditions, Flanagan shows readers how such practices as sifting through culturally received notions and listening to our own inner voice can help us decide when to change and when not to.

The Unequal World We Inhabit: Quaker Response to Terrorism and Fundamentalism

by Paul Lacey (Britian Yearly Meeting, 2010)

How does the pacifist respond to politically-motivated violence? How do organized religions create obstacles to peace? These are some of the questions discussed in this publication of the 2010 Swathmore Lecture.

Paths to Quaker Parenting: Using Quaker Beliefs, Testimonies and Practices

edited by Harriet Heath (Conrow Publishing House, 2009)

How should I respond to my three-year-old's whining for a cookie at 5:30? Should my nine-year-old have both an iPod and a cell phone, or neither? How can I embody the Peace Testimony when it's so easy to become angry with my child? This book is the sharing of a group of parents who have struggled with concerns like these, and how they have found strength and guidance from their Quaker faith.

Bag in the Wind

by Ted Koser; illustrated by Barry Root (Candlewick, 2010)

The story, in picture-book form, of a plastic bag's journey from a landfill into the lives of a can-collecting girl, a homeless man, and a store owner. Kooser, a poet, uses the story to show the young reader about the hidden connections between seemingly random events, and about neglect and care of the environment.

Quaker Quest for AFM

Anyone ever say to you, "I thought all Quakers were dead"?

Quaker Quest is a program designed by FGC (Friends General Conference) for meetings and the public to deepen the experience of Quakers, both newcomers and regular attenders to meeting for worship. A committee of the meeting would like to bring this program to Atlanta Friends Meeting. We will demonstrate the Quaker Quest program and give more information on **Sunday, February 27th at 11:45 in the meeting room**. The demonstration will be by three friends from our meeting sharing different perspectives on a spiritual topic from their own experiences, followed by a question and answer session with the committee. We will then explain more about the program. Come for the spiritual sharing, come for the information, come to get to know other people in meeting!

Child care will be provided, but please contact Karen Morris (karenthmorris@comcast.net_404.378.0595)

From the website:

The Hallmarks of Quaker Quest express the Quaker Quest approach to sharing who we are. Quakers are asked to use positive language, avoid jargon, use very little history, and refrain from speaking negatively about other religions or other branches of Quakerism. And, Quakers are invited to use stories to share their experiences and faith journey.

Public Quaker Quest sessions consist of a set format for each session. This format consists of three to four topics that are offered in a series, such as Quakers and God or Quakers and Peace.

Benefits of the entire Quaker Quest process can include :Energizing the meeting, Deepening the sense of community, Becoming more confident in sharing one's faith with others in the meeting as well as with seekers, Considering what it is like to be a newcomer in the meeting, Inviting seekers to share the Quaker spiritual path. For more information, you can visit: <http://www.fgcquaker.org/quakerquest/learnmoreaboutquakerquest>

In Light of the Clerk's request for state of the meeting reports by February 16th here are

Queries from SAYMA Monthly Meetings That May Be Useful in Writing State of the Meeting Reports

- How has the Spirit within your Meeting been shared with the wider community beyond the walls of your Meetinghouse?
- How fares Spirit in your Meeting during the last year, answering this question in four categories: Meeting for Worship, Meeting for Business, Committee Work, and Outreach to the Broader Community?
- How has the Meeting lived its testimonies in the preceding year?
- How has the Meeting supported "that of God" in each other over the course of the year?
- How has the Meeting expressed its vision with those outside the Meeting community?
- How has it supported groups and organizations within the Quaker community?
- How does attending meeting and being part of this faith community help me live in spirit and in truth?

Why do I attend meeting?

- In what ways do we all take responsibility for the nurturing of our meeting?
- What are we hoping for and striving for as individuals and as a meeting?
- How is our search for truth reflected in our hopes and dreams?
- How has Spirit fared with us this year?
- How have we balanced between "silence and witness"? How have we balanced between worship and our witness beyond Meeting?
- Are we seeking to rectify existing social injustice and racial discrimination in our local communities and in the world at large?

Atlanta Friends Meeting
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
First Month, 16, 2011
Recorded Pending Approval

Georgia Lord presented the query: “Are you sensitive to the spiritual and temporal needs of those making up the meeting community? Do you respond to needs of older, distant, or lonely members and attenders with love and mutual care?” (SAYMA Faith and Practice)

In attendance were: Muireann Brennan, Mary Ann Downey, Betsy Eggers, Julia Ewen, Jenny Foster, Erica French, Nina Gooch, Judith Greenberg, Bill Holland, Kathy Johnson, Elizabeth Lamb, Paul Mangelsdorf, Beth Martinson, Rick Martinson, Alison Mawle, Susan May, Karen terHorst Morris, Al Natanagara, Meredith Reynolds, Bert Skellie, Karen Skellie, Ellie Soler, Myrna Trapp, Perry Treadwell, Denny Webster, John Roberts, Caroline Noyes (Recording Clerk), Georgia Lord (Clerk) (27 Friends)

Nominating Committee: On behalf of the Nominating Committee Caroline Noyes brought forth for initial consideration Denny Webster to serve as a member of Ministry & Worship. Final approval will be sought in Second Month. Caroline Noyes also brought forth for final approval Paul Baker and Chris Lahowitch as appointed members of Care & Council, and Bill Holland as Clerk of Ministry & Worship.

Minute 01-16-01: Following individual consideration of each proposed appointment, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves:

- Paul Baker as an appointed member of Care & Council (2011-2014);
- Chris Lahowitch as an appointed member of Care & Council (2011-2014);
- Bill Holland as Clerk of Ministry & Worship (2011-14).

Nominating Committee reminds Friends that there are a number of committee openings for 2011, including Clerk of Hospitality, members of Care & Council, and a several positions in Religious Education.

Finance Committee: Paul Mangelsdorf presented proposed changes in the 2011 budget, including an increase in the maintenance budget from \$6,000 to \$8,000. The budgeted contributions of \$120,295 are consistent with contributions for 2010, and reflect contributions of \$708 per giving unit. Rental income is up. December 2010 ended up being the best month in terms of giving (ever).

The Finance Committee reported that it had closed out several special funds that had been inactive for a number of years, moving monies from these funds into more general ones. The Social Concerns Committee will season the question of whether the Social Concerns Fund should continue to be designated as a special fund and will bring back a proposal regarding this. It was agreed that the funds in the Building Improvement fund will be transferred to the Permanent Improvement fund. The Administration and Finance Committees were asked to propose definitions for what expenditures will qualify for Permanent Improvement Funds, after considering concerns raised.

Minute 01-16-02: Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the following items related to the 2011 budget:

- The Maintenance-Building budget will be increased from \$6,000 to \$8,000;
- The \$200 needed for Quaker Quest will be moved to the Advancement line;
- The War is Not the Answer fund will be eliminated and the funds transferred into the undesignated funds administered by the Social Concerns Committee.

Clerk’s Items: Georgia Lord reported that she has drafted the Letter of Transfer for Anthony Smith to New

Brunswick Monthly Meeting, outlining his contributions to Atlanta Friends Meeting. Georgia also asks Friends to submit committee reports for the State of the Meeting Report are due to the Clerk no later than the 16th of Second Month.

Other Items: Nina Gooch asks that people check and update their directory information. Also, if you know of people who have had changes in their directory information (e.g., new address, new phone number, new email) but who are unable to make those changes, please let Nina know.

Approval of Minutes of Twelfth Month Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business.

Minute 01-16-03: Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the minutes of Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business for Twelfth Month with no corrections.

Meeting closed with silent worship.

Respectfully Submitted,

Georgia Lord, Clerk Caroline Noyes, Recording Carter will comprise the ad hoc committee.

Save the Dates - **March 4-6, 2011** **GATHERED MEETING RETREAT**

Each year, the Atlanta Friends Gathered Meeting Retreat is held to support spiritual growth and deepen our sense of community. This is a time for gathering in silence and other forms of sharing, relaxing, spending quality time together as spiritual seekers and friends, and for having fun. All are encouraged to attend, whether you are new or seasoned in our Meeting, and whether you are a member or an attender. This time can be especially beneficial for new attenders to connect with others in the Meeting. **Partial scholarships are available—please dont let funding keep you from being part of this wonderful experience. This year we will focus on** “Listening for the Movement of the Spirit” with facilitation by Pat Loring of Friendship Meeting in Greensboro, North Carolina. She is the author of two highly-acclaimed volumes on Quaker spiritual listening - Listening Spirituality: Personal Spiritual Practices Among Friends, and Listening Spirituality: Corporate Spiritual Practice Among Friends. Recently, she was one of the featured speakers at Pendle Hill's 80th anniversary celebration. Pat also served as co-facilitator of an AFM retreat in the mid-90's.

The retreat is being held at the **Charlie Elliott Center in Mansfield, GA**, about one hour east of the perimeter. Cost, **including meals**: single room (**\$220**); two people per room (**\$140/person**); three per room (**\$133/person**); four per room (**\$130/person** [if this configuration can be arranged]). The cost per person **includes all meals** from Friday night dinner through Sunday lunch.

Registration will begin in mid-January. Forms (on salmon colored paper) will be on the information table near the front door. It will also be available by mid-January in the 'Members and Attenders' section of the AFM website. **The deadline for registration is February 16th. Requests for scholarship assistance must be submitted by February 2nd.** Questions? Contact: David Foster (404-941-7337) dfoster45@gmail.com, or Lissa Place (404-627-5875) lissaplace@yahoo.com

On Thursday evening, March 3rd from 7 to 9, there will be a special program with Pat Loring. Everyone is invited, particularly those who are unable to participate in the retreat. Please save the date.

Ferguson Cabin "Save the Dates" - Spring Clean Up will be on April 8, 9, 10 at the Ferguson Cabin. New Cabin Framing Weekend will be April 16 and 17. All are welcome as we clean, spruce up, rake, paint, build, and enjoy time together in beautiful North Georgia. Look for more details in the March newsletter or contact Caroline Morris 404-633-4054.

Space Heaters needed: Have a space heater at home that you no longer need? Ferguson Cabin could use a few to help cabin users through the winter. Contact Caroline Morris 404-633-4054

Calender for 2nd Month 2011

Area Meetings for Worship

Every First Day, 10:00 a.m. – In the Meeting Room and a small meeting in the Library

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Every First Day, 12:30 p.m. — Carrollton Friends Worship Group, St. Andrew United Methodist Youth Center, 1106 Maple St, Carrollton, lessell.bray@gmail.com or 770-830-8705.

Every 2nd and 4th First Day, 10:00 a.m. — Canton Friends Worship Group, 360 E. Marietta St, Canton, 12:00 p.m. Contact Marty Bray for more information: 770-830-8705 or lessell.bray@ gmail.com

Every Fifth Day, 12:10 p.m.— First Thursdays at AFSC office, 60 Walton ST. NW, Atlanta, 10303

Every other Thursday at East Lake Commons, 404-378-5883 or bertskellie@gmail.com.

Every Sixth Day, 8:45 a.m.— Friends School of Atlanta, 862 Columbia Drive, Decatur, GA 30030, 404-373-8746. Beginning again August 13.

Mon-Fri Morning Worship, 8:30 – 9:00: In the library at Atlanta Friends Meetinghouse. Contact Jonah McDonald, 404-377-2474, afmquakers@hotmail.com

Weekly Events

Every First Day (Sunday)

9:00 Adult Religious Education

9:15 Singing, Classroom A/B

10:00 Meetings for Worship

Every Wednesday

8:30-9:00 Morning Silent Worship, Library

Every Second-Fifth Day (Monday-Thursday)

8:30-12:30 Smart Toddlers, Nursery playground

Every Third Day (Tuesday)

7:30pm Silent Meditation, Meeting Room

7:30pm Bible Study, Library

Every Fourth Day (Wednesday)

7:00-8:30 Mid-Week Semi-Programmed Worship Mt. Rm

Other Events

2/2, Fourth Day (Wednesday)

6:45-9:40 Administration, Library

2/3, Fifth Day (Thursday)

7:30-9:00 Meeting for Peace, Jr, High

2/6, First Day, (Sunday) Potluck

11:30-2:00 Green Friends, A&B

2/11, Sixth Day (Friday) Movie Night

7:00 “Crash”

2/13, First Day, (Sunday)

11:45-2:00 Finance, Library

11:30-2:00 Care and Counsel, Jr. Teen Rm.

11:45-2:00 Ministry & Worship, A&B

11:45–2:00 Religious Ed, Nursery

2/18, Newcomers Dinner, at the Holland-Downey home

2/18, Deadline for 3rd Month newsletter

2/20, First Fay (Sunday)

11:45 Meeting for Worship with attention to business

2/26, Seventh Day (Saturday)

9:00-3:30 CURAFM + ORAIARH joint meeting' Library

2/27, First Day, (Sunday)

9:00-1:30 FSA Pancake Breakfast

11:45-1:00 Slide Show, Traveling on U.S. 20, Perry's Vignettes, Library

Please confirm unique events by checking the announcements sheets and or contacting the Meeting Office Coordinator.

Reinhold Niebuhr put it best: “Nothing that is worth doing can be achieved in our lifetime; therefore, we must be saved by hope. ... Nothing we do, however virtuous, can be accomplished alone; therefore, we are saved by love. No virtuous act is quite as virtuous from the standpoint of our friend or foe as it is from our standpoint. Therefore, we must be saved by the final form of love, which is forgiveness.”

Atlanta Friends Meeting
701 West Howard Avenue
Decatur, GA 30030-2902
Phone: 404-377-2474

ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING

701 West Howard Avenue, Decatur, GA 30030

Georgia Lord 770-934-7523: Georgia_Lord@mindspring.com

Treasurer: Meredith Reynolds, 404-683-3096: afmtreasurer@yahoo.com

Newsletter Editor, 404-325-1504, perryt@bellsouth.net

Office: Hours M-W-F 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; E-mail address: afmquakers@hotmail.com

NAMETAGS: If you would like to have a permanent nametag made, leave a request in one of the baskets on the front table. Indicate whether you prefer one that hangs around the neck or that pins. When Carol Gray has made one for you, it will be placed in the black file box on the greeting table.

If you would like to be included in the AFM database and receive the Newsletter by mail and/or appear in future AFM Directories, please send your name, address phone, e-mail address, etc to Nina Gooch by e-mail at ninagooch@gmail.com or by phone 404-371-9873. Please indicate if you want to be in the directory, receive the newsletter by mail, or both. This also applies to any change in existing database information, e.g. change of address.

To receive AFM newsletter notices via e-mail, simply send a blank e-mail to afmnewsletter-subscribe@yahoogroups.com from the address where you want to receive the newsletter. You will receive a note back from Yahoo asking you to confirm your subscription; simply hit reply and you will be added to the list. There is no subscription fee for the newsletter.

To receive general announcements and participate in discussion, follow the same instructions only address the note to afmdiscussion-

subscribe@yahoogroups.com. To receive announcements relating directly to the life of the meeting, send the same note to afmannouncements-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

Contributions to the Atlanta Friends Meeting can be placed in the slot marked "Contributions" in the greeting area of the Meetinghouse, or mailed to the Treasurer at the above address. Thank you!

DEADLINE FOR 3RD Month newsletter: 2nd Month 18

Readers are encouraged to submit letters, articles, poetry, calendar notices and anything else of interest to Friends. Items should be sent directly to: Perry Treadwell perryt@bellsouth.net 404-325-1504 preferably in plain text in the body of the email.

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