

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

April 2010:

Query: Do we love and accept diversity as a gift of God? Do we want to listen to each other? Are we careful to speak to each other from the Light?
— William Kreidler, New England Yearly Meeting

One Day at Meeting for Worship by Fred Stevens

After many years of attending meeting I've decided to report briefly some of my thoughts about what is my experience of meeting for worship. My query is- do you have a practice at worship that could be articulated to others in a meaningful way?

When in meeting for worship I believe we are each on a different path that leads us to the same place. What we call waiting on the Light, though silent, is an active process.

For me to sit in meeting and be truly silent I have to literally stop thinking. When I can stop my thinking I cut off the mind chatter inside my brain that is all about my world and no one else's.

In worship I close my eyes. With my eyes closed I see everything I can see. I hear everything I can hear and feel everything I can feel. When I'm actively doing this I find I have no time for thinking anyway.

When I say I feel, I mean I sense what's going on both on and under my skin. When I sense pain I remind myself that I am more than pain. So much more! I say the same to myself about emotions. I say I have the emotion but I am not the emotion.

When I can move my very being to this non-thinking level my body sensations become profoundly alive to me. When in this being place I know I'm at the interface between me and the not-me. I'm perched between the inside of me and the outside.

In this space I sense you, dear friends, without seeing you and without hearing you. Of course I know you're here, but there's a way of sensing you that is thoughtless and whole. And when you are also at this level we are gathered then together. That's what I think is meant by the phrase a gathered meeting.

So, we've been on our different individual paths and have arrived at the same place. We drink here from the same deep well of silence. Some may be led to testify out loud what the water tastes like.

Here at this ineffable place is what goes by many names. Some call it, It. Some call it God. It is between my thoughts. It is between me and your own experience of these moments.

In this space we experience something that completes us as individuals. When we are gathered together we experience how we are connected to one another throughout the cycles of life and death.

Here's what else I think happens when we're gathered together. This very deep connection will reliably lead us to the same shared universal values around what's most important to us individually and as a group. From here we gain the wisdom needed to form a worship group, to serve a committee, to grow a family, a community and a planet.

And so it goes. We make a very sane bet that we're going to do the same thing over and over and get the same result. When we are gathered together, we choose to experience each other at a level that is indescribably intimate and vulnerable, yet undeniably commonplace. It's always available to us in group or utterly alone..

Usually at the end of meeting I hear something like "it is the custom of the Atlanta Friends Meeting to hold in the light those for whom we have a special concern."

What follows is a myriad of requests for recovery of one form or another. If there is one word that describes all these requests is that they are asking for a healing. The requests are also for a spiritual healing.

(Continued on page 3)

Announcements

Ceal Memorial Service

A memorial service for Ceal Wutka will be held at 2pm on Saturday, April 9 at the Atlanta Friends Meeting in Decatur. For those interested in making donations, Ceal was very well taken care of at Hospice Atlanta and she would appreciate donations to them (<http://www.vnhs.org/services/hospice.aspx>).

Search for Friends Journal Editor

I would like to ask for your help in publicizing our current job search to find a successor for Bob Dockhorn as Editor. The job posting is now online at www.friendsjournal.org/employment. If you could share it with your Friends who might be, or know, good candidates, I would appreciate it very much! Executive Editor

Easter Egg Hunt

Join in the fun tradition of the Meeting's Easter Egg Hunt! When: Easter, April 24 Time: At Rise of Meeting Needed from adults: Filled plastic eggs, hard-boiled colored eggs, treats to hide. (Remember the need for Fair Trade chocolate!)

The Junior High class will hide the goodies for the younger children to find. Preschool & toddlers will be in the playground area; Lower and Upper Elementary kids will seek all around the Meetinghouse grounds!

Perry's Slide Show moved again

Due to scheduling conflicts the trip "From Sea to Shining Sea" will be scheduled for April 24 in spite of it being Easter. Come to Library after the egg hunt to hunt for the fascinating stories along U.S. 20. Perry will also be speaking to the Eagle Eye Books on April 9 at 5 pm Support would be welcome following the service.

Adult Religious Education April 2011

On April 3 John Roberts will offer his spiritual journey and on April 10 we will discuss the last chapter in Listening Spirituality by Patricia Loring. Perry Treadwell will lead us on April 17 in a discussion of his

book, "The Way of Friendship: Meditations On Love and Friendship."

Traveling Ministry

For the last ten years AFM has minuted its support for the work Mary Ann Downey and Bill Holland to travel in ministry to other meetings They meet monthly with an anchoring committee for guidance and continue to work for the Traveling Ministry Program of FGC and also directly with meetings who invite them. The work in 2010 took them to meetings in Denver, Cincinnati, Wichita, Asheville, as well as FGC Gathering, Pendle Hill and our Gathered Meeting retreat. This year they led a Feb retreat for a meeting in St Petersburg, FL, and Pleasant Hill Presbyterian Church in Duluth, GA, and are scheduled to visit meetings in Philadelphia, West Knoxville Meeting, along with SAYMA, and the FGC Gathering.

News from Maria Ladd, Submitted by Georgia Lord

Lynn Leuszler and I were delighted to visit Maria Ladd in late February on our way to Pendle Hill. Maria is now living in Quaker Village in Sandy Spring, Maryland, near her son and his family. Although our visit was a complete surprise to her, an elegantly coifed Maria received us graciously in her new home. She said that she is finding the community there very appealing. She has been warmly welcomed not only by former Atlantans Lorne and Beth Garrettson but also by others with close ties to members of our Meeting. She was delighted to receive the beautiful card created by Carol Gray and signed by many in the community. Maria's new address is: Maria Ladd 17330 Quaker Lane ~ Apartment 8 Sandy Spring, Maryland 20860

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
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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 1) Holding in the Light is about asking for a spiritual healing. Asking for a spiritual healing and being healed is what being a Quaker is all about. We ask for a friend's healing from his grief, another's for her serious medical condition, for the inequality and injustices around the world and in our neighborhoods. We ask for the toxins that poison us to be removed- all kinds of healings.

In Friends history spiritual healings happen. George Fox was beaten to a pulp by his adversaries on a number of occasions and he bounced back. He was fed a starvation diet in jail for months at a time, but he came out in great shape.

It is documented that many of his followers came to him for a healing. When they were healed he would say something like don't thank me thank God.

In England there are a number of healing centers including the Quaker-operated Clarridge House which is a retreat for healing and spiritual renewal - www.quaker-healing.org.uk. At this website you'll even find an available list of spiritual healers.

Meanwhile back in Atlanta, I am trying to generate a query for spiritual healing. But the spirit is not leading me to write one. Maybe that's for you to be led to do. Personally, I know there is a Divine Healing Force that shapes the universe. What say you? What would be your query about spiritual healing?

RECENT SUCCESSES of FCNL

The Friends Committee on National Legislation, our nonpartisan Quaker lobby in the public interest, identifies specific, practical steps that individuals can take now to persuade the federal government to move our country toward the world we seek. The policies and legislative priorities they advocate reflect this focus on long-term change. Among their recent successes:

- * Senate ratification of the New START Treaty, which will reduce the number of deployed nuclear weapons in the U.S. and Russia and reestablish verification visits. FCNL led efforts to secure the 67 votes needed.
- * Senate Moves to Prevent Violent Conflict. A resolution calling on the U.S. government to take specific steps to prevent genocides and mass atrocities before they happened passed the Senate in December, after FCNL built its bipartisan support and 22 cosponsors.
- * Congress Approves Cobell Settlement, clearing the way for hundreds of thousands of Native Americans to receive the money that the federal government owes them for the use of their land. FCNL worked for years with Elouise Cobell, the plaintiff, to achieve justice in this case.
- * Setting the Baseline for Congressional Action to Address Global Warming: With FCNL's lobbying, the CLEAR Act has emerged as the principal bipartisan alternative to the ineffective cap-and-trade approach that has previously been the focus in Congress. FCNL's lobbyists will be working in 2011 to protect the EPA's regulation of greenhouse gas pollution and to reintroduce the CLEAR Act.
- * Rebuilding Democracy through Local Action to Reduce Military Spending: Across the country, many groups and Quaker meetings are urging Congress to cut the military budget. People in Michigan, Iowa, Washington state, and Florida are leading a groundswell of public support for new federal budget priorities through FCNL's Our Nation's Checkbook campaign.
- * Building Support for a New Policy in Afghanistan. In the last year, FCNL has helped to increase the number of members of Congress demanding a new U.S. strategy in Afghanistan. In July, 162 representatives voted to require the Obama administration to prepare an exit strategy, including a timetable to bring U.S. troops home. A year ago, 138 members of the House voted for a less stringent measure.

Find out more at www.fcnl.org.

Peter Sederberg has recently requested the transfer of his membership from Columbia (SC) Monthly Meeting to Atlanta Friends Meeting. Although Peter has attended our Meeting for a number of years, this biography of Peter may help Friends get to know him better. The Ministry and Worship Committee welcomes Peter to our Meeting!

Peter Sederberg: An Autobiographical Introduction

I was born in 1943 in Minneapolis and lived there until I was 21. I was raised a Roman Catholic and attended parochial grade and high schools. I graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1965 with a degree in economics and then earned a PhD (1970) in political science from Johns Hopkins University. I taught first at Wellesley College but spent most of my professional career at the University of South Carolina (1971-2007). I have published seven books and over 30 articles and book chapters on topics of comparative politics, political philosophy, revolution and political violence, nuclear war, and global security.

I have been married twice, and have a son, Per (b. 1974), from my first marriage and a daughter, Rachel (b. 1987), from my second. Per currently is an assistant professor in neuroscience at Ohio State University, while Rachel is teaching English at a high school in Milan.

My wife, Jan Love, and I met each other at the University of South Carolina and were married in 1984. Jan has been active in the leadership of both the United Methodist Church and the World Council of Churches. She was offered the position of Dean of the Candler School of Theology at Emory University in 2007. Since I had recently retired from USC, Jan and I made our new home in Atlanta, and I received a three-year contract to serve as a Special Assistant to the Provost on Undergraduate Educational Initiatives.

Perhaps the most significant person in journey to Quakerism was Mulford Q. Sibley, from whom I took four courses while at the University of Minnesota. I kept in touch with Mulford for many years after graduating. At the time, I believed I was in the presence of a saint. He was a man of tremendous moral and intellectual integrity, suffused with genuine kindness and respect for everyone he encountered. If there is a light that shines in the heart of every person, I believe in some it shines much more brightly. And his light eventually led me to the Quakers. Over time, I drifted away from Catholicism, or vice versa, but I remembered the quiet example of Mulford's life, and in 1983 I sought out the small Quaker meeting in Columbia.

I believe several factors combined to lead me to a serious commitment. First, I was increasingly engaged, both academically and politically, in opposition to the nuclear arms race, and the peace mission of the Quakers coincided with my intellectual and political interests. Second, at an early meeting I attended as a visitor, one member observed that for Friends there are no eternal answers, only eternal questions, and this position resonated with me. My favorite Quaker hymn, "The Ballad of George Fox," encapsulates the values that I find most appealing in the Society of Friends. Finally, I found the discipline of silence and meditation beneficial, as the career I have embraced and enjoy, perhaps too much, is one of intellectual engagement and debate.

So here I stand . . . Peter Sederberg 3/11/2010

Movie Night, April 8th at 7:00 at the Meeting House: Friendly Persuasion

Movie night for April will feature one of the quintessential Quaker movies – Friendly Persuasion. This is a movie that all American Quakers should see at least once, and one to which we are likely to return periodically. It is a film that all ages can enjoy together.

In this 1956 film Gary Cooper and Dorothy McGuire play the roles of a farm couple of the Quaker faith in 1863 in Union territory threatened by Confederate raiders. The family teeters between the many rules imposed upon devout Quakers of that era and the "worldly" temptations around them. They also struggle with their testimony of pacifism as enemy soldiers draw closer to their home. There is a lot of humor in the movie and a fair degree of depth.

Popcorn will be provided! You are welcome to bring other snacks, as well as drinks. What Will Admission Price Be? Attenders will be asked to donate whatever admission price they can afford and feel to be appropriate. --Georgia Lord

Atlanta Friends Meeting
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
March 20, 2011
Recorded Pending Approval

Query: Georgia Lord presented the query: "How have you sought, under claims of divine love and grace, to recognize the uniqueness of every individual regardless of differences? Have you sought to understand and overcome the discomfort that often accompanies the perception of differences? Do you seek in others their God-given gifts?" (SAYMA Faith & Practice)

In attendance were: Micheal Allison, Mark Bryans, Steve Collins, Mary Ann Downey, Betsy Eggers, Julia Ewen, Sally Ferguson, Judith Greenberg, Roland Heath, Bill Holland, Kathy Johnson, Suzan Kenworthy, Tom Kenworthy, Chris Lahowitch, Lynn Leuszler, Alison Mawle, Al Natanagara, Laura Norlin, Ronald Nuse, Margie Rece, Aaron Ruscetta, Beth Ruddiman, Peter Sederberg, Bert Skellie, Karen Skellie, Ellie Soler Jim Tolmach, Myrna Trapp, Perry Treadwell, Denny Webster, Caroline Noyes (Recording Clerk), Georgia Lord (Clerk) (32 Friends)

Nominating: On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Steve Collins brought forth for initial consideration Laura Norlin as Clerk of Care and Counsel. Final approval for Laura will be sought in Fourth Month. Steve Collins also brought forth for final approval Maia Hallward and Stoph Hallward for membership on Ministry & Worship.

Minute 03-20-01: Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Maia Hallward for membership on Ministry & Worship (2011-2014)

Minute 03-20-02: Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Stoph Hallward for membership on Ministry & Worship (2011-2014)

Jim Tolmach continues to work on the text for the Ferguson Cabin Stewards Committee in the Handbook and welcomes thoughts on the new text.

Ministry & Worship: On behalf of Ministry and Worship, Bill Holland brought forth Dana Goldman for final approval for membership.

Minute 03-20-03: On the recommendation of the Ministry and Worship Committee, we joyfully welcome Dana Goldman as a member of Atlanta Friends Meeting. We welcome the opportunity to travel together as we individually and collectively seek to discern the Spirit's will for us.

Ministry and Worship has received a certificate of transfer for Peter Sederberg from Columbia Friends Meeting (South Carolina). A welcoming committee has met with him, and asked Peter to write a biographical sketch for inclusion in the newsletter. Final approval for the membership transfer will be sought in Fourth Month. Peter can be reached at petersederberg@gmail.com.

Ministry and Worship offers the following minute concerning the passing of Ceal Wutka:

Minute 03-20-04: Our member Ceal Wutka died peacefully at Hospice Atlanta on February 26 surrounded by Mark and other family members. She was diagnosed with stage 4 colon cancer in January and in consultation with her doctors realized that chemotherapy could not arrest the disease.

Working with Mark Wutka, a Memorial Committee has been formed (Caroline Noyes, Laura Norlin, Mary Jahntz, Lynn Leuszler), and a memorial service scheduled for Saturday, April 9 at 2:00pm.

Ministry and Worship offers the following minute of appreciation for Peter Lang and his presentation on Thomas Kelly.

Minute 03-20-05: Thirty Friends gathered after Meeting to hear the presentation of Peter Lang of Chatham-Summit Meeting, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. Peter spoke engagingly about his life and the influence the teachings of Thomas Kelly have had on his own development. He encouraged Friends to read

the works of Thomas Kelly and live in the deep senses of the awareness of God that Kelly testifies to. We thank Peter for his ministry.

Friends General Conference. Perry Treadwell announced a request for a special donation of \$1,000 for the Friends General Conference (FGC) capital campaign. As a result of shortfalls in the capital campaign, there will be significant impacts on the staff and activities of FGC in the face of growing outreach and need. Atlanta Friends Meeting currently offers an annual contribution to the General Fund of \$1,000. Consideration of this request was deferred until Fourth Month in hopes of receiving input from Finance and any other interested committees.

Digital Resources Ad hoc Committee: Aaron Ruscetta reported on the ad hoc gathering of Friends interested in the digital resources of Atlanta Friends Meeting that has been spearheaded by John Roberts. The committee concludes that the website, as well as general discussion and announcement email lists, should be considered parts of the public face of the Meeting, while Groupware services and topical email lists should be focused on and reserved for internal Meeting business and communication. Additionally, all services, communications, email lists, and social media presence should be centrally managed and directed so they can all function as an integrated, consistent whole.

Clerk's Items: Georgia Lord provided a synopsis of the State of the Meeting Report being submitted to SAYMA by April 1, 2011, and distributed copies of the proposed text.

Minute 03-20-06: Atlanta Friends Meeting authorizes the proposed text of the State of the Meeting Report with amendments suggested by those attending Meeting for Worship.

Georgia Lord Traveling presented a Traveling Minute for Mary Ann and Bill Holland who are traveling to Gwynned Friends Meeting (Pennsylvania) as part of their work with FGC's Traveling Ministries program. They will be leading a workshop on "Weaving Community, Welcoming the Soul." The traveling minute was approved.

Approval of Minutes of Second Month Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

Minute 03-20-07: Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the minutes of Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business for Second Month with corrections.

Meeting closed with silent worship. Respectfully Submitted, Georgia Lord, Clerk
Caroline Noyes, Recording Clerk

"The business of skepticism is to be dangerous. Skepticism challenges established institutions. If we teach everybody, including, say, high school students, habits of skeptical thought, they will probably not restrict their skepticism to UFOs, aspirin commercials, and 35,000-year-old chandelles. Maybe they'll start asking awkward questions about economic, or social, or political, or religious institutions. Perhaps they'll challenge the opinions of those in power. Then where would we be?"

"The Demon-Haunted World, Science as a Candle in the Dark" p 416
Carl Sagan, 1995

"That is to say, religion is first of all about fitting into the world and fitting into one's borders. There may indeed be something 'mythic' about it, but it pales before the mythic quality of our own clumsy, modern selves." James L. Kugel, "In The Valley of The Shadow, On the Foundations of Religious Belief"

Calender for 4th 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.

Wednesday 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

4/3, First Day, (Sunday) Potluck

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

4/5, Fourth Day (Wednesday)

6:45– 9:45 Administration, Library

4/7, Fifth Day (Thursday)

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

4/8, Sixth Day (Friday) Movie Night

7:00 Friendly Persuasion

4/9, Seventh Day (Saturday)

2:00 Ceal Wutka Memorial

4/10, First Day, (Sunday)

11:30 – 12:30 Listening Ear Atrium

11:45-2:00 Finance, Library

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

11:45-1:15 Ministry & Worship

11:45–2:00 Religious Ed, Nursery

4/13 Fourth Day (Wednesday)

7:30-9:30 ORAIARH, Library

4/16 Newsletter deadline for May

4/17, First Day (Sunday)

11:45 Meeting for Worship with attention to business

4/18, Newcomers Dinner

4/24, First Day, (Sunday)

11:00 egg hunt

11:45 Slide Show, Perry's Travels across the continent

11:45–1:45 CUR-AFM JrHigh

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

The world stands out on either side

No wider than the heart is wide;

Above the world is stretched the sky,--

No higher than the soul is high.

The heart can push the sea and land

Farther away on either hand;

The soul can split the sky in two,

And let the face of God shine through.

But East and West will pinch the heart

That can not keep them pushed apart;

And he whose soul is flat -- the sky

Will cave in on him by and by.

Edna St. Vincent Millay "Renascence" 1912

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

ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING

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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. The web site for the meeting is atlanta.quaker.org where the newsletter can be found at events

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 5TH Month newsletter: 4 TH Month 17

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