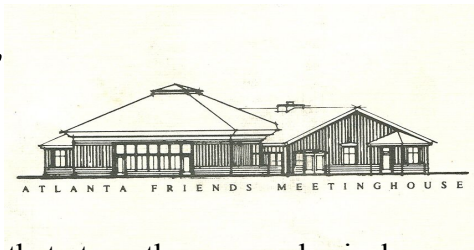


Atlanta Friends Meeting Newsletter

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

July 2012

Query: Do you use your leisure in ways that strengthen your physical, mental, and spiritual life? Do you avoid those habits and recreations that may prove to be harmful to yourself or others? How do you live that your spiritual growth, family life, and the interests of your Meeting and community are given sufficient consideration and time?

From Luck to Gratitude

[Michael Lewis, author of *Liar's Poker*, *Moneyball*, and *The Big Short*, has received much attention for the commencement address he gave at Princeton University. Here are excerpts. -- Eds.]

. . . I graduated from Princeton without ever having published a word of anything, anywhere. . . . But at Princeton, studying art history, I felt the first twinge of literary ambition. It happened while working on my senior thesis. My adviser was a truly gifted professor, an archaeologist named William Childs. The thesis tried to explain how the Italian sculptor Donatello used Greek and Roman sculpture — which is actually totally beside the point, but I've always wanted to tell someone. God knows what Professor Childs actually thought of it, but he helped me to become engrossed. More than engrossed: obsessed. When I handed it in I knew what I wanted to do for the rest of my life: to write senior theses. Or, to put it differently: to write books.

Then I went to my thesis defense. It was just a few yards from here, in McCormick Hall. I listened and waited for Professor Childs to say how well written my thesis was. He didn't. And so after about 45 minutes I finally said, "So. What did you think of the writing?" "Put it this way," he said. "Never try to make a living at it."

And I didn't — not really. I did what everyone does who has no idea what to do with themselves: I went to graduate school. I wrote at nights, without much effect, mainly because I hadn't the first clue what I should write about. One night I was invited to a dinner, where I sat next to the wife of a big shot at a giant Wall Street investment bank, called Salomon Brothers. She more or less forced her husband to give me a job. I knew next to nothing about Salomon Brothers. But Salomon Brothers happened to be where Wall Street was being reinvented—into the place we have all come to know and love. When I got there I was assigned, almost arbitrarily, to the very best job in which to observe the growing madness: they turned me into the house expert on derivatives. A year and a half later Salomon Brothers was handing me a check for hundreds of thousands of dollars to give advice about derivatives to professional investors. Now I had something to write about: Salomon Brothers. Wall Street had become so unhinged that it was paying recent Princeton graduates who knew nothing about money small fortunes to pretend to be experts about money. I'd stumbled into my next senior thesis.

I called up my father. I told him I was going to quit this job that now promised me millions of dollars to write a book for an advance of 40 grand. There was a long pause on the other end of the line. "You might just want to think about that," he said. "Why?" "Stay at Salomon Brothers 10 years, make your fortune, and then write your books," he said.

I didn't need to think about it. I knew what intellectual passion felt like — because I'd felt it here, at Princeton — and I wanted to feel it again. I was 26 years old. Had I waited until I was 36, I would never have done it. I would have forgotten the feeling.

The book I wrote was called "Liar's Poker." It sold a million copies. I was 28 years old. I had a career, a little fame, a small fortune and a new life narrative. All of a sudden people were telling me I was born to be a writer. This was absurd. Even I could see there was another, truer narrative, with luck

as its theme. What were the odds of being seated at that dinner next to that Salomon Brothers lady? Of landing inside the best Wall Street firm from which to write the story of an age? Of landing in the seat with the best view of the business? Of having parents who didn't disinherit me but instead sighed and said "do it if you must?" Of having had that sense of must kindled inside me by a professor of art history at Princeton? Of having been let into Princeton in the first place?

This isn't just false humility. It's false humility with a point. My case illustrates how success is always rationalized. People really don't like to hear success explained away as luck — especially successful people. *As they age, and succeed, people feel their success was somehow inevitable. They don't want to acknowledge the role played by accident in their lives.* There is a reason for this: the world does not want to acknowledge it either.

I wrote a book about this, called "Moneyball." . . . The Oakland [A's] had figured something out: the rich teams didn't really understand who the best baseball players were. The players were misvalued. And the biggest single reason they were misvalued was that *the experts did not pay sufficient attention to the role of luck in baseball success.* Players got given credit for things they did that depended on the performance of others: pitchers got paid for winning games, hitters got paid for knocking in runners on base. Players got blamed and credited for events beyond their control. Where balls that got hit happened to land on the field, for example.

Forget baseball, forget sports. Here you had these corporate employees, paid millions of dollars a year. They were doing exactly the same job that people in their business had been doing forever. In front of millions of people, who evaluate their every move. They had statistics attached to everything they did. And yet they were misvalued — because the wider world was blind to their luck. . . .

The "Moneyball" story has practical implications. If you use better data, you can find better values; there are always market inefficiencies to exploit, and so on. But it has a broader and less practical message: *don't be deceived by life's outcomes.* Life's outcomes, while not entirely random, have a huge amount of luck baked into them. Above all, recognize that *if you have had success, you have also had luck — and with luck comes obligation.* You owe a debt, and not just to your gods. You owe a debt to the unlucky. . . .

[Lewis then describes a Berkeley psychology experiment in which the designated leader of a group of three is shown to feel entitled to eat the fourth cookie set out for that group. He continues:]

In a general sort of way you [Princeton graduates] have been appointed the leader of the group. Your appointment may not be entirely arbitrary. But you must sense its arbitrary aspect: you are the lucky few. Lucky in your parents, lucky in your country, lucky that a place like Princeton exists that can take in lucky people, introduce them to other lucky people, and increase their chances of becoming even luckier. Lucky that you live in the richest society the world has ever seen, in a time when no one actually expects you to sacrifice your interests to anything.

All of you have been faced with the extra cookie. All of you will be faced with many more of them. In time you will find it easy to assume that you deserve the extra cookie. For all I know, you may. But you'll be happier, and the world will be better off, if you at least pretend that you don't. . . .

Thank you. And good luck.

* * * *

David Foster is having his **largest ever solo show at the Buckhead Library** from **June 29th to August 2nd**. There will be more than 50 of his fine art nature images - including many new ones to go along with a collection of other favorites. There are jewel-like dewdrops, glorious waterfalls, colorful twilights, floral images that will inspire you to look at flowers differently, and even a number of enticing small creatures. There will be a 'Meet the Artist' reception on Thursday, July 12th from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the library community room. AFM folk, their family and friends are invited to come enjoy the artwork, the refreshments and the conversation. The Library is located at 269 Buckhead Ave. (between Pharr Road and E. Paces Ferry) just east of Peachtree Road.

Classes and Forum on Theologian Howard Thurman (1900-1980)

During the summer months we will have many opportunities to become acquainted with the writings and thought of Howard Thurman, an African-American theologian and minister, co-founder of Church for the Fellowship of all Peoples (San Francisco), student of Rufus Jones at Haverford, and professor at Howard University, Boston University and Earlham School of Religion. He wrote, "You must wait and listen for the sound of the genuine that is within you. When you hear it, that will be your voice and the voice of God." Thurman identified with Quakers, although he never became a member.

In adult First Day School the focus for reading and discussion during this summer is the life and writings of Thurman. Our reading for June was *With Head and Heart: The Autobiography of Howard Thurman*; for July, we will examine the writings of Thurman included in *Black Fire: African American Quakers on Spirituality and Human Rights*. Books will be available from Bill Holland. All are welcome. The class meets at 9am in the meetinghouse library.

The culminating event will be the Forum after Meeting for Worship on July 29, co-sponsored by Ministry and Worship and the Committee for Undoing Racism in the Atlanta Friends Meeting. The forum will feature Thurman scholar and professor Dr. Luther Smith of Emory's Candler School of Theology speaking about Thurman's life and religious thought, followed by worship sharing led by Christina Repoley. Readings will be provided ahead, although it is not necessary to have read them to participate. If you need childcare, please notify Karen Morris in advance of the forum (karenthmorris@comcast.net).

* * * * *

Quaker Quest: Mark your calendars for two big dates.

Starting September 23 we will be offering Public Sessions on Quakers and Peace, Equality, Jesus, and the Worship Experience. Are we ready?

On Saturday, August 4th, our FGC co-leaders Gita Larson and Helen Garay Toppins will lead us in a half-day session (noon to 5pm) to help us assure that we will be ready. We have successfully completed our "inreach" sessions and now we are getting ready for "Primetime," the "outreach" part of our shared spiritual journey. Childcare and refreshments will be provided.

We hope for another big turnout for this important step in our efforts to help others learn about Quakers. Please RSVP for childcare to Karen Morris (karenmorris@comcast.net, or 404-378-0595).

* * * * *

Cobb County School Renamed to Honor AFM Founder Elizabeth Hendricks

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution has reported that the Cobb County School Board is expected to change the name of Austell Intermediate School to Hendricks Elementary School at its next board meeting. Elizabeth Hendricks, a former teacher at Powder Springs and Milford Elementary Schools, was involved in the civil rights movement and named Teacher of the Year in 1980. Elizabeth Hendricks and her husband George, also an educator, owned cotton fields in the area where Austell Intermediate is located today. Elizabeth is a founding member of our Meeting, now living in the Philadelphia area.

Remember Women's Weekend at Ferguson Cabin: July 26-29

For more details, contact Joan Thompson at (404) 273-3489.

* * * * *

Our remaining summer First Day School dates are:

July 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 (5th Sunday--children in Meeting); August 5 and 12

(Note: The nursery will be open every First Day.)

Atlanta Friends Meeting

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

June 17, 2012

Meeting opened with a period of silent worship, after which Clerk David Foster read an excerpt from "Deepening the Life of the Meeting" by Edward Hoare.

Query: "Do you encourage and make due provision for the spiritual development of your children and for their understanding of the principles and tradition of the Society of Friends? Are you an example in your loyalty to the religious ideas you profess?" presented by Steve Collins.

In Attendance: Micheal Allison, Steve Collins, Lili Crymes, Betsy Eggers, Julia Ewen, Jeremiah Gold-Hopton, Clive Gordon, Judith Greenberg, Roland Heath, Martha Hutchins, Suzan Kenworthy, Tom Kenworthy, Georgia Lord, Susan May, Karen terHorst Morris, John Roberts, Aaron Ruscetta, Peter Sederberg, Joan Thompson, Myrna Trapp, Perry Treadwell, Denny Webster, Pat Williams, David Foster (clerk), Alison Mawle (acting recording clerk). (25 Friends)

Matters for Discernment

Nominating Committee: on behalf of the nominating committee, Steve Collins asked for final approval of Dana Goldman and Jonah McDonald as co-teachers for high school Religious Education.

Minute 12-06-01: Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Dana Goldman and Jonah McDonald as co-teachers for high school Religious Education.

Steve Collins also asked for a volunteer graphics person to prepare a pamphlet for Quaker Quest.

Green Friends: On behalf of Green Friends, Peter Sederberg presented a letter in support of the Save Our Climate Act (previously presented in April) for the meeting's approval. The Citizens' Climate Lobby is asking concerned organizations to sign a letter of support. FCNL has endorsed the proposed legislation, Several members of the meeting expressed concern at the basic premise of the proposed legislation, but said they would stand aside if it was the sense of the meeting to sign the letter of support. After discernment, the meeting approved the letter for support, with Julia Ewen, Aaron Ruscetta, Denny Webster and Pat Williams recorded as standing aside.

Friends requested that the Green Friends Committee stay in dialogue with FNCL and with those Friends who have expressed interest in exploring other policy directions to address climate change.

Minute 12-06-02: Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the proposed letter in support of the Save Our Climate Act.

Clerk's Items: David Foster asked approval for Mary Ann Downey to serve as acting Clerk at the meeting for worship with attention to business in July.

Minute 12-06-03: Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Mary Ann Downey to serve as acting Clerk at the meeting for worship with attention to business in July.

Reports

Care and Counsel: On behalf of the Care and Counsel committee, Laura Norlin reported that the proposal to welcome children into meeting, which is published in the June Newsletter, will come for approval in July. She asked that the meeting discuss the issue. She also presented memorial minutes for Ann Byrne and John Morris. Karen Morris asked that Ann's minute be amended to reflect her service in the nursery. Care and Care and Counsel will be presenting memorial minutes for Sally McEwen and Nancy Smith in July.

Memorial Minute for Ann Byrne: The Meeting mourns the loss of attender Ann Byrne. Ann, who served on the Gathered Meeting Retreat Committee and as a regular nursery volunteer in years past, will be remembered for her caring Spirit. Ann died on Nov. 11 of respiratory distress. An obituary can be found on the website of the Atlanta Journal-Constitution from November 16, 2011. Her life was celebrated by a memorial with family and friends held at the Atlanta Friends Meeting on January 21st 2012.

Memorial Minute for John Morris: The meeting mourns the loss of John Morris, who attended off and on over the years. He attended several meetings in December, 2011 and requested to be held in the Light as he suffered from advanced cancer, which claimed his life several months later. John was a committed peace activist and labor organizer, who was remembered for following his own path. His life was celebrated in a memorial service attended by his 8 siblings and other family and friends held at the Atlanta Friends Meeting on March 24th 2012

Quaker Quest: On behalf of the Quaker Quest planning committee, Sue May reported that after carefully considering feedback from last month's meeting for business, the committee had decided to support the scheduling recommendations from Bert Skellie and David Foster. The first public session will be held on 9/23, with a session each week through 10/14. There will then be a one week break, and another 4 sessions from 10/28 -11/28. This schedule means that only one meeting for business will be affected (11/18). Sessions will begin at 1pm with snacks, and the program will begin at 1.30pm. The goal is to make it possible for the entire meeting to attend.

There will be a half-day session on Saturday, 8/4, with staff from FGC to report on preparations and to receive feedback. The Committee hopes for a similar turn-out as last year, when about 60 people attended. Tasks currently in progress are: working with webmaster Aaron Ruscetta to include information on Quaker Quest on the website; creating an outreach plan; developing a brochure; identifying presenter for each the four topics, Quakers and Peace, Equality, Jesus, Worship. FGC has awarded AFM a matching grant of \$1500 for publicity, which brings the total budget to \$3000. The committee is looking for someone to produce a brochure.

Ministry and Worship: On behalf of the Ministry and Worship committee, Steve Collins presented a request from the Atlanta Friends School that members and attenders of AFM consider being a regular Friendly presence for their weekly meeting for worship on Fridays at 9:00am.

Finance: On behalf of the Finance Committee, Peter Sederberg presented an update on the grounds improvement project. Approximately one third of the \$30,000 approved by AFM for the initial phase of the project has been committed to pay for the landscape architect (Steve Provost), the property survey (in progress), and develop an engineering plan. Once the engineering plan is complete, the initial clearing and grading can begin. A contractor has been identified. Smart Toddlers has agreed to work their schedule around that of the contractor, so that work can proceed uninterrupted through the summer. They have requested to be consulted on the selection of the play equipment.

Peter presented options to secure the remaining funds need to complete the project. He also suggested that there may be possibilities for members of the meeting to undertake some of the construction work, now that the Ferguson Cabin project is drawing to a close.

Kathy Johnson suggested that a survey be done of the Ferguson cabin property, since none currently exists.

Administration: On behalf of the Administration Committee, Karen Morris presented a minute on memorials, which will be brought for approval next month.

Proposed Minute on Memorials

It is the intent of Atlanta Friends Meeting to help find sites for unmarked memorials on our grounds (including the watershed area) for members and attenders of Atlanta Friends Meeting as long as space allows and in accordance with the Meeting's landscape plan. The memorials may include plantings and/or the scattering or unmarked burial of ashes of loved ones. We reaffirm the Minute on Decedent's Ashes approved in ninth month 1995. This minute clarifies and updates procedures regarding memorial plantings and scattering of ashes.

- Requests for scattering or burial of ashes and/or memorial plantings, including specimen and location, shall come before the Landscape committee for approval. Requests shall be quickly approved provided the request is consistent with the 1995 minute, the current Landscape Plan, the requirements of the State of Georgia, and this minute.
- Requests that depart from the Landscape Plan shall be reviewed by Landscape and Administration committees. Approval may not be given if the planting detracts from or is not considered beneficial to the plan. Other considerations may include care of the planting and relationship to adjacent plantings.
- Memorial activities, whether public or private, shall be scheduled with the Office Coordinator so as not to conflict with other events at the Meeting house.
- For approved memorial plantings, the Landscape committee shall record the specimen, location, and the name of the decedent in the Landscape Plan and report the action to Meeting for Business.
- Specimens and planting shall be paid for by the person requesting the memorial. The Landscape committee shall provide advice and references as needed.
- Memorial plantings, scattering and burial of ashes do not imply perpetual burial grounds that may impede or prevent the future use of the land by AFM or others. A significant portion of current AFM land is leased from MARTA, and while there are no current plans for doing so, AFM may, at some future date, relocate its Meeting facilities.
- Burial of a vessel containing crematory remains will not be approved.
- The Landscape committee shall maintain a Landscape Plan approved by Administration committee, and/or the monthly Meeting for Business.
 - The Landscape Plan will contain current memorial plantings including the location, specimen, and the decedent. If and when a specimen expires, the Landscape clerk will remove reference from the Landscape Plan and report the action to Meeting for Business.
 - The Landscape Plan will identify locations available for future memorial plantings along with information about suitable specimens for each location that do not require extraordinary care and are compatible with local conditions.

Karen also announced that Dan May has secured a second grant from Georgia Interfaith Power and Light of \$2135 to defray costs of completing the attic insulation project.

Clerk's items: David Foster reported that Mark Wutka's membership has been transferred to Nashville Monthly Meeting. The Clerk also asked that Committees to consider how to organize their work so that the meeting for business agenda in November be limited to time sensitive matters in order to accommodate Quaker Quest.

Approval of Minutes of Fifth month Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business:

Minute 12-6-04: Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the Minutes of Fifth month Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business without correction.

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business closed with a period of silent worship.

Respectfully submitted,
David Foster, Clerk

Calendar for Seventh Month (July) 2012

Area Meetings for Worship

- Every First Day (Sunday), 10:00 a.m. – Meetinghouse, with a smaller group in the Library.
Every First Day, 12:30 p.m. – Carrollton Friends Worship Group.
St. Andrew's UMC Youth Center, 1106 Maple St.; Margaret Bray, 770-830-8705.
- Every 2d and 4th First Day, 10:00 a.m. – Canton Friends Worship Group.
360 E. Marietta St.; 779-720-4669 or wrldpeas@mindspring.com.
- Every 2d First Day, 10:30 a.m. -- Macon Friends Worship Group.
Contact Diana Day, 478-227-8892; maconquakers.org.
- Every 4th Morning (Wednesday) Worship, 8:30 a.m. – Library.
Contact Jonah McDonald, 404-377-2474; afmquakers@hotmail.com.
- Every 4th Evening (Wednesday), 7:00 p.m. – Meeting Room.
Contact Christina Repoley, 404-840-3005; christinarepoley@gmail.com.
- First 5th Morning (Thursday) – AFSC office, 60 Walton St. NW, Atlanta.
- 5th Day (Thursday) (except 1st of the month), 12:10 p.m. – East Lake Commons, Decatur.
Contact Bert Skellie, 404-378-5883, bertskellie@gmail.com.
- 6th Day (Friday) (2nd week of August through May), 8:45 a.m. – Friends School of Atlanta.
Community Meeting Room, 862 Columbia Dr., Decatur, 404-373-8746.

Weekly Events at the Meetinghouse

- Every First Day (Sunday)
9:00 a.m. Adult Religious Education
9:15 a.m. Singing, Classroom A/B
10:00 a.m. Meeting for Worship
- Every Second-Fifth Day (Monday-Thursday)
8:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m. Smart Toddlers, Nursery playground
- Every Fourth Day (Wednesday)
8:30 - 9:00 a.m. Morning Silent Worship, Library
- Every Third Day (Tuesday)
7:30 p.m. Silent Meditation, Meeting Room
7:30 p.m. Bible Study, Library

Clerk of the Meeting: David Foster, 404-941-7337

Recording Clerk: Caroline Noyes

Treasurer: Peter Sederberg, 404-968-9309 Ministry & Worship: Bill Holland, 404-692-2358

Finance: Paul Mangelsdorf, 770-677-4280 Care & Counsel: Laura Norlin, 404-762-3540

Religious Ed.: Alison Mawle, 404-944-9142 Office Coordinator: Jonah McDonald

Social Concerns: Michael Allison, 770-832-3539; Bert Skellie, 404-378-5883

Newsletter Editor: David Payne, atlquakerltr@gmail.com

Webmaster: Aaron Ruschetta, arxaaron@gmail.com

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Newsletter Editor: David Payne, atlquakerltr@gmail.com

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 and contact information to Nina Gooch at ninagooch@gmail.com or 404-371-9873. Please indicate if you want to be in the directory, receive the newsletter by mail, or both.

Contributions to the Atlanta Friends Meeting may 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!

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

To receive the Newsletter via e-mail, 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; hit reply and you will be added to the list at no charge. To receive general announcements and to participate in discussion, follow the same instructions, but 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.

**DEADLINE FOR 8TH MONTH NEWSLETTER:
JULY 21**

Readers are encouraged to submit letters, articles, notices and anything else of interest to Friends. Items should be sent directly to atlquakerltr@gmail.com **in plain text in the body of the email. Texts may be edited for length and format. Pictures should be in .jpg format.**