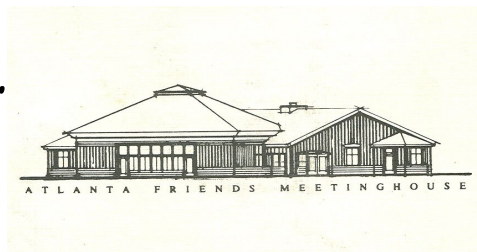


# Atlanta Friends Meeting Newsletter

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

## October 2012

**Query:** How do you express caring for those who suffer illness, loss or other stress? Do you let others know when you become aware of these situations of special need, so they may have opportunity to unite in your concern? Do you let others know when you have special needs of your own? As a Meeting, how do we provide support for individuals in need?

### Miriam Williams: Escape from the Children of God

[Miriam Williams has been a guest of Perry Treadwell and Judith Greenberg in September. Here is her own introduction to *Heaven's Harlots* (Morrow, 1998), an account of her life with and escape from the Children of God, a cult in operation from the late 1960s, now known as The Family International:]

Why would a mother of five healthy, well-adjusted children write a book about her former life as a sacred prostitute? The question torments me. At age forty-four, I am now on the verge of receiving a master's degree in sociology that will allow me to work and pull my family out of relative poverty. I have no reason to expose myself to the publicity this unusual autobiography could generate. Worse still, I could be undermining the stability that my children now enjoy.

My own life, as you will see, has never been stable. This book relates the story of a girl from Lancaster, Pennsylvania, who fell through the cracks into what became one of the most bizarre sex cults of our time, the Children of God, which at its peak had eighteen thousand members. Numerous documentaries have been made about this controversial cult by the major networks in America, and it has been the subject of various sociological and psychological studies. Celebrities such as Fleetwood Mac's original slide guitarist, Jeremy Spencer, made headlines when he left the popular musical group to join the cult. And River Phoenix, the disillusioned young movie star who died from drug abuse, spent years of his childhood in the Children of God.

The leader of the Children of God, Moses David, has been described by cult expert Dr. Steve Kent as a "lustful prophet," who used the group to unleash his repressed sexuality. Kent writes that the most abused and sexually manipulated people in all the cults he studied were the women of the Children of God, who were instructed to demonstrate God's love by giving sex first to the men in the group and then to the "lost" of the world. According to Moses David, "God was a pimp," and we were the "loving whores of God."

I married twice in the cult and bore five children. Eventually, the ugly weed of child abuse was creeping through the camp. Fearful it might touch my own children, I snapped out of my delusional state and we left the cult for good. But acknowledging previous pain, and accepting responsibility for my actions, proved to be a long and difficult journey back to sanity. I reentered American culture as a forty-year-old single mother who spoke three languages and had been in over twenty countries, but who had never had a checking account, credit line, car, or home of my own. I started work as a waitress at a truck stop to help support my family as I went back to college.

After graduating in June of 1996, I kept a promise I made to myself four years earlier that when I finished college I would write my story. Working without an agent, I photocopied two pages out of a huge directory of publishers and sent off five query letters to editors I chose at random from this haphazardly selected list.

A few weeks later, as I was shopping for groceries, I picked a paperback book off the shelf. Although I had never heard of the book or the author before, I was interested because the cover said it was a true story. The next morning, while sitting on my porch finishing the book, I received a call from

one of the editors I had contacted.

"Your letter struck me," said the woman on the phone, "and I usually don't read unsolicited material. Exactly what kind of book do you want to write?"

I wasn't exactly sure, but I found an answer immediately. "Well, I was thinking of writing an honest and personal book, something like the one I'm reading right now."

"Oh, what book is that?" the woman asked.

"*The Eagle and the Rose*, by Rosemary Altea," I replied, checking the cover to make sure of the name again.

"I edited that book," came the quick response.

My heart jumped into my throat. Coincidences like this one, the equivalent of a one-in-a-million chance, don't just happen. I checked the acknowledgments page. There was her name in the book I had randomly picked up the day before.

Had it not been for that incident of serendipity, I would have not had the courage to continue this far. But now all my angst and confusion have been transferred from my heart and mind to a computer disk. The unexplainable driving force is gone. I fluctuate between hoping for the best and preparing for the worst. But I decide to keep believing in a higher purpose than I know today. . . .

As I read stories of bewildered, despairing young adults, I remember my own adolescence and share in their collective pain. Confusion about sexuality and identity prompts many young people to look for solutions through alcohol, drugs, promiscuity, subservience, anorexia, and even suicide. Deeply troubled teens come from all types of families and socioeconomic classes, and upper-middle-class, two-parent homes are affected as much as single-parent homes and households living below the poverty line. We are reminded that our society has to change. I believe that the first step to change is awareness. Each individual must take responsibility for personal actions, but the responsibility often begins with awareness.

This book was written to shed light on one of the escape routes taken by sensitive youth growing up in a troubled society—the path to cult involvement. It is probably one of the most drastic, claims the lives of the most naive idealists, and usually requires the most help along the road to recovery. Unfortunately, there is little knowledgeable help available. While the actions of these people are worthy of contempt, cult members realize that they were motivated by blind idealism.

This is also a story of self-discovery written for those who have lost their self. My journey out of hell came through incremental steps, which were guided by what I can only call fate. Now that I have made it back to reality and can finally lead a normal, fulfilling life, I feel a responsibility, especially to the children born and raised in the cult, to add to awareness of cult involvement. Perhaps one day I can provide practical assistance to ease the transition back to society for others, but for now, I offer hope.

### ***ADULT EDUCATION FOR OCTOBER***

In October on 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays, we will read and discuss *Jesus and the Disinherited* by Howard Thurman. First published in 1949, this book is described as "a brilliant and compassionate look at God's work in our lives." It also carries a message that "helped shape the civil rights movement ... and reaches past anger and distrust toward a vision of unity." Books are available from Bill Holland and the class meets from 9:00-9:50 each Sunday in the meeting library. Michael Allison also offers his spiritual journey on October 7.

### ***MORE LOST MEMBERS***

Thank you to those who have sent me information about "lost members," for whom we have no addresses or other contact information. Here are a few more. If you have information about any of these people, please email me at ninagooch AT gmail DOT com or call me at 404-451-5974:

Louise Pfeutze, joined 1953; Betty Doak, joined 1952; Robert Brown, joined 1952; Phern Stanley, founder; Ann Cooper, joined ??; Jodie English, joined ??; Al Kleckner, joined ??

## Quaker Quest Public Sessions Continue

The Meeting welcomes the public to a series of programs this fall. All sessions are on Sunday afternoon. The topics are “Quakers and Peace” on Oct. 28, “Quakers and Worship” on Nov. 4, “Quakers and Equality” on Oct. 7 and Nov. 11, and “Quakers and Jesus” on Oct. 14 and Nov. 18. Each gathering will involve several Quakers sharing their experiences on the day’s theme. It will also include sharing by all participants, discussion and 30 minutes of Quaker worship.

We look forward to sharing with the Atlanta community our views on some of the underlying values of Quakerism. We offer this series with open doors and open hearts. Refreshments will be served at 1 p.m. followed by the program from 1:30 p.m. until 3:30 p.m. Children are welcome. Childcare will be offered.

## Quaker Voluntary Service Housewarming Party and . . .

The new QVS House will be hosting a housewarming party on Saturday, October 13, starting at about 5:30 PM. This is a potluck and open house at 262 Daniel Avenue SE, Atlanta. For more information, email Lisa Scarpelli at [lnscarp08@earlham.edu](mailto:lnscarp08@earlham.edu).

The QVS local support committee is seeking individuals willing to donate books from a selected Quaker-themed list for the QVS house library. Interested individuals should contact Maia Hallward at [maia@maia-grace.com](mailto:maia@maia-grace.com).

## QUAKERS SPEAK OUT

Grassroots lobbyists such as many of us in our Friends meetings are the reason the Friends Committee on National Legislation has such a good reputation on Capitol Hill. We are known for our informed, respectful lobbying style and especially for our listening skills. While Quakers are few in number, our impact is large. Through FCNL’s excellent website we can often generate several thousand calls and emails on a bill. And with FCNL’s leadership, other faith communities often join us to boost bills that promote peace, justice, and care for the earth. Congressional staff notice that and report the numbers and even the content on occasion to their member. Perhaps you would like to express your opinion on an issue or a bill using this website: [www.fcnl.org](http://www.fcnl.org).

This year we have a special opportunity to express our spirit-led beliefs in peace, equality, and community. Just after the election, Congress will run up against two critical legislative deadlines: making cuts mandated by the Budget Control Act of 2011, and the expiration of the Bush-era tax cuts. The convergence of these issues creates a unique window for us to lobby our members of Congress for **a more moral federal budget**. FCNL’s grassroots activists, which include many non-Quakers, will lobby for retaining the \$1 trillion cuts in the Pentagon budget over the next ten years, and lobby for improving aid to those most vulnerable in our society and pressing environmental needs.

Specific training on the background of this issue and strategies for effective ways to discuss this with our members of Congress will be the focus of the **FCNL PUBLIC POLICY INSTITUTE** to be held in Washington, DC on Nov. 15-16 at the Washington Plaza Hotel. The cost is only \$25. After education and training the first day, participants (over 300 from around the country) will fan out on the Hill to speak to their elected officials. I’ll be there myself – and not so nervous, after doing this for twelve years now! – and would love to have several members of the Atlanta meeting join me. The program, transportation information, and housing options are listed on the website: [www.fcnl.org](http://www.fcnl.org). Note that scholarships for housing and transportation are available. Some financial participation from the meeting is required.

Questions? Call FCNL at 1-800-630-1330. Or contact me anytime:

Sue May, [sdmay@mindspring.com](mailto:sdmay@mindspring.com); 404-775-5958 (cell); 404-377-6326 (home)

\* \* \* \* \*

**Atlanta Friends Meeting**  
**Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business**  
**September 16, 2012**  
**Recorded Pending Approval**

Clerk's Reading and Reflection: "The Mind of Christ: Bill Tabor on Meeting for Business" (Pendle Hill pamphlet)

**Query:** Bill Holland presented the query, "Are all people in our Meeting encouraged to share their talents, abilities, and/or financial support in the work undertaken by the Meeting?"

Attendance: Micheal Allison, Becca Bass, Muireann Brennan, Nylgia Callaway, Steve Collins, Linnis Cook, Lili Crymes, Mary Ann Downey, Julia Ewen, Jenny Foster, Clive Gordon, Judith Greenberg, Roland Heath, Bill Holland, Justin Leverett, Beth Martinson, Rick Martinson, Karen terHorst Morris, Laura Norlin, Aaron Ruscetta, Erica Schoon, Peter Sederberg, Bert Skellie, Karen Skellie, Kelly Singer, Joan Thompson, Jim Tolmach, Myrna Trapp, Perry Treadwell, Sarah Walton, Pat Williams, Maggie Wise, David Foster (Clerk), Caroline Noyes (Recording Clerk), (34 Friends).

**Discernment Matters**

**Nominating:** On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Steve Collins brought forth Jim Tolmach for Clerk of the Meetinghouse Committee.

**Minute 12-09-01:** Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Jim Tolmach as Clerk of the Meetinghouse Committee.

**Reports**

**Care and Counsel:** Laura Norlin presented the memorial minute for Sally MacEwen.

**Minute 12-09-02:** Dearly loved Sally MacEwen passed away Thursday, March 15, 2012, at the all too early age of 64, in a peaceful end to her three-year struggle with cancer. Sally was a lifelong (birthright) Quaker, a light that informed everything of her life, from her early schooling to the planning of her final days. The Quaker values of simplicity, integrity, peace, community and equality shaped her eagerness to learn as a student, her career as a dedicated educator, her role in founding the Friends School of Atlanta, her service to racial and gender justice work, her activism for peace, her joy as a loving parent and partner, and her service to the Atlanta Friends Meeting and to the wider Quaker communities of the Religious Society of Friends.

Sally was a founding member of the Friends School of Atlanta's Board of Trustees, of which she was founding clerk, serving eight years in that pioneering role. Her vision and commitment to building a beloved school community, richly diverse and welcoming to all, guided the school's formative development over its first ten years, forming the strong foundation upon which the school stands today.

Sally was an active member and contributor to the Atlanta Friends Meeting, where she served many roles, including clerk of numerous committees and clerk of the meeting as a whole, and in 2007 she attended the triennial World Gathering of Friends in Dublin, Ireland. Sally also led workshops at Friends General Conference gatherings, on one occasion co-leading with her daughter, Elaine Ruscetta.

On her "perfect day" of March 11, 2012, just four days before her passing, Sally and her life partner of 30 years, Aaron Ruscetta, became formally married under the care of Atlanta Friends Meeting in

a joyful Quaker ceremony officiated by their child, 25-year-old Elaine. Sally's memorial was held at the Friends School of Atlanta on May 5, 2012, clerked by Atlanta Friends Meeting and the head of the school, and a founder's memorial garden was established in her honor. Donations in Sally MacEwen's name can be made to The Friends School of Atlanta, "Legacy of Light" endowment fund. Her formal obituary and other acknowledgements of Sally's life and times can be found at her memorial web site: <http://teamsallymac.weebly.com>.

**Nominating:** On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Steve Collins reported the positions that are open, and that Nominating is seeking people for. Members of Nominating are: Steve Collins, Folami Adams, Roland Heath, Beth Ruddiman, Heather Jeziorowski, Herb Edwards, and Karen Gold. There is an article in the newsletter about the opportunities available and the nominating process. Nominating brings the nominations to the November Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, and final approval is sought in December. Nominating will formally bring Religious Education teachers for approval in the coming weeks.

**SAYMA:** Bill Holland reported on the fall Representative Meeting, which brought together 40 Friends from meetings across the region. Highlights of the meeting included news that SAYMA is reworking its website to be more inviting to seekers ([sayma.org](http://sayma.org)), and an outreach committee has been formed to help increase the visibility of SAYMA and its member meeting and worship groups. The 2013 Yearly meeting will be held June 13-16 at Warren Wilson College, and the theme will be "Let us see what love can do." Beth Ensign is the current editor of the Southern Appalachian Friends, and is actively seeking submissions.

The Ministry and Nurture Committee is inviting each meeting to send two members or attenders to a retreat to be held October 26-28 at the Swannanoa Valley Meetinghouse. The purpose of the retreat is to explore ways to deepen the spiritual roots of new Friends. Interested Friends should contact Bill Holland.

The clerk asked the Finance Committee to consider the costs incurred for Friends traveling to events such as the SAYMA representatives meeting, and FCNL lobbying activities as they plan the 2013 budget so that Friends may serve without concern about traveling costs.

**Quaker Quest:** On behalf of the Quaker Quest planning committee, Bert Skellie reported that Quaker Quest ads are appearing on WAOK-AM, and encouraged Friends to become a friend on the Facebook group and to send information out to friends who might be interested in the Quaker Quest sessions. Volunteers are needed for the public sessions, with the greatest need for discussion leaders who will sit with two to three seekers and lead a discussion about the session topic. Bert also asked that Friends hold presenters in the light as they prepare and present. Many thanks to Aaron Ruscetta for his work on the website.

**Administration:** On behalf of the Administration Committee, Karen Morris reported that Erica Schoon has begun her term as Friend in Residence as of the beginning of September.

### **Clerk's Items**

The clerk has appointed Ron Nuse, Aaron Ruscetta, and Karen Skellie to the Naming Committee, which nominates new members for the Nominating Committee. As we approach the end of the year and the Finance Committee prepares the 2013 budget and the Nominating Committee to fill committee positions, all committees should identify their financial and membership "needs" to both the Finance and Nominating committees.

Because of the convergence of Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business and the Quaker Quest session on November 18, 2012, the Clerk notes that Nominating and Finance committees must present in November, but asks that all other committees examine their upcoming business to see whether it can be brought in either October or December.

The clerk has asked Care and Counsel to consider ways that we can gather as a community to celebrate the ways that Friends serve and the gifts they bring to the meeting. Care and Counsel will make a recommendation in October.

State of the Meeting report process: The clerk recommends that a work team comprised of a member of Ministry and Worship, Care and Counsel, Administration and the clerk of the meeting work with committees on the State of the Meeting Report. The report is due to Yearly Meeting by the 1<sup>st</sup> of March, therefore, it needs to be presented in January and approved in February. Thus, work on this report needs to begin in earnest in November.

Approval of Minutes of Eighth Month Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business:

**Minute 12-09-03:** Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the Minutes of Eighth Month Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business with corrections.

Meeting closed with silent worship.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Caroline Noyes, Recording Clerk  
David Foster, Clerk

\* \* \* \* \*

*Struggling for a Just Peace: Israeli and Palestinian Activism in the Second Intifada*

Maia Carter Hallward

University Press of Florida, 2011

Almost invisibly, numerous activists are presently engaged in ongoing, nonviolent efforts to build peace and bring about an end to the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. Beginning in 2004, after the mainstream peace movement collapsed, Maia Hallward spent most of a year observing the work of seven such groups on both sides of the conflict. She returned in 2008 to examine the progress they had made in working for a just and lasting peace. Although small, these grassroots organizations provide valuable lessons regarding how peacebuilding takes place in times of ongoing animosity and violence.

By raising awareness of these groups' existence, Hallward provides a much richer investigation of available options for peacemaking in Israel, which is otherwise dominated by violence and armed strategies. Challenging the official diplomatic presumption that peace is about working out lines on a map, she relocates the question into social, cultural, political, and geographic contexts that affect people's daily lives.

"Offers a fresh look and a unique perspective on conflict transformation and nonviolent activism in contemporary Israel/Palestine." -- Véronique Dudouet, Berghof Research Center for Constructive Conflict Management

"Hallward's emphasis on 'peace work rather than peace words' offers outstanding insights on the small galvanizing groups whose labors often lead the way in major social change." -- Mary E. King, author of *A Quiet Revolution*

Maia Hallward is assistant professor of political science and international affairs at Kennesaw State University.

## Calendar for Tenth Month (October) 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 4<sup>th</sup> Morning (Wednesday) Worship, 8:30 a.m. – Library.  
Contact Jonah McDonald, 404-377-2474; afmquakers@hotmail.com.  
Every 4<sup>th</sup> Evening (Wednesday), 7:00 p.m. – Meeting Room.  
Contact Christina Repoley, 404-840-3005; christinarepoley@gmail.com.  
First 5<sup>th</sup> Morning (Thursday) – AFSC office, 60 Walton St. NW, Atlanta.  
5<sup>th</sup> Day (Thursday) (except 1st of the month), 12:10 p.m. – East Lake Commons, Decatur.  
Contact Bert Skellie, 404-378-5883, bertskellie@gmail.com.  
6<sup>th</sup> Day (Friday) (2<sup>nd</sup> 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

Office Coordinator: Jonah McDonald, 404-377-2474

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

Finance: Paul Mangelsdorf, 770-677-4280      Religious Ed.: Alison Mawle, 404-944-9142

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

Care & Counsel: Laura Norlin, afm.care.counsel@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor: David Payne, atlquakerltr@gmail.com

Webmaster: Aaron Ruscetta, arxaaron@gmail.com

ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING  
701 W HOWARD AVE  
DECATUR GA 30030-2902

**ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING**  
**701 West Howard Ave., Decatur, GA 30030**  
**404-377-2474; atlanta.quaker.org**  
**Office: MWF 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.; afmquakers@hotmail.com**  
**Clerk: David Foster, 404-941-7337; afmclerk1@gmail.com**  
**Treasurer: Peter Sederberg, 404-968-9309; afmtreasurer@yahoo.com**  
**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 11<sup>TH</sup> MONTH NEWSLETTER:  
OCTOBER 20**

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.**