

# ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING NEWSLETTER

## August 2019



Atlanta Meeting of the Religious  
Society of Friends (Quakers)

### A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

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The first month I put out the newsletter, I *just barely* got it to the printer by the deadline. It wasn't until the second month that I actually had time to think about what I liked when I read the newsletter and to realize that I appreciated the information about what was happening at the meeting in the upcoming month, but what I most looked forward to were the “bigger picture” articles, the ones that made me think – about what I believed, about who I was as a Quaker. So . . . submissions of articles, poems, artwork, book reviews, etc that help illuminate the life of the meeting or Quakerism in general are very welcome. Suggestions also welcome! Deadline for each month is the 20th of the month before.

Send to email: [atlquakerletter@gmail.com](mailto:atlquakerletter@gmail.com)

Right now, I'm particularly interested in hearing from people who attended SAYMA or FCG: **What was your experience like?** Something short is fine; I'd love to get multiple perspectives.

And two logistical requests:

- Please read pages 7 and 8 and let me know about any corrections needed
- If you get your newsletter via snail mail and would rather read it online, please let me know.

### IMPORTANT UPDATES FROM THE MEETINGHOUSE

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Nina Gooch began as Office Coordinator on July 22. Alayne Hightower, our previous Office Coordinator, left, reluctantly, to take a full-time position that she had interviewed for before coming to Atlanta Friends Meeting. She enjoyed her time with the Meeting greatly and hopes to build on the connections she's made.

**New Office Hours** are Monday thru Thursday, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm and Friday by appointment. Nina will be there most Fridays, but her hours will be flexible. She will put the announcement sheet together on Thursday afternoon, so please remember the Thursday noon deadline for announcements. She will check email and voicemails every Friday, usually in the morning.

Anton Flores, our new Friend in Residence, and his wife Charlotte moved into the Friend in Residence apartment on July 27. We welcome them to the meeting and thank Bailey O'Neil for serving as interim Friend in Residence.

Dan Phillips continues as our Property Coordinator and Jonah McDonald as our Bookkeeper.

All are welcome

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

### QUERY FOR AUGUST

If pressure is brought upon you to lower your standard of integrity, are you prepared to resist it? Do you avoid letting the desire to be sociable, or the fear of seeming peculiar, determine your decisions?

– Adapted from Britain Yearly Meeting

## YEAR-END REFLECTIONS FROM OUR 2018-2019 QVS FELLOWS

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Mary Ann Downey serves as one of the spiritual nurturers for the QVS Fellows and supports the other Friends who make this commitment. She writes: “Every year, the Quaker Voluntary Service fellows write reflections about their year of service and, as you will see, they have created the kind of loving community that we would all like to live in. I am truly inspired by their words and appreciate the support of everyone in this meeting on their journey.”

To read their reflections, go to: <https://tinyurl.com/QVSreflections>. Here are some highlights:

“I feel immensely grateful for the opportunity to have spent the last 11 months practicing living in community, growing as a spiritual being, and orienting my professional and personal life towards justice work.” (Ira Berkley)

“Throughout my year with QVS it has struck me just how crucial education is in justice work. What I have come to appreciate is that we are all educators in very important ways and do it in very different spaces. I have learned so much from my housemates and members of the Atlanta community about empathy, vulnerability, the power of a well thought question and how to ask for help.” (Ari Zuaro)

“I needed space to figure out my passions, values, and who I am now that the merit-based system of academics was stripped away.” (Ivie Osaghae)

“Living in an intentional community committed to holding each other accountable to practicing our values has felt intense, joyous, uncomfortable, and more. It has served as a safe testing ground to reflect on how I show up in the world, interact with people very different than myself, and act with the values I want to permeate our world.” (Livvy Feeney)

“QVS has taught me while both helpfulness and flexibility are strengths, they need to be balanced out with boundaries to be sustainable and those boundaries are things that I must be consistent with asserting not just for the communities that I do social justice work for, but for myself.” (Rachael Carter)

“Intentionality is deliberate. Being deliberate requires the energy to be present and focused. Not to mention time.” (Eliza Stevenson)

“Underneath it all, community asks you to grow. It is so hard to let things go that have been a part of who I am for so long. By submitting to the process I had to give myself the space to grieve the loss of who I was, to make space for the person I am becoming.” (Ivie Osaghae)

“QVS asks the questions that no one asks you: what truly makes you happy? How do you see yourself show up in the world? How does your existence affect others around you?” (Sandra Kuivers)

“I was reminded . . . of the amazing ripple effect of living out our values. . . . And all of this can and must start with sitting with yourself and noticing – when doing something as small as the remaining dishes in the sink. Thank you for your support in making this year possible for me.” (Julia Dailey)

## GEORGE FISK DEATH

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From Newtown (Pennsylvania) Friends Meeting via Lisa Hendricks Ogletree:

“Long time member George Fisk died last Saturday [July 20] at Pennswood Village. He is survived by his son, Eliot, and his granddaughter, Raquel. We will miss George's contributions at Meeting which he continued to share right up to the end. A memorial service will be held at Pennswood Village on August 21 at 2:00 pm. Please hold the family in the light.” George Fisk and his wife Neva were also long term members of Atlanta Friends Meeting when he was a professor at Emory.

## BOOKS BY AND ABOUT PEOPLE OF COLOR BOOK GROUP — Thursday August 1

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The book group reading works by and about people of color will meet on Thursday, August 1 at 1:30 pm in the Meetinghouse library to discuss *The Hate U Give*, by Angie Thomas. Everyone is welcome. For questions, contact Karen Morris (karenth.1415@gmail.com) or Susan Cole (cole2544@bellsouth.net). On September 5, the group will share poetry, and on October 3, the book for discussion is *On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous* by Ocean Vuong.

## LIVES AND CALLINGS: Spiritual Journey Sharing – Sunday August 4

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On the first Sunday of each month, in Adult First Day School we listen to how a Friend in our meeting answers questions of God's leadings as well as questions about what brings them to this meeting, what led them to become a member or not, and what they believe now. We call these stories of spiritual journeys, stories where Friends describe their understanding of God and religion in their life.

On August 4, Steve "Woody" Woodall will explain his path to AFM in 1993, sharing his youth as a serious Southern Baptist until 1969, his switch from oceanography to a religion major in college, steps toward decision for conscientious objection, a career in the environmental sciences, marriage and divorce, captivity by and struggle against racism, reconciliation to parents as dementia progressed, and a perpetual desire to know the will of God. Come hear more: 9:00 - 9:50 am on 1st Sundays in the library.

In July, Sandra Kliuvers and Rachael Carter shared their Spiritual Journeys. You can listen to them at <https://tinyurl.com/y5wroo63>

## AUGUST HIKE – Saturday August 17

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From Bert Skellie: "I look forward to seeing many of you at the next AFM hike! We will meet at the Meetinghouse parking lot at 9 am on Saturday, August 17 to take a hike! We will go to Constitution Lakes park, which includes the "Doll's Head Trail" (see below). By adding a visit to the South River & more, we can make it a 2-3 mile hike. It's only about a 20-minute drive from the Meetinghouse."

Info on the trail: <https://www.atlantatrails.com/hiking-trails/dolls-head-trail-constitution-lakes-park/> or Jonah's update: <http://hikingatlanta.com/2015/03/09/constitution-lakes/>

## NEWCOMERS WELCOME DINNER – Sunday August 18

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August's Newcomers Welcome Dinner will be Sunday, August 18. Newcomers are invited to be our guests, and others encouraged to bring a potluck dish. See the Announcement Sheet for details. If you would like to host a Newcomers Welcome Dinner, held the 18th of each month, please contact Jim Tolmach at [jimtolmach@icloud.com](mailto:jimtolmach@icloud.com)

## DECATUR DINNERS – Sunday August 25

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Sponsor a Decatur Dinner in your home or sign up to attend a dinner elsewhere. What is it? 100 Dinners in one night, August 25, 2019, "a safe place to be brave." Share a meal and talk honestly about race and equity, to learn what divides us and what brings us together in the city of Decatur. We'll meet in homes, community centers, restaurants and places of worship. Young people, parents and community members are invited to share stories and make connections with others who want to see Decatur bridge its racial divides, and we need your voice at the table! You can find more information and sign up to be a host or guest at <https://www.decaturdinners.com/>

## FORUM: Report on "Parliament of World Religions" – Sunday August 25

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Quakers for Racial Equality and Ministry & Worship committees, along with the Friends School of Atlanta's Quaker Life Committee, sponsor a forum in the Library with Alex Zinnes, "Parliament of World Religions" on Sunday, August 25 at 11:45 am. Childcare and snacks provided.

Alex writes: "... 7th and 8th grade World Studies teacher at the Friends School of Atlanta, and Meeting member, Alex Zinnes, attended the Parliament of World Religions in Toronto representing her Kashi Ashram community. The Parliament is an interfaith gathering of nearly 10,000 people from all over the world who come together to share ideas and fellowship, and celebrate our common humanity and be in solidarity. Alex will present about her experiences at the Parliament as someone who embodies an interfaith path... and the ongoing challenges and leadings ultimately inspired by attending the Parliament. Progressive faith communities are more essential than ever, and the larger takeaways Alex will share from her experience are inspiring, thought provoking and urgent."

## DOCUMENTARY FILM: *Breaking the Silence* – Saturday August 31

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Saturday, August 31 at 7:30 pm, Quakers for Racial Equality hosts a showing of the documentary film *Breaking the Silence* about the life of Lillian Smith, racial justice activist in the 1940's and '50's from North Georgia. A talkback with the filmmaker follows. This event is part of the Decatur Book Festival. Tickets are required, but are free at this link: <https://tinyurl.com/lilliansmithtix>. If interested, reserve early, before all the tickets are taken. More about the film: <https://lilliansmithdoc.com/>

## SEVENTH MONTH MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS – JULY 21, 2019 Recorded Pending Approval

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**Attendance:** Mary Ann Downey, Paul Mangelsdorf, Elizabeth Lamb, Myrna Trapp, Georgia Lord, Kellie Divis, Karen terHorst Morris, John Adams, Free Polazzo, Clive Gordon, Mike Chapman, Bill Hooson, Teri Key-Hooson, Steve Collins, Karen Skellie, Bert Skellie, Betsy Eggers, Alberta Guise, Pat Williams, Lynn Lueszler, Alison Mawle, Lissa Place, Carolyn Coburn-Allen, Bill Holland (Clerk), Rebecca Cole Sullivan (Recording Clerk) (25 Friends)

Friends gathered near the appointed hour with opening worship. A member of Ministry and Worship shared the Seventh Month query in worship: "How do our lives testify to our convictions as Friends? What are we doing to share our faith? How do we practice listening to the Truth which may be revealed by others?" Several friends responded to the query.

### **Discernment Items:**

**Social Concerns Committee:** Bert Skellie, member of Social Concerns, brought forward the request for the meeting to approve co-sponsoring the DeKalb Remembrance Project. Social Concerns Committee supports this proposal and will assist with publicity.

**Minute 07-21-2019-01:** On the recommendation of the Social Concerns Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting agrees to co-sponsor an event on Saturday, September 21, 2019, related to the DeKalb Remembrance Project. This project, led by the DeKalb NAACP, remembers people who were known to have been lynched in DeKalb County, in association with the Equal Justice Initiative in Montgomery, Alabama. Candler School of Theology at Emory is organizing the event. It will take place at 7 pm on Saturday, September 21 at Decatur First United Methodist Church. This event will take place the night before placement of a marker next to Decatur's Confederate Monument to critique the Monument as a symbol of white supremacy and racism.

## Reports

**Ministry and Worship:** Elizabeth Lamb, clerk of Ministry and Worship, reported on behalf of the committee.

Cate Hilenski and Jason Cochrane were married under the care of the Meeting on July 6, 2019 at the meetinghouse. It was a lovely, meaningful ceremony followed by a reception which included much-enjoyed samosas and Quaker punch.

Ministry and Worship is forming an ad hoc committee to discuss ways in which the Meeting takes marriages under our care and how we show that care. Members so far include Cynthia Berg, clerk, Karen Morris, Carolyn Coburn-Allen, Bill Hooson, Karen Skellie, and Elizabeth Lamb. We would very much like to have others join us, especially those who have had either a positive or negative experience around the care they received from the Meeting or wanted but did not receive. Any Friends with ideas or suggestions to share with the ad hoc committee are invited to do so.

Free Polozzo asked to be included on the ad hoc committee.

**Nominating:** Myrna Trap, member of nominating, brought forward the name of Free Polozzo to serve as AFM's representative to SAYMA. Nominating will bring this name forward for approval in eight month. In the meantime, nominating encourages Friends to take the opportunity to have a conversation with Free around the Rep's role at AFM, and at SAYMA. If approved, Free will join John Adams as a second AFM representative to SAYMA.

**Finance:** Paul Manglesdorf, clerk of finance, reviewed the second quarter finance report. The meeting is currently running a surplus as we are ahead on income for where we are in the year and we have saved some money in employee expenses due to not having all our staff positions filled at full capacity for the whole year. Temporary staff is cheaper than our salaried staff members. All positions are filled as of the end of July. The Gathered meeting retreat also came in under budget, so we have some extra money there on the expense side. With this we still need people to keep giving as we have not brought in all the money we need for the full year.

**Administration:** Steve Collins, Clerk of Administration Committee, reported on behalf of Administration. Members of Administration, with assistance from Jonah McDonald, have begun a review of current Meetinghouse rental rates and related policies. Recommendations will be forthcoming. He also gave updates on the Friend in Residence position and the New Office Coordinator.

Bailey O'Neil's last day as interim FiR was July 14. We want to thank her for her service during the summer and appreciate her willingness to fill in as FiR until the arrival of Anton and Charlotte Flores. Anton plans to move into the apartment on July 27 and could use a little help with their furniture that afternoon. His contact info is in the announcement sheet. Anton and a friend have been busy in the apartment, painting and replacing the old carpet with new vinyl flooring.

**Minute 07-21-2019-02:** The Meeting thanks Bailey O'Neil for her service as interim Friend in Residence (FiR) during the summer of 2019. In addition to her FiR duties, she helped to orient the new Office Coordinator and the incoming Friend in Residence, Anton Flores.

Alayne Hightower's last day as Office Coordinator was July 19. She is reluctantly leaving to take a full-time position. In the relatively short period that she has served as OC, the Meeting has benefited from her dedication and insights. We will miss her presence. However, the Meeting is very fortunate that Nina Gooch, one of the original candidates for the open OC position, was willing to step in and take over for Alayne. Her first official day is July 21. Please welcome Nina. Her scheduled office hours will be Monday – Thursday, 10:00 – 1:00 p.m. and Fridays by appointment.

**Minute 07-21-2019-02:** The Meeting thanks Janelle Kibler for her service as interim Office Coordinator in early 2019 after John McDonald's departure. She also helped extensively to orient and train the new Office Coordinator, Alyne Hightower, while completing her Emory University Master's degree in Public Health.

**Minute 07-21-2019-03:** The Meeting thanks Alyne Hightower for her service as the Office Coordinator for the Meeting. Hired in spring 2019, Alyne's tenure was an abbreviated one, due to her reluctantly taking a new full-time position. We will miss her insights and enthusiasm and wish her the best. She also helped to orient and train her successor Nina Gooch.

**SAYMA Sessions Report:** John Adams, AFM Representative to SAYMA, reported on the happenings of the Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association summer sessions which took place June 13-16, 2019 at Warren Wilson College. This year's theme was Seek the Light and Act Boldly. The Sessions were well attended, and most meetings had someone in attendance for good representation.

The SAYMA Clerk has sent Atlanta Friends Meeting a requesting that we consider hosting SAYMA's Representatives meeting in the future.

**Minute 07-21-2019-04:** We approve extending an invitation to host the March 14, 2020 SAYMA Representative Meeting if it does not conflict with other obligations or prior reservations. We ask the Hospitality Committee to discern if we are prepared to provide for the needs of this group. If Hospitality approves, the Meeting Clerk will extend the invitation.

**Macon Worship Group Update:** The worship group has been approached by High Street Unitarian Universalist Church (where they rent their meeting space) to do a panel about Quakerism. Otherwise they are doing well and experiencing some growing pains, so are looking for advice on how to break down the tasks small enough so people feel like they can take it up without too much of a burden.

**Concern and Clarification of Suchitoto and Cumming's Funds:** A Friend shared a concern about the 6<sup>th</sup> month report that Suchitoto Funds still coming in for the next seven years and the processes for the fund transfer to ABESUCHI once the Meeting fully transfers the project to El Salvador. Clarification was requested regarding funds donated to the meeting and funds restricted to support the El Salvador projects. The Finance Clerk provided a brief description of the funds and the processes.

**Minute 07-21-2019-05:** We ask the Finance Committee, the Social Concerns Committee and the Suchitoto Fund Committee to develop a document that describes the history of the various funds, the processes for dissemination and the long-term plan for the final distribution of the remaining assets. This document can become a part of our permanent record and provide organizational memory.

#### **Minutes of 6<sup>th</sup> Month:**

**Minute 07-21-2019-06:** Friends approved the minutes from Sixth Month.

#### **Events in the Life of the Meeting**

- Cate Hilenski and Jason Cochrane were married under the care of the Meeting on July 6, 2019.
- Bert and Karen Skellie celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary celebration.
- Meredith and Daelyn Reynolds moved to Costa Rica in July 2019.
- Quaker Voluntary Service closed out their seventh year of service. The Meeting presented each fellow with a candle as they transition onto what is next: Rachael Carter, Ivie Osaghee, Livvy Feeney, Sandra Kluivers, Julia Dailey, Eliza Stevenson, Ira Berkley, and Ari Zuaro.

**Closing Worship:** The Meeting closed with a period of worship.

**PLEASE HOLD IN THE LIGHT:**

Susan Firestone  
Carolyn Manley  
Muireann Brennan  
Lissa Place  
Steve Collins' family  
Don and Judy Bender  
the family of George Fisk  
Janet Minshall

*Those wishing to have requests for holding included in this monthly newsletter may give the names to a member of Care & Counsel.*

**Area Meetings for Worship**

- Every First Day (Sunday) 10:00 a.m. – Meetinghouse (AFM), with a smaller group in the Library.  
10:30 a.m. – Peachtree Friends Meeting (Christian-friendly, affirming, open to all), 3980 Florida Ave, Norcross GA, peachtree.quaker.org  
1:30 p.m. - Stone Mountain Friends Church (Evangelical), at St. Timothy United Methodist Church 5365 Memorial Dr, Stone Mountain, GA 30083
- Every Second & Fourth First Day 2:30 p.m. – Macon Friends Worship Group.  
Contact Kellie Divis at MaconQuakers@gmail.com; maconquakers.org
- Every Third First Day 11:45 p.m. – Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, Meeting room  
12:30 p.m. – Carrollton Friends Worship Group.  
St. Andrew's UMC Youth Center, 1106 Maple St.; contact Jean Hudson, jhudson30116@yahoo.com or 678-378-3368; carrolltonfriends.org .
- Fourth Day (Wednesday) 8:30 a.m. Morning Worship, Library  
First and third Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m. Worship at David & Freer Jarvis' home  
7:00 - 8:30 pm: Semi-programmed worship at AFM.  
Contact Ashley Wilcox: ashleymwilcox@gmail.com, 206-300-5836.
- Sixth Day (Friday) 11:00 a.m. – East Lake Commons, Decatur. Contact Bert Skellie at bertskeillie@gmail.com or 404-680-4799.  
(Mid-August through May), 9:00 a.m. – Friends School of Atlanta. Community Meeting Room, 862 Columbia Dr., Decatur, 404-373-8746.

**Other Regular Events at the Meetinghouse**

- First Day (Sunday) 9:00 a.m. - Adult First Day School, Library  
Every second Sunday, 9:30 a. m. - Singing, Classroom A/B  
10:00 a.m. - Meeting for Worship  
Third Sunday of every month, 11:15 a.m. - Listening Ear for those with a concern about racism  
5:00 p.m. - Atlanta Mennonite Fellowship, Meeting Room
- Second Day (Monday) Every other Monday at 6:30 p.m. - Spiritual Nurture Group, Library  
(contact Lewis Fuller for info on how to join)  
7:00 p.m. Bible Discussion, High School Classroom
- Third Day (Tuesday) 6:00 - Alex Zinnes Yoga, Nursery  
Second & fourth Tuesdays at 7:00 - Deep Waters Center for Prayer & Exploration, Meeting Room
- 18<sup>th</sup> of Each Month Newcomers Welcome Dinner, rotating location

<p><b>Atlanta Friends Meeting Contacts</b></p> <p>Clerk of the Meeting: Bill Holland, afmclerk1@gmail.com Office Coordinator: Nina Gooch, atlantaquakers@gmail.com Treasurer: Lynn Leuszler and Judith Greenberg, afmtreasurer1@gmail.com Ministry &amp; Worship: Elizabeth Lamb, gslpc@bellsouth.net Finance: Paul Mangelsdorf, 770-677-4280 Social Concerns: Bert Skellie, bertskeillie@gmail.com Administration: Steve Collins, shcollins75@gmail.com Care &amp; Counsel: Bill Hoosen, afm.care.counsel@gmail.com Quakers for Racial Equality: Susan Firestone, susanfires@gmail.com Religious Education: Elaine Meyer-Lee, eemeyer87@earlham.edu Library Clerk: Cal Gough, calgough@bellsouth.net Nominating, Clive Gordon, afm.nominating@gmail.com Newsletter Editor: Nina Gooch, atlquakerltr@gmail.com Webmaster: Aaron Ruscetta, arxaaron@gmail.com Bookkeeper: Jonah McDonald, afmbookkeeper1@gmail.com</p>
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Atlanta Friends Meeting  
701 W. Howard Avenue  
Decatur, GA 30030-2902

#### ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING

Office: MWF 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.; 404-377-2474

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Clerk: Bill Holland, [afmclerk1@gmail.com](mailto:afmclerk1@gmail.com)

Treasurer: Lynn Leuszler, [afmtreasurer1@gmail.com](mailto:afmtreasurer1@gmail.com)

#### **Are you a newcomer to the Atlanta Friends community and would like a nametag?**

We would be happy to make you a permanent nametag. You can 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.

#### **Atlanta Friends Meeting has three email lists:**

*To receive the announcement sheets and other announcements relating directly to the life of the meeting, send a blank email to*

[afmannouncements-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:afmannouncements-subscribe@yahoogroups.com).

*To receive announcements AND posts about a broader range of topics relating to being a Quaker, send a blank email to* [afmdiscussion-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:afmdiscussion-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

*To receive the newsletter by email, send a blank email to* [afmnewsletter-subscribe@yahoo.groups.com](mailto:afmnewsletter-subscribe@yahoo.groups.com)

**Would you like to receive the Newsletter by snail mail or appear in future AFM Directories?** Send your name and contact information to Brent Wolff at

[afmdirectory@gmail.com](mailto:afmdirectory@gmail.com). Please indicate if you want to be in the directory, receive the newsletter by mail, or both.

#### **What does investing in your spiritual community look like for you and your family?**

Atlanta Friends Meeting accepts contributions of your time, resources, and money! You can place a financial contribution in the slot marked "Contributions" in the greeting area of the Meetinghouse or mail to the Treasurer at our mailing address. To donate online with a credit card, visit <http://atlantaquakers.org/contact.htm> >. Thank you!

#### **Want to submit an announcement, letter, article, and anything else of interest to Friends for the newsletter?**

Send items directly to [atlquakerltr@gmail.com](mailto:atlquakerltr@gmail.com). Submissions may be edited for length and format. THE DEADLINE FOR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS IS THE 20<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF EACH PRECEDING MONTH.

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