

ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2019

ADULT FIRST DAY SCHOOL – October 2019

Each first Sunday of the month, 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 October 6, we listen to Herb Edwards' spiritual journey. Herb has been a regular attender of the Atlanta Friends Meeting since 1999 and has recently asked for membership. His exposure to Quakerism goes back to the period in his life when he was a student at Germantown Friends School in Philadelphia (1950s-1960s). While there, he started attending weekly meeting in the fifth grade. He was a Quaker during the week and an Episcopalian on Sundays. From 2011-2017, Herb served as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Friends School of Atlanta and began to think about becoming a member of the Atlanta Friends Meeting.

Beginning in October, the third Sunday will be worship sharing based on a query chosen for its relevance to our current situation. The second, fourth and fifth Sundays will be devoted to our book discussion. Currently, we're discussing Philip Gulley's *Unlearning God*. Gulley addresses things he was taught about God or church as a child that he no longer believes and how his faith has grown on new paths to spiritual discovery. Everyone is invited to any or all of our classes, in the library from 9:00 am to 9:50 every Sunday.

SPEAKING SO EVERYONE CAN HEAR YOU – SOME TIPS

One summer First Day, as we were going into the Meeting Room about 10:55, the teacher asked, "What do we do in Meeting?" The response keeps coming back to me: "We sit quietly, until God tells us to say something, and then we speak so everyone in the Meeting Room can hear us." Yes. If God / the Divine intends a message for everyone, then we need to say it so everyone can hear it. Even if it's not comfortable. Especially if it's not comfortable. It's what we give to each other.

But – how do we speak so everyone in the room can hear us when we mostly talk to people only four or five feet away? Even trained actors moving from a small rehearsal room to a larger theatre have to be reminded to speak so people in the back row can hear them. Below are some suggestions, gained from my years working in the theatre. Because most of us aren't used to speaking so our voices fill a room as big as the meeting room, it's easy to feel self-conscious, especially when we speak out of the silence. Don't give up though. Remember why you're doing it – so the people who were meant to hear your message can actually hear it – and speak up even more.



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 Avenue
Decatur, GA 30030

QUERY FOR OCTOBER

In all our relations with others, are we sensitive to issues of equality, autonomy, and power? How do we challenge destructive patterns in these relationships when they arise? How do we encourage ourselves and others to consider people as individuals, rather than as stereotypes?

- North Pacific Yearly Meeting

The most obvious thing is to speak more loudly. Don't shout, just speak more loudly and let your voice travel to the far side of the room. It helps to look there too, because the sound will follow. If you look at the floor, the sound will end up on the floor. If you look across the room, the sound will travel across the room, too, so the people there can hear you. You don't even have to look at people; you can look just above people's heads. (If you're reading a report in business meeting, hold your report up so you're talking to people, not the floor.) It also helps to relax and take slow, deep breaths so you fill your lungs up completely with air. You should feel your lungs push your ribs out. All that air helps you put out more sound.

Don't rush. Give people time to hear what you're saying. (My father has said for years, even before he got his hearing aids, that he hears as well as he used to, just not as quickly.)

Speak more clearly. Often when we say we have trouble hearing, the problem isn't really volume, it's clarity. Or, put another way, a louder mumble is still a mumble. Usually the key to speaking more clearly is to say the consonants more distinctly and more precisely, since it's the consonants that let us distinguish between words, between meeting and needing, for example, in the sentence "I've been needing to come to Meeting." Unfortunately, when we start losing our hearing, what we usually lose first are the consonants, so saying consonants clearly really matters. When speaking more clearly, it helps if you open your mouth nice and wide and move your lips and tongue more than usual. A fun way to practice speaking more clearly is to find a Dr. Seuss book at your local library and read it out loud – with or without a child. Dr. Seuss only sounds better the more clearly you speak.

Be aware of other sounds around you. If the AC or heat kicks on or the subway goes by underneath or the train goes by outside, speak even more loudly and clearly than usual. Or wait for the sound to end, especially if it's the train whistle.

All of this is important even with a microphone. Microphones don't make you louder and clearer. They just take what you're doing and help you do it better. If you're projecting your voice across the room, they help you do that better. If you're mumbling at the floor, they help you do that better too.

If you'd like to try out some of things, find me some Sunday when there's nothing scheduled in the meeting room after meeting and we can play a little!

– Nina Gooch, on behalf of the Administration Committee

BOOKS BY AND ABOUT PEOPLE OF COLOR BOOK GROUP – Thursday, October 3

On October 3, at 1:30 in the Library we will be reading Ocean Vuong's book, *On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous*. In November we'll come back to Colson Whitehead and read his new book, *Nickel Boys*. For December, it's a classic, Toni Morrison's *Beloved*. For more information, contact Susan Cole (scole2544@bellsouth.net) or Karen Morris (karenth.1415@gmail.com)

WORKSHOP: WHEN DEATH COMES -- Saturday, October 5

Care and Counsel sponsors **When Death Comes . . .**, a workshop with Beth-Ann Buitekant and Franklin Abbott, Saturday afternoon, October 5, 1:00 to 4:00 pm at the meetinghouse. This workshop offers the opportunity to explore life in the present and prepare for that one inevitable experience . . . dying. When was the last time you talked about it? Prepared for it? Embraced it? The workshop covers from the practical to the difficult to the possibility of joy. Appropriate for young adults and beyond. Cost is \$35 but no one turned away for lack of funds (pay what you can). Contact either Franklin (678-923-6485; therapy@franklinabbott.com) or Beth-Ann (404-818-6073; babuitekant@gmail.com) with any questions.

ATLANTA PRIDE PARADE – Sunday, October 13

Atlanta Friends Meeting and the Friends School of Atlanta will be marching in the Atlanta Pride Parade October 13. The parade steps off from Peachtree and Ralph McGill (Civic Center MARTA station) at noon. We don't have our exact placement yet, but you will be able to leave at the rise of meeting and still make it to the start of the parade route before we step off. This year, the Friends School will be bringing their 14-passenger bus in case anyone needs a chance to rest during the parade.

More details will be in the announcement sheet or contact Nina Gooch with any questions. (If you'd like to be a part of the email list for Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Queer Concerns, please contact Nina about that as well.) Pride's website with more info is: <http://atlantapride.org/>.

And taking off my editor hat, here's some of the reasons why I love Pride: "First of all, it's fun, full of joy, full of people shrieking and running to hug friends. And while it's probably a cliché to say that my first Pride Parade was life-changing, it truly was. All those gay people – all in one place! And even now, when I've been out for almost 35 year and live and work in a very supportive environment, Pride recharges me. It's a space full of lgbtq+ people and allies, and I feel at home there in a way I feel few other places. And every year, there are people who are experiencing Pride for the first time, and I get to help create that space for them. I also remember how hard it was for me to realize that the church I'd grown up in, the church that had taught me that God was love, said that I had fallen in love with the wrong person, and also how hard it was for me to walk in the door of the Metropolitan Community Church the first time, even though I knew that this was a denomination specifically founded to be welcoming to lgbtq people. So it's important to me to be there to say, yes, God really does love you **for** who you are and who you love. ***So I invite you to join us and experience Pride for yourself!***"

OCTOBER WELCOME DINNER AT QVS HOUSE – Friday, October 18 PLUS CORRECTION FROM LAST MONTH'S NEWSLETTER

Get to know this year's Quaker Voluntary Service Fellows at meeting or at the October Newcomers Dinner, hosted at QVS House! (See announcement sheet for details about the Welcome Dinner.) *EDITOR'S APOLOGY: In September's newsletter, Kirsten Fagin and Jillian Eller's photos were unfortunately swapped and were not with with the correct bios, so check out the photo below with the correct names.*



From left to right:
Jillian Eller, Kirsten
Fagin, Olivia Atlee-
Loudon, Arron Luo,
Istra Fuhrmann, Erin
Hazlett-Norman,
Nick Byers, and
Linnea Halsten.

NINTH MONTH MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS – SEPT 15, 2019
Recorded Pending Approval

Attendance: Mary Ann Downey, Herb Edwards, Bert Skellie, Georgia Lord, Lynn Leuszler, Jim Tolmach, Bill Hoosen, Teri Key-Hoosen, Alison Mawle, Alberta Guise, Myrna Trapp, Cheryl Cowherd, Elaine Meyer-Lee, Caroline Morris, Karen Skellie, John Michael, Kevin Wong, Clive Gordon, Anton Flores, Tommy Greenler, Pat Williams, Claire Hannapel, Alicia Rabideau, Softy Wells, Emily Weyrauch, Leeland McPhail, Nina Gooch, Julia Ewen, Karen terHorst Morris, Carolyn Coburn-Allen, Steve Collins, Woody Woodall, Elizabeth Lamb, Bill Holland (Clerk), Rebecca Cole Sullivan (Recording Clerk)

Friends gathered near the appointed hour with opening worship. A member of Ministry and Worship shared the Ninth Month query out of the silence: “How are visitors to our meeting made to feel welcome?” Friends responded out of the silence.

Discernment Items

Nominating: On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Myrna Trapp, brought forward the names of Friends to serve as 2019-2020 class teachers in First Day School. As these Friends are already serving in their roles, the clerk asked that we approve Friends at this session.

Minute 9-15-2019-01: On the recommendation of Nominating Committee, we approve Julian Minarich to serve as First Day pre-school teacher beginning August 2019 through June 2020.

Minute 9-15-2019-02: On the recommendation of Nominating Committee, we approve Laura MacNorlin to serve as First Day pre-school teacher beginning August 2019 through June 2020.

Minute 9-15-2019-03: On the recommendation of Nominating Committee, we approve Rebecca Grant to serve as First Day pre-school teacher beginning August 2019 through June 2020.

Minute 9-15-2019-04: On the recommendation of Nominating Committee, we approve Julia Dailey to serve as First Day pre-school teacher beginning August 2019 through June 2020.

Minute 9-15-2019-05: On the recommendation of Nominating Committee, we approve Lisa Kruse to serve as First Day lower elementary teacher beginning August 2019 through June 2020.

Minute 9-15-2019-06: On the recommendation of Nominating Committee, we approve Kacy Brubaker to serve as First Day lower elementary teacher beginning August 2019 through June 2020.

Minute 9-15-2019-07: On the recommendation of Nominating Committee, we approve Elizabeth Tolmach to serve as First Day lower elementary teacher beginning August 2019 through June 2020.

Minute 9-15-2019-08: On the recommendation of Nominating Committee, we approve David Gala Kano to serve as First Day lower elementary teacher beginning August 2019 through June 2020.

Minute 9-15-2019-09: On the recommendation of Nominating Committee, we approve Bailey O’Neil to serve as First Day upper elementary teacher beginning August 2019 through June 2020.

Minute 9-15-2019-10: On the recommendation of Nominating Committee, we approve Terri O’Neil to serve as First Day upper elementary teacher beginning August 2019 through June 2020.

Minute 9-15-2019-11: On the recommendation of Nominating Committee, we approve Emily Weyrauch to serve as First Day high school teacher beginning August 2019 through June 2020.

Minute 9-15-2019-12: On the recommendation of Nominating Committee, we approve Ari Zuaro to serve as First Day high school teacher beginning August 2019 through June 2020.

Ministry and Worship: Elizabeth Lamb, clerk of Ministry and Worship, brought forward the names of Lucas Meyer-Lee and John Michael for membership at Atlanta Friends Meeting.

Minute 9-15-2019-13: On the recommendation of Ministry and Worship, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Lucas Meyer-Lee for membership in the Atlanta Friends Meeting. We wish him well in his studies and look forward to deepening our relationship with him when he is home.

Minute 9-15-2019-14: On the recommendation of Ministry and Worship, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves John Michael for membership in Atlanta Friends meeting. He has been a long-time attender and we are pleased to welcome him into membership.

Reports

Ministry and Worship: Elizabeth Lamb, clerk of Ministry and Worship, reported that Herb Edwards has applied for membership in Atlanta Friends Meeting. A clearness committee has met with him and finds him clear. His letter of application was read to the body. His name will be brought forward next month for discernment. In the interim please get to know him if you haven't already.

A memorial service will be held for long time member Carolyn Manley on Saturday, September 28 at 6:30 PM in the meeting room. The memorial care committee is made up of Karen Skellie, Karen Morris, Clive Gordon, Cynthia Berg, Muireann Brennan, Sara Patenaude and Elizabeth Lamb.

Religious Education: Elaine Meyer-Lee, clerk of Religious Education, reported on behalf of the Religious Education Committee. Religious Education has decided to suspend the Middle School Classroom this year. The 8th graders are going up to the High School Group and the 6th and 7th graders are staying with upper elementary. This year the religious education teaching breakdown is as follows: one nursery, four preschool, four lower elementary, two upper elementary school, and two high school. As well as the teachers Elaine Meyer-Lee (clerk), Jennifer Dickie and Julia Ewen on the Religious Education committee to help with curriculum and doorkeeper support.

The theme for this year in our 3-year cycle is Quakerism: What we do (faith and practice), how we live (our testimonies), and how we know (queries). The three groups between the nursery and teenagers are all focusing on the same subtopic each month, utilizing our Faith & Play stories and the rich relevant children's literature RE has collected. The teenage group uses a different format of queries, but is addressing some of the same topics. The Nursery classroom is also aligning with the curriculum. So far this year, RE launched with a summer orientation workshop where teachers were able to connect with their own relationship to the Religious Society of Friends and plan for the year. A doorkeeper training has been held and another is scheduled for September 29. A Faith & Play workshop with an external trainer, Melinda Wenner Bradley is scheduled on Tuesday, October 15, from 6-8:30 pm.

Administration Committee: Steve Collins, Clerk of Administration Committee, reported on behalf of the committee with three topics: Property Coordinator Opening, Meeting Room Sound System, and Composting.

Property Coordinator Opening: Dan Phillips has decided to lay down his role as Property Coordinator due to what he describes as life conflicts. While he enjoyed his time in the Meeting, he felt unable to devote adequate time to the position. Jim Tolmach has volunteered to serve as interim coordinator. A search committee has been formed to find someone as soon as possible to fill the paid, part-time position; it consists of Jack Honderd, Carolyn Coburn-Allen, Aaron Ruscetta, Teri Key-Hoosen and Steve Collins. If others would like to assist in the search, please let me know. The opening will be advertised on the Meeting's web site and Facebook page and on Nextdoor. Friends were encouraged to share the opening with others you think might be interested.

Composting: The friend who initiated the composting initiative is no longer involved in meeting and no one has stepped forward to continue the project. Administration recommends that the Meeting lay down its composting initiative, unless there is someone or some group in the Meeting who will take responsibility for maintaining it.

Meeting Room Sound System: A Friend attended the September Administration committee meeting to voice concerns about the Meeting Room sound system. She expressed continued, ongoing frustration with being unable to hear clearly in Meeting for Worship and Meeting for Business, as well as during memorial and wedding services held in the Meeting Room. Aaron Ruscetta will do another technical inspection of the existing Assisted Listening System (ALS) and familiarize Nina Gooch, Office Coordinator, with the setup. Nina will help with battery charging and installation every Thursday. Aaron will also try improving fidelity of the ALS by adding an equalizer – either one he donates or that we purchase. Administration also agreed that using hand-held microphones was something that might work in Meeting for Business, forums, and other special events but could prove more difficult in Meeting for Worship. Administration recommends that suggestions and reactions for using wireless microphones during Meeting for Worship be shared with Ministry and Worship.

Suchitoto Fund Quarterly Report: Bert Skellie reported on behalf of the Suchitoto Fund. The Suchitoto Fund Committee was established in July 2016 as a result of a large bequest by Frank Cummings to the Meeting's existing Suchitoto Fund. The purpose of the fund is to support youth development in the Suchitoto, El Salvador, area. A further goal is to turn over the funds to an El Salvador-based entity before 2021.

Since June 2019, the youth-led Suchitoto non-profit, "The Association of Current and Graduated Scholarship Students from Suchitoto" (ABESUCHI) has achieved legal status as a Local Development Association recognized by the municipality. This enables them to legally manage resources and enter into partnerships with other local, national and international organizations working to support youth in Suchitoto. In line with their strategic planning, ABESUCHI is now part of the committee managing the two scholarship funds established by Frank and supported by AFM. They are organizing the annual university fair and working to re-establish tutoring for youth to ready them for the university. Recently they are reaching out to other local organizations and universities to establish cooperation agreements with emphasis on issues of youth employment and entrepreneurship.

In August the committee received a report of an internal audit from both ABESUCHI and from IDEAS (fiscal agent). The committee has reviewed the audit and found it to be sufficient to help us understand how the funds have been spent so far. The Suchitoto Fund has about \$43,000 as of August 31, 2019.

The committee is continuing to work on a full description of history, procedures and processes as requested by meeting earlier this year.

Minutes of 8th Month

Minute 9-15-2019-15: Friends approved the minutes from 8th Month.

Clerk's items

- Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association (SAYMA) has accepted the offer for Atlanta Friends Meeting to host the March 2020 SAYMA Representatives meeting.

Events in life of Meeting

- Eric Stribling and Caitlin McLeroy were married under the care of the meeting on Saturday August 24 at 3:30 at the Meetinghouse.
- Carolyn Manley died August 31, 2019. Memorial Service will be held at Atlanta Friends Meeting September 28, 2019 at 6:30.

Closing Worship: The Meeting closed with a moment of worship.

HOLDING IN THE LIGHT:

Carolyn Manley's family
Peter Sederberg and family

Those wishing to have requests for holding in the light 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
Sixth Day (Friday)	11:00 a.m. – East Lake Commons, Decatur. Contact Bert Skellie at bertskellie@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 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 Third Sunday of every month, 11:45 am, Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business 5:00 p.m. - Atlanta Mennonite Fellowship, Meeting Room
Second Day (Monday)	Every other Monday at 7:00 p.m. - Spiritual Nurture Group, Library
Third Day (Tuesday)	1:30 p.m. - Bible Discussion, Library 6:00 p.m. - Alex Zinnes Yoga, Nursery Second & fourth Tuesdays at 7:00 - Deep Waters Center for Prayer & Exploration, Meeting Room
18 th of Each Month	Newcomers Welcome Dinner, rotating location

Atlanta Friends Meeting Contacts

Clerk of the Meeting: Bill Holland, afmclerk1@gmail.com
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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

web and email: atlantaquakers.org, atlantaquakers@gmail.com

Clerk: Bill Holland, afmclerk1@gmail.com

Treasurer: Lynn Leuszler, 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.

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

To receive the newsletter by email, send a blank email to 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. 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. Submissions may be edited for length and format. THE DEADLINE FOR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS IS THE 20TH 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.