

ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2019



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

ADULT FIRST DAY SCHOOL – November 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 November 3, Alex Zinnes will share her story. She is a graduate of Westtown School, a Meeting member since 2012, and on the faculty at the Friends School since 2007.

The second, fourth and fifth Sundays will be devoted to our book discussion. The third Sunday will be a worship sharing session based on that month's query or, occasionally, a query chosen by that day's leader.

Everyone is invited to any or all of our classes, in the library from 9:00 am to 9:50 every Sunday.

QUERY FOR NOVEMBER

How do we make our homes places of friendliness, peace, and renewal, where God is real for those who live there and those who visit?

- North Pacific Yearly Meeting

CREATING MORE EASE WITH POTLUCK SET-UP

Those of us who routinely volunteer to set-up potluck ask for your cooperation to help the process move with greater ease and reduce the workload for the volunteers. Please consider the following:

1. Please bring your food fully prepared in a form to be placed on the food table rather than asking volunteers to prepare it for you or taking over the kitchen to prepare it yourself.
2. If your food needs to be kept cold, please bring it in a lidded container that can go directly into the refrigerator.
3. If your food needs to be kept hot, please bring it already warm / hot in an oven-friendly container that can be placed directly into the oven or on top of the stove. Please note that there can be multiple food dishes waiting to be microwaved, so it is better to bring the dish for the oven. Please do not bring items for the stove top that need to be monitored.
4. If your food can be kept at room temperature, please bring it in an appropriately covered container that can be placed directly on the food table.
5. If you are setting up potluck and notice that supplies are low (coffee, sugar, milk, etc), please alert Carol Gray so that more supplies can be ordered or purchased.
6. Finally, if you sign up to volunteer, please show up on time. Potluck set-up begins at 9:20. If you are not able to show up, please coordinate with someone to take your place.

OFFICE CLOSURES IN NOVEMBER

The office will closed on Thursday, November 7 and on Thursday, November 28 (Thanksgiving Day).

NEW PROPERTY COORDINATOR

Kevin Wong began as Property Coordinator on October 10. He and his son, Oliver, have been regular attendees of the Meeting for the past year and a half. Kevin derives much of his handyman skills from having owned an antique home in New Hampshire and looks forward to tending to the Meetinghouse with equal care.

THE MEETING BEGINS GATHERING . . .

. . . when the first worshiper enters the Meeting Room. To better allow worshipers to center and prepare for worship, Ministry & Worship committee has asked Greeters to close the 3 large Meeting Room doors at 9:40. After that time all will enter through the left-hand (or S) door. Greeters will ask those doing set-up to speak quietly. Greeters will warmly welcome everyone but with quiet voices and ask that all speak softly and respect the worship underway. This extra time available to settle in and prepare for worship will not only enhance the depth of our Meeting but also offer a longer time for worship for those who care for & teach our children.

SAYMA ANNOUNCES DATES FOR 2020 YEARLY MEETING

The planning committee for our yearly meeting, the Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting & Association (SAYMA), has announced that the Yearly Meeting will be held at Warren Wilson College (about 25 miles East of Asheville, NC) from Thursday, June 11th thru Sunday June 14th.

The Theme will be *Feed, Shelter, Serve: Our Bucket List Now!* SAYMA's Yearly Meeting Planning Committee says, "Because the theme is not immediately self-explanatory, we are supplementing it with the following explanatory paragraphs":

"Climate Change is an existential threat to life on earth as we know it and we are called to action to both reduce the extent of the damage by changing how much carbon we put into the atmosphere, but also to mitigate the damage to those least able to absorb the changes. We recognize that the beneficiaries of our carbon economy have been disproportionately the wealthiest 10% of the world's population, and that the impacts have fallen disproportionately on the poor and non-white of the world."

"We are called to service in our lives and many are already finding ways to serve in this crisis. Hence we found the words "feed, shelter, serve." "Our bucket list now!" has a double meaning. First, is the urgency of doing what it needed before it's too late. The second, is to re-examine our personal experience goals in light of this crisis. Air travel is one of the most carbon-intensive activities an individual can engage in, yet many "bucket lists" of individuals include exotic travel. The inclusion of the phrase "our bucket list now" is to challenge us to examine how our choices impact others all over the world and consider how different choices might benefit rather than harm."

"We see the theme as igniting a spiritual response that is empowering and reinforces many of our existing Quaker testimonies as well as current concerns around racial justice, war, and inequality. The theme is a direct response to the desire for an earth-inspired theme that was raised at the final business session at yearly meeting. We invite Friends to consider how they can enrich the Yearly Meeting by offering a workshop that speaks to this theme and to come prepared to share from your experiences of service."

"A more formal request for workshop proposals will come out in the next month."

HAVE YOU BEEN ON A SAYMA COMMITTEE??

Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting & Association (SAYMA), our Yearly Meeting, is revising its Handbook. If you've been on a SAYMA committee, the group working on the Handbook has some questions for you. Please email Roy Taylor at wrltpeas@mindspring.com.

VOTING RIGHTS ADVOCATE HELEN BUTLER – November 3, 2019

Ms. Helen Butler, Executive Director of the Coalition for the Peoples Agenda, will speak on Sunday, November 3rd at 12:30 pm after worship and potluck. Ms. Butler has led the non-partisan Peoples Agenda in educating and registering voters in Georgia, the United States, and the world for decades. The Peoples Agenda was founded by Dr. Joseph Echols Lowery with his wife Evelyn and Ms. Butler to ensure the mission for freedom and dignity is still alive today. Ms. Butler is also a State Elector and has guided leaders to grant all voters the right to free and fair elections without suppression. For info on event: John Michael at 404-360-8036. For info on the People's Agenda, 404.653.1199 or <http://www.thepeoplesagenda.org>.

BOOKS BY AND ABOUT PEOPLE OF COLOR BOOK GROUP – Thursday, November 7

On November 7, at 1:30 in the Library we will be reading Colson Whitehead's 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)

MEMORIAL MINUTE FOR GEORGE FISK (1922 – 2019)

Memorial Minute for George Fisk read at the October Meeting for Business at Newtown Friends Meeting, Newtown, Pennsylvania and sent by Lisa Ogletree, a former member of AFM, who sends her greetings. George and his wife Neva were former members of Atlanta Friends Meeting.

George Fisk was born on October 11, 1922, in New York City, the only son of Ruth Lillian Fisk and Maurice Fisk. He grew up in the New York area, raised by a single mom and was bar mitzvahed. During his final two years of high school, he lived away from home on a farm in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., where for room and board he worked as a common laborer. Rising at 4 am to milk cows, shovel manure and do odd jobs, he developed the astonishing physical strength that characterized him throughout his long life. Around this time, he also made the acquaintance of a number of Quakers who treated him with extraordinary kindness, causing him to shift his religious affiliation to the Society of Friends, whose fundamental principles of the equality of all human beings before God and necessity of pacifist solutions to human disagreements remained pillars of his beliefs.

A generous loan from a distant cousin, Francis Levien, enabled him to attend Cornell University from whose School of Agriculture he graduated in 1943 with a BS degree. Although he attempted to register as a Conscientious Objector during the War years, he was for mysterious reasons never issued a draft card and thus spent his immediate post-college years trying to find a suitable career path.

In August 1946, he met and in June 1948, married Neva Fay Hamilton, who became his loyal wife through what was to become a 56-year-long marriage, and with whom he later had two children, Eliot (born 1954) and Matthew (born 1957).

In 1949 George earned his MBA at New York University and in late 1950 enrolled in the doctoral program at the prestigious Wharton School at the Univ. of Pa., earning a Ph.D. there in 1956. He

always credited his wife's tremendous emotional and practical support for his ability to complete his degree. University appointments as Professor of Marketing followed for him at the U. of Pa. (1956 - 67), Temple University (1967-68), Syracuse University (as Chairman of the Marketing Department from 1968- 1983) and finally with an endowed chair at Emory University (1983-1993). He authored and edited numerous books on marketing, and in 1974, wrote Marketing and the Ecological Crisis, in which he described how environmental concerns would affect business policy. George was one of the founders and the first editor of the Journal of Macromarketing in 1975. Macromarketing reflects society's values and therefore attempts to conduct marketing of goods, services and ideas in a way that is consistent with the public good, using scientific methods and objective analysis. As the Honorary Chair of the 2001 Macromarketing Conference, the Journal printed some of his remarks "From stem cell research to the study of marketing, the purpose of all knowledge advances is to save the world. The poor will always pay more for the delivery of goods and services – my solution is not to make marketing to the poor less expensive – it is to lift the poor out of poverty." There is a George Fisk Award for the best conference paper each year at the Macromarketing Society Annual Conference.

George and Neva moved from Syracuse to Atlanta in 1983 and became members of Atlanta Friends Meeting. Neva was instrumental in founding Atlanta Friends School, which opened in 1991. George was supportive of her work and loved to visit with the children at the school. George and Neva moved to Pennswood [Village, a retirement community in Newtown, PA] in 1999. Neva died in 2005. George enjoyed photography, gardening and music; singing with the George School chorale and in numerous Pennswood musical productions. George was a member of Newtown Friends Meeting, where he frequently gave ministry that helped to gather the meeting by reminding us of our great legacy as Quakers and our shared strength for creating social justice, environmental responsibility and peace. He regularly attended Friendly 8 dinners with other Meeting members where his engaging conversation challenged us to reason rationally and logically, while respecting others' opinions.

George is survived by his son, Eliot Hamilton Fisk, his granddaughter, Raquel Leona Fisk, and his daughter-in-law, Zaira Estela Meneses.

TENTH MONTH MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS – OCTOBER 20, 2019 Recorded Pending Approval

Attendance: Paul Mangelsdorf, Myrna Trapp, Jim Tolmach, Bill Hoosen, Suzanne Cole Sullivan, Georgia Lord, Lynn Leuszler, Mike Chapman, Susan May, Glenn Plyler, Free Polazzo, Clive Gordon, Herbert Edwards, Waman French, Alison Mawle, Alberta Guise, Woody Woodall, Austin Wattles, Kathy Johnson, Kevin Wong, Lissa Place, Bert Skellie, Karen Skellie, Ron Nuse, Susan Firestone, Steve Collins, Brent Wolff, Rachael Carter, Mary Ann Downey, Muireann Brennan, 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 Tenth Month Query out of the worship: "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?" Friends shared out of the silence.

Discernment Items

Ministry and Worship: Muireann Brennan reported on behalf of Ministry and Worship. Ministry and Worship brought forward a membership request and a membership transfer to the Monthly Meeting.

Minute 10-20-2019-01: On the recommendation of Ministry and Worship, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Herbert Edwards for membership. He has been attending AFM for many years and we are pleased to welcome him into membership.

We have received a certificate for Transfer of Membership from the North West London Area Meeting for Brent Wolff. He worshipped with Hampstead Meeting. He has been active in AFM for several years and we are happy to accept his membership.

Minute 10-20-2019-02: On the recommendation of Ministry and Worship, Atlanta Friends Meeting gladly accepts the transfer of membership for Brent Wolff from North West London Area Meeting to Atlanta Friends Meeting.

Reports

Nominating: Clive Gordon reported on behalf of Nominating Committee. Nominating is bringing forward a first reading of Nominations that will start January 2020. These recommendations will be brought back for discernment in 11th month.

Nominating is still looking for the following positions: Assistant Treasurer, two more Ministry and Worship Members, and Religious Education Nursery Liaison.

***AFM Clerk**

Lissa Place (2-year term)

***AFM Assistant Clerk**

Georgia Lord (2-year term)

****Treasurer**

Judith Greenberg (2-year term)

Asst Treasurer

Open

****Database manager**

Brent Wolff (1-year term)

****Directory editor**

Brent Wolff (1-year term)

****Membership recorder**

Brent Wolff (1-year term)

****Webmaster**

Aaron Ruschetta (1-year term)

***Care and Counsel clerk**

Karen Skellie (3-year term)

***Care and Counsel member**

Alberta Guise (3-year term)

****Ferguson Cabin clerk**

Mark Bryant (3-year term)

****Finance Committee clerk**

Paul Mangelsdorf (3-year term)

***Landscape Committee clerk**

Myrna Trapp (3-year term)

***Ministry and Worship**

Bill Hoosen (3-year term)

(need three people)

***Religious Education (RE) Committee**

Tina Boverman Co-Clerk (3-year term)

R E Nursery Liaison (1-year term)

Open

*** New Appointment**

**** Reappointment**

Finance: Paul Mangelsdorf, clerk of Finance, reported on behalf of the committee.

As of September 30, 2019, AFM is running a \$11,410 surplus YTD. Typically, a deficit through the part of the year is expected, as contribution income is largely received in the 4th quarter. The 2019 results are \$46,158 favorable to budget and \$29,606 favorable compared to the same period last year.

Revenue YTD is \$12,315 favorable to the prior year primarily driven by \$15,140 in higher contribution income offset by \$2,085 less in rental income. In addition, we have \$666 in lower investment income which is timing related as the June Pax World Fund Dividend is not recorded until year-end. Our YTD contribution income is \$13,882 higher than our historical average and \$3,076 higher than our previous best through September. However, September contributions did include a \$10,000 bequest from former member, [Lyle McCormick's] estate.

Expenses are running \$17,290 lower than the prior year driven by employee expense which is down \$12,860 due to the vacancy in the early part of the year for the building coordinator position and the use of lower cost temporary office coordinator until April and a temporary Friend in Residence. As the permanent Friend in Residence has moved in and all other positions are now filled, we should expect the favorable employee variance to hold steady for the rest of the year. Other notable expense trends include:

- Building Maintenance is \$3,409 less than 2018 YTD.
- Social Concerns is \$1,611 lower than last year, but this is a timing issue, as they have spent \$7,700 of their \$12,550 budget which we expect to be fully used by year-end.
- The Gathered Meeting retreat was \$724 less than the prior year
- Gifts & Affiliations is \$956 more than last year due to the increased SAYMA assessment.

Compared to budget, expenses are \$46,158 less than budget YTD. This favorable variance is largely the result of the employee expense mentioned above, as that category is \$15,295 favorable to budget. The timing of Social Concerns spending is \$1,713 less than YTD budget. In addition, numerous other categories are favorable to budget notably \$1,192 favorability in building maintenance, Ministry and Worship \$1,023 favorable and Gathered Meeting Retreat which was \$757 favorable to budget.

Care and Counsel: Bill Hoosen, clerk of Care and Counsel, reported on behalf of the committee. It has come to the attention of Care and Counsel that an increasing number of attenders and visitors prefer not to be identified with traditional gender specific pronouns. Care and Counsel would like to respond to this perceived need. The committee has found a source for one-inch pin-on badges with the following pronouns; they, them, theirs; she, her, hers; or, he, him, his. The committee plans to purchase these and provide them to anyone inclined to identify themselves or as a gesture to open the way to be a more inclusive and welcoming Meeting.

Administration Committee: Steve Collins reported that Kevin Wong was selected by the Administration Committee to be the new Property Coordinator. He began his work on October 10. He and his son, Oliver, have been regular attenders of the Meeting for the past year and a half. Kevin derives much of his handyman skills from having owned an antique home in New Hampshire and looks forward to tending to the Meetinghouse with equal care.

Minutes of 9th Month:

Minute 10-20-2019-03: Friends approved the minutes from 9th Month with correction..

Clerk's items

- Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association Sessions will be held at Warren Wilson College Thursday, June 11 through Sunday, June 14, 2020 with the theme: *Feed, Shelter, Serve: Our Bucket List Now.*
- The clerk has appointed the following people to serve on naming committee: Betsy Eggers, Jim Tolmach, Liz Nicholson (clerk). These three friends will recommend to meeting friends to serve on the nominating committee.
- Friends General Conference has reached out asking if the meeting is interested in having a conversation/presentation about the current future of the organization.

Events in life of the Meeting

The meeting held a Memorial Service for Carolyn Manley on September 28, 2019.

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

HOLDING IN THE LIGHT:

Don Bender
Katie Smillie
Harriet Unfug
Peter Sederberg
Ruby Beth Buitekant's friend Pedro
Anna Hutto

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.

Atlanta Friends Meeting Contacts

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 & Worship: Elizabeth Lamb, gelds@comcast.net
Finance: Paul Mangelsdorf, 770-677-4280
Social Concerns: Bert Skellie, bertskellie@gmail.com
Administration: Steve Collins, shcollins75@gmail.com
Care & Counsel: Bill Hoosen, afm.care.counsel@gmail.com
Quakers for Racial Equality: Susan Firestone, susanfires@gmail.com
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Bookkeeper: Jonah McDonald, afmbookkeeper1@gmail.com

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 (Usually, no Welcome Dinner in December)

Atlanta Friends Meeting
701 W. Howard Avenue
Decatur, GA 30030-2902

ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING

Office: Mon-Thurs 10 am to 1 pm and Friday by appointment

phone: 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. 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 to atlquakerltr@gmail.com. Submissions may be edited for length and format. THE DEADLINE FOR 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 that of the Meeting.