

# ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING NEWSLETTER

## JUNE 2020

### UPDATES TO THE LIFE OF THE MEETING DURING COVID-19

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Out of an abundance of caution and a deep and prayerful concern for the health of our entire community, meeting for worship at the meetinghouse continues to be suspended and the meetinghouse closed.

The working group on re-opening the meetinghouse has begun meeting regularly to consider the following questions: How and when do we re-open the meetinghouse for meeting for worship and other worship related events? How and when do we re-open for renters? How do we continue to allow visitors to use the Ferguson Cabin? The working group encourages input; please contact Nina Gooch, Office Coordinator at [atlantaquakers@gmail.com](mailto:atlantaquakers@gmail.com) or leave a message at 404-377-2474. You may also call her on her cell phone. The minutes from meeting for worship with attention to business (see page 8) have additional information.

While this process continues, Meeting for worship and other meeting activities are continuing virtually, either via the internet or by calling in. See below for more details and for other resources, including ways to connect to the meeting if you need help or if you can help others.

The newsletter and the announcement sheet will continue to be posted on the meeting's website. If you would like to be notified when the newsletter is posted online or to receive the announcement sheet via email, please see the final page of the newsletter for instructions. To join the meeting's Facebook page, search for Atlanta Friends Meeting and click the **+ Join Group** button.

The Office Coordinator is working from home and is checking email and voicemail regularly.

### REGISTRATION BEGINS FOR FRIENDS GENERAL CONFERENCE GATHERING

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Friends General Conference Gathering will still be June 28 to July 4, but will be virtual this summer. Registration begins June 1 at [www.fgcquaker.org/connect/gathering/registration-details](http://www.fgcquaker.org/connect/gathering/registration-details). Fees are "as led" and those registering for the High School program must do so by June 25.

FGC has also set up continuing online meetings for worship and online worship sharing, both open and with specific themes, including groups sponsored by Friends for Lesbianm Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Concerns, Quaker Earthcare Witness, Nontheist Friends, and Friends of color. (Details are at: [www.fgcquaker.org/resources/online-worship-opportunities](http://www.fgcquaker.org/resources/online-worship-opportunities) )



Atlanta Meeting of the Religious  
Society of Friends (Quakers)

All are welcome

Virtual Meeting for Worship  
Each First Day (Sunday)  
10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

### QUERY FOR JUNE

Do you cherish your friendships so that they grow in depth and understanding and mutual respect? In close relationship we may risk pain as well as finding joy.

-- Advices and Queries of  
Britain Yearly Meeting

## TALKING TO CHILDREN ABOUT RACISM AND ANTI-RACISM

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Originally shared by Susan Firestone to AFM's email discussion list with this introductory note: *Friends, We had a specific request from a person asking about resources for talking with children about race and anti-racism. In light of both local and national events, it's essential to do the lifelong work of educating ourselves and young people we know and modeling working for racial justice. If you have other suggestions of resources, please let us know. Susan Firestone, 404-268-6480 (cell), [susanfires@gmail.com](mailto:susanfires@gmail.com)*

**Some resources for talking with children and teens about race, racism, and anti-racism. This is a lifelong effort, not just at times of crisis.**

*Beyond the Golden Rule: A Parent's Guide to Preventing and Responding to Prejudice*, written by Dana Williams, illustrations by Vincent Nguyen, a Teaching Tolerance publication, Jan. 2010.  
[https://www.tolerance.org/sites/default/files/general/beyond\\_golden\\_rule.pdf](https://www.tolerance.org/sites/default/files/general/beyond_golden_rule.pdf)

“Embrace Race: Raising a Brave Generation” website: <https://www.embracerace.org/>  
their children’s books filter includes a variety of book lists:  
<https://www.embracerace.org/resources/childrens-books>

“26 Children’s Books to Support Conversations on Race, Racism, and Resistance”:  
<https://www.embracerace.org/blog/26-childrens-books-to-support-conversations-on-race-racism-resistance>

Tip Sheets – talking with kids about race: <https://www.embracerace.org/tip-sheets.html>

My Reflection Matters (MRM) website offers online parent-teacher educational resources to support the healthy development of Black and Brown youths racial and cultural identities.  
[http://www.myreflectionmatters.org/resources/?mc\\_cid=701c85b354&mc\\_eid=7306e23a60](http://www.myreflectionmatters.org/resources/?mc_cid=701c85b354&mc_eid=7306e23a60)

“They’re not too young to learn about race”:  
<http://www.childrencommunityschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/theyre-not-too-young-1.pdf>

“Resources for Talking about Race, Racism, and Racialized Violence with Kids,” list of links to other resources, Center for Racial Justice in Education, retrieved June 2020 from:  
<https://centerracialjustice.org/resources/resources-for-talking-about-race-racism-and-racialized-violence-with-kids/>

The Center for the Study of White American Culture, which is a multiracial anti-racist organization, offers an online workshop on "Raising white Anti-racist children" that they say is also appropriate for all children. Next workshop starts Sept. 16, 2020: <http://www.euroamerican.org/default.asp>

*Raising White Kids: Bringing Up Children in a Racially Unjust America*, by Jennifer Harvey, Nashville, Abingdon Press, 2017

The Top 5 Reasons Well Meaning White Parents Do Not Discuss Race With Their White Children:  
[https://strivingparent.com/2020/05/29/the-top-5-reasons-well-meaning-white-parents-do-not-discuss-race-with-their-white-children/?fbclid=IwAR0iHHONMqQ5GxqQ8v-t\\_vpWXJ50TIHkK0L3J18fitaanpVfFbHhDyNF3-o](https://strivingparent.com/2020/05/29/the-top-5-reasons-well-meaning-white-parents-do-not-discuss-race-with-their-white-children/?fbclid=IwAR0iHHONMqQ5GxqQ8v-t_vpWXJ50TIHkK0L3J18fitaanpVfFbHhDyNF3-o)

New York Yearly Meeting Resources on Racism, see the “resources for youth” section, which includes listing by age groups: <https://www.nyym.org/content/quaker-resources-racism>

Teaching Tolerance, Us Vs Hate: <https://www.tolerance.org/usvshate>

## READING BOOKS BY AND ABOUT PEOPLE OF COLOR – June 4

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The book group reading works by and about people of color continues to meet at 1:30 p.m. on the first Thursday of the month, but is currently meeting via Zoom. On June 4, the group will be discussing *There There* by Tommy Orange. For questions and Zoom details, contact Susan Cole ([cole2544@bellsouth.net](mailto:cole2544@bellsouth.net)).

## MARKER HONORING DEKALB COUNTY VICTIMS OF LYNCHING HAS BEEN INSTALLED

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*Forwarded from the NAACP on May 14, 2020:*

“Shout it from every mountain and hill top and every high rise and low rise, and every corner and byway. Mr. Covid-19 could not stop us! A marker honoring the victims of lynching in DeKalb County now stands in front of the DeKalb Courthouse in downtown Decatur, Ga. Feel free to do your own drive by and take a picture. Remember to stay 6 feet apart.

“You made this happen! Thank you for your work and your support.

“The high school essay contest winners have been chosen. Watch for the announcement of the students' names, their schools and the amount awarded to each student. We are still waiting to receive the names of students who won the college essay contest.

“Next Up: Lithonia marker installation and soil collection, Druid Hills marker installation and DRP video.

“Stay safe and healthy. GO SEE THE MARKER -- but not all at once.”

See AFM's March 2020 newsletter for more background: <http://atlantaquakers.org/archive.htm>

## WORKING AGAINST IRANIAN SANCTIONS

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*from Atlanta's Friends Committee on National Legislation:*

There is a need for greater awareness by the American public of the impact of sanctions on the Iranian people. The Atlanta Friends Committee on National Legislation is looking for any connections with newspaper or radio journalists who might be interested in covering the devastating impact of American sanctions on the civilian population of Iran. We are in the process of identifying an Atlanta Iranian family with family back in Iran for interviews. Please let us know if you know of journalists who might be interested in covering this story. Information, names, or contact information can be sent to [pegeronimo@gmail.com](mailto:pegeronimo@gmail.com).

## A (HANDWRITTEN) NOTE FROM QUAKER VOLUNTARY SERVICE

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*Dear Friends at Atlanta Friends Meeting,*

*Wowee! Thank you so much for your recent gift to Quaker Voluntary Service. The contributions from your meeting and members are countless -- spiritual support for over 50 fellows over the last number of years (!!!); potlucks and food and house cleaning and hospitality for those fellows; support for QVS staff (including our beloved Founder, Christina Repoley!); and financial gifts too.*

*Thank you, at this time of worldwide volatility and uncertainty, for supporting QVS. We need you, and are so grateful for this relationship!*

*♥ Hilary [Burgin, national Executive Director for QVS]*

## ACCOMPANYING FRIENDS RELEASED FROM IMMIGRATION DETENTION FRIEND IN RESIDENCE REPORT, MAY 2020

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Our Friend-in-Residence, Anton Flores-Maisonet, continues to accompany immigrants released from detention centers. He's formed a small team of volunteers who go to the airport or Greyhound station to greet newly liberated immigrants. Sometimes the new friends have flight or bus reservations and just need help navigating the airport or bus station. Sometimes they are without money and need a meal and additional funds for their journey. Most are glad to use some spare phones we have to contact loved ones.

Thanks to volunteers and collaborative relationships with Casa Alternativa (Anton's non-profit) and Paz Amigos (Columbus, GA), they assist about ten new friends per week - friends from countries like China, Cuba, Democratic Republic of Congo, India, New Zealand, and Sri Lanka.

Ways to get involved:

### PRIMARY NEEDS

- travel-size hand sanitizer
- travel-size wet wipes
- water bottles
- individually wrapped snacks (i.e., granola bars)
- gift debit cards (Visa, MC, etc. not store specific - the smaller the denomination the better)

### SECONDARY NEEDS

- New or gently used backpacks
- pens and small notepads
- men's undergarments and white socks
- toothbrushes
- travel-size toiletries
- masks

### **Stimulate Solidarity:**

Did you know not every US citizen will receive a Trump stimulus check? Undocumentable immigrants and their US citizen children are amongst the excluded. To address this disparity, Anton has begun some mutual aid campaigns for two families. One is an unemployed single mom of two daughters in LaGrange. The other is a mom of three in Guatemala. All three of her children are de facto deported US citizens and includes Anton's godson, Manny.

## ONLINE FARM STAND – SUPPORT LOCAL BURUNDI FAMILIES

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Get fresh produce grown in Decatur by local Burundi families as part of the Global Growers network of farms and gardens. Niyibizi Jeanne and Nzigimana Obede, who have been active in both Atlanta Friends Meeting and Stone Mountain Evangelical Friends Church, are part of the farm group. Global Growers offers online ordering Thursdays and Fridays 9a.m. to 5 p.m. (order early for best selection) with contact-less pick up on Saturdays between 9 to 11 a.m. at the Umurima Wa Burundi small farm at 121 Sams Street, Decatur. Curbside pickup is available for people with mobility problems. Global Growers sites have sanitation sites and follow USDA food safety guidelines and CDC COVID-19 protocols. For more information and to order your fresh vegetables, go to <https://www.globalgrowers.org/farm-stand>

## PROPOSED REVISIONS TO QUERIES IN SAYMA'S GUIDE TO FAITH AND PRACTICE

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*Below is the report from the Ad Hoc Committee to revise the Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting (SAYMA) Guide To Our Faith And Practice, to have been given at the SAYMA Representative Meeting, March 14, 2020, submitted to the newsletter by Free Polazzo, one of our SAYMA representatives and the Clerk of that committee:*

The committee has completed its revision of the Queries Section of SAYMA's Guide to our Faith & Practice (Guide). We appreciate all the responses we received as they helped us to improve our original Minute. We appreciate the patience of SAYMA YM [Yearly Meeting] as the committee realized that an almost complete rewrite of the Queries Section was required.

Since our last report to Yearly Meeting 2019, the committee has been meeting via phone for about half a workday twice a month. The last week of February, the committee met for about 22 hours using freeconferencecall.com which allowed us to have a video meeting as well as audio at no charge. We also met for 4 hours the first week of March for a final review before sending our work out into the world.

These queries were the loving product of many hours of work before and after each committee meeting writing minutes as well as planning agendas, editing revised queries, communicating with SAYMA Monthly Meetings, SAYMA committees, and with individual members of SAYMA.

The Revision Committee has asked some of SAYMA's committees to help us to better reflect the current thinking of SAYMA Friends about many topics covered by the Queries.

We received queries for the "Queries for and by Young Friends" from Southern Appalachian Young Friends

We received "Queries for Care of the Earth" from the SAYMA Earthcare Committee.

We received "Queries & Advices for a Preparative Monthly Meeting and its Sponsoring Meeting" from the SAYMA Ministry and Nurture Committee as well from Monthly Meetings that have been sponsors of Preparative Meetings.

We received queries about outreach from the SAYMA Outreach Committee.

Each Monthly Meeting is requested to inform its members (including Worship Groups under its care) of the revised queries and to inform them that they will be on the agenda of the 2020 YM for approval. [Editor's note: 2020 Yearly Meeting has been cancelled because of COVID-19] The revisions will be posted on SAYMA's website by the SAYMA web manager.

*The proposed revisions can now be found at:*

[http://sayma.org/online\\_documents/faith\\_and\\_practice/FandP\\_queries\\_March9.pdf](http://sayma.org/online_documents/faith_and_practice/FandP_queries_March9.pdf)

## RELATED ONLINE RESOURCES

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SAYMA's current Faith and Practice is available online, either as a .pdf or as a print on demand book, at [http://www.sayma.org/online\\_documents.htm#F&P](http://www.sayma.org/online_documents.htm#F&P)

Atlanta Friends Meeting's handbook, which contains guidelines for marriage and membership as well as descriptions of meeting responsibilities can be found on the meetings website at <http://atlantaquakers.org/members.htm>. Scroll down to **AFM Documents Available for Download**, where you will also find links to the most current announcement sheet, an archive of newsletters, information about clearance committees, and past State of the Meeting reports. (More State of the Meeting reports will be added soon.)



## JONAH MCDONALD'S NEW BOOK NOW AVAILABLE

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Jonah McDonald has written a new book, *Secret Atlanta: A Guide to the Weird, Wonderful, and Obscure*, available for sale at <http://secretatlanta.com/shop/>. Use the coupon code 3SHIP for discounted shipping. Check the announcement sheet for future virtual book events. You can also or watch this short video of Jonah talking about the book:

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=856263014856061>.

Jonah's first book, *Hiking Atlanta's Hidden Forests: Intown and Out* is a great handbook when you're searching for nearby places to walk. It can be purchased at <http://hikingatlanta.com/>.

## SPIRITUAL JOURNEYS AND ADULT FIRST DAY SCHOOL

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Each first Sunday of the 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 other Sundays, we are discussing *Living into God's Dream, Dismantling Racism in America* edited by Catherine Meeks. We will meet via Zoom and close the class in time to be in meeting for worship in the separate zoom link. See below for Zoom details.

On Sunday June 7, David Small will offer his spiritual journey. David Small is a native Atlantan who was raised Methodist, attended the Episcopal Church for a while before coming to the Atlanta meeting 3 years ago. He first came to meeting with his God-daughter looking for what denomination was right for her. He writes, "I wasn't actually looking for myself but felt compelled to stay! I started with Green Friends, added FCNL, then AFSC's "No way to treat a child" and "Gaza Unlocked," and lastly with helping Myrna Trapp with the yard work after Steve Collins made an announcement about how she had gotten rid of a lot of the kudzu on the bank behind the meeting house and I realized a) there was a bank behind the meeting house and b) that she was doing all that work by herself!"

On May 3, Mike Aland shared his spiritual journey. Listen to it here: <https://tinyurl.com/y826cd9e>

You can also read or listen to other previous spiritual journeys:

Woody Woodall, August 2019, **as text**, at: <https://tinyurl.com/yxz8g3ue>

Hannah MacNorlin, March 2019: <https://tinyurl.com/yycbpxc>

Joe Walsh, January 2019: <https://tinyurl.com/y7ymccdu>

Glenn Plyler, April 2019: <https://tinyurl.com/y3c4ltcw>

Brent Wolff and Margaret Nagawa, May 2019: <https://tinyurl.com/y5a8b43x>

Sandra Kliuvens, Rachael Carter, July 2019: <https://tinyurl.com/y5wroo63>

Gwen Davies, February 2017: <https://tinyurl.com/y3r3fsts>

Alex Zinnes, November 2019: <https://tinyurl.com/yxhhu5rl>

Emmett and Melanie Fuller, December 2019: <https://tinyurl.com/vktfdgg>

## ARTICLES IN FRIENDS JOURNAL

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A Quaker Response to Gun Violence:

<https://www.friendsjournal.org/a-quaker-response-to-gun-violence/>

AFM connection: Peter McCaughan, a former member, is working with the author Peter Murchinson

Transcending Geography, about virtual meeting for worship:

<https://www.friendsjournal.org/transcending-geography/>

## MEETING VIRTUALLY THIS MONTH

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See announcement sheet in your email inbox or on our website for more detailed instructions for connecting using the internet and for the most up to date information. Zoom has updated its software and you may have to download a new version before you can join a meeting, (unless you have already done so). To call in using your phone, dial 1-253-215-8782 or 1-301-715-8592 and enter the meeting ID when prompted. This may be a toll call from your landline. **If you have a mute button on your phone, mute it when you enter the meeting and unmute to speak.**

*Sundays:*

ADULT FIRST DAY SCHOOL will meet at 9:00-9:50 am

Meeting ID: 198773168.

Link: <https://zoom.us/j/198773168>

On the first Sunday of each month, we will listen to the Spiritual Journey of one of our members/attenders. (June 4 will be David Small's.) On other Sundays, we are discussing *Living into God's Dream, Dismantling Racism in America* edited by Catherine Meeks. We will close the class each week in time to be in meeting for worship.

FIRST DAY MEETING FOR WORSHIP will meet at 10 am

Meeting ID: 908-004-190 and Password: 842962.

Link: <https://zoom.us/j/908004190>

(closing by Ministry & Worship Committee and organized by Steve Collins)

The meeting link will remain open until about 11:45 for those who would like to stay and chat.

FIRST DAY SCHOOL for Families and Friends at 10:15 am with Laura MacNorlin.

Meeting ID: 727 996 1727.

Link: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/7279961727>

YOUNG FRIENDS/HIGH SCHOOL GROUP usually at meets at noon

For current high schoolers and students in upper middle school as well as recent grads.

Contact Emily Weyrauch at [emily.weyrauch@gmail.com](mailto:emily.weyrauch@gmail.com) for more information and Zoom details

*Other days of the week:*

WEDNESDAY MORNING MIDWEEK MEETING FOR WORSHIP 9:30 am on Wednesday mornings

Meeting ID: 920 3886 2952 and Password: 726229. Link: <https://zoom.us/j/92038862952>

Contact Bert Skellie at 404-680-4799 for more info.

## CARING CONNECTIONS AT ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING

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If you need help during this time, or if you can help, Care and Counsel Committee has set up an online way to connect people, using something Gordon Shippey set up earlier in the year to create a general list of those willing to deliver meals, drive people to appointments, run errands, or visit people at home or in hospital. In response to social distancing, we've also added an option to connect people via email or phone. To request help or to volunteer, go to:

<http://www.atlantaquakers.org/members.htm#CARINGCONNECT> (under Members and Attenders)

or contact Karen Skellie at 404-680-4524 or [kskellie@gmail.com](mailto:kskellie@gmail.com) or Nina Gooch at 404-377-2474

(leave a message) or [atlantaquakers@gmail.com](mailto:atlantaquakers@gmail.com).

## FINANCIAL HELP THROUGH THE AFM ASSISTANCE FUND

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This is a time to reach out and care for each other. Do you have a need for temporary financial assistance? Care & Counsel Committee maintains an Assistance Fund for Members and Attenders for providing temporary assistance with financial emergencies. If you have a financial need, don't hesitate to ask. The information about the process and an application form are on the AFM website: [Assistance Fund Description & Request Process](#) and [Assistance Fund Application Form](#). Instead of filling out the paper form, you can email the information to the Clerk of Care & Counsel, Karen Skellie, [kskellie@gmail.com](mailto:kskellie@gmail.com). Care & Counsel is meeting regularly online & by e-mail.

Would you like to help others through the AFM Assistance Fund?

**By mail** to the meetinghouse address to the attention of the treasurer. Make out the check to Atlanta Friends Meeting, but on the "for" line of the check, write "For Assistance Fund".

**Through AFM website by PayPal or Credit Card**, go to the "Contact /Donate" page and click on the "Donate" button:

[https://www.paypal.com/donate/?token=ur8Kq8XGSLYyxJ2-3b3\\_vGEcv9H-GNrOG1ml23mSW76CjXqM82t88RoB0tXnVHlqGZqSG&country.x=US&locale.x=US](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?token=ur8Kq8XGSLYyxJ2-3b3_vGEcv9H-GNrOG1ml23mSW76CjXqM82t88RoB0tXnVHlqGZqSG&country.x=US&locale.x=US)

To designate an online donation for the Assistance Fund, also send an email addressed to both the treasurer and the bookkeeper: [afmtreasurer1@gmail.com](mailto:afmtreasurer1@gmail.com) and [afmbookkeeper1@gmail.com](mailto:afmbookkeeper1@gmail.com)

## FIFTH MONTH MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS

May 24, 2020

Recorded Pending Approval

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Attendance: Steve Collins, Suzanne Cole Sullivan, Nina Gooch, Alberta Guise, Alison Mawle, Ann Ritter, Anton Flores, Karen Skellie, Bert Skellie, Bill Hoosen, Teri Key-Hoosen, Bob Lough, Becky Lough, Caroline Morris, Mike Aland, Richard Allen, Clive Gordon, Diane Rowley, Elizabeth Valera, Elizabeth Lamb, Freer Jarvis, Free Polazzo, Glen Plyler, Jay Roache, Jennifer Thompson, Jim Tolmach, Sally Ferguson, Judy Lumb, Lissa Place, Karen Morris, Lorraine\_\_\_\_, Lynn Leuszler, Margaret Geronimo, Mary Ann Downey, Bill Holland, Jennifer Dickie, Mike Allison, Myrna Trapp, Nancy Roarck, Paul Mangelsdorf, Ronald Nuse, Sue May, Susan Firestone, Waman French, Henry Slack, David Small, Julia Ewen, Georgia Lord (Assistant Clerk/ Acting Clerk), and Rebecca Cole Sullivan (Recording Clerk)

Friends gathered near the appointed hour with opening worship. A member of Ministry and Worship shared the Fifth Month Query out of the worship: "Do you respect that of God in everyone though it may be expressed in unfamiliar ways or be difficult to discern? Do not allow the strength of your convictions to betray you into making statements or allegations that are unfair or untrue. Think it possible that you may be mistaken."

Clerk's Item:

Lissa Place, clerk, read the following statement of appreciation: I have been very impressed with how this community has come together during the closure of Meeting during Covid19. Many people have come forward to help make virtual meeting to happen. I would like to encourage any and all ideas that each of us might have to help us to use this time to continue to grow as a Meeting community so that we will be even stronger when we are able to reopen. The spirit already shown by this Meeting is truly inspiring.



## Discernment

Ministry and Worship: Elizabeth Lamb, clerk of Ministry and Worship, reported on behalf of the committee. In February, Ministry and Worship read parts of Folami Adams' application for membership and asked Friends to get to know her. Today we bring Folami's name forward for approval.

**Minute 05-24-2020-01:** On the recommendation of Ministry and Worship, Atlanta Friends Meeting joyfully approves Folami Adams for membership. She has been a big part of our Meeting for years, and we are thrilled that she is now led to become a member.

Anton Flores, our Friend in Resident, carries a ministry for radical hospitality and justice. Ministry and Worship is bringing this ministry forward to the meeting with a request that the meeting take it under their care.

**Minute 05-24-2020-02:** Anton Flores is called to a ministry of radical hospitality and justice with particular attention to immigrants and asylum seekers. This may take the form of accompaniment of immigrants in crisis, experiential education of allies and potential allies and consulting and development for justice seeking organizations. This ministry seeks to engage both the Atlanta Friends Meeting and the wider community. Atlanta Friends Meeting recognizes Anton's faithfulness in ministering to those on the margins of society and his fervor in sharing his experience and teaching others how they can join in the ministry.

**Minute 05-24-2020-03:** On the recommendation of Ministry and Worship, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the formation of an Anchoring Committee comprised of Charlotte Flores, Hannah MacNorlin, and Christina Repoley (from AFM) and Bryan Babcock, Arturo Martinez and Becky Davies (outside support) to meet with Anton Flores regularly to support his faithfulness in his ministry. We ask that they report back to Ministry and Worship annually on his ministry.

Care and Counsel and Ministry and Worship met together to talk about joint responsibilities. At this time, with COVID-19, the two committees bring forward working group to coordinate the Meetings response to COVID-19. Friends brought forward concerns about who should be on the working group. Friends also brought forward concerns that make sure that the working group needs to consult other people who would be impacted by our decisions. With two modifications to the charge of the working group, Friends approved both minutes.

**Minute 05-24-2020-04:** On the recommendation of Care and Counsel and Ministry and Worship we recommend the following two actions:

1. AFM form a working group composed of the following individuals to coordinate the meeting's response:
  - a. Lissa Place, Clerk
  - b. Karen Skellie, Clerk, Care and Counsel
  - c. Elizabeth Lamb, Clerk, Ministry and Worship
  - d. Steve Collins, Clerk, Administration Committee
  - e. Nina Gooch, Office Coordinator
  - f. Anton Flores, Friend in Residence
  - g. Alison Mawle, Clerk, Hospitality (convener)
  - h. Brent Wolfe
  - i. Georgia Lord, Assistant Clerk
  - j. Clive Gordon
  - k. Jennifer Dickie, representative from Religious Education

2. AFM plans on following the recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and local public health guidelines.
3. Consult with people inside and outside of the community as needed.

**Minute 05-24-2020-05:** On the recommendation of Ministry and Worship. AFM recommends that the decision to reopen the meeting be an action of the Meeting for Business on the recommendation of the above working group.

We ask the working group to:

1. Develop recommendations for a phased plan of reopening our meeting activities. The group will continue to reassess and modify these recommendations as needed for as long as needed.
2. Consider our Meeting for Worship, First Day activities, and Outside Groups (renters). Plans should take into account cleaning, sanitizing and safe-distancing practices.
3. Base their recommendations on the best information available from the Centers for Disease Control, Board of Health and evidence-based sources.
4. Take into account vulnerable populations and err on the side of caution.
5. Communicate regularly with the meeting: The working group will provide clear channels through which it will communicate proposals to the Meeting community and allow for frequent input by the Meeting community.

## **Reports:**

**Suchitoto Fund:** Bert Skellie reported on behalf of the Suchitoto Fund. The report was made available to attenders of the AFM meeting on 5/24/2020, and that it has been posted to AFM list. (It was to have been presented at 3/15/2020 business meeting.) These quarterly reports are required for our committee.

**Care and Counsel Committee:** Karen Skellie, reported on behalf of the committee. There are two online forms to allow people to ask for support from or offer support to the community. Care and Counsel is discussing a plan to check in with every person in the directory.

**Administration Committee:** Steve Collins, Clerk of Administration Committee, reported on behalf of the committee.

Meetinghouse projects – Jim Tolmach completed the installation of four new sets of energy-efficient lights with attractive, new lighting enclosures in the Meeting room. Administration wants to thank Jim for his hard work on this project.

Kevin Wong, Property Coordinator, has been busy with several projects, ranging from toilet repairs and a sticking wooden gate on the playground to the Georgia Interfaith Power & Light (GIPL) water, energy, and solar assessments for the Meetinghouse. The final report from GIPL has been delayed due to the COVID-19 outbreak. With assistance from Administration's Jack Honderd, the malfunctioning heating unit in the Library was repaired. Kevin has coordinated recent repairs to the building's sprinkler and fire alarm systems; additional work is required. Locksmith repairs are planned for the exterior doors to ensure they lock consistently and close more quietly. Removal of two dead trees at the far end of the parking lot and trimming of others is going to be done soon by a professional tree service.

## Hearing Assistance Options Survey

Administration committee members are reviewing a draft survey on hearing assistance options for the Meeting room. Once finalized, plans are to distribute the survey to the rest of the Meeting.

**Finance Committee:** Paul Mangelsdorf, clerk of Finance, reported on behalf of the committee. Atlanta Friends Meeting is running a deficit and is behind on income, both contributions and rental. Expenses are also down. We are expecting some of our expenses to not be spent this year, but not enough to cover all the rental income likely to be lost.

**Announcements**

SAYMA Representative: Free Polazzo reports that the Ad Hoc Committee to Revise the Queries Section of the "SAYMA Guide to our Faith and Practice" has completed a draft revision. This draft revision is being mailed out and is also available on the SAYMA website under the "files" section. You can also find them at:  
[http://sayma.org/online\\_documents/faith\\_and\\_practice/FandP\\_queries\\_March9.pdf](http://sayma.org/online_documents/faith_and_practice/FandP_queries_March9.pdf)

**Approval of Minutes from 2nd Month**

**Minute 05-24-2020-06:** Friends approved the Second Month Minutes as written.

**Events in the Life of the Meeting**

Lissa Place and Glenn Satell welcomed Kai and Kayla to their family April 1, 2020.

**Closing Worship**

Friends closed with a moment of worship.

Georgia Lord (Clerk)  
Rebecca Cole Sullivan (Recording Clerk)

**DEATH OF WOODY WOODALL**

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Our friend Woody (Steve) Woodall died on Monday, June 1. His daughters will be at his house frequently, so cards can be sent to:  
1133 Mannbrook Drive  
Stone Mountain, GA 30083

***HOLDING IN THE LIGHT:***

Susan Firestone's sister and  
brother-in-law,  
Pat and David Hilliard  
Woody Woodall's family  
Cathy Amanti's husband

*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.*

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Atlanta Friends Meeting Contacts</b></p> <p>Clerk of the Meeting: Lissa Place, <a href="mailto:afmclerk1@gmail.com">afmclerk1@gmail.com</a> Office Coordinator: Nina Gooch, <a href="mailto:atlantaquakers@gmail.com">atlantaquakers@gmail.com</a> Treasurer: Judith Greenberg, <a href="mailto:afmtreasurer1@gmail.com">afmtreasurer1@gmail.com</a> Ministry &amp; Worship: Elizabeth Lamb, <a href="mailto:gelds@comcast.net">gelds@comcast.net</a> Finance: Paul Mangelsdorf, 770-677-4280 Social Concerns: Bert Skellie, <a href="mailto:bertskellie@gmail.com">bertskellie@gmail.com</a> Administration: Steve Collins, <a href="mailto:shcollins75@gmail.com">shcollins75@gmail.com</a> Care &amp; Counsel: Karen Skellie, <a href="mailto:afm.care.counsel@gmail.com">afm.care.counsel@gmail.com</a> Quakers for Racial Equality: Susan Firestone, <a href="mailto:susanfires@gmail.com">susanfires@gmail.com</a> Religious Education: Elaine Meyer-Lee, <a href="mailto:eemeyer87@earlham.edu">eemeyer87@earlham.edu</a> and Tina Bovermann, <a href="mailto:Bovermann@me.com">Bovermann@me.com</a> Library Clerk: Cal Gough, <a href="mailto:calgough@bellsouth.net">calgough@bellsouth.net</a> Nominating, Clive Gordon, <a href="mailto:afm.nominating@gmail.com">afm.nominating@gmail.com</a> Newsletter Editor: Nina Gooch, <a href="mailto:atlquakerltr@gmail.com">atlquakerltr@gmail.com</a> Webmaster: Aaron Ruschetta, <a href="mailto:arxaaron@gmail.com">arxaaron@gmail.com</a> Bookkeeper: Jonah McDonald, <a href="mailto:afmbookkeeper1@gmail.com">afmbookkeeper1@gmail.com</a></p>
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Atlanta Friends Meeting  
701 W. Howard Avenue  
Decatur, GA 30030-2902

#### ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING

Office Coordinator working from home while meeting house closed

voicemail/phone: 404-377-2474 – web and email: [atlantaquakers.org](http://atlantaquakers.org), [atlantaquakers@gmail.com](mailto:atlantaquakers@gmail.com)  
Clerk: Lissa Place, [afmclerk1@gmail.com](mailto:afmclerk1@gmail.com) Treasurer: Judith Greenberg, [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. 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). When asked to confirm, select the option to confirm by email.

#### **Would you like to appear in future AFM Directories?**

Send your name and contact information to Brent Wolff at [afmdirectory@gmail.com](mailto:afmdirectory@gmail.com).

#### **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 or paypal, visit [atlantaquakers.org/contact.htm](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](mailto:atlquakerltr@gmail.com). Submissions may be edited for length and format. THE DEADLINE FOR 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 that of the Meeting.*