

# ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING NEWSLETTER



## APRIL 2021

LIFE AT ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING  
DURING COVID-19

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We are currently holding Sunday meeting for worship via Zoom at <https://zoom.us/j/908004190> at 10 a.m. Sundays (**Meeting ID: 908 004 190 & Passcode: 842962**). See below for more details on this and other online worship and First Day School opportunities as well as other resources, including ways to connect to the meeting if you need help or if you can help others.

For those who prefer to worship in person, we are holding small, in-person worship groups at the meeting house on Mondays at 7 pm and Thursdays at 2 pm. See announcement sheet for more details.

Other small groups are returning to the meetinghouse. If you are interested in this, please email the Office Coordinator at [atlantaquakers@gmail.com](mailto:atlantaquakers@gmail.com).

You can still mail a check (see address on last page) or pay securely with Paypal or credit / debit card on our website at <http://www.atlantaquakers.org/contact.htm> and scroll down to the DONATE button. You can set up monthly / recurring contributions when you use Paypal or your debit/credit card on the website. You can also set up payments through your bank's ACH bill payment system. (Please contact your bank for more details on their ACH bill payment system.)

The Office Coordinator continues to work from home and checks email / voicemail regularly.

FORUM: SEEING GOD IN THOSE WE DISAGREE WITH – Sunday, April 4

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The Care & Counsel committee will sponsor a forum via Zoom on "Seeing God in those we disagree with" on Sunday, April 4 at 1:00 pm. Presenter Karen Tibbals asks: "If Quakers have a theology that they can agree on, it is that there is that of God in each person. But what happens when we disagree with people, especially when we vehemently disagree? How can we learn to see that of God in them? We are in that position now. The division in our country runs deep. How can we bridge the divide, and help move our country (and the world) towards peace? Quakers are called to be peacemakers. To do so, we need to develop a new spiritual practice of learning to see that of God in those we dislike. This presentation will help us move forward with this practice."

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87988326498?pwd=RjBpYVYVNiZTMwSjF5L3doS25kSkhNUT09>.

Meeting ID: 879 8832 6498

Passcode: 120826

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

### QUERY FOR APRIL

How have your unspoken assumptions about individuals or groups of people made it difficult for you to engage in honest conversation? What concrete steps are you taking to eliminate your biases such as ones related to race, ethnicity, gender, class or sexual orientation?

– Atlanta Friends Meeting

## STATE OF THE MEETING REPORT FOR 2020

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Atlanta Friends Meeting continues to be a supportive spiritual community in the midst of a global pandemic and renewed calls for racial justice. We have struggled and we have soared, but in the end we have done the best we could to carry on in 2020. We are working with the challenges of present conditions to care for our members and attenders, finding new ways to support Friends, to pull together as a community, and to continue our mission to be a welcoming spiritual home for all.

Our work to forward Quaker ideals looked different under these circumstances. We could not have casual conversations during coffee hour, and that has affected the ways that many committees function. Our office coördinator worked with committees to help them get information to the community, using the announcement sheet and newsletter, website and Facebook group, and our Meeting's Listserv and emails to communicate. We improved in our ability to use technology as a Meeting, which will benefit us beyond COVID, and created an environment where the whole Meeting worked in unity while we were all dealing with similar challenges created by COVID. For this reason, this report will be more about general work in the Meeting, and less about what each committee is doing.

There are ways in which our spiritual depth brought new meaning during these trying times. We have seen each other through a mass movement for racial justice, an election and its troubling aftermath, Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, and endless ups and downs that we have all experienced during this pandemic. Messages in Meeting became an important source of support. One message spoke of this time as a "unique Sabbath." Another message spoke of the brokenness many of us feel as a place for the light to shine in. There were messages of environmental rejuvenation, and gratitude for a slower way of life, along with others of anger, frustration, isolation, and fear. We were reminded to come to Meeting however we are. This has truly been a time that we have relied on each other for our very substance, and we have been there.

We began our Sunday Meeting for Worship via Zoom on March 22. Although there are some Friends for whom technology is a deterrent, we have had an average attendance of 80 for Sunday worship. Meeting online allows us to accommodate people who are unable to attend Meeting for health reasons or distance and also provided the opportunity to worship with Friends who have moved across the globe. We cherish the opportunities that virtual worship has provided us, and we hope to find a way to permanently welcome these Friends to our worship. While marriages are on hold, we welcomed two new members, two transfers in, and four transfers of members to new spiritual homes this year. We held a hybrid (in-person and virtual) memorial Meeting for Worship celebrating the life of Woody Woodall in October, and a second virtual memorial meeting in December celebrating the life of Beth Garrettson. Sadly, due to the pandemic, we have not yet been able to hold memorial services for several other people who died during 2020: David Jarvis (d. February 12, 2020), Peter Sederberg (d. August 3, 2020), Priscilla Padron (d. September 26, 2020), and Tom Kenworthy (d. December 28, 2020). We held a forum in November to help us deal with our many and varied forms of grief. Ministry and Worship continues to work to find ways to support the community while we meet virtually, including weekly messages that welcome newcomers to what could be perceived as a new and unusual form of worship, and offers instructions that help to deepen the quality of worship for all. They continue to hold both monthly spiritual journeys of members and attenders and Adult First Day school virtually.

To meet the spiritual needs of our young Friends, Religious Education has hosted 3-4 families meeting with elementary age students online in the 1/2 hour before worship to enjoy check in, songs, and read aloud books. The children continue their Godly Play curriculum and enjoy the opportunity to virtually "invite each other in" to their homes. Teens and young adult friends met weekly for a much

appreciated discussion and fellowship. Over the year, they met with 35 youth in person, and 20 on Zoom calls. They continue to reach out to national Quaker organizations to problem solve teaching during the pandemic.

In order to deal with the volume and intensity of changes required to use the Meetinghouse safely during COVID, a new committee called the Working Group on the Use of the Meetinghouse was formed during Business Meeting in May. On the committee are two Centers for Disease Control and Prevention representatives from our Meeting, as well as the Clerks of many committees in Meeting. They have wrestled with the technicalities of what it means to be safe in a COVID world, wanting to provide opportunities for connection when people want it, while keeping ourselves and those that enter our building safe. They worked on how to handle renters as well as ways that the Meeting would use the space. Following a survey, they determined interest in having two in person midweek worship services which started in July and September.

Approximately 5-10 people have been attending each service, and found it meaningful. For worship services as well as for renters, they have determined guidelines that include sanitizing, social distancing, closing the kitchen, signing in to allow for contact tracing if needed, and wearing masks. Right now, our renters have showed little interest in returning to the Meetinghouse, but we have hosted a few small groups. The committee has come up with a protocol for what to do if someone who has been in the Meetinghouse has a positive Coronavirus test. In addition, to making the building safer, they have worked with the Administration Committee to upgrade all HVAC filters in the building to improve air quality. This committee is basically in charge of how the building is used until the time that the committee is no longer needed.

While we are having Meeting for Worship via Zoom, a new ministry at the Meetinghouse has arisen among us. Although we are not using the Meetinghouse for typical uses, it is not closed, and in some ways is carrying out our vision for peace and social justice. Anton Flores-Maisonet, our Friend in Residence, has started to use the Meetinghouse for radical hospitality for immigrants seeking asylum. He and his spouse, Charlotte Flores, have partnered with other organizations, attenders of Meeting, and even neighborhood residents to help asylum seekers find their way from detention centers to their final destinations. In the Meetinghouse, hospitality is being offered in the form of overnight accommodations, meals, clothing, and other items necessary for travel to our guests' final destination, usually in the United States. In 2020, this ministry provided a place to stay for nearly 60 guests from 20 countries. Typically our guests need just one night's accommodations before catching a bus or plane to their home. This has been a heart-filling ministry under the guidance of Anton and Charlotte that has involved over twenty households of the Meeting. There is so much that we are unable to do at this time that it is uplifting to hear about what is being done. We are grateful to the Floreses and all involved for this ministry.

In this critical year for racial justice, Atlanta Friends Meeting has recommitted to uprooting systemic racism and white supremacy both externally, in our communities and nation, and internally, in ourselves, and our Meeting. We have seen wider participation of AFM Friends in anti-racism work at the Meeting, committee, and individual levels. Early in the year, the Committee on Undoing Racism in Atlanta Friends Meeting (CURAFM) and Quakers for Racial Equality (QRE) co-sponsored a well-attended workshop on "Addressing Racism Among Friends." Then they offered support to various committees for dismantling systemic racism to forward our goal of becoming a more welcoming anti-racist Meeting. This effort later led to the formation of an Ad Hoc Anti-Racist Policies and Procedure Group with representatives from several different committees to address institutional racism in AFM.

Recognizing the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on People of Color, Quakers for Racial Equality reached out to Friends of Color, helped expand and publicize the Assistance Fund, donated funds to a Black church providing direct assistance to unhoused people, and supported another local

group, Beacon Hill Black Alliance for Human Rights. Social Concerns Committee submitted a Minute approved by Business Meeting that encouraged legislators to focus on access to healthcare, the disparate effects of COVID on Black, Latinx, and People of Color, and the goal of a global ceasefire. In addition, the Social Concerns budget was largely used for local relief of those suffering during the pandemic.

In the wake of racist killings of Black people by police and white vigilantes, Quakers for Racial Equality, the Atlanta Friends of Color group, and the Committee on Undoing Racism in Atlanta Friends Meeting coordinated to draft a statement supporting Black Lives Matter for the AFM website and a draft AFM Anti-Racism Minute. Both were approved by Meeting For Business. CURAFM made Black Lives Matter signs available, and a great many Atlanta Friends participated in a wide range of racial justice activities with others from Meeting, as individuals, or with other groups. Within Meeting, CURAFM also started a new online opportunity to talk about race in a brave space. "Let's Talk About Race," met weekly from July-September, and monthly since then. Quakers for Racial Equality continued their ongoing work virtually, offering the "Listening Ear for Concerns about Racism" by phone, and a "virtual literature table" that was available through the weekly announcement sheet. QRE held monthly online meetings on a wide range of topics, such as Juneteenth and Gullah Geechee culture, Reparations, and Right Relations with Indigenous Peoples. QRE also collaborated with Social Concerns committee to celebrate the 100 th anniversary of Votes for Women with a program on African American women suffragists and civil rights workers. The Friends of Color group supported each other virtually and collaborated with various committees on anti-racism work. An AFM book group reading books by and about People of Color read 10 books during the year. Beyond our own Meeting, AFM Friends participated in online opportunities such as the Me & White Supremacy book study group organized through SAYMA, and the "Listening 4 Justice" program, which is led by AFM member Folami Prescott Adams and includes a number of AFM Friends among its participants.

Social Concerns Committee was actively involved outside the Meeting with Get Out The Vote, making and donating banners to non-partisan groups working in Black and Latinx communities where voting has historically been suppressed.

Our Meeting has continued to care for each other using virtual and socially distanced ways, primarily through the Care & Counsel committee. During March and April, Care & Counsel reached out to everyone in our directory by phone or email to offer support. They created online forms to allow Friends to volunteer with tasks such as grocery shopping as well as to request assistance. To help Friends in financial difficulty, the committee updated guidelines for the Assistance Fund and advertised how to apply for assistance in the weekly announcement sheet. As part of discerning their role in anti-racist work, they approved updated guidelines for welcoming diverse newcomers.

Administration Committee remained very active this year. They have nurtured and supported the Friend in Residence, many of the technical needs of Meeting, and have been in charge of cleaning and upgrading our building inside and out. The Administration Committee upgraded all HVAC filters in the building to improve air quality, and explored installing solar panels as well as a new roof.

The Suchitoto Fund Committee's work has come to a close this year, as planned. This Committee has been meeting since September 2016 to encourage the development of a non-profit organization of former and current scholarship recipients from the work of Frank and Carol Cummings, according to a bequest in Frank's will. The name of this organization is "Asociación de Becarios Actuales y Graduados de Educación Superior para el Desarrollo Integral de la Juventud de Suchitoto" or ABESUCHI." An international non-profit organization that works in El Salvador (IDEAS) was engaged to facilitate this work. ABESUCHI now has full legal status and is functioning as an independent organization that is now administering a funded project. The AFM Finance Committee

will carry on some additional annual transfers from Frank's bequest and will monitor financial reporting from ABESUCHI now that the Suchitoto Fund Committee has been laid down.

Nominating Committee has continued to fill the spaces as they came available during this year. They were greatly affected by not seeing people in person at Meeting. They are working on creating a system that works virtually, which includes making announcements about open positions and asking for volunteers more than usual.

Our lobbying group for Friends Committee on National Legislation has learned to do virtual lobby visits. They are using this time to learn social media, and are already tweeting and posting on Facebook! They, with all of us, grieve the loss of Representative John Lewis, but look forward to meeting his successor as well as two new senators.

We had our 9th year of AFM serving as host meeting for Quaker Voluntary Service. Due to the generosity of the local Mennonite Community, the fellows are enjoying a new home in Atlanta. There were many changes in staff as well as in the Local Support Committee during 2020, but they are ending the year with solid leadership on both fronts. The support committee is striving to take up issues related to equity more intentionally and explicitly, including examining race, class, and gender. They are looking at this so that they can best be supportive of the Fellows.

Macon Worship Group, which is under our care, has been quite active during the pandemic. They have switched to virtual meetings which allowed them to give up their rental space. They have moved their worship to Thursdays to allow people to attend AFM Meetings on the weekends, and they have begun meeting weekly for a shorter period of time with the flexibility that is offered by Zoom. They are also holding monthly public education topics as well as business meetings.

Some other important events and activities for 2020 include:

- Landscape Committee: They have done a massive removal of kudzu from the property and replaced it with plants that support wildlife.
- Approving Facebook Guidelines for our Facebook Page: In October's Business Meeting, we approved guidelines to help monitor how people use the Facebook Page. In an Ad Hoc committee initiated by our office coordinator, they came up with much needed guidelines. This seemed particularly important during this time because many people are finding us online and see the Facebook Page as a representation of who we are. The moderator positions are being added to the list of Meeting positions to be filled by Nominating Committee.
- Using tools in Business Meeting: We have used colors in Business Meeting to make it easier to see the general opinion of the group since it is harder to get a "sense of the Meeting" virtually. We have used green, red, white or black objects to reflect agreement, concern, or a question/answer to a specific question. After the daunting task of setting up virtual Business Meetings, we mastered the technology and were able to keep the work of the Meeting moving forward.
- Increased use of our cabin on Lake Burton: The Ferguson Cabin was willed to the Meeting by Dwight and Irene Ferguson many years ago. There has always been a committed group of people who have loved and cared for the cabin, but they have struggled to have new people discover it. This year, a record number of people visited the cabin (even with restrictions on only having one group visit at a time), with 17 people who had never been there before. They are working on making information about how to rent the cabin even more accessible to all.

Despite the many challenges of 2020, we have persevered. We have found creative solutions for our current circumstances, and we have been there for one another. Now, more than ever we have relied on the depth of our faith to carry on. The year 2020 was like no other, but we are grateful to be on the other side of it, and hope that we will be stronger for it.

REPORT SHARED TO SAYMA (Southern Applachain Yearly Meeting and Association)  
ON ANTI-RACISM WORK BY ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING, JULY 2020 TO FEBRUARY 2021

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During this critical period, Atlanta Friends Meeting (AFM) has recommitted to uprooting systemic racism and white supremacy both externally and internally. We have seen broader participation in anti-racism work among Atlanta Friends at the Meeting, committee, and individual levels.

**Pandemic Response:** In response to racial disparities during the pandemic, Quakers for Racial Equality (QRE) and the Social Concerns Committee supported local Black-led organizations and others providing direct assistance and/or working for racial justice. Atlanta Friends Meeting also approved a Minute urging legislators to focus on access to healthcare, the disparate effects of COVID on Black, Indigenous, and People of Color, and a global ceasefire.

**Black Lives Matter Movement:** In the wake of racist killings of Black people, Atlanta Friends Meeting approved a statement on the homepage of its website [supporting Black Lives Matter](#) and approved the [AFM Anti-Racism Minute](#). The Committee on Undoing Racism in Atlanta Friends Meeting (CURAFM) provided Black Lives Matter signs, and a great many AFM Friends participated in wide range of racial justice activities

**Engagement and support opportunities: Quakers for Racial Equality, the Committee on Undoing Racism in Atlanta Friends Meeting, a new book group, and the Atlanta Friends of Color group have offered frequent ways to engage about racism:**

- “Let’s Talk about Race” (a brave space to talk about race weekly July-Sept. 2020, monthly since then)
- Virtual Literature Table on Racism (weekly) and Listening Ear for Concerns about Racism (monthly)
- Quakers for Racial Equality meetings (monthly - including topics such as Gullah Geechee culture, Right Relations with Indigenous Peoples, Voting Rights, Criminal Justice Reform, and Stolen Wealth Returns (grassroots reparations)
- AFM book group on works by and about People of Color (monthly - read 6 books plus poetry in 7 months.)
- Atlanta Friends of Color group (supported each other virtually and collaborated with various committees on anti-racism work )
- A number of AFM Friends also participated in the *Me & White Supremacy* book study group and many Friends took part in the “Listening 4 Justice” interactive course led by Folami Prescott Adams.

**Social Concerns Committee projects:** Social Concerns Committee members had an extensive Get Out the Vote project making and donating large banners to be used by non-partisan groups working in Black and Latinx neighborhoods or along public transportation lines in underserved areas. They also worked with groups such as Restorative Justice Advocates of Georgia, End Money Bail, End New Jim Crow Action Group, and Uplifting People on criminal justice reform or assisting people transitioning back into society after incarceration.

**Hospitality for immigrants and asylum seekers:** In the past seven months, Atlanta Friends Meeting Friend-in- Residence Anton Flores-Maisonet and his spouse, Charlotte Flores, have offered temporary housing/hospitality to over 90 guests from 30 counties at the meetinghouse as the guests transition from detention or seek asylum. More than 20 AFM households as well as volunteers from Casa Alterna and elsewhere have helped.

**Other Committee and Ad Hoc Group work on Institutional racism: Following up on a successful workshop on “Addressing Racism Among Friends,” the Committee on Undoing Racism in Atlanta Friends Meeting (CURAFM) has encouraged all other committees to work on dismantling institutional racism.**

- **Ministry and Worship held a forum on queries** about openness to different forms of vocal ministry and about having a clear process for addressing racist incidents or institutional racism.
- **Ministry and Worship also initiated an Ad Hoc group with Friends of Color, QRE, and CURAFM to plan two forums on Reparations and Right Relations in February and May of 2021.** The first forum on Feb. 28, 2021 focused on history, with guest panelists Dr. Joseph Reidy, Dr. K. Melchor Quick Hall, and Dr. Althea Sumpter, with moderator, Herb Edwards. The May forum will focus on policy, truth, and reconciliation models.
- **An Ad Hoc Anti-Racist Policies and Procedures group has been formed** with representatives from CURAFM, QRE, Friends of Color, Administration, Ministry & Worship, Care & Counsel, and Religious Education. The purpose of this Ad Hoc group is to develop and publicize policies and procedures to address racial bias and institutional racism and to proactively promote equity in Atlanta Friends Meeting. The first priority is development of appropriate policies / procedures to clarify who to contact and what procedures to follow if racial discrimination or a racist incident occurs. This Ad Hoc group will also review existing AFM policies on inclusive hiring of employees and contractors or service providers. Policies and procedures must be vetted by Friends of Color.

**Response to the assault on the U.S. Capitol:** Members of the Social Concerns Committee, Friends of Color, and Quakers for Racial Equality drafted a [Minute on Hatred, Racist Violence, and Domestic Terrorism](#), which was approved by Atlanta Friends Meeting on Feb. 21, 2021. A direct link is on the Atlanta Friends Meeting home page.

**We recognize that our efforts for racial equity, whether in our country or in our own Meeting, must be constant, and that there is much more we need to do. We look to the rest of 2021 with renewed commitment to working for racial justice.**

For a full version of this report, visit

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1TWVVqmK0EomXh2qihEmx8Gff83UAVXpb/view?usp=sharing>

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LINK FOR LISTENING 4 JUSTICE

To find out more about Listening 4 Justice, mentioned above and founded by AFM member Folami Prescott-Adams with the participation of several other members and attenders of the meeting, visit <https://listening4justice.com/>.

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IF YOU MISSED THE FORUM ON REPARATIONS

Thanks to Waman French, you can see the recording of the February 28 forum on Reparations and Right Relations with guest panelists Althea Natalga Sumpter, Joseph Reidy, and K. Melchor Quick Hall. Video starts about 4 seconds in with Herb Edwards, moderator, stating the purpose.

<https://friendsschoolatlanta.zoom.us/rec/share/yLosq9TqRDy8U4ww6thJHr26ONI6WSm041t93NEvu5r4Glyb-8gKEib0gPand6z-.6OssjFxFMXGtp4oF>

Passcode: z2fAn61^ (don't forget the final symbol)

## STANDING WITH PEOPLE OF ASIAN DESCENT AGAINST ANTI-ASIAN VIOLENCE

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*shared by Susan Firestone:*

In the aftermath of the deadly shootings in Atlanta and Cherokee County that targeted Asian businesses and specifically Asian women, here are some resources to help strengthen our commitment to stand with Asian Americans and against a pattern of Anti-Asian racism that is deeply embedded in our country's history and has been worsened by the pandemic and online hate speech. These resources include ways to support Asian American communities, reporting Anti-Asian hate crimes, and bystander intervention trainings":

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1qcQUk5ETNU8KgXELYGk7LoodiLnjS\\_CU/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1qcQUk5ETNU8KgXELYGk7LoodiLnjS_CU/view?usp=sharing)

## ANTI-RACISM RESOURCES

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Anti-racism resources (including resources for children) shared via the discussion list, announcement sheets and newsletters are collected at <https://tinyurl.com/afm-arr>.

Let Nina know if there are problems with any of the links or suggest additional links at [atlantaquakers@gmail.com](mailto:atlantaquakers@gmail.com).

## INVITATION TO HELP THOSE IMPACTED ECONOMICALLY BY COVID

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*shared by Claire Hannapel:*

The [Metro Atlanta Mutual Aid \(MAMA\) Fund](#), a mutual aid fund to support marginalized communities impacted by COVID-19, created by community members from metro-Atlanta in response to our current time of crisis, is grounded in principles of mutual aid, collective responsibility, and solidarity. While working to raise and distribute money in the short-term, MAMA is also actively building alternative systems that redistribute wealth and build long-term equity in communities historically marginalized by systems of race, economics, sexuality, gender, ability, and nationality and religion—among others. Therefore, funds are targeted towards Black, Indigenous, and other peoples of color, with special consideration within those communities to women/femmes, trans, non-binary and queer folks, poor and working-class folks, people living with disabilities, and undocumented and refugee members. As a way of working towards this long-term goal of wealth redistribution, MAMA invites communities that have benefited from generational privilege and access to resources to contribute to this fund. Atlanta Friends can be part of this timely and justice-oriented work, by moving beyond charity and short-term fixes towards equity and sustainable flourishing for all. Consider signing up for [a monthly contribution](#), making this a regular part of your own practice of justice and sustainability. Questions? What to learn more? Contact [MAMAsolidarity@gmail.com](mailto:MAMAsolidarity@gmail.com)  
[Editor's Note: For more about mutual aid societies, visit: <https://www.afsc.org/blogs/news-and-commentary/how-to-create-mutual-aid-network>]

## LAST WISHES / MEMORIAL SOCIETY OF GEORGIA

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The Care & Counsel committee is working on an online form for members/attenders to indicate their wishes at the time of death, such as planning a memorial service and emergency contacts.

While this is in progress, we would like to draw your attention to the Memorial Society of Georgia. This is a non-profit that enables its members to pre-plan for low-cost cremation or burial via a simple application and a small lifetime membership fee. Information is available at <https://memorialsocietyofgeorgia.org/>.



## FAITH BASED COMMUNITY RESOURCE GUIDE ON OPIOIDS AND MENTAL HEALTH

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Last year, Bill Holland represented Atlanta Friends Meeting on an interfaith round table sponsored by the Morehouse School of Medicine and the Clinton Foundation, which explored the religious community's response to Opioids and mental health issues. The group produced a resource guide entitled Faith-Based Community Resource Guide, with a broad range of resources. This is in paper format. If you would like a copy or have suggestions for places where this resource guide could be placed, please email the Office Coordinator at [atlantaquakers@gmail.com](mailto:atlantaquakers@gmail.com).

## NEW ONLINE CHECK REQUEST FORM NOW AVAILABLE

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There are now 3 ways to request a check be written by the AFM Bookkeeper:

- (1) Complete this new online form: <https://tinyurl.com/AFMchecks>
- (2) Turn in a hard copy (found in office or ask the office coordinator to mail you one)
- (3) Email [afmbookkeeper1@gmail.com](mailto:afmbookkeeper1@gmail.com)

## READING BOOKS BY AND ABOUT PEOPLE OF COLOR – Thursday, April 1 and ongoing

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The book group reading works by and about people of color meets via Zoom at 1:30 p.m. on the first Thursday of the month. On April 1, the group is discussing *Interior Chinatown* by Charles Yu. For questions or the Zoom link, contact Susan Cole ([cole2544@bellsouth.net](mailto:cole2544@bellsouth.net)).

Upcoming books include:

- May 6 *Giovanni's Room* by James Baldwin
- June 3 *Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett
- (no meeting in July)
- Aug 5 *Kindred* by Octavia Butler
- Sep 2 poetry selections
- Oct 7 *Transcendent Kingdom* by Yaa Gyasi

## SAYMA SEEKS WORKSHOP PROPOSALS FOR VIRTUAL YEARLY MEETING deadline April 2

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SAYMA (Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association) Friends will have virtual opportunities to gather this June as Yearly Meeting resumes annual sessions. The planning committee calls Friends to think about online workshops. Your offering is invited! The theme (*Do Justice, Love Compassion, Walk Humbly on the Earth*) is offered as a guide. The deadline for receiving proposals is Friday, April 2, 2021. A technical support group is being formed to support workshop presenters. This support will include help for those new to virtual technology. During each workshop presentation a tech support person will be available to support the presenter(s). <https://drive.google.com/file/d/16zObqZe9zxv57w3GB1rz6337UHn6HVFU/view?usp=sharing> has more details. For more about yearly meeting, see Macon Quakers' April 15 event (details below) or March's newsletter ([atlantaquakers.org/\\_afm\\_newsletters/AFM\\_Newsletter\\_2021-03.pdf](http://atlantaquakers.org/_afm_newsletters/AFM_Newsletter_2021-03.pdf)). For more about SAYMA itself, see [sayma.org](http://sayma.org).

## SPIRITUAL JOURNEYS AND ADULT FIRST DAY SCHOOL – Sunday, April 4 and ongoing

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 April 4, Martha McGill will share her spiritual journey.

To hear Leeland McPhail's Spiritual Journey from March 7, visit: <https://tinyurl.com/yccw28tl>.

If you'd like to hear a particular past Spiritual Journey, please contact Mary Ann Downey.

On third Sundays, Adult First Day School will have worship sharing, usually on that month's query. On other Sundays, we will be discussing *A Living Faith, An Historical Study of Quaker Beliefs* by Wilmer A. Cooper, as part of our annual Quakerism 101.

*See below for Zoom details, which are new as of March 21.*

## GREEN FRIENDS COMMITTEE (IN PERSON) MEETING Sunday, April 4

Green Friends will meet from 11:45 AM to about 12:45 on April 4 in person in the big Meetingroom, and all are welcome wearing masks and being well distanced. Our principal topic will be preparing for Earth Month activities in late April when we hope to do some tabling in front of the meetinghouse. For more info and Zoom numbers for those who can't attend in person, contact Henry Slack at [henry.h.slack@gmail.com](mailto:henry.h.slack@gmail.com).

## FORUM: SEEING GOD IN THOSE WE DISAGREE WITH – Sunday, April 4

1:00 pm via Zoom. Details on page 1.

## EASTER MUSIC WITH RICHARD ALLEN – Sunday, April 4

Richard Allen will play his suite of eight piano compositions about the events of Holy Week again this year at the meetinghouse on April 4 at 3 pm. You may sit in the meeting room, or outside, since the windows will be open. Please wear a mask.

## COOKIES & COMPOST FUNDRAISER WITH QVS FELLOWS – ends Wednesday, April 14

This year, we, the Quaker Voluntary Service (QVS) Fellows, have been enjoying lots of cooking as a house community, which means we have also been working hard to turn all our organic food waste into nutritious and rich garden compost. Support us this spring! For a donation to QVS of any amount, we will give you one bucket of homemade compost as well as a helping of homemade "compost" cookies! Our compost is made, with the help of many earthworms, from organic material from our kitchen, as well as organic material we collect when cleaning out and restocking community fridges in Atlanta. Our "compost" cookies are inspired by our efforts to reduce waste. They contain a delicious combination of leftover baking ingredients such as chocolate chips, oats, graham crackers, coffee grounds, and pretzels. Fill out this sign-up form by April 14, 2021

<https://forms.gle/55o5T9qYJo5Mixhm8>. Delivery will begin in late April/early May. You can also donate directly to QVS here: [quakervoluntaryservice.org/](http://quakervoluntaryservice.org/)

## FIND OUT MORE ABOUT SAYMA AND THIS YEAR'S YEARLY MEETING – Thursday, April 15

Ever wonder about what opportunities are available outside the local Meeting? Looking to meet other Quakers around the state and the Southeast? Macon Quakers, under the care of Atlanta Friends Meeting, is also affiliated with SAYMA, the regional Yearly Meeting that meets during the summer to offer worship sessions and workshops for all ages. This year, the gathering will be virtual.

Those of us in Atlanta are invited to join the Macon group to hear from SAYMA Planning Committee Clerk Jennifer Dickie about what to expect from this year's gathering and how to be sure to register. Macon has invited other worship groups within SAYMA to attend as well, so the evening holds potential to be informative as well as helpful in building our wider community. All are welcome!

Thursday, April 15, at 7:00 P.M. via Zoom.

Meeting ID: 840 9589 9009

Passcode: 542278

## MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS – Sunday, April 18

Meeting for business will be online again this month. Simply stay in the Zoom Meeting for Worship after worship ends. Zoom details and minutes from March are below. In 1996, the meeting approved these guidelines for how we conduct meeting for worship with attention to business:

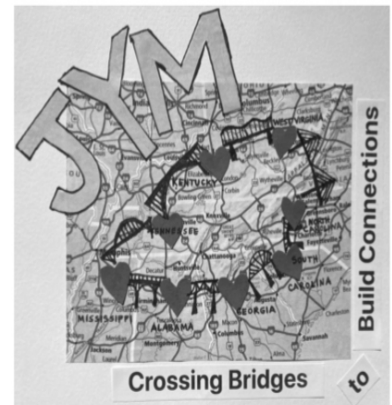
[http://atlantaquakers.org/site\\_pdf\\_docs/Guidelines\\_for\\_Meeting\\_for\\_Business.pdf](http://atlantaquakers.org/site_pdf_docs/Guidelines_for_Meeting_for_Business.pdf)

## SAYMA'S JUNIOR YEARLY MEETING: CROSSING BRIDGES TO BUILD CONNECTIONS

Sundays, April 18 and May 16

Please join SAYMA's Junior Yearly Meeting this spring for two more virtual workshops! We are excited to help the young people of Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting build connections.

Both workshops will have programming from 4:00 to 5:00 pm, with space for informal conversation and visiting from 5:00 to 5:30 pm. For April 18: a fun puppet show and home activities! Programming will be appropriate for ages 2 to 7th grade, with breakout sessions available for different ages if needed. Join for one or both! Register at <https://forms.gle/qcLv3vf77QkjHQ1H7C>. These free workshops are made possible by a grant from Friends World Council on Consultation (FWCC).



## FGC YEAR ROUND YOUTH PROGRAMS

Friends General Conference (FGC) is offering year round programs for youth birth thru high school. For more information on these online programs, visit

<https://www.fgcquaker.org/connect/gathering/programs-and-events/year-round-youth-programs>.

## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE FOR NEXT MONTH – Tuesday, April 20

Please send articles, announcements, information about upcoming events, and other submissions to [atlquakerltr@gmail.com](mailto:atlquakerltr@gmail.com) by April 20. Please send as an email or in Word or other text format.

## LET'S TALK ABOUT RACE – Wednesday, April 28

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Monthly online, drop-in forum meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7:30 pm. All are welcome whether you have attended before or not. No special knowledge or background needed. We contribute from our personal experiences and backgrounds. We learn from the stories and questions we are willing to share. We start at 7:30 p.m. and usually end around 9:00. Drop in and stay as long as you can. Questions and suggestions for future topics are always welcome: contact [alberta.guise@gmail.com](mailto:alberta.guise@gmail.com)  
Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84678045805?pwd=cFdhcEd4UmdLWWNldDFpMm1mOEVTQT09>  
Meeting ID: 846 7804 5805  
Passcode: LTAR

## FRIENDS GENERAL CONFERENCE GATHERING June 27 to July 3

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The advance program for the 2021 FGC Gathering, which will be virtual, can now be found at [www.FGCgathering.org](http://www.FGCgathering.org), along with additional information. (If you need a printed copy, contact the office.) The theme for 2021 is *Way Will Open*. The Gathering is a week of Quaker worship, workshops, and community for all ages. Friends come together from across the US and Canada (and sometimes further) to deepen our connection to one another and the Spirit. Attenders range from newborns to elders in their 90s, and include both long-time Friends (mostly from the unprogrammed, liberal tradition), and those newer to Quakerism. In structure, it's part conference and part family camp. In content, it provides an abundance of opportunities to learn about Quakerism and to foster your spiritual life – and to have fun together.

## QUAKER RESOURCES

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meeting for worship: <https://www.friendsjournal.org/the-soularium/>  
core Quaker beliefs (video and transcript): <https://quakerspeak.com/video/9-core-quaker-beliefs/>  
meeting for worship via Zoom: "Can You Gather With God Over Zoom?" at <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/05/22/arts/quaker-meeting-zoom.html>

## MACON WORSHIP GROUP INVITES US TO JOIN THEM FOR WORSHIP

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The Macon Worship Group, which is under the care of Atlanta Friends Meeting, invites us to join them for meeting for worship via Zoom every Thursday at 7:00 pm (except for fifth Thursdays). The third Thursday each month will be an educational program instead of worship. See above for details of the third Thursday educational program for April.  
For more information, you can email: [maconquakers@gmail.com](mailto:maconquakers@gmail.com).  
Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84095899009?pwd=SFhhOGNnWHZFbDdKRUhIVnFqdFk0dz09>  
Meeting ID: 840 9589 9009  
Passcode: 542278

## MEETING VIRTUALLY: WORSHIP AND FIRST DAY SCHOOL AT ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING

*For the most up to date information and for more detailed instructions for Zoom, see the most recent announcements at [www.atlantaquakers.org/\\_announcements/Announcement\\_Sheet.pdf](http://www.atlantaquakers.org/_announcements/Announcement_Sheet.pdf) or in your email inbox. To call in using your phone, dial 1-253-215-8782 or 1-301-715-8592 and enter the meeting ID and password, if needed, when prompted. This may be a toll call from your landline.*

### **Sundays:**

**NEW ZOOM INFO FOR ADULT FIRST DAY SCHOOL** will meet at 9:00 am to 9:50 am

Meeting ID: 860 6366 5797

Passcode: 013191

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86063665797?pwd=Nms0Vm5MSW91UXdWRGJSOXA5NWRjZz09>

On the first Sunday of each month, we will listen to the Spiritual Journey of one of our members or attenders. (April 4 will be Martha McGill.) On the third Sunday of each month, we will have worship sharing, usually on that month's query, and on other Sundays, we will discuss *A Living Faith, An Historical Study of Quaker Beliefs*. We will end in time to be in meeting for worship.

FIRST DAY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN will meet at 9:30 am to 9:55 am

First Day Class for Families and Friends

Theme for April: *God is Everywhere — Creation*

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

Meeting ID: 727 996 1727

Passcode: 679898

Families are invited / will have time to join meeting for worship after this ends.

Fourth Sunday is intergenerational/family worship and all members and attenders are invited to join.

FIRST DAY MEETING FOR WORSHIP will begin at 10:00 am

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

Meeting ID: 908 004 190

Passcode: 842962.

The meeting link will remain open until about 11:45 for those who would like to chat. On the third Sunday of each month we will have meeting for business via Zoom after worship and a short break.

### **Calling All Families:**

*We would like to issue a special invitation to all families with children to attend the first 15 minutes of worship together, as has been our custom when meeting in person. We really miss seeing you! If your mike is muted, your children will not be distracting to others, even if we see them wiggle. And of course, you and your children are welcome to join us for the entire hour.*

### **Suggestions for Meeting for Worship on Zoom:**

*“Worship is our response to an awareness of God. We can worship alone, but when we join with others in expectant waiting we may discover a deeper sense of God’s presence. We seek a gathered stillness in our meetings for worship so that all may feel the power of God’s love drawing us together and leading us.” (From Advices and Queries, Britain Yearly Meeting.)*

### **Some things to keep in mind as we adjust to “the new normal” of worshipping via Zoom:**

*Even though it may feel strange, remember that this is a worship service. To help create the kind of shared space that allows all of us to listen for the Divine within us, please keep your mic muted unless speaking to us. If you’re eating or having a lengthy conversation with another member of your household, please also turn off your video temporarily or step away from the camera to avoid distracting others. However, if your children are joining us for meeting for worship, please do not feel the need to turn off your video. We welcome their presence in meeting for worship.*

YOUNG FRIENDS/HIGH SCHOOL GROUP usually 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

### **Wednesdays:**

WEDNESDAY MORNING MIDWEEK MEETING FOR WORSHIP at 9:30 am

Link: <https://zoom.us/j/92038862952>

Meeting ID: 920 3886 2952

Passcode 726229

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

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### FINANCIAL HELP THROUGH THE AFM ASSISTANCE FUND

This is a time to reach out and care for each other. Care & Counsel Committee maintains an Assistance Fund for Members and Attenders for providing temporary assistance with financial emergencies. Information about the process and an application form can be found at [www.atlantaquakers.org/members.htm](http://www.atlantaquakers.org/members.htm)). Look for the Assistance Fund Description & Request Process and the Assistance Fund Application Form. Or contact Clerk of Care & Counsel, Karen Skellie at 404-680-4524.

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

**By check:** mail to the meetinghouse address to the attention of the treasurer or if you're at the meetinghouse, leave in the Contribution slot. Make out the check to Atlanta Friends Meeting, and on the "for" line of the check, write "Assistance Fund."

**By PayPal or Credit / Debit Card:** [www.atlantaquakers.org/contact.htm](http://www.atlantaquakers.org/contact.htm) on our website.

To designate an online donation for the Assistance Fund, please 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)

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### CARING CONNECTIONS AT ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING

If you need practical help (meal delivery, errands run, transportation, etc) or contact with others during this time OR if you can help, Care & Counsel Committee has set up an online way to connect people. Visit our website under Members and Attenders at <http://www.atlantaquakers.org/members.htm#CARINGCONNECT> to request help or to volunteer or contact Karen Skellie at 404-680-4524 or [kskellie@gmail.com](mailto:kskellie@gmail.com).

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### THIRD MONTH MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS

March 21, 2021, held via Zoom

Minutes Recorded Pending Approval

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Attendance: Steve Collins, Bill Hooson, Teri Key-Hooson, Alberta Guise, Alison Mawle, Anton Flores, Becky Lough, Bert Skellie, Karen Skellie, Betsy Eggers, Caroline Morris, Betsy Eggers, Cathy Amanti, Christina Repoley, David Small, Donna Roberts, Don Bender, Elizabeth Lamb, Georgia Lord, Glenn Plyler, Hannah MacNorlin, Jennifer Thompson, Judy Lumb, Julia Ewen, Jennifer Thompson, Karen Morris, Kellie Divis, Larry Foster, Myrna Trapp, Mary Ann Downey, Bill Holland, Richard Allen, Nina Gooch, Susan Firestone, Susan May, Lissa Place (Clerk), Coryn Murphy (Recording Clerk)

Friends gathered near the appointed hour with opening worship. A member of Ministry and Worship shared the Third Month Query out of the worship: “Are you sensitive to the spiritual and physical needs of those making up the meeting community? How does your meeting lovingly respond to the needs of homebound, distant, or lonely members and attenders?”

**Discernment Items:**

**Memorial Minutes for David Jarvis and Mary (“Gene”) Singletary**

**Minute 03-21-2021-01:** The Atlanta Friends Meeting remembers Mary ‘Gene’ Singletary

Mary Virgene (Gene) was born November 10, 1926 in Thomaston Georgia to the late Isaac Ellwood Carter and the late Bertha Mae Hodges Carter. She became an education specialist and was a teacher of biological science. She married John Len (Jack) Singletary who was a Baptist minister, but his commitment to racial justice in his first pastorate near Americas, Georgia, ended his career there as a minister. Gene and Jack then began holding Sunday School in a small house for African American children, speaking up for the rights of Black people in the community, and were asked to leave Covington Presbyterian when Jack called Dr. King a prophet.

During the 1950s, Gene and Jack live at Koinonia Farm with their children when that community faced boycotts and gun violence for being an interracial community. The community survived by developing a mail order business. Their daughter Sue remembers living at Koinonia and hiding in the camp house when the KKK came to threaten them. Later she returned to Americas High School to attend the first integrated graduation, but as the Singletary family and others identified with integration left the graduation, there was a race riot. Jack was arrested at Koinonia for refusing to register for the draft and spent time in prison for his beliefs.

During this time their family got to know the family of Jimmy and Rosalyn Carter and the children went to school together and were good friends. Later after Jimmy Carter was elected President, Gene joined a peace vigil of Atlanta Quakers at the Carter home in Plains and Friends were startled when President Carter came out and embraced Gene. In the late 50s, the family moved from Koinonia and purchased 517 acres so that Jack could be independently employed. Although Jack was able to do the farm work, Gene was not able to get a teaching position there because of their interracial work. She moved to Atlanta with the children while Jack remained back on the farm. Jack visited Atlanta often and they got to know, Martin Luther King, Ralph Abernathy, John Lewis, Andrew Young and other leaders of Civil Rights organizations

Gene and Jack joined the Atlanta Friends Meeting in 1960 because it was compatible with their beliefs in racial equality, and AFM was active in Civil Rights through Quaker House. They were also concerned that their sons identify as Quakers when they were draft age in order to register as conscientious objectors and not spend time in prison as their father had done. While living in Atlanta, the family was present at Ebenezer Baptist Church the Sunday that Dr. King preached his sermon opposing the Vietnam War and they walked in Dr. King’s funeral march as her father carried Dr. King’s briefcase.

In high school, their daughter Sue was selected to attend an American Service International Intercultural Program in India in 1966, that involved three months of living with a family and becoming immersed in the culture and credits her parents’ involvement in Civil Rights as contributing to her selection. While there she received a letter from Gene telling her that Miss

Lillian, Jimmy Carter's mother was in the Peace Corp in India and Sue was able to spend a wonderful visit with Miss Lillian.

Gene got a job teaching biological science in Sandy Springs High School in the Fulton County System. She taught there for 26 years until Jack became terminally ill with cancer. She immediately resigned her teaching position and moved to Americas to care for Jack for 6 months until his death in 1986. In retirement she continued to live in Americas on their farm, now planted in trees. She maintained her membership and occasionally visited AFM when back in Atlanta and requested that her daughter Sue ask the meeting to arrange a memorial service in the manner of Friends. In addition to her parents and her husband, Gene was preceded in death by her brother, Harold Carter. She is survived by her children: Paul Singletary, Dr. Mary Sue Singletary, and Leila Mae Singletary and grandchildren; her caretaker and partner of 35 years, Jerome Spires; and her dear friends Sarah Ellington and Christine Gardner.

**Minute 03-21-2021-02:** The Atlanta Friends Meeting remembers David Jarvis.

David Jarvis was born in Burlington, VT where he attended St. Anthony's Catholic School and served as an altar boy in the church where he also sang in the choir. David was the eldest of three boys, one of whom died at the age of 3. His brother Stephen lives in NV.

He developed an early love of building and flying model airplanes, which was to lead later in his life to meeting a young man in Atlanta, Vince Chastain, who also had a love of model airplanes. Vince was so impressed with him that he invited him to dinner where David met Vince's mother Freer.

David completed his education at the University of Chicago and then Emory University after which he remained in Atlanta to work with IBM. He was very mechanically minded, detail oriented, patient and had an artistic eye. This led to an interest in photography and in the 1960s, living in NM he took photos of the beautiful landscapes and then became a rodeo photographer. He was able to combine his love of computers and his love of photography to produce some very stunning work. As he was also an avid bird watcher many of his photographs were of the local birds, wherever he lived. When Vince introduced David to his mother Freer, their relationship developed quickly and they were married in 1986.

David exhibited his photographs in different exhibits, and when he and Freer began attending Atlanta Friends Meeting in the early 2000s, Friends were able to enjoy his exhibits at different times in the Meeting House.

Around that time Freer needed a wheelchair for mobility and a trach tube for breathing. David became her devoted caregiver. It became increasingly difficult for them to attend meeting because of her disability and soon a small worship group of 4-8 Friends began meeting weekly in their house. These Meetings continued until his death. One unique feature of this worship was settling into quiet worship by David's striking his Tibetan Singing Bowl. Worship was also ended by the striking of the bowl. After David's death other members continued this tradition.

David and Freer's ministry after her disability was to work with the Care and Counsel Committee to send cards to people who were ill or who had lost loved ones in death. These cards often included David Jarvis' photographs. One of his remembered acts was his photograph of the interior of the worship room of the Meeting House which was on the cover of a card of appreciation sent to long term members of the Atlanta Friends Meeting.



**Minute for Friend in Residence:** Christina Repoley and Hannah MacNorlin submitted a report in February of 2020 in support of the Friend in Residence Anton and Charlotte Flores and their work to continue to offer hospitality to individuals who find themselves in our nation's detention/deportation pipeline.

**Minute 03-21-2021-03:** The Atlanta Friends Meeting approved the following Minute of Support for Anton Flore's Ministry.

In July 2019 Atlanta Friends Meeting entered into a discernment process with Anton and Charlotte Flores when they both began residing in the meetinghouse. This discernment has blossomed from a seed of an idea to a work of accompaniment and hospitality with immigrants and asylum seekers. This work now engages a broader portion of the Meeting and others, including neighbors of the meetinghouse.

In May 2020 the Meeting affirmed that Anton "is called to a ministry of radical hospitality and justice with particular attention to immigrants and asylum seekers." We believe it is now time for the Meeting to discern how Spirit is leading the community in response to Anton's continued call to pursue this leading rooted in Quaker values. As we turn the long corner on COVID-19, Anton is hopeful we as a community can find ways to continue to offer a place of refuge and welcome to new friends from faraway lands who find themselves in our nation's unjust detention/deportation pipeline.

Before becoming AFM's Friend in Residence, Anton and Charlotte engaged in forms of radical hospitality with immigrants and asylum for 13 years through Casa Alterna, a nonprofit they launched and which still provides supporters the means to support their work. This current ministry at AFM merges their gifts and passions with a true and unreplicated need in Atlanta.

This anchor committee proposes this minute affirming our collective commitment to this work: Atlanta Friends Meeting is grateful for Anton and Charlotte Flores's leading to offer radical hospitality to immigrants and asylum seekers and for the ways they have lived out this call utilizing AFM's space during the COVID-19 pandemic. In just seven months our abundant meetinghouse has been a welcome place of hospitality for nearly ninety guests from thirty countries, providing short-term welcome and refuge for those in need of temporary housing as they transition out of detention and/or defend themselves against deportation. More than twenty AFM households have already engaged in this work of hospitality, plus immediate neighbors of the meetinghouse and a number of others. We ask AFM to formally recognize that this has become a ministry of the AFM community through Anton's calling. We affirm and support this continued work and empower Anton to directly work with the appropriate committees of the Meeting to determine an arrangement as the meetinghouse reopens that provides the space necessary to continue this work in a way that acknowledges the multipurpose function of the Meetinghouse.

In this ministry Anton has hosted 145 people from 36 countries. In March he hosted a zoom open house to share his work and encourage the meeting to support and be more involved.

**State of the Meeting Report:** Lissa Place, clerk of AFM, read the State of the Meeting Report reflecting on the work and Spirit in the Meeting in 2020.

**Minute 03-21-2021-04:** On the recommendation of the Clerk of Meeting, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the State of the Meeting Report for 2020 with corrections.

[Editor's Note: The State of the Meeting Report is printed separately above.]

**Suchitoto Minute of Appreciation:** Georgia Lord read a report from the Suchitoto committee describing the work and progress of this committee.

**Minute 03-21-2021-05:** The Atlanta Friends Meeting expresses its appreciation to the Suchitoto Committee for its work of the past 4 years. Bert Skellie clerked the committee, and its members were Don Bender, Lynn Leuszler, Judy Lumb, Paul Mangelsdorf, and Andrew Cummings. The committee's work was sometimes challenging, due to the complexities of transferring funds internationally to financial institutions in El Salvador. Members were very conscious of their duty to honor the wishes and intentions of the member who made this testamentary bequest.

### **Reports:**

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

### **Meetinghouse projects**

Kevin Wong, Property Coordinator, has collected the financial and technical details from bidders for the proposed solar panel array on portions of the Meetinghouse roof. Georgia Interfaith Power & Light (GIPL) did a solar assessment for roof panels, including an estimated payback period. Bids have also been received on a prerequisite project -- the replacement of the deteriorating Meetinghouse roofing shingles. A preliminary cost estimate for these two capital projects is approximately \$80,000. Kevin will work with the Finance Committee on the detailed financial analysis before we bring back these discernment items to Meeting for Business.

### **Use of the Meetinghouse:**

The working group on the use of the meeting house developed a survey to solicit AFM members and attenders views on how to return to in person worship on Sunday over the coming year as vaccination rates rise and COVID infection rates drop. The committee sent the survey via email, and received 76 responses.

56% of the respondents were 65 or older, and 58% said they had attended at least one zoom meeting. 15% had children of high school age or younger, and 10% had attended an in person meeting. In response to the question of when people would feel ready to return to large in person meetings, 41% answered that would be when the Georgia Department of Health said that it was safe to do so. However, vaccination status was the criterion for another 30%. This was split evenly between individual vaccination, all adults being vaccinated, and all adults and children being vaccinated (10% each).

They asked what form of worship would be preferable when we do reconvene, and half of us (49%) opted for a single hybrid meeting, where in person and remote worship was available. Other preferences were separate meetings at separate times (16%) separate meetings at the same time (15%) and to continue all-remote meetings until most people feel safe to return in person (13%).

It seems clear from these responses that AFM would like to move forward with acquiring technology that will allow us to experiment with hybrid (blended) meetings, so that the meeting will have flexibility as we move forward in resuming in person worship during the coming year. The committee would like to ask anyone with technological expertise that can help with this to let the committee know as soon as possible. There will be many roles needed going forward and we would like to put together a small group now who can make recommendations on how best to set this up. If interested please contact Allison Mawle within the next two weeks.

## **Committee Corner:**

**Cabin Committee:** Caroline Morris reported that the Ferguson Cabins now have a presence on the AFM website to help Friends with information about the Cabins, what to bring and how to make a reservation.

1. Once you get to the AFM website, click on “Members and Attenders” in the Menu.
2. Then, scroll down to “Ferguson Cabins Private Retreat Facilities for AFM Members & Attenders.”
3. Under that heading, go to “Facility Details and Booking Arrangements Brochure.”
4. Click on “Brochure.” This gives detailed information about the cabins, contact information for the scheduler, suggested packing list, cleaning and departure protocol, more pictures and suggested donation.

Directions will be added and are listed below:

Driving time from Atlanta is approximately 2 1/2 hours and the address is 1395 Mindy Mountain Rd Tiger, Ga: Take I-85 north to I-985 which becomes 23/441. Travel past Tallulah Falls Gorge and continue 8 miles further. Look for “Goats” sign on the left. Turn left here at the Tiger Connector/Bridge Creek Rd. Go 9 miles and turn right on Murray Cove Rd. Take first left off paved road onto gravel road, “Mindy Mtn. Rd”. Cabin is on the left. Mailbox says D.H. Ferguson.

## **Announcements: Macon**

Kelly Divis from the Macon worship group shared that the Macon worship group is meeting weekly on Thursdays on zoom and would like to invite Atlanta members and attenders to join. The link for the 7:00 Thursday Meetings is on the announcement sheet.

## **Approval of Minutes for February 2021**

**Minute 03-21-2021-06:** Friends approved the Second Month Minutes with corrections.

## **Events in the life of the Meeting**

Dave Erickson, husband of Suzanne Murdock, died on March 16.

The Meeting Closed with a Moment of Silence.

## ***HOLDING IN THE LIGHT:***

Cindy Berg  
Mary Ann Downey  
Suzanne Murdock  
Bert Skellie and family  
Eugene Jennings  
Freer Jarvis,  
Renda McCaughan

*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: Lissa Place, afmclerk1@gmail.com  
Office Coordinator: Nina Gooch, atlantaquakers@gmail.com  
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Ministry & Worship: Bill Hooson, bhooson@aol.com  
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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

web and email: [atlantaquakers.org](http://atlantaquakers.org), [atlantaquakers@gmail.com](mailto:atlantaquakers@gmail.com) voicemail/phone: 404-377-2474  
Clerk: Lissa Place, [afmclerk1@gmail.com](mailto:afmclerk1@gmail.com) Treasurer: Judith Greenberg, [afmtreasurer1@gmail.com](mailto:afmtreasurer1@gmail.com)

#### Atlanta Friends Meeting email lists & facebook group:

- You may receive the announcement sheets and other announcements relating directly to the life of the meeting. This is the announcement list. (The announcement sheet is also posted online.)
- You may receive announcements AND posts about a broader range of topics relating to being a Quaker. This is the discussion list. (You do not need to belong to both the announcement list and the discussion list.)
- You may receive notification that the newsletter is online. This is the newsletter list.
- To join any of these email lists above, please email the office at [atlantaquakers@gmail.com](mailto:atlantaquakers@gmail.com)
- To receive weekly emails about Zoom and in-person meetings for worship, email [atlantaquakers@gmail.com](mailto:atlantaquakers@gmail.com)
- To join the meeting's Facebook page, search for Atlanta Friends Meeting & click the + **Join Group** button.

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

**Do you need to correct your directory information?** 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.*