

ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2022



Current and back issues of the newsletter are available at <http://atlantaquakers.org/archive.htm>

The most recent announcement sheet is always at http://atlantaquakers.org/announcements/Announcement_Sheet.pdf

Meeting for Worship each First Day (Sunday) in Person & via Zoom, 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

QUERY FOR AUGUST

Do I faithfully attend meeting with heart and mind prepared for worship, clear of any predetermination to speak or not to speak, expecting that worship will be a source of strength and guidance?

Do I regularly attend meeting for business? If unable to attend, how do I fulfill the responsibility to understand and embrace the decisions made?

Source: Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice (1998)

<https://www.pym.org/faith-and-practice/guidelines-and-procedures/general-queries/deepening-faith-meeting-worship/>

ABOUT MEETING FOR WORSHIP AND "MEETING FOR BUSINESS"

Friends Journal's June-July issue focused on vocal ministry, the sharing of messages from the Divine that are meant, not just for us, but for the meeting as a whole. In the introduction to the issue, Gabel Ehri remembers being thanked for his "faithfulness" in giving a message, which he says "has always struck me as the perfect compliment and affirmation for Quakers' vocal ministry: not for the message itself, but for the discernment in allowing that of God within to filter through and outward to the gathered community." Those of us hearing messages also have an important role, says Paul Buckley in "The Ministry of Listening." <https://www.friendsjournal.org/issue-category/2022/vocal-ministry/>

On July 31, Ministry and Worship will host a forum on this topic after meeting for worship. See details below. For opportunities for worship, see information about Sunday meeting for worship (on the next page) as well as Wednesday morning and evening meetings for worship (see below).

We often shorten "meeting for worship with attention to business" to "meeting for business" or even "business meeting." A February 2022 *Friends Journal* article by John Andrew Gallery talks about those words we leave out and ponders the question of how we learn to let what we do in meeting for worship inform the way we live our lives. He describes meeting for worship with attention to business as a rehearsal, a step between meeting for worship and our lives outside the meeting house. <https://www.friendsjournal.org/meeting-for-business-as-spiritual-rehearsal/>.

The 2006 article it links to asks: What is it we do in meeting for worship? What does it mean to say that meeting for worship is a spiritual practice? <https://www.friendsjournal.org/2006058>

PLEASE JOIN US ON SUNDAYS FOR WORSHIP AND FIRST DAY SCHOOL



We will continue to worship on Sunday at 10:00 am in person at the meetinghouse in combination with worship via Zoom for the indefinite future. Please choose the option that is best for you. For the most up to date Zoom information and COVID guidelines for in-person worship, see the current announcement sheet at www.atlantaquakers.org/_announcements/Announcement_Sheet.pdf.

MEETING FOR WORSHIP

Combined in person and Zoom, 10 am Sundays

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89686276751?pwd=M29EYlIFWEhSQUtZRVVPalFFYmVDQT09>

Meeting ID: 896 8627 6751

Passcode: 789456

ADULT FIRST DAY SCHOOL

(see under Events below for more details for each Sunday)

Combined in-person and Zoom, 9:00 to 9:50 am Sundays

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

Meeting ID: 860 6366 5797

Passcode: 013191

FIRST DAY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

In-person, 10:15 am Sundays

Children can continue to join Meeting for Worship for the first 15 minutes or can go directly to Religious Education, as they and their parents / guardians prefer.

COVID UPDATE AS OF THE END OF JULY

Because the CDC's Community Level for COVID-19 is now HIGH for Dekalb County, we are again requiring that everyone over the age of two wear a mask at all times while in the meetinghouse and enjoy their coffee outside. Please leave your mask on if you speak during or after meeting. Also please put your mask back on when you re-enter the meeting house from the patio. See the CDC website at tinyurl.com/em8skwvd for more details and suggested prevention steps. As always, the announcement sheet will have details and the most recent information.

NOTE FROM ATLANTA QUAKER VOLUNTARY SERVICE (QVS) ALUM CLAIRE HANNAPEL

Atlanta Friends –

Sending warm greetings from Portland, OR, my new home. Thank you for your deep care, thoughtfulness, and financial investment in this beloved community we are making thru the work of QVS. The Atlanta meetinghouse will be a forever home to me and so many other QVS alums.

With love, Claire

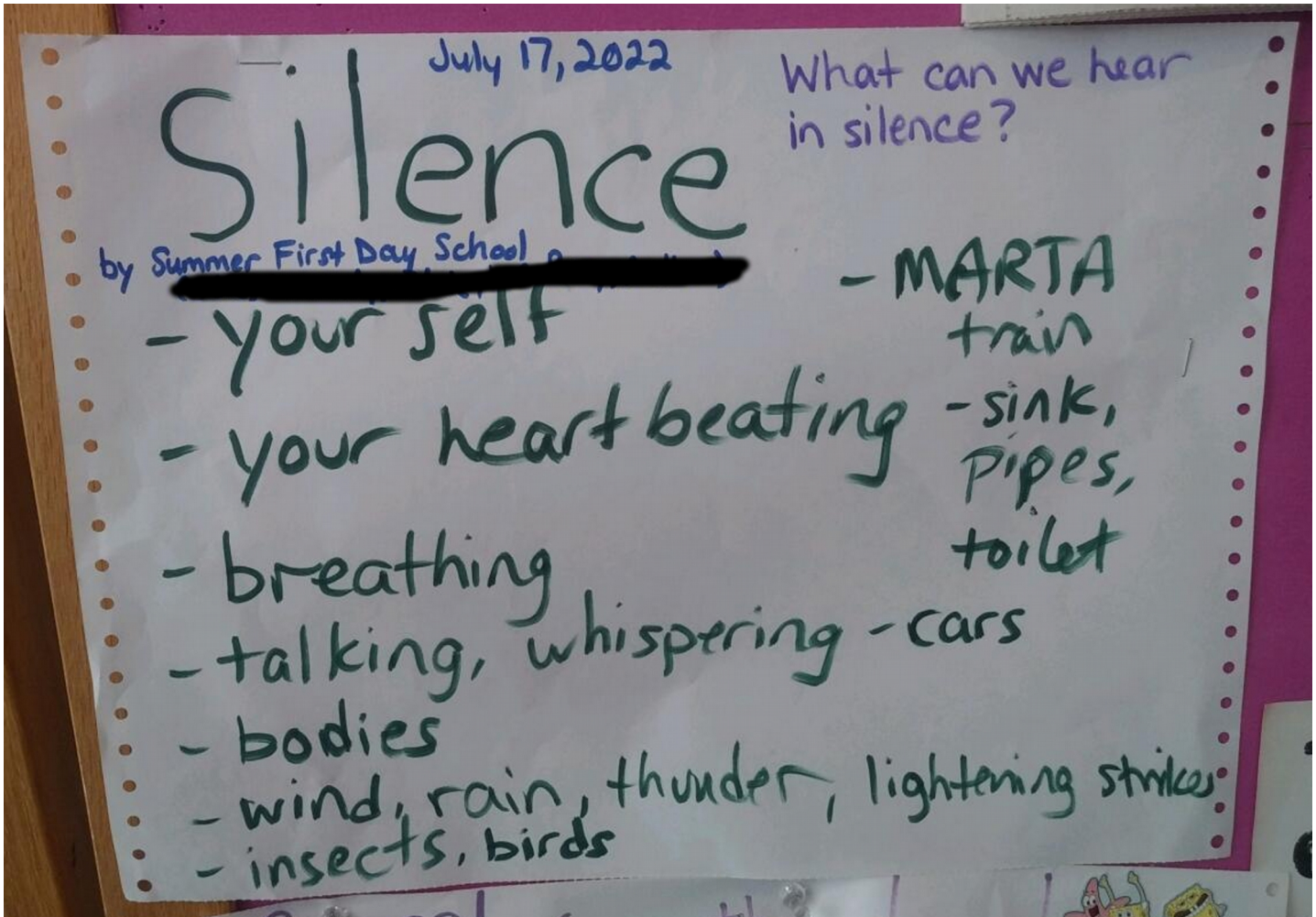
For more information about Quaker Voluntary Service, visit quakervoluntaryservice.org.

“WHAT IF SHOWING UP IS, IN FACT, ALL THAT IS REQUIRED?”

You can read the year-end reflections of Rebecca Rubenstein, one of Atlanta's 2021/2022 Quaker Voluntary Service Fellows, at <https://quakervoluntaryservice.org/all-that-is-required/>:

“When we recognize our own divinity, and the divinity in the world around us, we can name and refuse the oppression handed down to us and others. When we perceive that our spirits are linked, it follows logically that our freedoms are too. It becomes a spiritual imperative to fight for the rights and dignities of those made marginalized in order to recognize our collective liberation.”

FROM SUMMER FIRST DAY SCHOOL



SHAWN GINWRIGHT ON “LETTING GO OF MYTHS, EMBRACING TRUTHS”

Shawn Ginwright writes about four myths about social changes and four pivots “that move us toward more transformative change” in this article from Yes Magazine: <https://www.yesmagazine.org/issue/personal-journeys/2022/02/16/letting-go-of-myths-embracing-truths>

“We all have an opportunity before us to transform our organizations and reimagine our work for social change by first transforming and reimagining ourselves and our place in the work that we do toward justice and equity.”

**PLEASE HOLD
IN THE LIGHT:**

Karen Gold and
Jeremiah Gold-Hopton
Lynn Leuszler
Beth-Ann Buitekant
Ruby Beth Buitekant
Danielle Rowley
Diane Rowley

If you wish to have requests for holding in the light included in this monthly newsletter, please give the names to a member of Care & Counsel.

Atlanta Friends Committees and Other Contacts

Clerk of the Meeting: Jennifer Dickie, afmclerk1@gmail.com
Office Coordinator: Nina Gooch, atlantaquakers@gmail.com
Treasurer: Lynn Leuszler, afmtreasurer1@gmail.com
Ministry & Worship: Bill Hooson, bhooson@aol.com
Finance: Paul Mangelsdorf, 770-677-4280
Social Concerns: Glenn Plyler, 207-522-5295
Administration: Steve Collins, shcollins75@gmail.com
Care & Counsel: Karen Skellie, kskellie@gmail.com
Quakers for Racial Equality: Susan Firestone, susanfires@gmail.com
Committee on Undoing Racism in AFM: Lissa Place, lissaplace@yahoo.com
Religious Education: Laura MacNorlin, laura.norlin@gmail.com
Library: Cal Gough, calgough@bellsouth.net
Nominating: Lissa Place, lissaplace@yahoo.com
Newsletter Editor: Nina Gooch, atlquakerltr@gmail.com
Webmaster: Aaron Ruscetta, arxaaron@gmail.com
Bookkeeper: Jonah McDonald, afmbookkeeper1@gmail.com

For information about these committees, download the AFM Handbook from <http://atlantaquakers.org/members.htm> (scroll down to the bottom to AFM Documents to Download) OR contact the Clerk of the committee.

UPDATE ON BETH-ANN BUITEKANT

Beth-Ann Buitekant, long-time attender of AFM, has now entered hospice care at AG Rhodes on Boulevard. She has been a shining light who often spoke movingly in Meeting for worship. Her daughter Ruby Beth just sent a long email detailing the situation which Karen Skellie will be happy to forward to you (kskellie@gmail.com).

FORUM: GIVING AND RECEIVING VOCAL MINISTRY – Sunday, July 31

When we gather for worship, how do we create a space for the Spirit to speak to us and through us? How do we listen with open hearts to vocal ministry others offer? Join Mary Ann Downey and Bill Holland to consider these questions in a forum on Sunday July 31 after worship at 11:45. Combined in person and Zoom using the zoom link for meeting for worship (see above).

The current issue of *Friends Journal* focuses on vocal ministry:
<https://www.friendsjournal.org/issue-category/2022/vocal-ministry/>.

VIRTUAL DOCUMENTARY NIGHT: BODY OF WAR – Sunday, July 31

Virtual Documentary Night on July 31 from 7 to 9 pm is in honor of Disability Pride Month and is in collaboration with Veterans For Peace (<https://www.veteransforpeace.org/>). The documentary *Body of War* takes a detailed look at the Iraq War and its devastation by focusing on a single casualty: Tomas Young, a 25-year-old enlistee from Kansas City who returned after a brief tour of duty paralyzed from the chest down. Watch the documentary (for free) in advance at <https://youtu.be/oA4Xb2G09bw>, then RSVP at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/virtual-documentary-night-tickets-385896616167>. For more details and general info: <https://documentarynight.wordpress.com/> or attender Adam King at CommunityDocumentaryNight@gmail.com or 404-414-8917.

WEDNESDAY AM MEETING FOR WORSHIP – Wednesdays, August 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

8:30 am. This ongoing meeting for worship is again both in person and Zoom
Watch announcement sheet for updates. Contact Bert Skellie at 404-680-4799 for general info.
<https://zoom.us/j/92038862952>
Meeting ID: 92038862952
Password: 726229

WEDNESDAY EVENING WORSHIP WITH MACON WORSHIP GROUP – Aug 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

The Macon Worship Group, which is under the care of Atlanta Friends Meeting, worships via Zoom every Wednesday at 7:00 pm.. They invite us to join them for this ongoing meeting for worship! For more information, contact Bill Holland and Mary Ann Downey.
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85017745787?pwd=RUQ3OGJPenMrYktXemlxl1d2R3Q2Zz09>
Meeting ID: 850 1774 5787
Passcode: 22Light

BOOKS BY AND ABOUT PEOPLE OF COLOR – Thursday, August 4 and ongoing

The book group reading works by and about people of color meets at 1:30 p.m. on the first Thursday of the month. The group took a break in July and returns August 4 (in person and via Zoom) to discuss *The Sweetness of Water* by Nathan Harris. Future books include:

- September 1, poetry selected by members of the group
- October 6, *Harlem Shuffle* by Colson Whitehead
- November 3, *The Sentence* by Louise Erdrich
- December 1, *The Buddha in the Attic* by Julie Otsuka

For questions or the Zoom link, contact Susan Cole (cole2544@bellsouth.net).

SPIRITUAL JOURNEYS AND ADULT FIRST DAY SCHOOL – Sundays, August 7, 14, 21, 28

Adult First Day School will meet in person at the meetinghouse, and people will continue to be able to join via Zoom. (See the second page or the announcement sheet for Zoom details.)

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 Spiritual Journeys, stories where Friends describe their understanding of God and religion in their life. On August 7, Caitlin McNunn Dooley will share her Spiritual Journey. Combined in-person and Zoom. (To hear Selena Faith and Rebecca Rubenstein's Spiritual Journeys, shared July 3, visit <https://tinyurl.com/mr3fjmfc>. To hear other past Spiritual Journeys, contact Mary Ann Downey.)

On second Sundays, Adult First Day School will have worship sharing, usually on that month's query. On July 31, we will finish discussing *Biblical Literacy: The Essential Bible Stories Everyone Needs to Know* by Timothy Beal. Beginning in August, on third, fourth and fifth Sundays, we begin discussing *The Book of Joy*, a conversation between the Dalai Lama and Desmond Tutu as reported by Douglas Abrams. All are welcome, whether you have read the book or not.

CASA ALTERNA CELEBRATION -- Sunday, August 7

August marks two years of hospitality for asylum seekers with Casa Alterna at the Atlanta Friends Meeting. It's time to celebrate this act of love and solidarity that has involved so many in the Meeting. Please join Anton, Charlotte, and their support committee at the rise of Meeting on August 7 for an informal celebration during social hour.

VIRTUAL DOCUMENTARY NIGHT: *FREE TO LEARN* -- Sunday, August 7

Virtual Documentary Night on August 7 from 7 to 9 pm features *Free To Learn*, which offers a “fly on the wall” perspective of the daily happenings at The Free School in Albany, New York. Like many of today's radical and democratic schools, The Free School expects children to decide for themselves how to spend their days. Watch the documentary (for free) in advance at <https://vimeo.com/16115695>, then RSVP at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/virtual-documentary-night-tickets-382701770297>. For more details and general info: <https://documentarynight.wordpress.com/> or attender Adam King at CommunityDocumentaryNight@gmail.com or 404-414-8917.

MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS -- Sunday, August 21

Stay after meeting for worship, whether in person or via Zoom. Meeting for Business will be held in a combined format about 11:45. Minutes from our last Meeting for Business are below. http://atlantaquakers.org/site_pdf_docs/Guidelines_for_Meeting_for_Business.pdf has more information about how meeting for worship with attention to business works.

QUAKER MEN'S RETREAT -- Friday to Sunday, September 9 to 11

On Friday, September 9 through Sunday, September 11, there will be a Men's Retreat (man is self-defined) at the Ferguson Cabins at Lake Burton, one of the best places to get away from the city. There will be canoeing, hiking, fishing (you'll need a license), relaxing, being with nature, and visiting. Cost is \$20/person per night plus cost of food. Total of \$62 for two nights and all meals. The retreat will start as early as 4 pm on Friday afternoon. We will conclude after morning worship and a meal on Sunday at about 1:00 pm. Contact Eric Glenn (678-598-0910 or eric.glenn64@gmail.com) or Bert Skellie (bertskellie@gmail.com) for more info. Eric & Bert will shop, and we will all share food costs. Let Eric know of any dietary restrictions. Only enough indoor space for 15 men. Sign up soon with Eric, by September 4 at latest. Scholarships are available if cost is a reason not to come; let Eric know. We will also help organize carpools. Items to bring: pillow, blanket & sheets or sleeping bag, medications.

PROPERTY COORDINATOR POSITION AVAILABLE – applications due as soon as possible

The Meeting is looking for a part-time, paid *Property Coordinator*. The Property Coordinator, whose work schedule varies weekly, will handle upkeep, maintenance and minor repairs to the Meetinghouse. Applicants should have some experience doing building repairs and working with contractors. To obtain a job description, to ask questions about this position, or to apply, contact atlantaquakers@gmail.com as soon as possible.

YOUNG FRIENDS PROGRAM COORDINATOR POSITION AVAILABLE – applications due ASAP

The Meeting is conducting a search for a Young Friends Program Coordinator (approximately 10 to 12 hours per week), who provides engaging youth activities based in Quaker faith and practice, connects youth to the Meeting and to each other, and provides a stable and healthy social support for youth in the AFM community. The Program Coordinator works with young persons in three age groups: upper elementary (3rd through 5th grades), middle school (grades 6 through 8) and high school (grades 9 through 12). Position activities will be dynamic as the needs of the Program will fluctuate with the demographics of AFM youth. Program Coordinator Responsibilities will be dynamic with the needs of the Program and include Program development in collaboration with the Young Friends Support Committee, program implementation, volunteer coordination, and event leadership. To obtain a job description and list of qualifications or to ask questions about this position or to apply, contact atlantaquakers@gmail.com as soon as possible.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE SEEKS MODERATOR FOR AFM FACEBOOK GROUP

The meeting's Facebook group has two moderators who are identified by the Nominating Committee and approved by Meeting for Business. If you might be interested in one of these positions, contact Ann Ritter from Nominating or Nina Gooch, who's currently serving as a moderator.

MEMBERSHIP IN ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING

The Ministry and Worship Committee invites you to consider membership in Atlanta Friends Meeting. Information about this process and about the October 31, 2021 forum on membership can be found at http://atlantaquakers.org/_afm_newsletters/AFM_Newsletter_2021-12.pdf, and the meeting's guide to membership at http://atlantaquakers.org/_site_pdf_docs/AFM_Membership_guidelines-201703.pdf. Please contact any member of Ministry and Worship if you have questions.

RESOURCES FROM JUNE 4 "CHOOSING HOPE" WORKSHOP

On June 4, Green Friends sponsored a workshop on choosing hope, facilitated by Beth Remmes. Kathy Johnson shared this article that, she said, spoke to much of that content, which is about continuing action, even when we are hurt:

<https://slate.com/news-and-politics/2022/06/uvalde-shooting-politics-is-the-poison-and-the-cure.html>.

She highlighted this quote from the article: "The essential bit is . . . not something in need of quick fixing; it is instead honored. It means that we are obligated to gather up, tend to and honor the pain, but also to take up the work of healing . . . My friend Dahna turned this into a prescription:

"Let's not be ok. Let's find power in not being ok. Let's honor our brokenness – and the brokenness of our country – by finding the collective strength to fight for change."

ORDERING DEIDRE McCALLA's CD *ENDLESS GRACE*

If you missed the release celebration for Deidre's new CD *Endless Grace* June 26 at Eddie's Attic or want to enjoy the fabulous harmonies on the CD, you can still download the album or purchase a CD (or previous CD) at <https://deidremccalla.bandcamp.com/>. The album title is taken from a line in the song "I Do Not Walk This Path Alone": "There are legions I will never see/ Fighting the good fight with me/ They soldier on with *ENDLESS GRACE*/ So the world can be a better place."

RESOURCES & VIDEO: QUAKERS & INDIGENOUS BOARDING SCHOOLS: MAKING AMENDS

Below is a recording of the Quakers for Racial Equality (QRE) June 26 forum on Quakers & Indigenous Boarding Schools: Paths to Making Amends. QRE thanks Judy Lumb for her research. The resource list includes action steps, such as supporting the truth and healing commission, supporting language & culture programs, and supporting indigenous land recovery.

Link to resources and action opportunities:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1VSVHcXQxiLYrjma1hC31bqKdnwrnFGpp/view?usp=sharing>

PDF version of PowerPoint presentation, 6-26-2022:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/13xNdvV7Lzq1vIHHzHZ5fKN88hilxEovN0/view?usp=sharing>

Link to video of 6-26-2022 presentation and sharing:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1HwrLEbHsu6BMXfzU7gK_tI7uv2qPZtNN/view?usp=sharing

MINUTES FOR SEVENTH MONTH MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS

July 17, 2022, held in person and via Zoom in a blended meeting

Minutes Recorded Pending Approval

Attendance: Elizabeth Muller, Anton Flores-Maisonet, Ronald Nuse, Don Bender, Judy Bender, Steve Collins, Bill Hooson, Teri Key-Hooson, Myrna Trapp, Elizabeth Lamb, Lissa Place, Mary Place, Georgia K. Lord, Lynn Leuszler, Aaron Ruscetta, Julia Ewen, Caroline Morris, Paul Mangelsdorf, Alberta Guise, Alison Mawle, Bert Skellie, Jay Roache, Kevin Moran, Jim Tolmach, Sue May, Richard Allen, Nina Gooch, Cathy Amanti, Susan Firestone, Glenn Plyler, Karen terHorst Morris, Sa'ed Atshan, Jennifer Dickie (Clerk), Wesley Morris (acting Recording Clerk)

Worship

Query

How do I interact with cultural / racial groups other than my own in my community and in the wider community?

Source: modified from SAYMA *A Guide to Our Faith and Our Practice*, 4th edition, 2021, A.32

https://www.sayma.org/online_documents/faith_and_practice/F&P2021final.pdf

Reminder of how we use colors in MfB on Zoom:

Green-Agreement, Red-Concern, White-Question, Black-Answer to a question

Discernment:

QVS Support - Steve Collins reported for the QVS Support Committee.

Minute 07-17-2022-01: Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the minute of appreciation for Rachel Carter, QVS Local Coordinator:

In the summer of 2020, National Quaker Voluntary Service (QVS) welcomed Rachael Carter, a former Atlanta QVS Fellow, as its next Atlanta QVS Local Coordinator. We extend our appreciation for Rachael's two years of service through the summer of 2022. Rachael's initial year as Coordinator came during a resurgence of anti-Blackness within the context of racial, gendered, homophobic, transphobic and economic unrest. In addition, there was the challenge of the global pandemic and QVS's decisive move to online (virtual) as a primary means of engagement.

Amidst all of this, Rachael was a steadfast, careful, prudent, curious (intellectually and relationally), loving, and socially and emotionally intelligent presence throughout their time

with us. We are deeply grateful for Rachael's service in our community during these past two years.

Rachael will soon be leaving for Pennsylvania to continue their leadership as QVS's Philadelphia Local Coordinator.

We wish Rachael well and hold them in the light in their next ventures and endeavors.

Ministry and Worship - Bill Hooson reported for the ministry and worship committee.

Minute 7-17-22:02- On the recommendation of the Ministry and Worship Committee, the Atlanta Friends Meeting approves and welcomes David Small into membership.

Administration: Steve Collins reported for the Administration Committee.

Anton Flores, Friend-in-Residence (FiR) for AFM since July 27, 2019, has agreed at the request of the committee to serve a 4th year. As prescribed in the Meeting's Handbook, Meeting for Business approval is required for such an extension.

Below is the relevant excerpt from the FiR job description. ***Term:** Two year minimum, with an option to extend the term for up to two extra years with approval of the Meeting for Business. For any subsequent years thereafter, the Friend in Residence may apply for consideration for reappointment. Such reappointment could only be made after a search committee is formed, a search process for candidates is conducted, and any other applicants are genuinely considered.*

Minute 07-17-2022-03: The Meeting approves the extension of Anton Flores for a 4th year of service as Friend in Residence through July 31, 2023.

At a later date, Administration plans to propose to the Meeting a modification to the above section of the FiR job description. Due in part to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the Meeting during much of 2020 and 2021 and the inability of the Friend in Residence to fully perform the role for which he was hired, we feel that the Administration committee's option to extend the term of the FiR should be modified to allow more flexibility.

Reports

Working Group on Uses of Meeting House: Alison Mawle reported for the working group on the use of the meeting house.

The Working Group on Uses of the Meeting House has revised recommendations for precautions around COVID19. Other than the masking requirements, where we follow CDC recommendations, we want to move as close as possible to normal (pre- COVID) use. We will continue to monitor the local and national situation going forward.

Atlanta Friends Meeting Covid Guidelines - Update July 2022

Do not come if you don't feel well for any reason

1. Mask wearing will follow CDC guidelines for Dekalb county COVID assessment (updated on Thursdays):

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html>

- a. Low - masks optional
- b. Medium - masks optional
- c. High - masks required

Masks and hand sanitizer will continue to be available at the meeting house

2. Attendance sheets will no longer be needed, except for newcomers. If we are made aware that someone has come down with COVID, we will send a blast email if necessary
3. The kitchen will be reopened for regular use
4. Coffee set-up can be inside
5. Potluck will restart in September (9/3, Labor Day weekend), if we can get a group of volunteers to take this on as a regular commitment.
6. Water fountain can be switched back on. However, at the request of our renters, it will remain switched off for now.
7. Handshakes remain optional
8. First Day School will start as usual with masking optional now that vaccines are available for all children 6 months and older.

Ministry and Worship: Bill Hooson reporting for Ministry and Worship Committee

One of the great joys of being on the Ministry and Worship committee is working with new members, one of which is Sa'ed Atshan, who is transferring his membership from Central Philadelphia Monthly Meeting of Friends to Atlanta Friends Meeting. In April 2022 CPMM wrote a letter recommending him in glowing terms and approved his request to transfer. This 7th month we officially welcome Sa'ed Atshan into membership at Atlanta Friends Meeting.

Finance Committee - Paul Manglesdorf reported for the finance committee.

[Second Quarter Report](https://tinyurl.com/mryrjdtf) linked here: <https://tinyurl.com/mryrjdtf>

As of June 30, 2022, AFM is running a \$11,764 deficit YTD. A deficit through this part of the year is usual, as contribution income is largely received in the 4th quarter. The deficit is \$5,619 less than was budgeted through June. Further, donations arriving in late June are not included in this report due to the timing of processing those donations. So, the likely deficit is likely significantly lower. Income YTD is \$9,893 less than the same period in the prior year driven by the higher expenses this year and by the timing of donations noted above.

Expenses are running \$10,541 more than the prior year driven by occupancy expense and because we are making contributions to the Permanent Improvement Fund this year which was \$3,750 through June. Employee expense is higher than last year although below budget. Occupancy expense is over budget by \$1,006 and higher than the prior year by \$3,561. Higher Occupancy was a result of higher utility expenses (including the impact of a delay in the Solar Panels going live) and higher building maintenance (repairing an HVAC unit, repairing an electrical circuit in the kitchen, and repairing an outside faucet).

Compared to year-end, our balance sheet is \$41,808 smaller. This is the result of the YTD deficit of \$11,764 and payment of the initial amount due on the solar system installation and by minor changes in the balances of the other funds. On the asset side of the balance sheet Checking balances are \$23,288 lower and receivables (Undeposited funds and Due from Pay Pal) decreased by \$18,437. The negative Assistance Fund balance and the negative Gifts and Affiliations are timing issues, and both are now positive.

Year to date we are running a net deficit of \$11,754 which is normal for this time of year. In terms of expenses we are running over-budget. We had assumed we would be operating the solar panels by now but we are still paying our full electric bill. Gas bills were up this year so we are paying more than expected on this. We paid for the air handler for the library. We still haven't filled a few positions (Young Friends Program Coordinator and Property Coordinator) so we are under-budget on staff.

CUR-AFM - Lissa Place reported for CUR-AFM

CUR-AFM includes many Friends from different committees. Ad-hoc group composed a new official policy to help everyone in the meeting feel valued, safe, and respected. Intent is to help build and restore loving community. Initial draft of policy shared for questions and comments. Second draft included feedback. We have received significant feedback and incorporated those things into the document. We are now introducing it to meeting.

Expected Timeline

- Initial review in July
- More questions in August
- Final discernment in September

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Interpersonal Racist Incident Policy

Introduction:

Atlanta Friends Meeting (AFM) is committed to being a multicultural anti-racist spiritual home for all, where we strive for everyone to feel valued, safe, and respected. Racism cuts us off from fully honoring that of God in all people and limits our spiritual community. To build an equitable Quaker community in a society shaped by racism, we need both ongoing anti-racist education and up-to-date policies that address harm caused by racism within our Meeting.

This racist incident policy is specifically related to interpersonal incidents among members and attenders of AFM in which one Black, Indigenous, or Person of Color participant experiences interpersonal racial harm due to another participant’s words or actions. AFM policies or institutional practices that cause harm based on the race of one person or group will be addressed separately. The intent of this policy is to help AFM build and restore beloved community, to recognize the harm caused by racist incidents, to lovingly care for both the person who experienced the harm and the person who caused injury, and to lead to transformation and strengthened connection within our Meeting.

Both words and silences, actions and inactions may cause harm. Comments or actions, even those that are unintentional, may send negative messages which, cumulatively, contribute greatly to the daily racial stress and wounding for Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color (sometimes called “microaggressions”). The impact on People of Color can be very damaging even when the person who caused the harm did not intend to do so. We acknowledge that it is difficult to know the right things to do or say in this work and the best intentions can still have harmful impact. This policy is not intended to accuse anyone of wrongdoing but to help all of us to grow in our understanding of how to care for one another in our community. We trust that way will open as we do this work of anti-racism in our Meeting.

This policy sets out how interpersonal racist incidents, including microaggressions, among AFM participants will be addressed within our Meeting with attention to the Spirit and restoring beloved community. The process is intended to create a community of love and caring, keeping our community whole and addressing harms with an openness towards learning and coming together.

The purpose of this policy is to:

1. define an interpersonal racist incident occurring at AFM
2. address interpersonal racist incidents anywhere within the life of our Meeting
3. resolve, as far as is possible, any interpersonal racist incident that occurs
4. further the goal of AFM to become an anti-racist meeting connected spiritually to each other.

Racist Incident Procedure Outline

1. For the purposes of this procedure, an interpersonal racist incident is defined as one in which one Black, Indigenous, or Person of Color, AFM participant experiences interpersonal racial harm due to another AFM participant's words/silences or actions/inactions.

The person who experienced the harm defines the incident as racist.

This process presumes participation by the person who experienced the harm. However, the person who experienced the harm can choose not to participate in the full process. In such an event, the process will be modified accordingly.

2. The Standing Racist Incident Response Group is responsible for dealing with racist incidents. The Standing Response Group will be under the care of the Committee on Undoing Racism in Atlanta Friends Meeting (CURAFM). The Standing Response Group will stand ready for immediate response to any reported racist incidents that arise.

- A. Composition of the Standing Racist Incident Response Group [referred to as the Standing Response Group]

The Standing Response Group will consist of 4 people.

- Standing Response Group membership will be confirmed through the Nominating process and Meeting for Business.
- CURAFM will work with Nominating in consultation with Friends of Color to identify potential Standing Response Group members.
- The Standing Response Group membership will include two members who will take turns serving as the facilitator in responding to incidents. Standing Response Group facilitators shall be trained in conflict resolution models, e.g. restorative justice practices.
- Standing Response Group membership is a two-year term. The initial Standing Response Group will have two members serve a one-year term to establish staggered rotation of membership.
- It is possible for the Standing Response Group to ask additional people to serve in response to a particular incident if that is appropriate and will not hold up the process of responding to the incident. CURAFM will keep a list of additional potential members who have agreed to serve in response to an incident if needed.
- The group responding to a particular racist incident will be selected from the Standing Racist Incident Response Group and any additional potential members in consultation with the person who experienced harm.

- B. Contact people include the CURAFM clerk and the two Standing Response Group facilitators. Names of designated contact people will be well-publicized through AFM sources such as announcements, newsletter, signage, and directory.

- C. Contact people will be responsible for regularly checking the designated voicemail and email accounts set up for the purpose of reporting racist incidents.

3. Reporting a racist incident.

Identities of all the people involved in racist incidents will be kept confidential.

- A. Any of the following can report a racist incident:

- Person who experienced harm
- Witness (with agreement from the person who experienced harm)
- Someone who was confided in (with agreement from the person who experienced harm)

- B. How to report an incident:

Racist incidents are reported to designated contact people.

Contact people can be contacted:

- in person
- by phone
- by email

4. Upon notification of a racist incident, the Contact person will report the incident to the Standing Response Group.
5. The Standing Response Group begins the process of resolution. The Response Group will:
 1. invite the person who experienced harm to choose a person for accompaniment through the process, preferably someone from Atlanta Friends Meeting.
 2. meet with the person who has been harmed
 3. confer with the person who caused the harm in a spirit of love and caring. The person who experienced the harm may choose not to participate in this part of the process
 4. determine a process to repair the harm with the person who experienced harm
6. The Response Group, with the person who experienced the harm, discerns a path forward to repair the harm. The person who experienced the harm may choose to end the process at any time.

Repairing the harm may include:

1. being heard and held in worship by the Response Group
2. in a worshipful setting, the person who caused the harm listens to the experience of the person who was harmed
3. apology to the person who experienced the harm
4. education for the person who caused the harm
5. a description of how the community was harmed by the incident
6. examination of structural causes and appropriate changes to AFM policy & procedures
7. ongoing anti-racist education for the AFM community as a whole

The Response Group should be conscious that the process itself may cause painful reminders of other unresolved hurts for the person who was harmed.

7. We acknowledge that there may be instances where the person harmed chooses not to participate in the process or does not complete the process. We also acknowledge that there may be instances where reparation of the harm is not possible. That should not preclude Atlanta Friends Meeting from responding as a caring community, continuing anti-racist education, and examining structural racism within our meeting.
8. The Clerk of CURAFM will keep a generic record of all interpersonal racist incidents for the accountability and transparency of the organization. This generic record will include: when the incident was reported, type of incident, if/when/how it was addressed, and when and for how long the committee met. No names will be included in this generic record.
9. CURAFM will annually review the policy and any incidents that have been handled through this process to determine potential changes to the process, identify structural issues and appropriate supports within Atlanta Friends Meeting, and work to build a proactive anti-racist community.

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Clarifying Questions

- Was there anything that precipitated this? How did it come about in the first place?
 - There was no precipitating event. Our meeting in a lot of different ways has been working on racism for decades. This is a part of a whole process our meeting has been working on.
 - There have been incidents over the past 20 years, but not necessarily right now.

- Is there any thought of using this as a policy template for other situations like LGBTQ or immigrant community.
 - It's something to consider.
- Could this policy be shared outside of this meeting as a template for other community organizations around or outside Atlanta? It is very clear.
 - Something we can consider once it is approved.

Lissa Place, Karen Morris, Susan Firestone can be contacted for further questions
There will be an opportunity for deeper questions at August Meeting for Business

Nominating Committee - Lissa Place reported for nominating committee

Nominating committee is bringing forward David Small for AFM Assistant Clerk. Please take time this month to get to know David Small, if you don't already know him.

Nominating committee is bringing forward three names for the Young Friends Support Committee - Lisa Kruse, Edith Rose, Brent Wolff. Please take time to get to know these Friends, if you don't know them already.

The work of the YFSC is outlined in the AFM Handbook. It is to establish guidelines for adults working with young friends, appoint clearness committees, model Quaker process and values, help with Young Friends Business Meeting, Coordinate with SAYF, coordinate YF events, and develop ways to include young friends in the life of the meeting.

SAYMA Representative report: Alison Mawle reported as the SAYMA Rep.

SAYMA YM51 report

The SAYMA yearly meeting was held at Warren Wilson College on June 16-19 2022, in a hybrid format. Attendees seemed very grateful to be finally back in person, and I was glad to be able to attend my first SAYMA meeting as the representative for AFM. Young Friends were also present in person, with SAYF and younger Friends having their own activities.

As many of you are aware, this was a particularly difficult year for SAYMA, with the real possibility that the organization might suspend operations, either partially or completely, for the coming year, or even that it might disband completely. I'm very happy to report that did not happen, and it was clear to me that a tremendous amount of work had been done leading up to this meeting to make sure that SAYMA had a path forward.

I don't mean to suggest that this was an easy meeting. It was not, and there was a significant amount of tension in all of the discussions. However, SAYMA does have a plan for the year ahead.

The following is a summary of the actions taken at Meeting for Business:

1. The Nominating Committee presented a full slate of positions for the coming year, which was approved. The Co-Clerks for 2022- 2024 will be Margaret Farmer (Ashville) and Daryl Bergquist (Birmingham).
2. A deficit budget was approved, which will use a significant amount of the surplus that has been under discussion. This removes the issue of how to handle the surplus.
3. URJ requested \$10,000 in funding, which was denied. However, the donor-directed fund will be released for use by URJ.

4. An anti-racist training program for SAYMA was presented and approved. The training is entitled "Understanding White Supremacy: What it is, how it works, and what Friends can do about it", and will have 3 facilitators; Sharon "Star" Smith, Shannon Roberts Smith and Angela Hopkins (Friends Center for Racial Justice, Ithaca). The goal is to offer the training to all of SAYMA over the next 2 years, starting with those who hold positions within SAYMA.
5. The Ministry and Nurture committee presented 2 reports; The State of SAYMA Monthly Meetings Report and The State of SAYMA Yearly Meeting Report, which were both accepted.

The official minutes have not yet been released, and when they are, I will share them and the relevant documents with AFM.

Committee Corner:

Administration Committee – Search Committees

Search committees have been formed for the two open positions in the Meeting – Property Coordinator (PC) and Young Friends Program Coordinator (YFPC). The PC search committee consists of Jack Honderd, Carolyn Coburn-Allen, Beth Ruddiman, and Steve Collins. The YFPC search committee members are Carolyn Coburn-Allen, Laura MacNorlin, Jonah McDonald, Gwen Davies, Sage Hallward, and Steve Collins. Applicants for both positions have submitted letters of interest and resumes. Brief classified advertisements for the two positions are now in the Friends Journal --- <https://www.friendsjournal.org/classified/>. Search committee meetings are being scheduled.

Administration Committee – Solar Panels

Creative Solar has completed installation and related electrical work on the solar panel array. We await final inspection by Georgia Power before the panels become operative; unfortunately, Georgia Power has an extensive backlog of sites to inspect.

Social Concerns Committee: Glenn Plyler reported for the SSC

Information about our current activities: Our meeting on 10 July 2022 was focused on Women's Issues and Voting impact on those Issues plus support for Beacon Hill Alliance.

1. Support Beacon Hill Festival with \$200
2. Support Women's Rights Local Planned Parenthood and another organization. \$500 split.
3. Georgia Coalition for the People's Agenda \$200

General opinion of SCC members in our meeting was that the loss of women's rights is devastating to our society in ways that impact everyone's welfare. Danger is so great that it has deconstructed centuries of human rights advances.

Announcements:

- July 31 Forum on Vocal Ministry presented by Marianne Downey and Bill Holland after the rise of Meeting
- July 25 - Georgia Lord & Sally Michael will attend a Zoning meeting in Rabun county about the proposed rezoning of the property immediately adjacent to the Ferguson Cabin. Georgia will bring a rep to the August MfB

Approval of Minutes from 5th month 2022

Minute 7-17-2022:4: The Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the fifth month minutes.

Closing Worship

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

ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING

Office Hours: Monday thru Thursday, 10 am to 1 pm and Friday, by appointment

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

voicemail/phone: 404-377-2474

Clerk: Jennifer Dickie, afmclerk1@gmail.com

Treasurer: Lynn Leuszler, afmtreasurer1@gmail.com

Ways to communicate and receive information:

- You may receive the announcement sheets and other announcements relating directly to the life of the meeting. This is the announcement email 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 via email. This is the discussion email list.
- You may receive notification that the newsletter is online. This is the newsletter email list.
- **You may receive weekly reminders about in person and Zoom worship and First Day School via a new email list.** This is the worship reminder list.

To join any of these email lists above, please email the office at atlantaquakers@gmail.com

To join the meeting's Facebook group, search for Atlanta Friends Meeting & click the + **Join Group** button.

Do you need a directory, printed or electronic?

Email atlantaquakers@gmail.com or call 404-377-2474

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.

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! Place a financial contribution in the slot marked "Contributions" in the greeting area of the Meetinghouse or mail to our mailing address. Donate online at atlantaquakers.org/contact.htm with a credit card or paypal. Sign up to volunteer on Sunday morning, at <http://tinyurl.com/afmvolunteers>. Contact the Nominating Committee to serve on a committee. Thanks!

Want to submit an announcement, letter, article, etc to the newsletter? Email atlquakerltr@gmail.com. Submissions may be edited for length and format. THE DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS IS THE 20TH DAY OF EACH PRECEDING MONTH.

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