

ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 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 SEPTEMBER

How do we make space to experience and share gratitude in our lives for joys, blessings, and wonder? How do we lift up our own joy and gratitude, and that of those around us, even in the face of distress, pain or trauma in our lives?

ABOUT QUERIES

Friends approach queries as a guide to self-examination, using them not as an outward set of rules, but as a framework within which we assess our convictions and examine, clarify, and consider prayerfully the direction of our lives and the life of the community.

WHAT DO FRIENDS BELIEVE?

written by Bill Holland

We are often asked, what do Friends believe. Contemporary Friends “believe” many things, but to my mind Quakerism is not so much about “ideas” or “doctrines,” but, rather a willingness to open yourself to the Light and to be guided by it. Robert Barclay in his Apology written in 1676, described it this way:

“Not by strength of arguments or by a particular disquisition of each doctrine and convincement of my understanding thereby, came I to receive and to bear witness to the Truth, but by being *secretly reached* by the Life. For when I came into the silent assemblies of God’s people, I felt a secret power among them which touched my heart; and as I gave way unto it I found the evil weakening and the good raised up and so I became thus knit and united unto them, hungering more and more after the increase of this power and life, whereby I might feel myself perfectly redeemed.”

Being “secretly reached by the Life” is a lived experience; by sitting together we can be touched in some kind of way, it is not so much one time experience, but an ongoing transformation a giving way to it that is powerful.

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

10 am Sundays, combined in person and Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89686276751?pwd=M29EYlIFWEhSQUtZRlVVPalfFFYmVDQT09>

Meeting ID: 896 8627 6751

Passcode: 789456

ADULT FIRST DAY SCHOOL

(see more details for each Sunday below)

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

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

Meeting ID: 860 6366 5797

Passcode: 013191

FIRST DAY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

10:15 am Sundays, in-person,

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.

WHAT DO THE MEETING'S COMMITTEES DO

Although Atlanta Friends Meeting has a Clerk and a few part-time employees, most of the work of the meeting is done by the members and attenders of the meeting, working in committees. Below is a brief overview of what the committees of Atlanta Friends Meeting do.

(More detailed information can be found in the Meeting Handbook at http://atlantaquakers.org/_site_pdf_docs/AFM_Handbook-rev_201703.pdf.)

If you'd like to consult with a committee, please see the list of committee clerks and contacts following the descriptions or contact the office at atlantaquakers@gmail.com or 404-451-5974 if you're not sure which committee might address your concerns. Nominating Committee is hosting a committee fair after meeting for worship on September 25 where you can learn more about these committees.

If you're interested in joining one of those committees, contact Lissa Place, clerk of Nominating, or the clerk of the committee itself. For some committees, most or all committee members are selected by Nominating and brought to Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business for approval. Other committees have one or two appointed members, including the Clerk, with the rest of the members just attenders interested in and active in the work of the committee. Details regarding this follow each description.

A **Naming Committee** is formed near the end of each year to select new members for the Nominating Committee, to be brought to Meeting for Business for approval. Once that year's Nominating Committee is complete, the Naming Committee is dissolved. (Members of this committee are selected by the Clerk of Atlanta Friends Meeting.)

The **Nominating Committee** matches the talents and interests of members and attenders of the Meeting with the needs of the Meeting and recommends persons for positions in the meeting, including Clerk of the meeting, other officers of the Meeting, committee clerks, members of Ministry and Worship, appointed members of Care and Counsel and Administration Committees, and representatives to associations within wider Quaker and Christian communities. Since First Day School teachers are nominated and approved by Meeting for Business, one of the members of this committee is also a member of the Religious Education Committee and serves as the RE Recruitment Liaison to the Religious Education Committee. (Members of this committee are named by the Naming Committee and must be approved by Meeting for Business.)

According to the handbook, the **Administration Committee** “serves as the overall coordinating group for functions and activities that impact the physical meetinghouse itself and the paid staff of the Meeting.” It coordinates maintenance and improvements to the meetinghouse and grounds, use of the building including rentals, and other logistical concerns. (Members of this committee are mostly employees and representatives of related committees, but there are a few at-large members who are nominated and must be approved by Meeting for Business.)

The **Care and Counsel Committee** cares for the needs of individual members and attenders and encourages them to participate fully in the Meeting community. It is concerned with the nurturing of the Meeting's individual members and their connection with the community. Along with the Ministry and Worship Committee, it helps to arrange memorial meetings for those in the AFM community. (The Committee has 6 to 8 members; the clerk and two of these members are nominated and must be approved by Meeting for Business.)

The **Committee on Undoing Racism in Atlanta Friends Meeting** (CURAFM): Although Social Concerns Committee, through Quakers for Racial Equality (QRE), also works on ending racism, the Committee on Undoing Racism in Atlanta Friends Meeting (CURAFM) focuses on working for racial equality within our own spiritual community. (The committee clerk is nominated and must be approved by Meeting for Business, but other members are not; they are members and attenders of the meeting particularly led to ministry in undoing racism.)

The **Ferguson Cabin Stewards Committee** oversees the Ferguson Cabin property on Lake Burton in the north Georgia mountains, and is responsible for the use, scheduling, maintenance, finances, and the future development of the property. The Cabin is used by individuals, families, and groups from the Meeting, as well as by like-minded religious and community groups. (Members of the committee must be approved by Meeting for Business.)

The **Finance Committee** prepares the budget and brings it to Meeting for Business for review and approval, monitors the receipts and expenditures of the meeting, recommends policy statements on financial matters for approval to the Meeting for Business, arranges for audits, and handles other financial matters. (The clerk, Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer are nominated and approved by Meeting for Business; other members are not.)

The **Gathered Meeting Retreat Planning Committee** plans the annual Gathered Meeting Retreat, which provides an opportunity for participants to explore and deepen their spiritual lives, and thus affect the spiritual life of the meeting. (The clerk is nominated and must be approved by Meeting for Business; other members are not.)

The **Hospitality Committee** makes sure that supplies are available in the Meetinghouse kitchen for the weekly coffee time at the rise of Meeting for Worship and other events. It also arranges hospitality for out-of-town guests of the Meeting including accommodations, transportation and meals. (The clerk is nominated and must be approved by meeting for worship; other members are not.)

The **Landscape Committee** oversees the maintenance and improvement of the Meeting's grounds, including the lower level behind the parking lot, around the building, and the playground area. (The clerk is nominated and must be approved by Meeting for Business; other members are not. Participation by everyone in workdays is also encouraged.)

The **Library Committee** maintains and improves the Meeting Library purchasing books and other material as needed. It focuses on materials by and about the Religious Society of Friends. Purchasing is done in consultation with the Religious Education Committee, other committees and individuals (The clerk is nominated and must be approved by Meeting for Business; other members are not.)

The **Ministry and Worship Committee** develops and encourages the spiritual growth of the Meeting and its members. It seeks to ensure that each meeting for worship begins with quiet and reverent assembling; that it proceeds on the basis of a silent and attentive search for divine guidance; that it is served by spoken ministry inspired as way opens and addressed to the conditions of those present; and that it is closed at an appropriate time. It is responsible for marriage under the care of the meeting, for membership in the meeting, for worship groups under the care of the meeting and for selecting monthly queries. Along with the Care and Counsel Committee, it helps to arrange memorial meetings for those in the AFM community. (Members of this committee are all nominated and approved by meeting for worship and must be members of Atlanta Friends Meeting.)

The **Religious Education Committee** supports the children of the Meeting from nursery care through high school. The young people in our Meeting are cherished. They deserve our loving care and education in the subjects, areas, and testimonies that our Meeting holds dear. The Religious Education Committee endeavors to provide a supportive environment for young Friends to explore their values and beliefs and learn about the faith and practice of Friends; provide worship and learning opportunities outside the larger First Day Meeting; recruits, trains, and supports teachers and doorkeepers; and fosters the relationship between adults and children in the Meeting. (The following members of Religious Education are nominated and must be approved by Meeting for Business: the clerk, class teachers, the RE Recruitment Liaison to Nominating Committee, the Nursery Liaison. Other people interested in being on this committee or in volunteering in the Nursery or First Day School should contact the clerk of the committee.)

The **Social Concerns Committee** encourages and supports individual members and attenders in their social concern leadings. It plans and organizes the Meeting's social justice outreach. Green Friends and Quakers for Racial Equality are current examples of subgroups that can be formed under the wing of the Social Concerns Committee. (The Clerk of Social Concerns is nominated and must be approved by Meeting for Business; the meetings and work of the committee are open to anyone interested.)

The **Young Friends Support Committee** encourages, nurtures and builds a Young Friends Program that models Quaker process and values by fostering community building, worship, service and fellowship. It works closely with the Young Friends Program Coordinator. (The clerk and members of the committee are nominated and must be approved by Meeting for Business.)

**PLEASE HOLD
IN THE LIGHT:**

Ruby Beth Buitekant & family
Nzigimana Obede & family
Clive Gordon
Eric Glenn
A.M. Barrett & family
Jeremiah Gold-Hopton
Mary Bartlett & family

*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, lissplace@yahoo.com
Newsletter Editor: Nina Gooch, atlquakerltr@gmail.com
Webmaster: Aaron Ruschetta, 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.

LETTER FROM SAYMA TO YOUNG ADULT FRIENDS

Dear Friends,

We are reaching out because you either (1) attended SAYMA [Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association] Sessions & Retreat this year and were recorded as one of the 25 Young Adult Friends (18-35 yrs) who joined us, or (2) you are a Young Adult Friend (YAF) who is active in a SAYMA monthly meeting, preparative meeting or worship group.

We have been reflecting on the importance of your presence in SAYMA and the profound need we feel for your generational lens and your guidance. We recognize that you have much at stake on this planet and we feel led to support you to find impactful ways to lend your wisdom in SAYMA.

Here is a short version of what we want you to know and consider.

- 1. SAYMA was granted money from the Kenworthy estate to support young adult Friends to deepen their Quaker connections - the scholarship for SAYMA Sessions for YAF came from this bequest.*
- 2. We hope YAFs will be involved in or even in control of how the Kenworthy bequest is used on their behalf.*
- 3. Few to no SAYMA committees have young adult Friend representation at this time. There may be financial support for YAFs who are interested in supporting SAYMA through serving on committees, if that is needed.*
- 4. There are three committees who are extending an immediate welcome to YAFs who feel called to help guide us. SAYMA Ministry and Nurture, SAYMA Finance, and SAYMA Yearly Meeting Planning Committee.*

If you are led to know more about any of these things, read below and please contact any one of us listed on this email.

In Peace,

Margaret Farmer, SAYMA co-clerk, <ziptsnork@gmail.com>

Daryl Bergquist, SAYMA co-clerk, <earthstewardsolar@icloud.com>

Adrian Mehr, M&N co-clerk, <v.adrian.mehr@gmail.com>

Diana Masso, M&N co-clerk, <diana.mass@gmail.com>

Karen Morris, Finance clerk, <karenth.1415@gmail.com>

Jennifer Dickie, YMPC clerk <YMPC@SAYMA.org>

Read More: [Editor's Note: Numbers below match numbers in summary above.]

- 1. SAYMA was granted money from the Kenworthy estate to support young adult Friends to deepen their Quaker connections - the scholarship for SAYMA Sessions for YAF came from this bequest. The total amount donated was \$25,000. We used about \$4,000 for SAYMA sessions scholarships in 2022.*
- 2. We hope YAFs will be involved in or even in control of how the Kenworthy bequest is used on their behalf. In order for us to know how YAFs want to use this money for deepening Quaker connections we would like to re-establish a clerk for Young Adult Friends. This person would serve on the YM Planning Committee and do some outreach to YAFs in SAYMA throughout the year.*
- 3. Few to no SAYMA committees have young adult Friend representation at this time. We understand that YAFs are often in transitional times of their lives and some don't even live year round in the SAYMA region so being on a regional committee can be challenging. However, with technology we are doing more business via Zoom with less traveling. This means less time commitment and less cost for committee members. We imagine that some of the Kenworthy bequest might be well spent to support YAFs to serve on committees, if there is a financial barrier to this service.*
- 4. There are three committees who are extending an immediate welcome to YAFs who feel called to help guide us. Some members of some committees are approved by yearly meeting, some members are appointed to the committees by their Monthly Meetings*
 - SAYMA Ministry and Nurture (M&N) is looking for Friends from every monthly meeting to be represented. SAYMA Faith and Practice asks each meeting to discern what Friends in their meeting have gifts that would be appropriate for service on this committee for at least a one year term. Would you consider being a representative from your monthly meeting to SAYMA M&N? This committee was responsible for deciding to use some of the Kenworthy bequest as scholarships to aid YAFs to attend SAYMA this year. (Contact M&N co-clerks Diana Masso and Adrien Mher)*
 - SAYMA Yearly Meeting Planning Committee (YMPC) has historically had a YAF representative who is responsible for some of the outreach to YAFs, for helping to plan the YM Sessions & Retreat, and clerking YAF business meeting at YM Sessions. YMPC Meetings are held once a month via Zoom starting in September. (Contact YMPC clerk Jennifer Dickie)*
 - SAYMA Finance doesn't actually make decisions about HOW the Kenworthy bequest is going to be spent, but they do ensure the overall financial workings of the organization and would appreciate the insights of a Young Adult Friend. (Contact finance clerk Karen Morris)*

More ways to be involved!

- *Peace and Social Concerns and Earthcare Committees are other SAYMA committees that might be of interest*
(Contact Susan Phelan, SAYMA Administrative Assistant, <SAYMAoffice@gmail.com>)
- *Anti-racism study/worship sharing group co-facilitator for work with Friends of SAYMA*
(Contact organizer Shannon Roberts Smith, <smileysl.roberts@gmail.com>)

MORE FROM SAYMA: SAYMA MINUTES NOW ONLINE

Minutes from Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association's (SAYMA's) meetings for worship with attention to business at June's annual Gathering and Sessions can be read at <https://tinyurl.com/44dxm8h6>. SAYMA's website is www.sayma.org.

RECORDING & ADDITIONAL RESOURCES: TRAUMA HEALING, DECOLONIZING QUAKERS, REPARATIONS FOR QUAKER SLAVE HOLDING

Quakers for Racial Equality (QRE) thanks Folami Prescott-Adams and Kevin Moran for sharing their reflections about the workshops/ webinars, "Be the Healing," "Decolonizing Quakers/ monolith + emqire," and "Making Reparations for Quaker Slave Holding" at the July 24 QRE forum. Now you can see a full recording, resources shared at that forum, and links to supplemental resources at https://drive.google.com/file/d/1EFgvLSQr-5TM_rEBjaeE74jgrzV1dXV5/view?usp=sharin.

RESOURCES ON AFRICAN AMERICAN SUFRRAGISTS AND ON VOTING

In honor of the celebration of Women's Equality Day (August 26) and the 19th amendment, Susan Firestone shared a link to "Honoring African American Suffragists & Civil/Voting Rights leaders" as well as links to non-partisan voting information and to the "Vote for Your Life" Resources by a coalition working for voting rights and reproductive justice.

- *Link to Honoring African American Suffragists & Civil/Voting Rights Leaders PDF:*
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1PUBySKrkz30PCJz4j1fkFWMih9doSKOb/view?usp=sharing>
- *Georgia My Voter Page:* <https://mvp.sos.ga.gov/s/>
- *Georgia Online Voter Registration:* <https://registertovote.sos.ga.gov/GAOLVR/welcome.do>
- *The Georgia Voter Guide: Your Comprehensive Non-Partisan Guide to voting in the Peach State:* <https://www.georgiavoter.guide/>
- *Vote for your Life, Fall 2022, resources on voting rights and reproductive justice:*
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1BakkL9tUu62RG4IHWptAgdy170pm4N-I8_XODnRdpE/edit

SIGNING UP TO PROVIDE MEALS AT HAGAR'S HOUSE (POST COVID)

Before COVID, twice a year Atlanta Friends Meeting would provide and serve evening meals for a week at Hagar's House, Decatur Cooperative Ministries' (DCM's) shelter for families and children. DCM and Hagar's House have reached out to us with changes to how we can help provide meals to residents at the shelter. Now, volunteers sign up directly and are just being asked to drop off food. You can sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080d4dafab28a3fd0-2022>. If this will be your first time providing dinner at Hagar's House, please email serve@dcmshines.org after signing up.

BOOKS BY AND ABOUT PEOPLE OF COLOR – Thursday, September 1 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. They are currently meeting in person and via Zoom. On September 1, they'll read and discuss poetry selected by members of the group. Future books include:

October 6, *Harlem Shuffle* by Colson Whitehead

November 3, *The Sentence* by Louise Erdrich

December 1, *The Buddha in the Attic* by Julie Otsuka

January 5, 2023, *The Love Songs of W.E.B. DuBois* by Honoree Fanonne Jeffers

February 2, 2023, *Daughter of Fortune* by Isabelle Allende

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

SPIRITUAL JOURNEYS AND ADULT FIRST DAY SCHOOL – Sundays, September 4, 11, 18, 25

Adult First Day School meets in person at the meetinghouse, and people continue to be able to join via Zoom. (See the second page of 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 September 4, Deidre McCalla will share her Spiritual Journey. (To hear Ruby-Beth Buitekant's Spiritual Journey, shared November 1, 2020, visit <https://tinyurl.com/y2mmu7ba>. 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 third, fourth and fifth Sundays, they will be 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.

GREEN FRIENDS -- Sunday, September 4

Green Friends will meet Sunday, September 4, at approximately 11:45 AM in the library at the meeting house as well as over Zoom. Newcomers welcome.

<https://citizensclimate.zoom.us/j/93713127848?pwd=UjRxZUJNWVdhNk9Ick9TUGRwZStuQT09>

Meeting ID: 937 1312 7848

Passcode: 123

SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE MEETING -- Sunday, September 4 (**first Sunday this month**)

The Social Concerns Committee, which encourages and supports individual members and attenders in their social concern leadings, will hold its September meeting on the first Sunday rather than the usual second Sunday. They will meet at 1:00 pm on September 11 via Zoom. Newcomers are welcome. For questions, contact Glenn Plyler.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4922576045?pwd=WDBiTHIhVDgzMjVNZDA3RHVleTIsUT09>

Meeting ID: 492 257 6045

Passcode: Friends

QUAKER MEN'S RETREAT -- Friday to Sunday, September 9 to 11, with **Sept 4 sign up deadline**

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.

YOGA CLASSES WITH ALEX ZINNES – Tuesdays

Member Alex Zinnes has been teaching a yoga class at the Friends School of Atlanta and before that at the meetinghouse for over a decade. She says: "After the two plus years we've endured, this season presents yet another opportunity to assess how and when and by what means you nurture your body, mind, and spirit. I hope you'll consider putting our beloved yoga class into the mix. For over ten years, including the pandemic, we've had fun, challenged ourselves appropriately, and left feeling both chill and energized." Contact azinnes@gmail.com for more information. Not sure if yoga or this class will suit you? No problem! Attend your first class for FREE, and see what you think. **Logistics:** Tuesdays, 5:30-6:30 p.m. New session started 8/16/22, but you can join whenever you like. Meets in-person in the back of the Community Meeting Room at the Friends School of Atlanta & over Zoom. Cost: 5 class card - \$55 (\$11/class), 10 class card - \$100 (\$10/class), Drop-in class - \$12/class. (Alex adds: "Money should never create a barrier to accessing our yoga classes. Please let me know if you'd like to discuss other pricing or payment arrangements.")

WEDNESDAY AM MEETING FOR WORSHIP – Wednesdays, September 7, 14, 21, 28, etc

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 – Wednesdays

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

MEMORIAL FOR BETH-ANN BUIOTEKANT – Saturday, September 10

Beth-Ann Buitekant died peacefully at home on August 22. Her memorial service will be at 3:00 pm on Saturday, September 10 at the Friends School of Atlanta in the Community Room (which is larger than the meetinghouse). Beth-Ann shared her Spiritual Journey with Atlanta Friends Meeting on November 1, 2020. You can listen to it here: <https://tinyurl.com/y2mmu7ba>.

VIRTUAL DOCUMENTARY NIGHT: *VOICES OF REENTRY* -- Sunday, September 11

A Special Virtual Documentary Night on September 11th from 7 to 9 pm is in collaboration with the group [Voices of Reentry \(https://voicesofreentry.org/\)](https://voicesofreentry.org/), a Massachusetts-based organization that invites formerly incarcerated people to tell their stories and, through storytelling and community dialogue, engage the public in conversation about the role we can all play in welcoming returning citizens back into our communities. Their new documentary, also called *Voices of Reentry*, weaves together the stories of formerly incarcerated people and the community members who support them, with historical footage and expertise to provide a rich, nuanced portrait of the harms of mass incarceration and the challenges of successful reentry. **A special guest from the film will join for a Q&A at the end of that night!** Their film is in the final stages of completion and will be ready in mid-August, so this event will be one of the first opportunities to watch it. If you RSVP for the September 11 online discussion, you will be sent an email later with a link and password once the film has been completed and made available. RSVP at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/virtual-documentary-night-tickets-394640589627>. More details and general info at <https://documentarynight.wordpress.com/> or contact attender Adam Hicks at CommunityDocumentaryNight@gmail.com or 404-414-8917.

INVITATION TO SPIRITUAL NURTURE GROUPS – Tuesday, September 13

Are you ready to build community with Friends in meeting and deepen your spiritual life? Being in a spiritual nurture group is one way you can do this. Join Friends on Tuesday, September 13, 7:00-8:30 pm at the meeting house, main room, to learn about spiritual nurture groups. The three current groups usually have 10 active members, meeting in the evening once or twice a month for spiritual support, and there are openings for new members in these current groups. Another group can be formed if there is interest. We'll introduce the process and offer a brief practice using the guidelines. Please bring your favorite writing materials. All are welcome, either in person or online via Zoom. Call 678-938-8030, or email Mary Ann Downey, madowney@mindspring.com if you have questions. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86063665797?pwd=Nms0Vm5MSW91UXdWRGJSOXA5NWRjZz09>
MeetingID: 860 6366 5797
Passcode: 013191

MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS -- Sunday, September 18

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. This Friends Journal article talks about the spiritual side of Meeting for Business, the ways in which it is a step between meeting for worship and our lives outside the meeting house: <https://www.friendsjournal.org/meeting-for-business-as-spiritual-rehearsal/>.

LET'S TALK ABOUT RACE -- Wednesday, September 22

Our monthly online, drop-in forum about race meets at 7:30 pm on the fourth Wednesday of the month. Each meeting starts with a quote from anti racist literature or other media to be the springboard for the evening's conversation. 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. For more information, contact Lissa Place, 678-793-9260.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84678045805?pwd=cFdhcEd4UmdLWWNldDFpMm1mOEVTQT09>

Meeting ID: 846 7804 5805

Passcode: LTAR

VIRTUAL DOCUMENTARY NIGHT: *THE GIG IS UP* Sunday, September 18

The Virtual Documentary Night on September 18th from 7 to 9 pm features *The Gig is Up*, a documentary about the real costs and false promises of the current gig economy that supports apps from Uber to Amazon and more. Watch the documentary (for free) in advance at

https://tubitv.com/movies/654449/the_gig_is_up, then RSVP at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/virtual-documentary-night-tickets-398673090947> for September 18's online discussion. For more details and general info: <https://documentarynight.wordpress.com/>.

COMMITTEE FAIR! -- Sunday, September 25

Ever wonder how we get all the good Quaker stuff done around here? This is your chance to find out. There will be a Committee Fair at the meetinghouse on September 25 at the rise of Meeting. Representatives of the different committees will be able to answer your questions, tell you about service opportunities, and introduce you to some of the finest people you will ever meet!

WORKSHOP: EFFECTIVE LOBBYING -- Wednesday, September 28

Want some tips about how to raise concerns with your members of Congress? All are invited to attend this hands-on workshop. Led by our Atlanta Advocacy Team of the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL), you will learn a step-by-step method on how to effectively call, write, and lobby your representative and senators. 8 pm to 9 pm, Wednesday, September 28 via Zoom. REGISTER IN ADVANCE: <https://bit.ly/3wrctTr> Info: Sue May at susanmay1@icloud.com.

WORLD QUAKER DAY -- Sunday, October 2

World Quaker Day is an annual event organized by Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) to celebrate the diversity of Quakersim around the world and build connections to make our community stronger. FWCC writes: *"This year, on Sunday October 2nd every Friends church or meeting is encouraged to send or receive visitors to or from another Quaker group online or in-person, to bring greetings, build relations and share ideas. If you would like to be part of World Quaker Day 2022, by visiting another Quaker group, you can visit www.fwcc.world/wqd."* Ministry and Worship Committee will be considering how AFM might participate in this at their September 11 meeting. **If you have any ideas, thoughts, or questions about this please contact a member of our Ministry and Worship committee.** Bill Hooson is clerk and his contact information is above

QRE FORUM: MAKING AMENDS TO INDIGENOUS PEOPLES – Sunday, October 23

Please join Quakers for Racial Equality (QRE) and Atlanta Friends Meeting in welcoming Rev. Chebon Kernell as the guest speaker at an online forum on Oct. 23 at 1:00 p.m. Eastern. Rev. Chebon Kernell is Executive Director of the Native American Comprehensive Plan for the United Methodist Church and works with faith communities on repentance and reconciliation with indigenous peoples. Rev. Kernell has spoken movingly about the necessity of churches actively making amends for the physical and cultural genocide of indigenous peoples. He is an enrolled member of the Seminole Nation and is of Muscogee Creek heritage. Mekko Chebon Kernell is also a cultural practitioner and member of the Helvpe Ceremonial grounds of the Muscogee Creek Nation in Oklahoma. He is working to bring Muscogee people and traditions back to their homelands and preserve the Weelaunee Forest south of Atlanta. In April 2022, Chebon Kernell was a stirring speaker and cultural leader at the April 2022 “Singing Ourselves back together: Community in the Weelaunee Forest” event that brought together Muscogee people, local historians, and environmental and social justice activists. Chebon Kernell is also a strong proponent of indigenous sovereignty and land back concerns. He is aware of the efforts of Atlanta Friends Meeting to understand the trauma caused by Quaker boarding schools for indigenous children, to learn more about our meetinghouse being located in Muscogee homelands, and to support efforts to preserve cultural traditions and the Weelaunee forest. We also invite other Quakers in the region as well as other churches and community groups in the Decatur/ Atlanta area to attend. Everyone is welcome. For more information, contact Susan Firestone susanfires@gmail.com. Look for Zoom details in announcements closer to October. 23.

SAVE THE DATE: FORUM ON MEMBERSHIP – Sunday, October 30

On October 30 at the rise of meeting (11:45), Ministry and Worship Committee will hold a hybrid forum on the Meaning and Process of Membership at Atlanta Friends Meeting. See next month's newsletter for more details.

MINUTES FOR EIGHTH MONTH MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS
August 21, 2022, held in person and via Zoom in a blended meeting
Minutes Recorded Pending Approval

Attendance: Alberta Guise, Alison Mawle, Aaron Ruschetta, Anton Flores M, Bert Skellie, Karen Skellie, Bill Hooson, Teri Key-Hooson, Bill Holland, Mary Ann Downey, Cathy Amanti, Caroline Morris, Elizabeth Lamb, Glenn Plyler, Jay Roache, Judy Lumb, Julia Ewen, Karen terHorst Morris, Lissa Place, Lynn Leuszler, Mark Yates, Myrna Trapp, Nina Gooch, Richard Allen, Steve Collins, Susan Firestone, Susan May, Sa’ed Atshan, Georgia Lord (Assistant Clerk / Acting Clerk), Coryn Murphy (Recording Clerk)

Worship

Query

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?

Source Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice (1998): Query 1 Meeting for Worship, pg. 206

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: Query 2: Meeting for Business.

Discernment

Ministry and Worship - Bill Hooson, representing Ministry and Worship committee, presented a formal minute welcoming Sa'ed Atshan to the Atlanta Friends Meeting.

Minute 08-21-2022: 01: The Atlanta Friends Meeting joyfully accepts and approves the transfer of membership of Sa'ed Atshan from the Central Philadelphia Monthly Meeting of Friends.

Nominating - Lissa Place reported for the Nominating Committee.

Minute 08-21-2022: 02: The Atlanta Friends Meeting approves David Small as Assistant Clerk for a term from August 2022- December 2023.

Minute 08-21-2022: 03: The Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Lisa Kruse to YFSC for a term of 3 years starting August of 2022 until July of 2025.

Minute 08-21-2022: 04: The Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Brent Wolff to YFSC for a term of 3 years starting August of 2022 until July of 2025.

Minute 08-21-2022: 05: The Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Edithe Rose to YFSC for a term of 2 years starting August of 2022 until July of 2024.

Reports:

Ministry & Worship:

Bill Hooson reported there is a new application for membership. A membership clearness committee of Herb Edwards, Mary Ann Downey, and Bill Hooson will meet with the applicant and then present the application to M&W for approval and forward to MFB for consideration.

M&W will conduct a Forum on Membership to be held after meeting on Sunday, October 30 @ 11:45 in hybrid format.

Nominating Committee

Nominating Committee brought forward Kevin Moran as representative from Atlanta Friends Meeting for SAYMA Ministry and Nurture Committee.

SAYMA Representative Report

Alison Mawle reported as the SAYMA Representative that anti-racism affinity small groups were being formed and she invited friends to join these groups (see letter below). She also reported that SAYMA is asking for donations to support the upcoming SAYMA annual budget shortfall (see note from Karen Morris below)

Dear Friend,

You are invited!!!

SAYMA is embarking on a new phase of its anti-racism work which will include ongoing, supported, small groups engaged in study, worship sharing, spiritual deepening, and discussion. White folks will be learning with other white folks, and Friends of Color will have their own Friends Center for Racial Justice-facilitated group to pursue their distinct needs in this work.

Small groups will meet monthly, via Zoom. (Additional meetings, either in person or online can be self-organized.)

Please share this invitation widely across the SAYMA network. Anyone associated with SAYMA and its constituent Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups is welcome to join us. We are particularly calling on all individuals holding positions of responsibility in the YM or MMs to engage in this critical ongoing work.

Participation in SAYMA Small Group work is a prerequisite for participation in the systemic racism analysis training workshops, as presented at SAYMA sessions in June of this year. The first training cohort will be offered once the small groups have been established.

Call for facilitators: each small group will have co-facilitators to keep group work on task and coordinated with the larger body of work. In addition to their small group monthly call, facilitators will participate in monthly coordination and support calls with the trainers and will be included in the first cohort of the analysis training for free. Please consider if you feel led to serve in this capacity and indicate that in your registration.

Questions? We are certain that there are many. Please email Shannon and/or Star and we will do our best to respond to your queries.

Donate! While there is no requirement to pay a registration fee to participate in SAYMA Small Groups, we encourage participants to make a financial contribution to SAYMA URJ and/or Friends Center For Racial Justice in recognition of their ongoing racial justice ministry at SAYMA.

To register as a participant and/or volunteer as a facilitator please click the link! Registration will be open until Aug. 21st 2022. [Editor's Note: Deadline extended to August 31. Link is: https://qfreeaccountssjc1.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6Jbu7sDcHaZGuI6]

In the work,

Star Smith (Clerk of SAYMA Uplifting Racial Justice Committee)

Shannon Roberts Smith (Acting Clerk of Ad Hoc Racial Justice Working Group)

Some present had questions regarding an appeal letter being sent from SAYMA. [A copy of this letter will be attached to the minutes.] It seemed surprising to see this financial appeal, in light of prior announcements that the organization had surplus funds. Karen Morris, who serves on SAYMA Finance, explained that at SAYMA's business sessions in June, it had adopted a deficit budget. The deficit budget had been adopted for the purpose of "spending down" some of the undesignated funds that had previously been accumulated by SAYMA. After this decision was made, it had been discovered that the expenses of running the SAYMA Yearly Meeting had exceeded the registration fees paid for that event. That shortfall is what prompted the appeal letter.

CUR-AFM Interpersonal Racist Incident Policy updates

Lissa Place explained the 4 changes into the Anti Racist Policy Draft. The complete document will be attached for all to review before further discernment at the next Meeting for Business.

[Editor's Note: The revisions are here: <https://tinyurl.com/mu3acxaa>. The complete revised document is here: <https://tinyurl.com/5n7jbnf>. Or contact the Office Coordinator.]

Clerk's Items

The Clerk read a note from Faith Josephs, Associate Secretary for Development of Friends General Conference. In the note, Faith thanked us for our donation of \$1000. Faith added the following handwritten note:

"A special thank you from FGC for Rebecca & Suzanne Cole Sullivan for their participation and help at the annual meeting. The note stated: "We were so lucky to have Rebecca and Suzanne as part of

the Gathering Clerking team. They did a wonderful job and we were so grateful that they shared their gifts (leadership, grounding, fun!) with the full Gathering Community.- Faith”

Committee Corner:

Glenn Plyler reported for Social Concerns Committee. The Social Concerns Committee donated \$200 to Georgia Coalition for the People's Agenda, \$200 to Song Sisters, \$250 to Beacon Hill Alliance for Human Rights and \$250 Planned Parenthood to help with women's voting and health care issues.

Announcements

- Social Concerns Committee 2023 Budget Planning Meeting 4 September @ 1pm on Zoom. (Note the date is 1st Sunday, not second Sunday as usual)
- Ministry & Worship Committee will conduct a Forum on Membership Sunday, October 30 @ 11:45 in hybrid format.

Events in the life of the meeting

- Lissa Place and Glen Satell officially adopted Kayla Michelle Satell and Kai David Satell on June 9, 2022.
- Peter Schantz passed away July 26, 2022.
- Diane Rowley's granddaughter Skylar Janae Byrd was born on July 24, 2022. Skylar's parents are Danielle Rowley Jenkins and her partner, Jay.

Approval of Minutes from 7th month 2022

Minute 8-21-2022:6: The Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the seventh month minutes.

Closing Worship

WAYS TO STAY INFORMED & WAYS TO SHARE INFORMATION

Email lists include:

- a new email list for weekly reminders about in person and Zoom worship and First Day School (this is a new way to get these reminders)
- the discussion list, which includes the announcement sheet and a variety of other emails from members and attenders about a broader range of topics related to being a Quaker, often including social justice issues and opportunities
- the announcement list, which includes only the weekly announcement sheet and a very few other emails, all directly related to the life of the meeting (or find the latest announcement sheet at atlantaquakers.org/_announcements/Announcement_Sheet.pdf). To add something to the announcement sheet, email atlantaquakers@gmail.com.
- the newsletter list, which lets you know when the monthly newsletter is online on the meeting's website at <http://atlantaquakers.org/archive.htm>. To add something to the newsletter, email atlquakerltr@gmail.com.
- the Atlanta FLGBTQC (Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender – and nonbinary, genderqueer and genderfluid – and Queer Concerns) list for those who are lgbtq+ or are interested in lgbtq+ issues

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

We also have a Facebook group. To join, search for Atlanta Friends Meeting and click the+ Join Group button near the top.

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.*