

ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 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.
Details on page 3

QUERY FOR DECEMBER

Live adventurously. When choices arise, do you take the way that offers the fullest opportunity for the use of your gifts in the service of God and the community?

Source: Britain Yearly Meeting, Advices and Queries #27
<https://qfp.quaker.org.uk/passage/1-02/>

LETTER FROM THE CLERKS OF OUR YEARLY MEETING

Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association or SAYMA (<http://www.sayma.org/>) is our regional body of unprogrammed Quaker meetings. It includes Quaker meetings in Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, Kentucky, North and South Carolina, West Virginia and Georgia.

Dear SAYMA Friends,

We, Margaret Farmer (Asheville) and Daryl Bergquist (Birmingham), have been in the role of SAYMA co-clerks for three months now. This is a labor of love and we feel a sense of hope meeting with Friends in leadership roles and committees in SAYMA, listening together to discern way forward for the yearly meeting. SAYMA co-clerk is not a role that either of us would have envisioned filling a year ago. It is a calling for each of us, and feels more so as we continue the work. We meet together in a spirit of worship, beginning with centering worship, personal check-ins, the business at hand, and closing worship during which a new concern may arise.

Recognizing the multiple sources of stress we all have experienced (conflict within SAYMA, a deadly pandemic, national political upheaval, a world at war, and the devastating impacts of climate change), we undertake our work as co-clerks with hope that the tools and insights that we all develop and learn together may help us navigate wider world issues. Our basic tools as Friends include these practices: deep listening for Spirit and to others (especially those with whom we might disagree); recognizing “that of God” in every person; and seeking continuing revelation as way opens. We commit to including those most impacted by decisions in relevant corporate discernments. We support programs and processes that transform conflict, and we hold ourselves accountable for clear, transparent communication to SAYMA. We remain receptive to both eldering and “youngering.”

SAYMA is moving forward. Committee clerks and committees are working diligently on essential issues supporting SAYMA's organizational functioning. The current SAYMA clerking team includes Susan Phelan (Administrative Assistant, Huntsville), Blake Burr (Recording Clerk, Memphis), Robert McGahey (Senior Assistant Clerk, Celo) and ourselves. The conflict transformation program is starting this month with ~70 Friends registered for the small affinity groups. Many monthly meetings have appointed members to Nominating Committee and to Ministry and Nurture Committee. We encourage other meetings to consider this.

Holding our yearly meeting in the Light,
Daryl Bergquist and Margaret Farmer, SAYMA co-clerks
October 3, 2022

**PLEASE HOLD
IN THE LIGHT:**

Muireann Brennan's family
Don and Judy Bender and
family
Donna Roberts and family
Katie McMahon and 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.

ASSISTANCE NEEDED IN BELIZE FOLLOWING HURRICANE LISA

Judy Lumb, who alternates between Atlanta and Belize, reports that there are many needs for assistance in Belize following Hurricane Lisa and its devastation in October. Friends are encouraged to consider a donation to FriendsUnitedMeeting.org/causes/covid-19-solidarity-fund. When you go to that page, scroll down until you see the "**Donate funds**" tab on the left side of the page. Specify **Belize** in the "**write us a comment**" option.

MESSAGE FROM ENON HARRIS

I am homeless and urgently need housing. I'm semi-disabled – more than a few hours of exertion at a time may put me in bed for days, but I can help with basic handyman, house and yard chores, remodeling work, tutoring, and nursing help (I have hospice experience and a lapsed CNA certification). I have a car and can run errands and chauffeur to appointments. I can also cover food expenses for at least one other person. At present, I can pay a small rent up front, but my income is uncertain. If anyone knows of a potential temporary or permanent living situation, please call me at 404-918-7305.

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=M29EYlIFWEhSQUtZRVVPaFFYmVDQT09>

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 TEENS

10:15 am Sundays, in-person,

Children and teens 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.

RESOURCES ON LOBBYING FROM THE FCNL WORKSHOP SEPTEMBER 28

Missed the “Finding Hope with Congress” workshop? Our Atlanta Advocacy Team (a program of the Friends Committee on National Legislation or FCNL) is happy to share these resources with you so you can effectively call, write, and lobby on the issues you care about.

Start with this excellent piece: <https://www.fcnl.org/resources/how-meet-congress>

Then review the RAFT principles from FCNL (as in a life raft for effective advocacy):

Respond: The issues we work on and people we engage with don't operate in a vacuum. Put a context to help others understand why it's relevant by responding to something. For example:

- Respond to a current event (headlines or your community)
- Respond to a recent article in the news (especially if you're writing a letter to the editor)
- Respond to something you know your listener will care about
- Respond to major events happening in Congress

Ask: Your “ask” is the request you are making of your listener/reader. Your ask should be clear, specific and repeated. In lobby visits, say it at least 2 or 3 times so it is unmistakable.

Facts: Include facts about the issue to inform your listener and ground your point in trusted sources.

Tie in to your story/community: how does this connect to you or to someone you know? Demonstrate your connection to the district, to its people and to its institutions.

The F and the T go together and strengthen each other. It's hard to make an authentic personal connection if you only talk about facts. If you just tell personal stories and don't bring in any data about the outside world, it's hard to be taken seriously. When you put facts and story together, they are greater than sum of their parts. Each one allows the other to be heard more fully.

Finally, here's information to guide you through a lobby visit:

<https://www.fcni.org/sites/default/files/2022-08/VirtualLobbyVisit.Roadmap.5.pdf>

Questions? Contact Sue May or anyone on our Advocacy Team. We'd be glad to lend a hand. Sue May's phone and email are 404-775-5958 and susanmay1@icloud.com.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCE ON EFFECTIVE LOBBYING

This article talks about how to fight back against book bans, with information that would apply to other issues as well. It focuses on contacting local and state representatives and school boards.
<https://bookriot.com/contact-legislators-about-book-bans/>

FORUM ON MAKING AMENDS TO INDIGENOUS PEOPLES: RECORDING & RESOURCES

Quakers for Racial Equality (QRE) is very grateful to Rev. Chebon Kernell for speaking with us on October 23 from his Muscogee cultural perspective, sharing his wisdom, and inspiring us toward change to end harm and make amends. He gave us a lot to reflect on and consider for further action. We were pleased to have broad attendance, with representation from a number of Decatur/ metro Atlanta faith and community groups and several Friends Meetings from as far away as Alaska. Participants also had the opportunity to state their Indigenous Nation, and for non-Indigenous people to tell whose Indigenous homelands they live in. Below you'll find a link to the recording and some related announcements/ links to resources. Let Susan Firestone know if you have any questions or any problems with links.

Video: Chebon Kernell: Making Amends to Indigenous Peoples, 10-23-2022:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1P5Pyc7quU8vQFBeGYGOEfQngW4J4qhaa/view?usp=sharing>

Information about Indian Child Adoption blog: <https://blog.americanindianadoptees.com/>

Information about what's going on with the Weelaunee Forest:

<https://stopcop.city/> and <https://defendtheatlantaforest.org/>

Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative (includes links to investigative report):

<https://www.doi.gov/priorities/strengthening-indian-country/federal-indian-boarding-school-initiative>

The National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition: <https://boardingschoolhealing.org/>

Friends Committee On National Legislation, Native American Legislative Update by Portia

Kay^nthos Skenandore-Wheelock, Native American Advocacy Program Sept. 27, 2022

(Updates come out regularly): <https://www.fcni.org/updates/2022-09/september-2022-native-american-legislative-update>

INVITATION TO A DEEPER COMMITMENT: EXPLORING MEMBERSHIP IN ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING (RESOURCES FROM OCTOBER 30 FORUM)

submitted by Bill Holland

I invite you to ask yourself: What brings me to Atlanta Friends Meeting and keeps me coming back?

On October 30, Ministry and Worship Committee provided a forum on the meaning and process of membership in Atlanta Friends Meeting. Two Friends who recently joined the meeting, Teri Key-Hooson and Alberta Guise shared their membership journey.

Quakerism is a spiritual path grounded in the integrity of direct experience. We have long recognized that we need committed companions to be faithful and practice. You become a member of the Society of Friends by joining a particular meeting. Membership in the Atlanta Friends Meeting is a mutual commitment. You are making a commitment to the Quaker path and to this community. In turn, the community is making a commitment to you. You can serve and to be served, you will be supported and have opportunities to support.

The Membership Process

Our full membership guidelines are available on the AFM Website at the bottom of the Members and Attenders Page: http://atlantaquakers.org/_site_pdf_docs/AFM_Membership_guidelines-201703.pdf

In brief, the process begins in individual discernment -- do you consider Atlanta Meeting your spiritual home? Members of Ministry and Worship are glad to talk with you about the membership process. The full membership guidelines provide some questions you might want to explore in your individual reflection.

- Once you have decided you wish to pursue membership, you write a letter addressed to the Clerk of the Ministry and Worship Committee, currently Bill Hooson (bhooson@aol.com). A template is below.
- Once Ministry and Worship receives the letter, the committee considers it at their next meeting and approves the formation of a clearness committee of several members who will meet with you. Clearness is a form of respectful worshipful inquiry. The meeting is intended to explore your request, asking, and answering questions.
- The clearness committee provides a recommendation to Ministry and Worship, who consider the report and bring a recommendation to business meeting.
- The Monthly Meeting for Business receives a report one month and waits a month before bringing the recommendation for decision. Often, the Application Letter is read to the meeting, and you are introduced as an applicant for membership.
- Once Monthly Meeting has approved (minuted) the recommendation, you are officially recorded as a member of the meeting. The spiritual journey continues!

Example of Letter Requesting Membership

The letter requesting membership can be a simple statement. It can also be a longer reflection on your spiritual journey and your sense of connection to Atlanta Friends Meeting. On the next page is a template adapted from a Quaker source to use as a starting point:

YOUR ADDRESS

DATE

*Bill Hooson, Clerk
Ministry and Worship Committee
Atlanta Monthly Meeting
701 West Howard Avenue
Decatur, GA 30030*

Dear Clerk of Ministry and Worship Committee,

I am writing to request consideration for membership in Atlanta Monthly Meeting and, by extension, in the Religious Society of Friends.

I am drawn to Friends by [particulars].

I consider Atlanta Monthly Meeting to be my spiritual community, and this request is an indication of my desire to continue and strengthen my commitment to spiritual growth as a Friend.

YOUR NAME

RESOURCES ON CREEK FREEDMEN BAND OF OKLAHOMA (QRE MEETING November 27)

At the November 27 meeting of Quakers for Racial Equality (QRE), Susan Firestone shared resources from the presentation, "The Creek Freedmen Band of Oklahoma: Their History and their Work," originally presented by Shaaron Lenzy and Rhonda Grason on November 17.

Screenshots from the original presentation showing the Powerpoint slides:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1SLyRY2DI0C6y6kthimN_R87AM2kg25oU/view?usp=sharing

Muscogee Creek Indian Freedmen Band Association website

Homepage: <https://www.1866creekfreedmen.com/>

History: <https://www.1866creekfreedmen.com/about-us-1>

Contact: mcifb@1866creekfreedmen.com

Article: The Creek Freedmen Push for Tribal Rights Decades after Disenfranchisement, by Austa Somvischian-Clausen, Dec. 7, 20220, The Hill, Changing America. (This article includes an interview with Rhonda Grayson, Board Chairwoman/ Band Leader of the Muscogee Creek Indian Freedmen Band.):

<https://thehill.com/changing-america/respect/equality/529047-the-creek-freedmen-push-for-indigenous-tribal-rights/>

SAYMA SEEKS FRIENDS TO SERVE

Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association, our yearly meeting, has sent the meeting an email seeking people to serve the yearly meeting in the following positions: Web Manager; several positions on the Yearly Meeting Planning Committee, and SAYMA Representative to Quaker House (in Fayetteville, NC; quakerhouse.org). To see this letter, visit <https://tinyurl.com/4r9sx7wz>. For information about other positions available, visit <https://tinyurl.com/yn2jsh7f>. If interested in any of these SAYMA positions, contact Julia Ewen, who serves on SAYMA's Nominating Committee.

QUAKER QUOTE

Love is the will to nurture life and growth in oneself and another . . .

Source: Quaker Faith and Practice, Britain Yearly Meeting

BOOKS BY AND ABOUT PEOPLE OF COLOR – Thursday, December 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 December 1, they'll discuss *The Sentence* by Louise Erdrich. Future books include:

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).

OUT OF OUR HANDS ART AND CRAFT SALE – Friday & Saturday, December 2 & 3



The Out of Our Hands Art and Craft Sale has been held yearly since 2005 by a small carefully chosen group of Atlanta artists. This year, it will be at the Atlanta Friends meetinghouse with 18 artists and craftspeople. Included in the sale are original works with paintings, drawings, collage, pottery, jewelry, fiber arts, and sculpture. They also sell crafts from Ghana: 100% of those sales benefit Children Inspiring Hope (childreninspiringhope.org/). The sale will be open for business on Friday, December 2 from 12 to 5 and on Saturday, December 3 from 10 to 5.

MACON WORSHIP GROUP IN PERSON WORSHIP – Saturday, December 3

Come join Macon Worship Group in person December 3 at 2:00 pm, at the Peace Fountain at the center of the Tattnell Square Park for a ½ hour of worship, followed by informal fellowship. Dress for the weather and maybe bring a cushion to sit upon. This will be the first in-person gathering. Tattnell Square Park is located near downtown Macon (1155 College Street, Macon, Ga 31201). Many other interesting activities in Macon. Contact Bill Holland <wwholland@mindspring.com> or Mary Ann Downey <madowney@mindspring.com> for more information.

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

Adult First Day School meets in person at the meetinghouse, and people can also join via Zoom. (See above 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 December 4, Tara Doyle will share her Spiritual Journey. (To hear Erin Donohue-Koehler's Spiritual Journey, shared November 6, visit <https://tinyurl.com/yy38fcm>. To hear Muireann's Spiritual Journey, part one, shared February 7, 2010, visit <https://tinyurl.com/4v4dxvzv> and to hear part 2, shared September 2, 2012, visit <https://tinyurl.com/2vdcenv8>.)

On second, third, and fourth Sundays, Adult First Day School will be discussing **After** by Bruce Greyson, M.D, about what near-death experiences reveal about Life and Beyond. All are welcome, whether you have read the book or not. On fifth Sundays, they will have worship sharing based on a query, sometimes that month's query and sometimes another query.

SINGING IN DECEMBER – Sundays, December 4, 11, 18, 25

Meet by the piano in the meeting room after the rise of meeting the Sundays in December to sing Christmas carols. Thank you to Richard Allen for playing the piano for us.

POTLUCK – Sunday, December 4

We have resumed our monthly potlucks. Please join us for a potluck lunch following the rise of Meeting on the first Sunday of the month. Each month a different committee will take charge of set up and clean up.

VIRTUAL DOCUMENTARY NIGHTS – Sundays, December 4 and 11

December 4: *Fighting For Allergy-Free Food*

December 11: *The Facility*, a unique, real-time chronicle of a life in an immigration detention facility, You can watch both films for free online, then RSVP for the free discussions via Zoom at 7 pm. See the announcement sheet for these links. For general info: <https://documentarynight.wordpress.com/> or contact attender Adam Hicks at CommunityDocumentaryNight@gmail.com or 404-414-8917.

COMMITTEE ON UNDOING RACISM IN ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING -- Tuesday, December 6

The Committee on Undoing Racism in Atlanta Friends Meeting (CURAFM) will have an online meeting on the first Tuesday of the month, December 6 at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome. For more information, contact Lissa Place (lissaplace@yahoo.com or 678-793-9260) or Susan Firestone (susanfires@gmail.com or 404-268-6480).

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88572920986?pwd=Q0FHc0Jzb3Y0RmpTZk5FdnAxaCtHUT09>

Meeting ID: 885 7292 0986

Passcode: 238191

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

8:30 am. This ongoing meeting for worship is again both in person and Zoom.
Contact Bert Skellie at 404-680-4799 for general info.

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

Meeting ID: 92038862952

Password: 726229

WED EVENING WORSHIP WITH MACON WORSHIP GROUP – Wed, December 7, 14, 21, 28

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

ATLANTA CHILDREN'S CHOIR CONCERT -- Friday, December 9

The Atlanta Children's Choir rehearses in the meeting room late Thursday afternoons. Join them for their December concert on December 9 at 6 pm. No admission charge, but donations accepted.

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR MUIREANN BRENNAN -- Saturday, December 10, 2022

Friends and family will gather at the meetinghouse on December 10, 2022 at 2 pm for a memorial service to mourn the passing and celebrate the life of our Friend, Muireann Brennan. In person combined with Zoom, using Sunday morning's Zoom coordinates. A reception will follow. (If you are willing to provide food for the reception or help with greeting, set up or clean up, please contact Mary Ann Downey & Karen Skellie.)

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89686276751?pwd=M29EYlIFWEhSQUtZRVVPaIFFYmVDQT09>

Meeting ID: 896 8627 6751

Passcode: 789456

CITY OF DECATUR OPEN HOUSE ON ADAIR STREET TRAFFIC CALMING -- Tuesday, Dec 13

On December 13, from 6 to 8 pm, at the meetinghouse, the City of Decatur will host an open house / information session on the proposed Adair Street traffic calming plan. There should also be some information on the related changes to the Atlanta Street railroad crossing and to Howard Avenue.

MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS -- Sunday, December 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.

ABOUT MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS

Often we just say Meeting for Business. This article from February's *Friends Journal* talks about the importance of those words we often leave out and about the spiritual side of Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business: <https://www.friendsjournal.org/meeting-for-business-as-spiritual-rehearsal>

WATCH NIGHT SERVICE – Saturday, December 31

On December 31, 1862, Americans of African descent gathered together on “Freedom’s Eve” to await the news that the Emancipation Proclamation had become law. At midnight, according to Lincoln’s promise, all those enslaved in the Confederate States were legally free. Atlanta Friends participate in this tradition each year with a worship service at 11:15 PM on New Year’s Eve, following a time of fellowship starting at 10:30 pm. Please join us on New Year’s Eve via Zoom only! For more details, email Bert Skellie or call him at 404-680-4799.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88986589354>

Meeting ID 88986589354

Passcode: 499736

MINUTES FOR TENTH MONTH MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS

November 20, 2022, held in person and via Zoom in a blended meeting

Minutes Recorded Pending Approval

Attendance: Aaron Ruscetta, Anton Flores-Maisonet, Brent Wolff, Bert Skellie, Bill Hooson, Teri Key-Hooson, Mary Ann Downey, Caroline Morris, Mike Aland, Clive Gordon, Elizabeth Lamb, Elizabeth Muller, Erin Donahue-Koehler, Glenn Plyler, Jennifer Crumpley, Julia Ewen, Kathy Johnson, Austin Watters, Karen terHorst Morris, Kevin Moran, Lissa Place, Mary Place, Mary Bartlett, Myrna Trapp, Nina Gooch, Paul Mangelsdorf, Richard Allen, Steve Collins, Susan Firestone, Bill Holland (Acting Clerk), Coryn Murphy (Recording Clerk)

Opening Worship

Query for Eleventh Month

Do you listen patiently and seek the truth which other people’s opinions may contain for you? Do you think it is possible that you may be mistaken?

Source: Australia Yearly Meeting: Advices and Queries No. 19 [adapted]

<https://www.quakersaustralia.info/advices-and-queries>

One Friend responded to the query.

Discernment:

Ministry and Worship:

Mary Ann Downey presented a Memorial Minute for Peter Schantz. Mary Ann worked with Mary Bartlett and drew on ministry shared at the memorial service to compose the minute.

Minute 11-20-22:01: The Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Memorial minute for Peter Schantz.

Peter Schantz was born on October 22, 1939, in Camden, New Jersey, to David Schantz and Ada Mullineaux Schantz and died July 26, 2022, of Alzheimer's disease. He channeled his childhood love of animals into a yearning to become a veterinarian. At the University of Pennsylvania, Peter's undergraduate degree in anthropology, in his words "Opened my mind to the world in all its cultural diversity." After his first year of vet school, he spent a summer working for the California Department of Health investigating an infectious disease of poverty and became interested in a career in public health. Ascribing to the "Peace Corps mentality" he was concerned about poverty and disease that inhibited development in large parts of the world. Convinced that veterinarians could have an impact, he completed a PhD in veterinary epidemiology and pathology at the University of California, Davis under the guidance of Calvin Schwabe, DVM, PhD who became a lifelong friend. After 4 years stationed in Argentina with the Pan American Health Association, he returned to the US in 1974 as an epidemiologist with the Centers for Disease Control. His service with the Commissioned Corps of the US Public Health Service spanned many countries, from Mexico and Ecuador to Nigeria, to China and Tibet, as well as the US. "I have had one foot in the veterinary arena and one foot in the human medical arena" he said of his career tracking, preventing, and treating zoonotic (animal-to-human) diseases.

Peter was a gifted athlete in high school and college, a key member of both the Quaker football and wrestling teams at Penn, receiving the Scholar/Athlete award his senior year. He was an athlete his entire life enjoying karate, running, skiing, bicycling, even rollerblading and snowboarding.

As a child Peter attended the Lutheran church with his family. Peter's mentor, Dr. Calvin Schwabe, became a close friend and was a member of Haverford Friends Meeting. On visits to see him, Peter learned about Friends from him. He began attending the Atlanta Friends Meeting with Mary Bartlett after their marriage in 1999 and his quiet grounded presence enriched our meeting.

Friends and family celebrated Peter's life and mourned his passing in a memorial meeting for worship on October 22, 2022, on what would have been his 83rd birthday. He is remembered for his lively curiosity about all life, always open to new experience, and for his quiet humility. His colleagues at CDC spoke of his dedication to being a tutor and mentor, always generous with his time and fully present. His appetite for life included an appreciation for food especially grazing on anything available including dog biscuits. His grandson recalled his grandfather making him 'special pancakes' on visits, special because he loved the time they enjoyed together. One of his daughter's shared a favorite passage from Albert Camus that guided Peter's life.

"In the midst of hate, I found there was, within me, an invincible love. In the midst of tears, I found there was, within me, an invincible smile. In the midst of chaos, I found there was, within me, an invincible calm. I realized, through it all, that in the midst of winter, I found there was, within me, an invincible summer. And that makes me happy. For it says that no matter how hard the world pushes against me, within me, there's something stronger-something better, pushing right back."

In addition to his wife Mary Bartlett, Peter is survived by his children Aimee, Erica, and Brendan; brother David; sister Susan; stepsons Cody and Zach Smith; and grandchildren Tanner and Piper Wise, and Reid and Maddie Smith.

Although Peter has passed on, his quiet but strong spirit lives on in the many lives he touched.

Nominating Committee:

Lissa Place brought back the nomination presented tenth month of Gwen Davies to serve on the Young Friends Support Committee.

Minute 11-20-22:02: The Atlanta Friends Meeting, on the recommendation of the Nominating Committee, approves Gwen Davies for a two-year term on the Young Friends Support Committee from November of 2022- December 2024.

Reports

Finance Committee:

Paul Mangelsdorf presented the 2023 Proposed Budget for 2023. **[Editor's Note: These can be viewed at <https://tinyurl.com/327ct2u2>.]** During the pandemic, many expenses of meeting have been less than budgeted. Staff vacancies and reduced maintenance and childcare expenses kept costs less than anticipated. As we move out of pandemic, the committee projects many of our line items expenses will return to more normal levels. The meeting has filled vacant positions and is committed to providing a living wage for all those serving the meeting in paid roles. Before the pandemic, the annual transfer to the Permanent Improvement fund was \$20,000, the committee now recommends returning to more normal levels beginning with \$10,000 next year. (The use of the Permanent Improvement Fund to install solar, replace the roof, replace HVAC units has meant the meeting has not had to conduct any special capital campaigns since 2006.) Most Program expenses are projected to remain level based on committee requests, excepting a \$2000 increase to Social Concerns to meet pressing community needs and increased newsletter allocation for rising printing and paper costs. The Finance Committee did not receive a request from the Gathered Meeting Retreat Committee, so no funds were designated in 2023.

Increased expenses will mean meeting members and attenders will be asked to increase their contributions. The 2023 budget anticipates meeting members will give \$147,515, an over \$7,000 increase over 2022.

The paid positions of the meeting are Friend in Residence, Office Coordinator, Bookkeeper, Young Friends Coordinator, Childcare during meeting and the Property Coordinator (contract).

A Friend referred to the Gifts and Affiliation worksheet and expressed concern that the meeting has not raised its support for Wider Quaker Organizations over the last decade. We were encouraged to examine this as a meeting.

Friends were encouraged to share further questions and comments with the Finance Committee. The Proposed 2023 Budget will be brought back for discernment at Twelfth Month Meeting for Business.

Administration:

Steve Collins reported for the Administration Committee.

- The meetinghouse has a new front door that is attractive and locks and unlocks properly. It replaces the original front door.
- Solar Panel Updates. The final step in the solar panel project is the test and approval of the system by Georgia Power. This requires an on-site visit by a Georgia Power technician. The committee is hopeful this will be completed during November and we will begin to realize reductions in our power bills.

A friend raised a concern on the process for updating and revising the website. Updating the website will involve gathering requirements from the community and making a transition from one platform to another. The Web Manager anticipates a transition will require assistance of volunteers.

We asked the Administration Committee to propose a process to move this forward.

Minute 11-20-22:03: The Atlanta Friends Meeting asks that the Administration Committee propose a process for 1) gathering information from the community regarding desired requirements for a new website and 2) what will be required to implement the transition.

Social Concerns:

Glenn Plyer reported for the Social Concerns Committee.

- The Social Concerns Committee has sent copies of the Minute on Hospital Closures and Medicaid Expansion (Minute 10-16-22:01) to state legislators and encouraged their attention to the issues we raised.
- Glenn explained Social Concern's request for a \$2000 increase in budget for 2023. The committee's funds are largely used to respond to pressing community needs and support organizations. Inflation and increased costs mean that more members of the community will seek assistance to meet food and shelter needs. In addition, the committee has long-standing concerns for women's health and safety and BIPOC reparation restoration.
- Glenn made a personal commitment to make additional financial contribution to meeting and encouraged other members of meeting to join him as they are led.
- Glenn shared he has taken on a facilitator role in the yearly meeting's White Affinity Project. To fully be faithful to this responsibility, he will be resigning as Social Concerns Clerk. The committee has suggested a replacement to Nominating for their discernment.
- The Social Concerns Committee is working on the State of the Meeting submissions and will send it to the clerk by the deadline.
- Social Concerns will be hosting the December potluck and invites participation by other Friends.
- The Social Concern Committee thanked Mark Yates for his time and effort to encourage community participation in the 2022 election and runoff.

Ministry and Worship:

Elizabeth Lamb reported for the Ministry and Worship committee.

Austin Wattles Membership Application: The meeting has received a letter requesting membership from Austin Wattles. Austin has had long experience among Friends. Austin was a member of Chattahoochee Friends Meeting, but his membership was laid down when Chattahoochee Meeting was laid down, so this is being considered as a new application rather than a transfer. A clearness committee has met with him, and all are clear. Ministry and Worship recommends his membership to the meeting and will return in twelfth month for final presentation.

To Atlanta Friends Meeting,

I would like to be considered a member of your meeting.

The problem is, I was an active attender at Chattahoochee Meeting for a number of years. When they laid themselves down, I became a regular attender here.

I would like to be back in my mind, especially here.

Thank you,

Austin Wattles.

Austin was invited to speak and spoke briefly of his long association with Friends and the importance of silent worship since his days at Westtown School.

Bill Cox Membership Application: The Ministry and Worship Committee has also received a letter from Bill Cox requesting membership in Atlanta Friends Meeting. Bill has been a regular attender at Atlanta Meeting and has found this a spiritual home. A clearness committee has met with Bill and Ministry and Worship unites with their recommendation that Bill be recommended for membership. She shared his letter of application:

Quaker Letter

Bill Hooson

Ministry Committee

Ten years ago, as a Unitarian, I wondered about religion. I gradually realized that my important questions were about behavior rather than beliefs, that the message of Jesus was compassion and humility, and that my God is mystical rather than personal. I also become curious about Eastern perspectives.

Six years ago, I began mindfulness meditation. Though my meditation group was Buddhist, I was drawn to the simplicity of the Tao: Living in harmony with the flow of existence.

Two and half years ago, as my wife Dianne and I coped with her deepening dementia, I wondered about life without her. What satisfies me most, I realized then, is connecting with interesting people.

A year ago, I found a haiku that expresses my aspiration, at least for now: "Embrace what unfolds. Explore opportunities. Don't force anything."

And now, the Meeting offers me community and opportunities to serve. The people are interesting. The silence of the service and the humility in the culture both resonate with me.

So, I would like to be a member.

Thank you. Bill Cox

Elizabeth encouraged meeting members and attenders to meet these friends over the next month and will bring the recommendations back for discernment in twelfth month.

Elizabeth announced the death of meeting member Muireann Brennan on November 5, 2022, in Atlanta. Her body has been repatriated to Ireland and her family held a hybrid memorial service for her on Friday, November 18. Sally Ferguson, Jim Tolmach, Meg Harper and Rick Stoops were able to attend in person and several Atlanta Friends joined virtually. Atlanta Meeting will be holding a memorial service on December 10 at the meetinghouse. The memorial committee is Sally Ferguson, Jim Tolmach, Mary Ann Downey, Karen Skellie and Bill Holland. A memorial minute is being prepared.

Nominating Committee:

Lissa Place presented the nomination of Jennifer Crumpley to serve as clerk of Care and Counsel Committee.

Lissa reported that the pandemic had made the work of Nominating finding persons willing to serve more difficult.

Three members of Ministry and Worship have agreed to be reappointed for a second term of three years. They are Mary Ann Downey, Bill Holland, and Herb Edwards and their term would be from January 2023- December of 2025.

These nominations will be brought back for discernment in twelfth month.

Clerk's Items

The Acting Clerk reminded Friends that the Clerk has requested all committees submit their contribution to the State of the Meeting Report by December 18, 2022. This year we are asking committees to describe those areas that have given them joy and those areas that have been challenging.

The Acting Clerk reported that the Clerk has appointed the following Friends to serve on the Naming committee: Sally Ferguson, John Adams and Gwen Davies. These Friends have been charged to identify at least 2 Friends to serve on the Nominating Committee for a 3-year term. Friends interested in this service of discerning the gifts of members of our community are invited to contact members of the Naming Committee.

The Clerk has appointed four members to an Ad hoc committee to update the Kitchen. These members are Alison Mawle (clerk), Micheal Allison, Paul Manglesdorf and Anton Flores-Maisonet. Members are charged to develop a recommendation for updates to the kitchen to be presented to the Administration Committee by February 12, 2023. The recommendations will consider the different groups (Casa Alterna, long term and short-term renters and first day use) using the kitchen.

Announcements

Julia Ewen reported for the SAYMA Nominating Committee. There are many positions open and are needing to be filled. She reviewed some of the openings and requested the list of vacancies be linked. She encouraged Friends to offer their gifts in service to our wider association of meetings and worship groups with whom we are affiliated.

[Editor's Note: See the following links for more information about open positions:
<https://tinyurl.com/4r9sx7wz> and <https://tinyurl.com/yn2jsh7f>.

Approval of Minutes from 10th month 16, 2022

A friend asked that Nominating Minutes 10-16-22:05 – 08 be changed from “On behalf of Nominating Committee, AFM approves” to “On the recommendation of Nominating Committee, AFM approves.” He pointed out that it is the meeting has the authority to act and our committees recommend to the meeting, the committee acts on behalf of the meeting, not the meeting on behalf of a committee.

Another Friend pointed out an inconsistency in the spelling of a name.

Minute 11-20-22:04: The Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the minutes from the 10th month with the suggested changes to the wording of the Nominating committee minutes 10-16-22: 05 through 10-16-22: 06 and a change to the spelling of a name.

Events in the life of the meeting

- Muireann Brennan passed away November 5, 2022.
- Slaughton Lynd passed away November 17, 2022. Staughton Lynd was a member of Atlanta Friends Meeting in the early 1960's, was a professor at Spelman College and clerk of the Peace and Social Order Committee of meeting.

Closing Worship

Respectfully submitted

Coryn Murphy, Recording Clerk
Bill Holland, Acting Clerk

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 atquakerltr@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.*