

ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2023



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 to 11:00 am
Details page 3

QUERY FOR MARCH

Is meeting for worship regularly held, in expectant waiting for divine guidance?
Are both silent and vocal ministry rooted in a shared experience of the Light?

Source: Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association

COVENANT FOR THE NEW MEETINGHOUSE

In June 1988, AFM's meeting for business approved a minute stating that Quaker House was no longer big enough for the meeting's needs and that it would be sold and a new meetinghouse found and purchased. On March 22, 1990, the meeting's purchase of the land for our current meetinghouse was finalized. Only three weeks later, ground was broken for the new meetinghouse. The meeting's history, *As Way Opened*, says that on April 8, 1990, "a glorious spring day, following meeting for worship at Horizons School [where AFM had been renting space since Quaker House had been sold], Friends trekked about a mile to the new building site for a groundbreaking celebration . . . Tom Bertrand read the Covenant for the New Meetinghouse, which he had written for the occasion":

As members and attenders of Atlanta Friends Meeting we come together on First Day to join our hands and hearts, our dreams and our resources, in the happy enterprise of breaking ground for a new Meetinghouse.

We are thankful to God for guiding us to this place – may we keep our vision for what we do here very clear, and our caring for one another abundant.

We are mindful of those Friends who founded the first Quaker House in Atlanta, where sisters and brothers of all races and creeds could join in the task of building a just society – may we remember that we hold in trust their gifts and their dreams.

We are mindful as well of those who have used this land before us: the birds and other creatures, the grass and trees that have inhabited it through all time; the Native Americans who found their sustenance upon it; the men and women, black and white, who farmed it and whose sweat and tears mingled with it; the soldiers, blue and gray, who struggled on this spot, and those other folk who walked across it gently to heal the wounds of war; the many families through the years who lived here and the children who played upon this ground; the public agency that deeded these acres to us – our gratitude embraces them all.

And we are grateful for the earth wherein we plant this tree – may we be its faithful stewards, so that it may flourish as a garden for all who will worship here or pass this way. Here we shall raise our Meetinghouse as a sanctuary and hospice, where all may be welcomed and affirmed in simple dignity, and where our children and their children after them may grow in their faith.

To these ends, and with a prayer of thanksgiving, we make our covenant together on this Eighth Day of the Fourth Month in the year Nineteen Hundred Ninety.

This covenant, like a Quaker marriage certificate, was signed by everyone present who was old enough to hold a pen and sign at least their first name. It now hangs in the library next to the window.

As *Way Opened* continues, “[m]any details of construction still were incomplete; but on July 28, 1991, the first meeting for worship took place in the wonderfully bright new meeting room.” (The picture at right shows members setting up the new meeting room.)

When the meetinghouse was dedicated in a called meeting for worship on September 8, 1991, guest speaker Tom Mullen of Earlham College challenged the meeting:

“Now that you have built it, what will be your ministry?”

For more information, see *As Way Opened*, pages 133 to 141 and especially 139 to 141.



AN INTERVIEW WITH LONG-TIME MEMBER COURTNEY SICELOFF

Adelaide Solomon-Jordan, a founder of our AFM Quakers for Racial Equality group when it was known as ORAIIARH, has sent us the following interview with Courtney Siceloff, beloved member of Atlanta Friends Meeting, to keep his memory alive. Those of you who didn't have the pleasure of knowing Courtney and his wife, Elizabeth, may remember the photograph still in the AFM library of Courtney, Elizabeth, and their son John with the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr at Penn Center. Courtney was the Executive Director of Penn Center from 1950 -1968. Adelaide also shared a memory of "this white Quaker . . . as someone who appeared to experience pure enjoyment that he got at what was his regular barber shop . . . a Black barbershop on Auburn Avenue in Atlanta. When I occasionally accompanied (my sons) Ross and Winds, we would run into Courtney there. He was completely comfortable as he experienced this unique aspect of Black life."

<https://digital.library.sc.edu/exhibits/champions/volume-2-contents/volume-1-part-4/courtney-siceloff-penn-pioneer/> includes both a recording and a transcript, so you can listen or read.

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE MEETING'S HISTORY IN AS WAY OPENED

A pdf of the meeting's history *As Way Opened* is online at http://atlantaquakers.org/site_pdf_docs/As_Way_Opened-History_of_AFM.pdf, and printed copies of the book itself can be purchased from the office (contact 404-377-2474 or atlantaquakers@gmail.com).

A CONVERSATION WITH JIMMY CARTER

Roderick (Rick) Gilkey shared this at the end of meeting recently

Some time ago I had the pleasure of having one of my faculty lunches sponsored by President Carter as part of his faculty role at Emory. As we were getting our food in the cafeteria line at the Carter Center having a chat about the role of faith in leadership (a topic he has obviously lived and I have studied and taught), President Carter asked me about my own faith. I told him that I come from a Quaker family and that was my faith. He then proceeded to give me a detailed account of the history of Quakerism in Georgia dating back to the Revolutionary War. He spoke about how Quakers were driven out of their original communities such as Wrightsborough, because of their unpopular opposition to wars, first the Revolutionary War and then the Civil War. I cannot remember all of the details in his account of the Quaker diaspora in Georgia, but that was the basic narrative. He also said that he and Rosalynn were great admirers of Quakerism and asked that I send their warm greetings to the Atlanta Friends. Apologies for taking so long to get this message to all of you.

[Editor's Note: See the Preface in As Way Opened (link above), pages ix to xi, for more information about the early history of Quakers in Georgia. Also see pages 106 to 107 for a description of members of the meeting lobbying for amnesty for draft resisters when Carter was elected in 1976.]

PLEASE JOIN US ON SUNDAYS FOR WORSHIP AND FIRST DAY SCHOOL



We continue to worship on Sunday at 10:00 am in person at the meeting house 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 info 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=M29EYlIFWEhSQUtZRVVPaIFFYmVDQT09>

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.

**PLEASE HOLD
IN THE LIGHT:**

Mary Ann Downey
Adam Hicks
Erin Daniel and family with
new baby Calla

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: Kevin Moran, see directory
Administration: Steve Collins, shcollins75@gmail.com
Care & Counsel: Jennifer Crumpley, see directory
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.

A FOLLOW UP FROM GREEN FRIENDS ON FEBRUARY'S VEGAN POTLUCK

Hello friends! Thank you so much for joining in the February vegan potluck hosted by our Green Friends Committee and Young Adult Friends. The food was all so abundantly delicious! We really appreciate the work that y'all put into creating this meal, which helped show that eating in ways that are better for the environment can still be tasty.

We also wanted to highlight the link between our food choices and the issue of climate change. In this article we'll share some information along with a documentary you can watch to explore that idea further. Animal agriculture requires a lot of land and water to grow the billions of animals that we raise, kill, and eat each year. To fill this desire for a growing population, we have cut down vital forests, like the Amazon, to either make grazing land or grow grains for animal feed, which decreases biodiversity. You can explore this in the film **Cowspiracy**.

Methane gas is another area of concern. A single cow produces around 200 pounds of methane gas each year. 1.5 billion cattle, raised specifically for meat production worldwide, emit 300 billion pounds of methane into the atmosphere each year. What makes this so bad: methane traps more heat in the atmosphere. It is 80 times more harmful than CO2 for 20 years after it is released. People often think jokingly about cow burps, but it's also their manure and urine. Methane is also discussed in **Cowspiracy**, along with the documentary **Eating Our Way To Extinction**.

With our weather getting more extreme, water is a growing concern. Will we continue to have enough for a growing population, especially if we have an increasing appetite for meat, dairy, eggs, and fish? Water is consumed throughout the animal production process, from growing the animal's food and the water animals drink, to the overall meat production process.

It takes 1,800 gallons of water to produce one pound of beef, 720 gallons of water to produce one pound of pork, 665 for a pound of butter, 520 for a pound of chicken, 395 to produce a pound of eggs, and 382 for a pound of cheese. Now compare that to 257 gallons of water to produce one pound of soybeans. Why compare meat to soy? Our culture is now hyper focused on protein. It's worth noting that a 100 grams serving of strip steak has 23 grams of protein while 100 grams of soy

has 18 grams of protein. People are also concerned about soy because of the Amazon deforestation for the sake of soybean cultivation. What is not as widely known is that over 70% of the soy grown is fed to the animals that we eat. Water use and soy are also discussed in ***Eating Our Way To Extinction***.

Water is often contaminated by improper storage or disposal of animal waste or runoff from fields. Manure and fertilizer runoff has contributed to numerous "dead zones," including the worst on record in the Gulf of Mexico. Toxins from manure and fertilizer pouring into waterways create huge, harmful algal blooms that create oxygen-deprived stretches of the Gulf and other waterways, harming sea life and humans. A lot of these large animal farming operations are focused in less affluent areas with higher concentrations of people of color. Instead of properly treating-hog waste in North Carolina, the waste is sprayed over the fields. It also drifts into neighboring homes, contributing to numerous health issues. That is the focus of an upcoming documentary, ***The Smell of Money***. (Link to film trailer: <https://tinyurl.com/ycxzvjvr>), and also is in documentaries like ***A River of Waste***, ***What The Health***, and ***Speciesism: The Movie***.

Animal products are also linked to some of our biggest personal health issues; heart disease, diabetes, and cancer. You can explore this in documentaries like ***Forks Over Knives***, ***PlantPure Nation***, and ***What the Health***. Another great resource is the website <https://nutritionfacts.org/>. They have thousands of videos explaining the latest peer reviewed nutrition research, and includes citations. We are glad that we could collectively reflect on these connections while still enjoying wonderful food.

To learn more about these connections on your own, check out this Veganuary flyer on the Community Documentary Night website at <https://tinyurl.com/mubw83ps>. The pages are themed so you can find the film you are looking for, covering our impact on animals, biodiversity, climate change, and health. If you click on the film posters, you can watch the films for free. All of the films mentioned in this article are included on this flyer.

There are many topics we have not mentioned like the connection to pandemics and antibiotic resistant bacteria (***The End of Medicine***), as well as the impact on slaughterhouse workers (***Peaceable Kingdom***). You can also learn more about worker exploitation during COVID if you watch the Frontline documentary ***COVID's Hidden Toll***, which is not on the flyer but available on the PBS website at <https://tinyurl.com/23h9r7ah>. Hopefully this list can lead to great discussion of these topics in our community.

STATE OF THE MEETING REPORT TO BE CONSIDERED AT MARCH BUSINESS MEETING

Jennifer Dickie, Clerk of the Meeting, shared the 2022 State of the Meeting Report during February's Meeting for Business. **Especially if you contributed to the report, please review and share any corrections or comments directly with Jennifer as soon as possible at afmclerk1@gmail.com.** The state of the meeting report will come before Meeting for Business on March 19 for discernment. It will be read, with corrections, at that Meeting for Business, but if you would like to read in advance the version read in February, it is at <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Bih9P0VRG4AGGI1gx6wdtIZ73LJsl-sKviClqGcCJ5Y/edit?usp=sharing>.

WAYS TO SIGN UP TO HELP ON SUNDAY MORNINGS

As more and more people return to the meetinghouse and as new people join us, we need additional help on Sunday. We especially need additional help in the Nursery and First Day School, as many of our newcomers have children.

- Sign up online at <http://tinyurl.com/afmvolunteers>
- Sign up at the meetinghouse. Look for the sign-in sheet on the greeting table by the front door or sign up as the volunteer sign up sheet is passed during announcements after meeting for worship.
- Call or email the Office Coordinator at atlantaquakers@gmail.com or 404-377-2474.
- You can sign up to greet or help in First Day School (etc) on the same Sunday each month. Just let the Office Coordinator know.
- The Office Coordinator is compiling a list of people she can contact if there's an unfilled spot or if someone has to cancel at the last minute. Please contact the Office Coordinator at 404-4377-2474 or atlantaquakers@gmail.com or see the separate list on the greeting table if you're interested.

FOLLOW UP FROM QRE FORUM ON QUAKERS, SLAVERY, AND REPARATIONS

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1m_1FTrnYnRALRuXPQvCqcpDHeTmMnD2/view?usp=sharing has a report from the January 22 Quakers for Racial Equality (QRE) forum on "Quakers, Slavery, and Reparations." QRE would love to expand the conversation and invites your input. You can contact Susan Firestone at susanfires@gmail.com.

A NEW WAY TO VOLUNTEER WITH CASA ALTERNA

The sign-up sheet to volunteer to purchase groceries and other needed items for Casa Alterna guests through March 2023 can be found at <http://bit.ly/3v2cXOQ>. (Scroll down for empty slots.) There is also a new role – offering transportation (and sometimes coaching) for long-term residents of the Grant Park Casa Alterna house on their grocery runs. None of the residents have vehicles. For some, shopping in a North American grocery store is a new experience. A few need help with budgeting, using coupons, etc. Spanish proficiency is not required. Stumbling with the help of a translation app can help break the ice and makes for good laughs. If you are able to help with transportation, please reach out to Cathy Amanti at cbamanti@gmail.com. Your support of this work is making a huge impact on the lives of asylum seekers as they find their way in a new country. Your help is greatly appreciated. Visit the Casa Alterna website at <https://casaalterna.org/> for more updates.

ON THE SPIRITUALITY OF LIGHTHEARTEDNESS

“There’s a Pendle Hill pamphlet . . . called “The Spirituality of Lightheartedness,” and in the pamphlet she [Helen Steere Horn] maintains that we’re called to joy, and that Jesus said that we could lay down our burdens and rest, and that the Psalms say that we can find a path of joy. . . . I think it’s a gift and I think it’s the spirit moving in us, not to take ourselves so seriously.”

- Mosi Harrington from this QuakerSpeak video: <https://quakerspeak.com/video/practicing-the-spirituality-of-lightheartedness/>. There's also a transcript for those that would prefer to read.

WEDNESDAY MORNING MEETING FOR WORSHIP – Wednesdays, March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, etc

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, March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 etc

The Macon Worship Group, which is under the care of Atlanta Friends Meeting, worships via Zoom every Wednesday at 7:00 pm.. They invite us to join them for this ongoing meeting for worship! For more information, contact Bill Holland and Mary Ann Downey.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85017745787?pwd=RUQ3OGJPenMrYktXemlxL1d2R3Q2Zz09>

Meeting ID: 850 1774 5787

Passcode: 22Light

BOOKS BY AND ABOUT PEOPLE OF COLOR – Thursday, March 2 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 March 2, they'll discuss *Joan Is Okay* by Weike Wang. For questions or the Zoom link, contact Susan Cole (cole2544@bellsouth.net).

SPIRITUAL JOURNEYS & QUAKERISM 101 IN ADULT FIRST DAY SCHOOL

Sunday, March 5, 12, 19, 26

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. (To listen to Rich Klima's Spiritual Journey, shared March 5, visit <https://tinyurl.com/mrs3uxwn>. To listen to other previous Spiritual Journeys, including Courtney Sicheloff's, contact Mary Ann Downey.)

In March, Adult First Day School continues its annual Quakerism 101, discussing the history and current status of world-wide Quakerism (using *Quakerism: the Basics* by Margery Post Abbott and Carl Abbott). Please join us for this series, even if you have not read the books and even if you do not regularly attend Adult First Day School. The book is available for purchase at online bookstores, including quakerbooks.org/products/quakerism-the-basics.

FRIENDS SCHOOL OF ATLANTA ANNUAL FUNDRAISER & COMMUNITY CELEBRATION
Saturday, March 4

You are invited to support the Friends School of Atlanta (FSA) by participating in our annual fundraiser, *Light Up the Night*, on March 4, from 6 to 9 pm at the meetinghouse. This year, we will also be celebrating founding head of school Waman French's upcoming retirement. As a special favor to Waman and FSA, Amy Ray of the Indigo Girls will play a set during the event. Tickets are \$50 per person and include catered food, drinks, and music. There will also be a live auction raising funds for a special project to support the school. We expect tickets to sell out, so purchase yours now at: <https://fsa2023.givesmart.com>. Questions? Contact Christina Repoley, co-clerk of the planning committee at christinarepoley@gmail.com.

POTLUCK – Sunday, March 5

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. Please consider bringing not only enough food for your family, but also a little extra for newcomers and guests.

WALK FOR PEACE – Sunday, March 5

There will be a short Walk for Peace on First Day, March 5th sponsored by Social Concerns. We will gather around 12:25 pm in the grassy field across the street from Meeting and walk along the path for about 45 minutes round trip. Please no chanting or signs. This is a contemplative, silent walk. Come walk for inner peace and for peace throughout the world. For more information, please contact Mark Yates at yates77@bellsouth.net.

BOOK TALK: *WAR IN UKRAINE: MAKING SENSE OF A SENSELESS CONFLICT* – Sun, March 5

Medea Benjamin will speak about her book *War in Ukraine: Making Sense of a Senseless Conflict*, authored with Nicolas J.S. Davies, at the meetinghouse on March 5 at 1:30 pm, with a light lunch at 12:45. She will address the war's background, the resulting 100,000+ deaths and nuclear war threat, and the urgent need for a diplomatic solution. She will sign books afterwards, and books will be available for sale. Sponsored by Atlantans for Peace in Ukraine. With Co-sponsors Atlanta Democratic Socialists of America, Atlanta International Action Center, Peacemaking and Justice Committee of Oakhurst Presbyterian Church, Peace & Justice Committee of North Decatur Presbyterian Church, Peace Network of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta, Social Concerns Committee of the Atlanta Friends Meeting, Social Justice Guild of the First Existentialist Congregation of Atlanta.

VIRTUAL DOCUMENTARY NIGHTS – Sundays, March 5 and 19

Sunday, March 5 from 7 to 9 pm: In honor of Women's History Month In the documentary [*Toni Morrison: The Pieces I Am*](#), author Toni Morrison leads an assembly of her peers, critics and colleagues on an exploration of race, history, America and the human condition.

Sunday, March 19 from 7 to 9 pm: Special Virtual Documentary Night, in honor of the Super Bowl. In the documentary [*Behind The Shield: The Power and Politics of the NFL*](#), acclaimed author Dave Zirin of The Nation magazine explores the hidden politics of manhood, militarism, nationalism, and race in the NFL. We will be joined by Dave Zirin for a special guest Q&A!

You can watch online for free, then RSVP for the free online discussions. For these links, see the current announcement sheet (http://atlantaquakers.org/announcements/Announcement_Sheet.pdf) or Virtual Documentary Nights website at (<https://documentarynight.wordpress.com/>).

COMMITTEE ON UNDOING RACISM IN AFM -- Tuesday, March 7

The Committee on Undoing Racism in Atlanta Friends Meeting (CURAFM) will have an online meeting on the first Tuesday of the month, January 3, 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

MIDWEEK EVENING WORSHIP RESUMES MARCH 15 -- Wednesdays, March 15, 22, 29, etc

The midweek evening meeting for worship will restart on Wednesday, March 15th and meet in the Library from 7 pm to 8 pm every Wednesday evening. All are welcome to attend. For more info, contact Alex Zinnes, azinnes@gmail.com and Clive Gordon, cmgord28@gmail.com.

MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS -- Sunday, March 20

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.

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FOR FCNL's SPRING LOBBY WEEKEND – March 25 to 28

This year, Friends Committee on National Legislation's (FCNL's) Spring Lobby Weekend, their annual young adult conference and day of action in Washington, DC, will be in person OR online from March 25 to 28, 2023. Gather, learn, and act to encourage Congress to support violence interruption programs. These programs support community-centered solutions that work to address the root causes of violence. Young Adult Friends can receive scholarships for this wider Quaker event through the Kenworthy bequest; contact Bill Hooson of Ministry & Worship at bhooson@aol.com. Registration now open. For more details about the event and to register, visit: <https://web.cvent.com/event/e65db82d-5cb7-4372-9eea-2101f070a475/summary>. For general information on FCNL, visit <https://www.fcnl.org/> or contact Sue May.

GREEN FRIENDS PRESENT CLIMATE CHANGE FORUM – Sunday, March 26

The Green Friends Committee will sponsor a presentation by Bob Place on climate change at 11:45 AM on Sunday, March 26 at the meetinghouse. The title of the talk is “Global Warming: How Bad is It? What are the Scientific, Political and Economic Issues?” For the last 37 years, Dr. Place has been deeply and increasingly concerned about this most crucial world problem that threatens life on Earth. Bob Place has a Ph.D. in Physical Inorganic Chemistry from University of California at Berkeley. He taught at Otterbein University in Ohio for 40 years. His research interests have involved gas phase phenomena, including atmospheric and weather patterns. While at Otterbein, Dr. Place developed a chemistry course with a section on global warming that he taught for 25 years. For more information, contact Bob Place at rplace@otterbein.edu.

FORUM ON REPARATIVE JUSTICE & RIGHT RELATIONS FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND AFRICAN AMERICANS – Sunday, April 30

Atlanta Friends Meeting and the Friends School of Atlanta invite you to join us for this free online forum on April 30, 2023 at 1:00 PM ET with guest speakers Frank Pommersheim and Craig Womack. Free registration via Zoom is required, and details will be available closer to April 30.

Frank Pommersheim will be speaking on “**Reconciliation and Repair: Land Acknowledgement, Land Return, and Reparations.**” He is professor emeritus of law at the University of South Dakota School of Law, was born in New York City, but has lived in South Dakota for more than 40 years. Prior to joining the faculty at the University of South Dakota School of Law in 1984, he lived and worked on the Rosebud Sioux Reservation for ten years. He has also served on a number of tribal appellate courts throughout Indian country including Chief Justice for the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribal Court of Appeals and Associate Justice for the Rosebud Sioux Supreme Court. Professor Pommersheim writes extensively in the field of Indian law. He is the author of *Braid of Feathers (American Indian Law and Contemporary Tribal Life)*, *Broken Landscape: Indians, Indian Tribes, and the Constitution*, more than 40 law review articles, and more than 125 judicial opinions. His most recent book entitled *Tribal Justice: 25 Years as a Tribal Appellate Justice* came out in 2015. Professor Pommersheim has also won numerous teaching awards. In 2022, Frank received the Federal Bar Association Lawrence Baca Lifetime Achievement Award in Federal Indian Law.

Craig Womack will be discussing “**Creek History and Creek Responsibilities.**” He is a retired professor of Native American literature, is a musician and author, and member of Hillabee Ceremonial Grounds, one of the Creek grounds in Oklahoma. He was a long-time resident of Atlanta who now lives in middle Tennessee and remains active in the city.

For more information, contact Herb Edwards Herbmedwards@gmail.com or Susan Firestone susanfires@gmail.com or see this flyer:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xP-k6_F66tgsJ0XkGHdLnDW1_QPHI76f/view?usp=sharing About

MEN'S RETREAT AT FERGUSON CABIN – Friday to Sunday, May 5 to 7

The annual Men's Retreat (man is self-defined) at the Ferguson Cabins on Lake Burton in the north Georgia mountains will be May 5 to 7. Enjoy fishing (license required), swimming, hiking, canoeing and listening to the sound of nature. When registering, please let us know about any medical conditions and what you might bring. Prices \$20 per night for cabins and \$15 per night for bunkhouses. Scholarship funds available. Please call or text Eric Glenn at 404-966-1417 or call or email Bert Skellie at 404-680-4799 or bertskellie@gmail.com.

YOUNG ADULT FRIENDS RETREAT – Saturday & Sunday. May 13 to 14

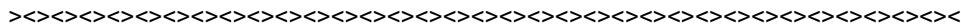
The Young Adult Friends will have a retreat Saturday to Sunday May 13 to 14, with the option of staying Friday night as well. It will be at AFM's Ferguson Cabins (about 2.5 hours north of Atlanta). Anyone aged approximately 18 to 35 is welcome. Mark your calendars! More info and RSVP are coming soon. In the meantime, please email afm-yaf@googlegroups.com with any questions.

MORE INFO ON SAYMA (June 23 to 26) & FGC GATHERING (July 2 to 8)

- Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association or SAYMA (our yearly meeting) Annual Sessions and Retreat, Friday, June 23 to Monday, June 26 at Berea College in Berea, Kentucky. The theme is *Why Are We Here?* A call for workshops will be extended in March and registration will be available in April. See SAYMA.org for updates.
- Friends General Conference (FGC) Gathering, July 2 to 8 at Western Oregon University in Monmouth, Oregon. Plenaries will be hybrid. FGCgathering.org

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR SAYMA ANNUAL SESSIONS AND RETREAT AND FOR FGC GATHERING

As part of Tom and Suzan Kenworthy's bequest to the meeting, scholarships to wider Quaker events, including these, are available to Young Adult Friends (ages 18 to 35). Ministry and Worship also offers partial scholarships to anyone in the meeting attending these two specific events. More details later or contact the Ministry and Worship Committee via Bill Hooson.



MINUTES FOR FIRST MONTH MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS
 February 20, 2023, held in person and via Zoom in a blended meeting
 Minutes Recorded Pending Approval

Attendance: Alison Mawle, Clive Gordon, Richard Allen, Sally Ferguson, Steve Collins, Guthrie Armstrong, Beth Muller, Susan Firestone, Charlotte Flores, Anton Flores-Maisonet, Jennifer Crumpley, Brent Wolff, Ian "Big Softy" Wells, Karen terHorst Morris, Sue May, Georgia Lord, Lynn Leuszler, Myrna Trapp, Jim Tolmach, Bill Hooson, Don Bender, Judy Bender, Lissa Place, Julia Ewen, Jillian Minarich, Judy Lumb, Bill Holland, Bert Skellie, Karen Skellie, Jennifer Dickie, David Small (Acting Clerk), Emma Bingham (Recording Clerk)

Opening Worship

Query for Second Month: When pressure is brought upon you to lower your standard of integrity, how do you resist it?

Source: Britain Yearly Meeting, adapted

Discernment

Nominating Committee - Jim Tolmach reported for the Nominating Committee.

Minute 2-19-23:01: On the recommendation of Nominating Committee, the Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Emma Bingham for Recording Clerk for a two-year term beginning February 2023–December 2024.

Minute 2-19-23:02: On the recommendation of Nominating Committee, the Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Clive Gordon for Ministry and Worship Committee for a three-year term beginning March 2023–December 2025.

Reports

Ministry and Worship - Bill Hooson reported for the Ministry and Worship Committee.

Request for marriage

Sara Patenaude and Stacey Sharer request marriage under the care of the meeting. Bill Hooson read the letter from Sara and Stacey. A clearness committee has been appointed and will meet with them.

Ministry of Anton Flores-Maisonet

Anton Flores Maisonet reported about his ministry under the care of Atlanta Friends Meeting working with asylum seekers.

Anton gave some background on how he came to this ministry: in the 2000s, he and Charlotte were living in LaGrange, GA, and attending a Spanish language church. He was called to interpret for a family, the Martinez family, when a member of the family, Norma, had to go to the hospital. They subsequently helped the family buy a house.

Anton came to Atlanta in 2019. He had plans to be here for two years and enroll in seminary, but the pandemic changed things. During that time, people were being released from a detention center and brought to the Atlanta airport. Anton was called to lead a team to help immigrant and asylum seekers who were arriving or being dropped off at the airport. By August 2020, Atlanta Friends Meeting had decided that this ministry could come under the care of the meeting and space in the meetinghouse could be used for hospitality. Since then, Casa Alterna has hosted hundreds of guests from many different countries for thousands of nights (see statistics below).

Recently, many individuals from Venezuela are coming to stay, partly because of hyperinflation in that country, which has resulted in a mass exodus of people. Usually people need someone to sponsor them to stay in the U.S. Casa Alterna is receiving individuals who don't have anyone to sponsor them — no family or friends already here.

When asylum seekers first arrive in Atlanta, sometimes they find the Latin America Association, which refers them to Casa Alterna, but now Casa Alterna is becoming more well-known, so some people are calling directly. Asylum seekers get put in a hotel by the government and the Latin America Association for 3 weeks, but this is not enough to help them make it through the legal process of asylum seeking. This has meant that in the past year, people have been staying for longer terms at Casa Alterna and its new house in Grant Park. Long term guests have longer term issues, physical, mental, and legal, that can be difficult and require more support.

Anton extended invitations to help in three different ways:

Care Circles - A small group of friends companioning one or two residents to help them as they seek asylum and work on their goals

Residential House Coordinator - Live in our Grant Park house with our long-term residents. This person is the on-site coordinator of the house. No compensation, but free rent and utilities. Spanish is preferred. Approximately 10-15 hours of work per week.

Groceries and Transportation Support - Help us stock our shelves. Also, sometimes our guests need a ride to a medical or immigration-related appointment. See Cathy Amanti or Anton Flores-Maisonet. Also, if anyone is led to help coordinate the grocery and transportation efforts on the administrative/organizational side, they can contact Cathy Amanti.

Anton provided statistics about how many nights guests have stayed at Casa Alterna since 2020.

Year	# of Guests	Average stay (nights)	Total nights
8/20-7/21	275	3	908
8/21-7/22	178	2	376
8/22-present	24	47	1128
8/22-7/23 projection	34	59	1985

Anton's end-of-year report to Ministry and Worship can be found at [this link](#).

Membership request

Bill Hooson reported that Jillian Minarich requested membership, and he read the membership request letter from her.

Nominating Committee - Lissa Place reported for the Nominating Committee.

The Nominating Committee asked all committees to update their sections of the Handbook. Changes should be submitted by the end of March.

Here is a list of positions that Nominating is going to need to fill for **terms starting in 2023**.

- Facebook Moderator- Immediate- ideally 2 people
- Ministry and Worship 2 people
- Nominating Committee- up to 2 positions immediately (Naming committee is responsible for this)
- *Clerk of Finance maybe*
- *Clerk of Administration maybe*
- They have a tentative Clerk of Religious Education, though there are details to work out.

Positions needed to **begin in 2024** (Nominating is beginning the search for these people now)

- Clerk of Social Concerns- Term begins 2024
- Clerk of Ministry and Worship - term begins 2024
- Assistant Clerk of the Meeting - someone who is prepared to step into the role of clerk after 2 years as assistant. - find immediately for term beginning 2024
- Nominating Committee- up to 3 positions immediately depending if people extend their terms - term beginning in 2024 (Naming Committee work)

Naming Committee - Sally Ferguson reported for the Naming Committee.

Currently, Sally Ferguson, John Adams, and Gwen Davies are members of Naming Committee. Sally reminded Friends that the Naming Committee names people to Nominating Committee.

The Naming Committee brings forward Ellen McQueen to serve on the Nominating Committee for a two year term. We will bring her name back next month for discernment.

FCNL Representative - Sue May reported as the FCNL representative.

The Friends Committee on National Legislation is looking for input on whether the policy statement on reproductive health care should be revised. Sue read part of the policy statement below, highlighting that Friends are not in unity on abortion, but have advised policy makers not to use the abortion debate to paralyze action on other legislation.

Sue brought suggestions on how to proceed. Jennifer Dickie has suggested a called meeting for discernment to respond to queries about FCNL's policy on abortion. (See queries below.)

The meeting's report to FCNL is due May 1. The meeting for discernment would likely be in March and the date will be decided on and publicized soon. There may be some difficulty finding a date, given that the meeting's schedule is busy this spring.

Brent Wolff suggested that any working group on this issue should ideally have representation on all sides of the debate.

Use [this link](#) to find a summary of FCNL's current policy statement.

The queries they would like us to consider are:

- What does reproductive health care look like in the world that you and your community seek?
- How are the Quaker values and testimonies relevant to the issue of abortion?
- Should the FCNL Policy Statement be revised on the issues of abortion and reproductive health and abortion?
- If so, what should the Policy Statement say?

Landscape Committee - Myrna Trapp reported for the Landscape Committee.

There is a ravine at the back of the building that the landscape committee is working on making into a meditation area. However, the creek banks are eroding. The creek is the headwater for a stream further down and needs protecting. The committee needs to find what government agency might be able to help.

Alison Mawle suggested reaching out to the Riverkeepers organization as a starting point.

Administration Committee - Steve Collins reported for the Administration Committee.

Solar Panels: Georgia Power technicians were finally – after several delays -- able to test and approve our solar panel system on January 27, 2023. That means we are now using the solar panels to generate a portion of the electricity we need for the Meetinghouse. We will monitor the system to determine what our savings are and how efficiently the system is working.

AFM Website: An ad hoc advisory group has been formed to consider and evaluate potential enhancements to the Meeting's web site, atlantaquakers.org. The group consists of Aaron Ruscetta, Andrew Gaskins, Beth Ruddiman, Emma Bingham, Katie McMahon, and Steve Collins. The group has met once and is developing a project plan for this effort.

Young Friends Support Committee - Brent Wolff reported for the Young Friends Support Committee.

Brent reported that the committee is taking shape, with a budget and a monthly meeting schedule. It has already met several times. Asa Kramer-Dickie is the Young Friends Coordinator, and Brent is clerk of the committee with help from Lisa Kruse. The committee is planning activities for spring and will update the meeting on those.

Members of the committee are Asa Kramer-Dickie, Brent Wolff, Lisa Kruse, Gwen Davies, David Small, and Terri O'Neil.

Clerk's Items

Jennifer Dickie read the 2022 State of the Meeting Report Draft. She invited input and corrections on the draft.

[Editor's Note: you may read the draft at

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Bih9P0VRG4AGGI1gx6wdtIZ73LJsl-sKviClqGcCJ5Y/edit?usp=sharing>]

Brent Wolff asked whether the QVS sabbath in Atlanta is temporary or permanent. Steve Collins reported that the national QVS organization hasn't informed him yet because they need to find out how many applicants and positions at nonprofits they will have. Steve guessed it would be 2024 before they could restart in Atlanta.

Announcements

- Susan Firestone announced that on Sunday, April 30th at 1pm there will be an online forum in cooperation with the Friends School of Atlanta titled "Reparative Justice & Right Relations for Indigenous Peoples and African Americans" featuring two speakers, Frank Pommersheim (a professor emeritus at University of South Dakota School of Law and expert in Indian Law and Policy) and Craig Womack (retired professor of Native American literature and longtime Atlanta resident). Susan will be sending out registration and Zoom details closer to the event.
- Susan Firestone also announced that the ad hoc committee on Reparations & Right Relations would like the Ministry & Worship committee and other committees in Atlanta Friends Meeting to review the "working statement building toward land acknowledgement and making amends" and consider how AFM can make plans and a timeline for working on these commitments in consultation with Indigenous People.
- The 2023 SAYMA Sessions and Retreat: *Why Are We Here?* will be held at Berea College in Berea, KY, **Friday, June 23 - Monday, June 26**. *A call for workshops will be extended in March and registration will be available in April. See [SAYMA.org](https://sayma.org) for updates.*

Approval of Minutes from 1st month 2023

Minute 2-19-23:03: The Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the 1st month 2023 minutes with minor corrections.

Events in the life of the meeting

Erin Daniel gave birth to Calla Hope Daniel Midyette, on 1/26 at 12:07 am.

Closing Worship

Atlanta Friends Meeting
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ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING

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