

# ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING NEWSLETTER

## OCTOBER 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](http://atlantaquakers.org/announcements/Announcement_Sheet.pdf)

Meeting for Worship each First Day (Sunday) in Person & via Zoom, 10:00 am. Details page 2.

### QUERY FOR OCTOBER

Do you find time for meditation, prayer, and worship?

Do you seek spiritual guidance in making decisions and in times of stress?

Source: Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association's *Faith and Practice*  
[www.sayma.org/online\\_documents/faith\\_and\\_practice/F&P2021final.pdf](http://www.sayma.org/online_documents/faith_and_practice/F&P2021final.pdf)

### DEEP LISTENING

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by *Bill Holland*

We humans love creating answers, it manages the anxiety of ambiguity and uncertainty. Quaker history is filled with people or groups who decided on an answer and sought to impose that answer on others. It drains spirit and becomes orthodoxy. Rufus Jones thought of the Quaker movements as "a mighty protest of soul against the habit of turning religion into an adoption of theological doctrines." I share that trust in the value and validity of our direct experience without having to turn it into a creed or statement of "acceptable" ideas.

When I was training as a counselor many years ago, the biggest challenge was learning to listen, to let go of expectations and answers and instead to listen deeply to another person. There is a surface form of listening where we hear the words and immediately turn to giving answers, sharing our own experiences and so on. But this is not really listening, it is seeking to control our own anxiety and to assert control. There is a deeper listening that opens the heart, that takes in what is being shared for what it is and allows it to ripple. It is the form of listening that changes us in the holy encounter. I think of this form of listening as listening beneath the words for the feelings and spirit that flows beneath.

When we gather in worship we are engaged in this deep listening.

### DISCERNING THE CALL OF SPIRIT IN THE SILENCE

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"Most of us, we don't see writing on the wall," Deborah Seuss admitted back in 2015 in a QuakerSpeaks video. "Most of us don't hear a vocal leading. Most of us don't frequently have these dynamic mystical experiences." Instead, as Friends have done throughout the centuries, we strive to quiet ourselves and discern the calling of Spirit in the silence.

Video and transcript available at <https://quakerspeak.com/video/quakers-and-the-still-small-voice/>

## PLEASE JOIN ATLANTA FRIENDS ON SUNDAYS FOR WORSHIP AND FIRST DAY SCHOOL

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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. Masks are optional at the meetinghouse, but if you test positive for COVID or are ill for any reason, please stay home and join us for worship and other events via Zoom. Any updates to Zoom info will be in the current announcement sheet at [www.atlantaquakers.org/\\_announcements/Announcement\\_Sheet.pdf](http://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=M29EYlIFWEhSQUtZRVVPalFFYmVDQT09>

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.

## WEDNESDAY OPPORTUNITIES FOR WORSHIP EACH WEEK

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### NOW VIA ZOOM ONLY AT 8:30 AM

Zoom only as of September 27. For more information, contact Bert Skellie at 404-680-4799.

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

Meeting ID: 92038862952

Password: 726229

### IN PERSON AT THE MEETINGHOUSE AT 7:00 PM

In the library. All are welcome to attend. For more information, contact Alex Zinnes, [azinnes@gmail.com](mailto:azinnes@gmail.com) and Clive Gordon, [cmgord28@gmail.com](mailto:cmgord28@gmail.com).

### VIA ZOOM WITH MACON WORSHIP GROUP AT 7:00 PM

The Macon Worship Group, which is under the care of Atlanta Friends Meeting, invites us to join them for this ongoing meeting for worship via Zoom! 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

*Lynn Leuszler died quickly and peacefully on September 22, 2023. A memorial service will probably happen in mid-October, and details will be in the announcement sheet. Please hold Georgia Lord, David Leuszler and the family in the light.*

**PLEASE HOLD  
IN THE LIGHT:**

Georgia Lord, David Leuszler  
and family  
Free Polazzo and Janet  
Minshall  
Donna Roberts

**Atlanta Friends Committees and Other Contacts**

Clerk of the Meeting: Jennifer Dickie, afmclerk1@gmail.com  
Office Coordinator: Nina Gooch, atlantaquakers@gmail.com  
Treasurer: afmtreasurer1@gmail.com  
Ministry & Worship: Bill Hooson, bhooson@aol.com  
Finance: Paul Mangelsdorf, 770-677-4280  
Social Concerns: Kevin Moran, moran.kevinmoran.kevin@gmail.com  
Administration: Steve Collins, shcollins75@gmail.com  
Care & Counsel: Jennifer Crumpley, afm.care.counsel@gmail.com  
Quakers for Racial Equality: Susan Firestone, susanfires@gmail.com  
Committee on Undoing Racism in AFM: Lissa Place, lissaplace@yahoo.com  
Religious Education: Amanda Gendreau, AmandaGendreau5@gmail.com  
Young Friends Program Coordinator, Asa Kramer-Dickie,  
afm.young.friends@gmail.com  
Library: Cal Gough, calgough@bellsouth.net  
Nominating: Lissa Place, lissaplace@yahoo.com  
Newsletter Editor: Nina Gooch, atlquakerltr@gmail.com  
Webmaster: Aaron Ruscetta, arxaaron@gmail.com  
Bookkeeper: Jonah McDonald, afmbookkeeper1@gmail.com

**For info about these and other 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.**

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

**SPIRITUAL JOURNEYS AND ADULT FIRST DAY SCHOOL – Sundays**

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 October 1, Mary Place will offer her spiritual journey. (To hear Greg Johnson's Spiritual Journey, shared September 3, visit <https://tinyurl.com/2yxwyesy>. To listen to other past Spiritual Journeys, contact Mary Ann Downey.)

We offer a standing invitation to all attenders and members, those new to meeting, transfers from other meetings, or longtime Atlanta members and attenders to share your answers to these questions. Some Friends find it helpful to do this as an interview. For more information and to schedule a time to tell your story, contact Mary Ann Downey at [madowney@mindspring.com](mailto:madowney@mindspring.com).

On second, third, and fourth Sundays in October, Adult First Day School will study the Israel/Palestine situation using the books *The Shortest History of Israel and Palestine* by Michael Scott-Baumann and *Occupied with Nonviolence* by Jean Zaru. All are welcome whether you have read the books or not. (The recording of David Small's presentation on his recent trip to Israel and Palestine shared with Adult First Day on August 27 is at <https://tinyurl.com/2s3um93c>)

On fifth Sundays, including October 29, Adult First Day School will have worship sharing based on a query, either that month's query or another query.

Adult First Day School meets in person at the meetinghouse, and people can also join via Zoom. For questions, please contact Elizabeth Lamb.

## VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON DOCUMENTARY NIGHTS – October 1, 13, 15, 22

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*For virtual documentary nights, participants watch the film online in advance, then meet online to discuss the film. For in-person documentary nights, participants watch the film together in person and then discuss it. Reservations are required for both. For reservations and links to watch the films for virtual documentary nights, check the announcement sheet or visit <https://documentarynight.wordpress.com/events/>. You can also contact attender Adam Hicks with questions at [CommunityDocumentaryNight@gmail.com](mailto:CommunityDocumentaryNight@gmail.com) or 404-414-8917.*

**Virtual** Documentary Night on October 1 from 7 to 9 pm. *Forks Over Knives* examines the claim that most, if not all, of the “diseases of affluence” that afflict us can be controlled, or even reversed, by changing what we put on our fork rather than going under the knife.

Special **Virtual** Documentary Night on Sunday, October 8 from 7 to 9 pm. *Just Eat It* looks at our food-obsessed society and raises the issue of food waste, as activists try to survive by only eating discarded food for six months. Jenny Rustemeyer (Producer) will be present for a special guest Q&A. This event is in collaboration with the Association of Gleaning Organizations, which builds the capacity of organizations recovering fresh fruits and vegetables from farms, gardens, and backyards across North America. By engaging communities to harvest surplus produce, vulnerable populations are provided with increased access to wholesome foods.

**In-Person** Documentary Night will be on Friday, October 13 from 6:45 to 10 pm, with the film starting promptly at 7:10 pm. At Northwest Unitarian Universalist Congregation. About the documentary *Writing With Fire*: In a cluttered news landscape dominated by men emerges India’s only newspaper run by Dalit women. Chief reporter Meera and her journalists break traditions, redefining what it means to be powerful. Here is a link to the trailer. <https://youtu.be/MFBWkKIVEOU>

Special **Virtual** Documentary Night on Sunday, October 22 from 7 to 9 pm. In *Sick Around The World*, FRONTLINE correspondent T.R. Reid examines first-hand the health-care systems of other advanced capitalist democracies — UK, Germany, Switzerland, Japan, and Taiwan — to see what tried and tested ideas might help us reform our broken health-care system. T.R Reid (Filmmaker) will be present for a special guest Q&A. This event is in collaboration with Physicians for a National Health Program Georgia (PNHP), which advocates for universal, comprehensive single-payer national health insurance, and collaborates with others to fight racism and advance social justice.

## POTLUCK – Sunday, October 1

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Please join us for a potluck lunch following the rise of Meeting on the first Sunday of the month. Weather permitting, we have tables outside for you to enjoy.

If you can, please bring not only enough food for your family, but also extra for newcomers and guests.

## FLGBTQC GATHERING AT POTLUCK -- Sunday, October 1

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Join Atlanta's FLGBTQC (Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender – and genderqueer, nonbinary and genderfluid – Concerns) at potluck. For more information about FLGBTQC or about marching in Atlanta Pride on October 15, contact Nina Gooch or Derek Otis. To join the group email list, contact Nina Gooch at [atlantaquakers@gmail.com](mailto:atlantaquakers@gmail.com).

On Sunday, October 1, Atlanta Friends Meeting will join other Friends around the world to celebrate our roots and common concerns as well as our diversity. Ministry and Worship invites you to test your knowledge of Quakers worldwide with questions about the locations and diversity while sampling a celebration cake at potluck. A map will show the extent of meeting locations and may surprise you. See <https://fwcc.world/>

**What is World Quaker Day?** Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) began this annual event in 2014 to help raise awareness of the diverse family of Friends around the world. It is a chance for Quakers to remember that we are worshiping through every time zone, celebrating our deep connections across cultures and Quaker traditions. We are united in love and can accompany each other on this special day that draws us together. It is a chance to celebrate our wonderful diversity of expression, whilst at the same time offering an important opportunity to learn about Friends' experiences in other parts of the world. World Quaker Day will be an opportunity to learn, reflect and act, as we prepare to come together as a global family of Friends at next year's World Plenary Meeting in South Africa and online, themed ***Living the Spirit of Ubuntu: Responding with Hope to God's Call to Cherish Creation and One Another.***

**Learn:** The word ubuntu emphasizes shared humanity, deep connection, and care for creation and one another. It is sometimes translated as 'I am because you are' or 'we are because you are'. It refers to the deeply held belief, morality and custom that every person is worthy of being recognized, respected, and heard, and that we as human beings are all interdependent. It is centrally important to the faith and practice of Quakers in Southern Africa. Here's a link to a new video about ubuntu.

**Reflect:** Ubuntu is not just a word; it is a way of living. It resonates strongly with Quaker values of simplicity, peace, integrity, community, and equality and the Biblical emphasis on loving God, cherishing creation, and treating others as we would wish to be treated. Consider the queries: What would the effects be if our global Quaker community were to follow the precepts of ubuntu more closely, and how can we go about this? As the climate crisis accelerates, what could the application of the principles and practices of ubuntu mean for us?

**Act:** Quaker bodies all around the world send nominees to the World Plenary Meeting. Doing this in a way in which participation is inclusive means subsidizing nominees from Global South by around 90%, with a further fund set aside for addressing the 'digital divide' between Friends in richer and less rich countries.

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#### OTHER WORLD QUAKER DAY EVENTS -- Sunday, October 1

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From 1 to 2 pm EDT, the Black Quaker Project (BQP) hosts a virtual presentation to celebrate World Quaker Day and showcase recent developments in the BQP's mission to give voice to Quakers of color around the globe, who comprise an overwhelming majority of the world's Friends, but historically have not been given their due in leadership and concerns. Register at [https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_K3L9TyiGTMSvarE6—on3g](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_K3L9TyiGTMSvarE6—on3g).

Sunday, October 1, at 7 pm Eastern Time, attend an bilingual virtual worship session with Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) Americas. This service will be bilingual in English and Spanish and will include a blend of Quaker worship styles as practiced by Friends in the Americas, with music as part of the program. Register at <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/h9wjvfvf>. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email with a link for the service.

## SESSION 2: AFM RESTORATIVE JUSTICE CIRCLE TRAINING – Sunday, October 1

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Thanks to Restore More for the excellent session on “unpacking biases” they conducted with over 20 AFM Friends on September 18. Now it’s time to register for session 2, “Restorative Practice Circles,” Sunday, October 1, at 2:30 pm to 3:30 pm. If you participated in session 1, you still need to register for session 2 separately. Friends who were not able to come to the first session are welcome at session 2. Session 2 is particularly relevant for AFM because we will participate in restorative practice circles and discuss how they can be used to address racist incidents and repair racial harm. We encourage as many AFM members and attenders as possible to participate in this free virtual session.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1jNH92uL7dOHZQk4Qzb4Xg06uAFgOyyaF/view?usp=sharing> has details. Zoom Registration Link is at <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcrd-yqqzwoH9WUBjSmP5dcqJJihigjb99h>. **Please register by Saturday, October 1 by noon.**

## BOOKS BY AND ABOUT PEOPLE OF COLOR -- Thursday, October 5

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The book group reading works by and about people of color meets at 1:30 p.m. on the first Thursday of the month in person in combination with Zoom. On October 5, they will discuss *Afterlives* by Abdulrazak Gurnah. For questions or the Zoom link, contact Susan Cole (cole2544@bellsouth.net).

## MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO MARRIAGE: Sara Patenaude and Stacey Sharer Saturday, October 7

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Sara Patenaude and Stacey Sharer will be married under the Care of the Meeting on Saturday, October 7, at 11:30am at the Atlanta Friends Meeting. Members and attenders are encouraged to attend to show support for this couple and their life together. Marriages under the Care of the Meeting are a Meeting for Worship and a celebration for the entire community! A potluck lunch will be served following the meeting for worship and guests are requested to bring a dish to share. Please consider street parking or carpooling or taking MARTA to keep room for outside guests in the parking lot. If you have questions, or would like to help, please contact Marriage Committee clerk Mary Ann Downey at [madowney@mindspring.com](mailto:madowney@mindspring.com). It will help us plan if you let Mary Ann know that you will come and bring a dish.

## FRIENDS SCHOOL HISPANIC/LATINX HERITAGE MONTH COMMUNITY EVENT -- Sat, Oct 7

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The Friends School of Atlanta (FSA) invites FSA families, friends, and guests from the broader community to join us on Saturday, October 7 from 12:00 to 3:00 p.m. for the Hispanic/Latinx Heritage Month Community Event. The event will take place on FSAs campus and will feature the [Tres Jardines](#) food truck, local vendor market, music, art stations, read-alouds, a bounce house, and more! For more info, please contact [Kristen Clayton](#), Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

## SEWING CIRCLE -- Thursday, October 12

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Join us for a Sewing Circle, meeting in the library, on October 12 at 7 pm. All art / craft mediums (that are easily cleanable!) welcome as we create deeper community around shared interests. For more information, see announcement sheets or contact Lisa Magee, [Lisamagee@gmail.com](mailto:Lisamagee@gmail.com).

## MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS – Sunday, October 15

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Stay after meeting for worship, whether in person or via Zoom. Meeting for Business will be held in a combined format about 11:45, using the Zoom coordinates for Meeting for Worship (see above). The minutes for last month's meeting are below.

## ATLANTA PRIDE PARADE -- Sunday, October 15

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Atlanta Friends Meeting and the Friends School of Atlanta will march together in the Pride Parade, which steps off at 12 noon (though our contingent will not move for at least half an hour). Everyone is invited to join us to show your support and enjoy the day's joyous energy. You'll be able to attend meeting and still get to the start of the parade in time via MARTA. The Friends School will have a small bus in case you're not sure you can walk the whole route. To let us know in advance that you'd like to join us and to get updates, fill out the form at <https://tinyurl.com/afmfsaprideparade>. Updates will also be available in the announcement sheet or contact Nina Gooch or Derek H. Otis.

## INTERFAITH PRAYER CELEBRATION -- Sunday, October 15, 2023

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The Interfaith Children's Movement invites you to The 23rd Annual Interfaith Prayer Celebration, held on Sunday, October 15, 2023 @ 4 p.m. Location: Loudermilk Conference Center. Address: 40 Courtland Street NE, Atlanta, GA 30303. Interfaith Children's Movement advocates for the health of all of Georgia's children in their total environment: mind, body, and spirit as well as the care, protection, and safety of our children. The Social Justice Concerns Committee of the Atlanta Friends Meeting approved sponsorship of the Interfaith Children's Movement. For more information visit: [www.icmgeorgia.org](http://www.icmgeorgia.org).

## ANTI-RACISM WORKSHOPS: WHY COLOR MATTERS -- Mondays, October 15, 23, 30

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**What:** “Why Color Matters” is an online 3 session interactive workshop (total of 6 hours) We’ve been taught to be “colorblind.” What does that really mean? Will it bring us racial harmony and equality? Is it effective in combating white supremacy? Can we address race by refusing to see it? We will look at colorblindness and raise the possibility of an anti-racist color consciousness as a more effective path to racial justice. Full workshop description: <https://cswac.org/why-color-matters/>  
**Who:** The workshop is open to the public and is offered by The Center for the Study of White American Culture, a multiracial anti-racist group that was founded by Quakers (Members of QRE have taken their workshops and found them to be excellent – well organized, informative, interactive, thought provoking, and engaging.)  
**When:** Three Mondays, Octpber 16, 23, and 30, 7to 9 pm EST (total of 6 hours). Sessions are live interactive online through Zoom. They are also recorded. Resource material is provided. Sessions include presentations, small group discussion, large group discussion, and activities  
**Cost:** Total cost: \$175. Scholarship help is available through Quakers for Racial Equality. QRE is fortunate to have scholarship funds available and encourage Friends to use them. To apply for a scholarship, email [susanfires@gmail.com](mailto:susanfires@gmail.com) Procedure: Please Include a description of why you want to attend, if you need a full scholarship, if you can be reimbursed or need an advance. Then the QRE group will be notified and can give its approval through meeting or through email. Later you will need to submit a receipt for the registration and share your learning with AFM / QRE.  
**Registration link:** <https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07ejx1okabb0dd373a&oseq=&c=&ch=>

INVITATION TO A DEEPER COMMITMENT: FORUM ON THE MEANING AND PROCESS OF MEMBERSHIP IN ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING -- Sunday, October 22

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Ministry and Worship Committee will hold a hybrid forum on membership after meeting for worship on Sunday, October 22 at 11:45 AM. All are invited and encouraged to attend, and this forum is appropriate for all: current members, active attenders and Quaker curious .

Quakerism is a spiritual path grounded in the integrity of direct experience. Atlanta Friends Meeting is a community committed to this path. You become a member of the society of friends by joining a particular meeting. This joining reflects an experience and is a two part process. First, you are asserting an identity and making a commitment to the community. Second, the community makes a commitment to you to accompany you on the spiritual journey providing you with opportunities to deepen your life.

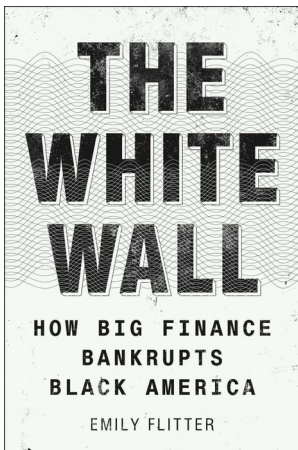
We will explore what it means to make a commitment to membership. There will be a period of worship sharing on the query: What brings me to meeting and keeps me coming back? Then current members will share their experiences, addressing the questions: What led you to request membership? What was the process like for you? What does membership mean to you?

We will also review the membership process and answer questions.

FORUM ON REPARATIONS AND RIGHT RELATIONS

BOOK TALK AT THE ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING WITH EMILY FLITTER – Sunday, October 29

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From acclaimed New York Times finance reporter, Emily Flitter, comes an explosive and deeply reported look at the systemic racism inside the American financial services industry. *THE WHITE WALL: How Big Finance Bankrupts Black America* will shock and galvanize readers by taking them inside a secret world that doesn't simply "look the other way," but endorses racist practices.

Emily Flitter covers banking and Wall Street for The New York Times. Before this, she spent eight years at Reuters, writing about politics, financial crimes, and the environment. Flitter holds an MA in Near Eastern studies and journalism from New York University and a BA from Wellesley College. She began her journalism career as a freelance reporter in Cairo. *THE WHITE WALL* is her first book. She continues to report on issues of racism in banking and finance. Her revelation this year that Wells Fargo often interviews Black job candidates only after filling the positions for which they've applied as a way

to juice its diversity numbers sparked a federal criminal investigation, unprecedented in corporate America, into whether the bank had violated applicants' civil rights.

Emily will be at the Atlanta Friends Meeting on Sunday, October 29 at 12:00 Noon. The program will begin with a reception followed by the book talk and will conclude with a book signing. Books can be purchased in advance at <https://www.charisbooksandmore.com/book/9781982183240> and will also be available at the event. This will be a hybrid event. You can attend either in person or via Zoom. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89686276751?pwd=M29EYlIFWEhSQUtZRVVPaFFYmVDQT09>

Meeting ID: 896 8627 6751

Passcode: 789456



MINUTES FOR NINTH MONTH MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS  
SEPTEMBER 17, 2023, held in person and via Zoom in a blended meeting  
Minutes Recorded Pending Approval

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**Attendance:** Mike Aland, Richard Allen, Sallie Carpentier, Steve Collins, Jennifer Crumpley, Julia Ewen, Sally Ferguson, Eric Glenn, Clive Gordon, Kathy Johnson, Lisa Magee, Alison Mawle, Ellen McQueen, Kevin Moran, Karen terHorst Morris, Caroline Morris, Lissa Place, Mary Place, Aaron Ruschetta, Bert Skellie, Karen Skellie, Jim Tolmach, Myrna Trapp, Ian "bigSofty" Wells, Brent Wolff, Austin Wattles, Jennifer Dickie (Clerk), Emma Bingham (Recording Clerk)

**Worship:**

Query for 9th month: How can we support all life in finding and sharing their own paths to peace?  
Source: Second grade class, Friends School of Atlanta

**Discernment:**

**Ministry and Worship —**

Clive Gordon reported for Ministry and Worship Committee.

**Minute-09-17-23:01:** We recognize that maintaining the spirit of the Meeting for Worship in the hybrid format has required the careful attention and sensitive service of those who maintain the technology. We thank all those who are making this possible and particularly thank Aaron Ruschetta, Alison Mawle, Jennifer Thompson, Bert Skellie and Henry Slack for their faithfulness.

Request from M&W: We recognize that the hybrid format is an ongoing experiment. We ask anyone with comments, suggestions or concerns to share those with members of Ministry and Worship.

**Minute-09-17-23:02:** On recommendation of Ministry and Worship Committee, Nominating Committee will postpone bringing changes for the Care and Counsel Committee description to Meeting for Business until the two committees (Care and Counsel and Ministry and Worship) can consider the common purpose.

**Care and Counsel, memorial minute for Janet Rinard —**

Karen Skellie read the memorial minute for Janet Rinard.

**Minute-09-17-23:03:** The Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the following memorial minute for Janet Rinard.

Janet Adams Rinard, 81, died peacefully in her home on June 19, 2023 in Oberlin, OH. She is survived by her husband Gilbert Rinard, her children Martin, Damon, Nick, Clark, and Susanna, four grandchildren, and her brothers Bruce Adams and Clark Adams.

Janet was born January 5, 1942 in Portland, OR, to Ivan L. Adams and Lucille Roberts Adams. She attended Highland Grade School, Jefferson High School, and Franklin High School. She entered George Fox College in Newberg, OR in 1960.

At George Fox College she met Gilbert Rinard. They married in December, 1961, and moved to Corvallis, OR, then Ithaca, NY, Cleveland, OH, and Atlanta, GA as they followed Gil's education and career at the Emory University School of Medicine. They enjoyed sabbaticals in La Jolla, CA, and Dundee, OR.

Over the years, Janet accumulated credits from 11 colleges. The majority of classes were at Agnes Scott College in Atlanta, GA, while her BA with honors in History was awarded in 1994

by George Fox University in Newberg, OR. Her research resulted in a book, "As Way Opened, a History of The Atlanta Friends Meeting, 1943-1997," co-authored with Janet Ferguson and published in 1999. She also worked to collect, organize, and archive the records of the Atlanta Friends Meeting at Emory University, Swarthmore College, and Guilford College.

In Atlanta, Janet studied Viola da Gamba, performing professionally in Baroque music ensembles. Another interest grew out of taking college classes in German, leading to a number of trips to Europe.

Janet and Gil retired to Oregon in 2000, then moved to Ohio in 2016, marking 60 years of marriage in 2021. Over the years Janet enjoyed biking and swimming, raised dairy goats, canned fruits and vegetables from her gardens, joined book groups, and sang in choirs. She managed the family finances as well as several rental properties. Janet often commented that her happiest memories were raising her five children.

### **Reports:**

#### **Ministry and Worship Committee —**

Clive Gordon reported for Ministry and Worship Committee.

- World Quaker Day, October 1
  - It is on our potluck day.
  - Ministry and Worship will provide cake and a map of Quakers around the world.
  - There will be questions about Quakers around the world, on the tables for folks to review and/or discuss.
- Wedding of Sara Patenaude and Stacey Sharer, October 7
  - All is in good order.
  - If you would like to help, please see Jennifer Crumpley.
- Membership Forum, October 22
  - Sally Ferguson and John Adams will talk about their membership journey.
- Reparations and Reconciliation Forum, October 29
  - Charis Books will be handling the book sales.
  - Waiting to hear back from WRFG for a potential interview.
  - Will also contact Rose Scott of WABE for a potential interview.
- M&W continues to carry the concern of how we best welcome new members.
- M&W will continue to discern the appropriate response to recommend a Minute regarding Georgia's "Open Carry" gun law as it could impact Atlanta Friends Meeting.

A Friend said he had heard discussion of putting up a sign regarding open carry to say that we don't want or don't allow weapons. Is that being considered? Clive replied that it is an ongoing concern in M&W and whatever action that is taken will be meeting-wide and will come to Meeting for Business.

Kevin Moran asked if M&W would appreciate if Social Concerns Committee co-sponsored any minuted action. Clive replied that there would be a forum to allow input from everybody. The clerk said that M&W has not discerned any action yet and therefore has not determined how to receive input on next steps. Clive clarified that they are not currently (at this Meeting for Business) asking for input. Friends can contact Bill Hooson and M&W if they have concerns.

Another Friend asked what the concern was about welcoming new members and whether any changes were being considered. Clive said no changes are being planned, but it's an ongoing concern for M&W. He said there was a question that came up about what we are doing to welcome

new members after their membership is approved at Meeting for Business. Since new members have usually been attending for a while, M&W used to announce new members to the whole meeting and present them with a book or a subscription to Friends Journal, but this was discontinued during the pandemic. M&W is now discussing bringing back this practice.

The Friend asked if welcoming new members would be discussed in the M&W and C&C joint meeting. The clerk suggested that this might be reasonable as the committees had a common purpose, but that Ministry and Worship held membership in their care and therefore should be the committee to lead on this question.

### **Web Manager —**

Aaron Ruscetta reported as the Web Manager.

Transfer of AtlantaQuakers.ORG Hosting Completed:

- To manage the transition and upgrades of AFM's web resources we have been utilizing all three of the AtlantaQuakers [AQ] domain name registrations (.org, .com, and .net) that Jonah McDonald maintains for us (as explained in the July, 2023 Web Manager report).
- The AQ.NET [-wp] URL is being used for building our WordPress CMS rendition and was made publicly accessible to facilitate community support for the construction, testing, vetting and content transfer processes. AQ.COM has been online for the past few weeks as a test site for migrating our existing HTML/CSS content to our GreenGeeks hosting account and has been maintained as an identical mirror of the content on our primary AQ.ORG site, which was residing on Jonah's hosting account. On Aug. 8th we updated the AQ.ORG domain registration, so that the <http://AtlantaQuakers.org> URL is now displaying the content hosted on our GreenGeeks account. AFM now has full ownership and access control of all of our web content. All hosting has added SSL privacy as well (aka https://).

Status of AtlantaQuakers.NET WordPress CMS site construction:

- The Web Refresh Committee has essentially become Emma Bingham and myself as the other members have not been present or communicative for several weeks. Emma has been diligently doing the majority of the content construction while I climb the steep learning curve of responsibly managing a WordPress CMS site that's supportive of our community needs.
- Moving us forward on all fronts, Emma organized and led an introductory WordPress training forum on August 27th for AFM committee clerks and web curious Friends. The forum was well attended and well received as clerks learned the basics of accessing and editing pages so they can assist with transferring and managing their respective content.
- For my part, the forum also exposed several areas of concern with site organization and ease of use. I've since been doing extensive research, evaluation and testing for several extensions and "plugins" required to transform the simple, single user WordPress "blogger" framework into a functional, sustainable CMS website -- one that can support secure, easy to use editing access by multiple maintainers, yet isn't likely to break as imminent updates to all the multiple component layers (from multiple, independent sources) roll in or are mandated.
- Wading through the hundreds of options in the flooded WP plugin market, I've identified a handful of essential tools that need to be added to the site. While the majority of WP plugins are advertised as "free and open source", the no-cost versions are, more often than not, just "trial" offerings with constricted functionality and invasive marketing elements designed to coerce a subscription purchase for any "pro" or "premium" versions that are actually useful [yea capitalism!]. To limit the monthly cost of maintaining our website, I've restricted our plugin installations to softwares which are either free yet fully functional, or whose licensing allows 'perpetual' use with a one time purchase (aka, 'until one of the forced WordPress updates or a conflicting plugin revision breaks them').

- WordPress Plugin Budget Request:  
I'm requesting a budget of \$300.00 for "one time" WP plugin license purchases. There are two critical items I've already installed that total ~\$100 (which I'm considering a donation). I'd like to have room and authority to license additional extensions as we identify a need for them in the site construction, transfer and content organizing processes. *This budget request has been made to the Administration Committee and is in the process of being approved.*

Site Maintenance & Construction / Tech Support during my Oct. to Dec. Korea trip:

- An update from my last report is that I will only be mostly dead... err... mostly unavailable for AFM website work and other technical support from October 1 through January 7, 2024. I will have access to email and will be able to arrange important conversations via Zoom (noting the +13 hour time difference with Seoul). I should also have remote access to our accounts in case regular maintenance duties or urgent issues require my assistance.
- I will be showing the office coordinator, Nina Gooch, how to post our weekly Announcement Sheet and monthly Newsletter updates to the AQ.ORG HTML content files (via her Admin login to WordPress using the free, full site File Manager plugin I found and installed). :-)
- I'll be sharing GreenGeeks account access details with both Emma and Nina, and will make sure arrangements to cover my absence are in place by September 24. I'll also try to work with Emma on updating our Website Refresh logbook [google doc] to reflect recent changes: < <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Ej50wtAJ9r-dyQDV4XzAXVfDOnWwUISD9CnHJ-yullQ/edit> > ... or simply ... < <https://tinyurl.com/afmwebrefrecords> >
- We've established a Web Supporter Google Groups mailing list (thanks Nina) consisting of the web refresh committee and other web curious Friends who attended or expressed interest in our training forum. This is a great way to share ideas, concerns and content considerations and I will be contributing some thoughts there before I leave the country, including this report. Long term Admin considerations are that AFM should continue seeking a capable Friend (or 3) to replace me in the Web Wizard role, or at least arrange for added tech savvy supporting volunteers with a desire to assist with web work in the coming year. In the meanwhile, continued patience with the process is requested, and setting a comfortable "spring of 2024" deadline for retiring our HTML/CSS website and releasing our WordPress CMS content as AFM's primary web presence is recommended.
- I think this report demonstrated the amount of work and attention this project requires and deserves. Emma and I have been reasonably diligent to the leading, but burnout is becoming an increasing concern. [[ I know y'all will miss these exhaustive reports, but please... ]]

Final Notes on Other AFM Tech concerns (Wifi / Zoom / Assisted Listening System):

- WIFI: I was given permission to address requests from several Friends asking for better Wifi coverage in the meeting space. I have purchased a high quality router supporting the Wifi-6 standard (\$135). It has been configured and installed in the media closet via the hardwired ethernet connections there. To reduce bandwidth competition, it has a different password from our 2 existing wifi routers. The added wifi ID is "AFMmtgroom", the password can be freely shared on request from Friends.
- ZOOM: There were reliable reports of disruptive audio issues with the Zoom system mid August (while I was out of town). The problems were inexplicable, so after Alison and I confirmed all our controls were at their "nominal" settings, I experimented with the latest "live sound for musicians" options in the Zoom software for the next 2 Sundays, thinking Zoom's frequent software updates may have changed their audio processing. After careful evaluation (and many complaints), the system was returned to our proven and accepted configuration. It's never going to be perfect, but the imperfections are at least consistent again.
- ALS: 3 of our 4 FM receivers are broken now. On confirming a budget, I'll plan to order 2 replacements and see if part swap repairs of the broken units is possible in the future.

The clerk encouraged people to go to Aaron with any concerns before the end of September, and to go look at the new [www.AtlantaQuakers.net](http://www.AtlantaQuakers.net) site.

The Web Refresh Committee will create a document with instructions and considerations for editors updating the site's content so that people can soon start contributing to the site.

If your committee doesn't have anything on the current website, but you want to put something up on the new site, contact Emma Bingham for help and to get access to the new site.

### **Social Concerns Committee —**

Kevin Moran reported for the Social Concerns Committee.

This is a report on the Social Concerns Committee meeting from Sept. 10. The committee acknowledges that its work is a spiritual labor.

The committee approved Kevin Moran to compose a letter requesting FCNL take a position on Representative Hank Johnson's House Bill 8500 (TERM) modifying the tenure of Supreme Court Justices to 18-year terms on a two-year rotation. Kevin will be speaking with representatives of FCNL over the next couple of months.

\$350 was approved to support the Advocacy Committee's clerk's travel to D.C. for FCNL's Advocacy Days. A balance of approximately \$500 remains of unallocated funds.

Planned for Sept. 24: a hybrid format panel discussion at AFM on Stop Cop City with AFSC's Jacob Flowers & Tim Franzen and concerned AFM members Althea Sumpter and Don Bender.

### **Ad hoc Kitchen Committee —**

Alison Mawle reported for the Ad hoc Kitchen Committee.

Alison noted that other committee members had not affirmed this report as of its presentation, but they had been part of the discussions up to this point.

The kitchen committee was put together because there was a recommendation to put in an induction stove. Money was approved (\$10,000) from the Kenworthy trust for the kitchen renovation.

The kitchen committee has reviewed the current kitchen layout and has discussed needs with current users. The kitchen is not used for a lot of cooking, but it is used for some, and the oven is used during potluck to keep dishes warm. Casa Alterna guests use it during their stay, and our renters use it for food storage and coffee/tea preparation. The Meeting predominantly uses the kitchen for setup and cleanup of coffee hour and potluck, and for individual events, such as SAYF retreats, weddings and memorial services.

### Recommendations

1. Install a 4 ring induction cooktop
2. Install an undercounter commercial dishwasher
3. Install an electric oven, preferably at a height that makes it easy to take things in and out.

In order to achieve this the kitchen will need a substantial remodel, to remove the current gas stove and possibly the large vent above it. In discussions with the Clerk of Administration, the suggested way forward is to turn this over to the Administration Committee to bring in an appropriate design team.

Alison added that she priced the items listed above and those are well under \$10,000, but remodeling the kitchen might be more than that.

A Friend asked if there was also a budget for cookware compatible with the induction stove. Alison said this would be taken under consideration, and she has also heard of an item that lets you use your normal cookware with the induction stove. It was noted that many items in the kitchen are on their last legs, so they could use replacing anyway.

### **Clerk's Items**

- **Ad hoc Kitchen Committee**

The clerk lays down of the Ad Hoc Kitchen Committee, with thanks to the members: Alison Mawle (clerk), Micheal Allison, Paul Mangelsdorf, and consultants Anton Flores, Steve Collins, and Nina Gooch for their work identifying the important ways we might make our kitchen more energy efficient and user friendly.

- **Ad Hoc Naming Committee for 2024**

The Naming Committee names people to Nominating Committee. For the 2024 Naming Committee, Bill Holland will serve as clerk, and Lisa Magee will be the first member. The third committee member will be brought soon forward at the next Meeting for Business.

- **Sara Patenaude has volunteered to be AFM's new contact person for Decatur Cooperative Ministries [DCM] and Decatur Emergency Assistance Ministry [DEAM].** If anyone has any requests or thoughts for Sara, please let her know.

- **SAYMA Finance letter consideration**

Last month, the meeting considered a letter from SAYMA Finance Committee regarding how to meet the financial needs of SAYMA, including a suggestion to raise the amount monthly meetings pay.

The clerk held space at this Meeting for Business to consider the suggestions from the letter and speak to any of them that resonate or that Friends think serve our meeting or SAYMA.

Karen Morris, clerk of SAYMA Finance, read the suggestions from the letter.

- Asking Meetings and individuals to contribute generously to particular set-aside funds: Released Friend, Racial Conflict Transformation, Southern Appalachian Young Friends, Uplifting Racial Justice, Spiritual Development, FWCC 3rd World Delegate, FWCC Conference, and the General Fund;
- Encouraging donations from participants in the SAYMA affinity groups that were offered for free in the first year of the racial justice transformation program;
- Raising the assessment rates for members/attenders in monthly Meetings, and/or asking larger and growing monthly Meetings to increase their contribution levels;
- Considering a suggested scale for Meeting assessments so that Meetings may discern the appropriate rate for their contributions;
- Continuing growing the Young Adult Friends program through the Kenworthy Trust;
- Continuing the work of applying for grants for racial justice training; and,
- Reaching out to older Yearly Meetings, such as Philadelphia, New England, and Baltimore, to support SAYMA with funds for racial justice transformation and anti-racist training.

A Friend said she had some curiosity about what the changes were that created this deficit in SAYMA. This would help her understand the request. Karen responded that there are several factors:

1. A number of meetings in SAYMA are losing membership
2. Two meetings left SAYMA in the last 3 years
3. At the 2022 yearly meeting sessions, a conflict transformation program was proposed by an ad hoc committee which included one of the SAYMA clerks and two other people within the meeting, knowledgeable about racial justice. There have been some expenses for this program. While some additional money was raised by donation to a designated fund, some money was also allocated from the SAYMA budget.

The clerk said when she thinks about the work of SAYMA, unlike a monthly meeting, it doesn't have a physical plant, they have no "monthly bills" to pay. Although they do support the children's programs of SAYMA, most of the money of SAYMA pays for the work of Quakers in the world, both within our yearly meeting and beyond. She thinks the work of racial justice transformation and released Friends reverberates beyond SAYMA. One way to fund things is to ask people to donate to specific funds, but there is also a responsibility of us as a body to support the work of the yearly meeting. When the yearly meeting has made a decision to support work that an individual member doesn't fully agree with, that person might make a choice to allow the funding from their meeting without comment, to withhold their own funds, or ask one's meeting to withhold funds. The question is, should AFM help pick up the slack? We are blessed to have so many members. In a recent meeting with other Monthly Meeting clerks she was reminded that many meetings are truly struggling. Some have no children attending or young families, or consist of all members over 70. Some have lost their meetinghouse during the pandemic and therefore only meet virtually. She feels AFM needs to support SAYMA and the work of Quakers in the world.

A Friend noted that SAYMA's basis for counting regular attenders is sketchy and not very objective. He recommended that SAYMA consider accounting for membership with percentages. Determining the total number of SAYMA Friends who are members in monthly meetings and asking each meeting to pay the percent of the annual budget based on their representation.

Kevin Moran said that his experience with SAYMA, as clerk of SAYMA Ministry and Nurture, is that SAYMA is an evolving annual meeting. It is seeking Spirit-led direction. It is seeking to faithfully represent Quaker testimonies and values. He is encouraged by the growth, enthusiasm, and potential for this important organization.

The clerk encouraged Friends to continue to hold this concern and speak to Karen Morris with any further thoughts.

Kevin also noted a concern about the phrasing of Released Friends in the SAYMA finance letter. He worried it would be misinterpreted to mean that money donated would go to specific Released Friends. Instead, he clarified, the fund for Released Friends is communal and SAYMA M&N determines its disbursement.

## Announcements

- **Forum next Sunday, Sept. 24:** a hybrid format panel discussion at AFM on Stop Cop City/Defend the Forest with AFSC's Jacob Flowers & Tim Franzen and concerned AFM members Althea Sumpter and Don Bender.

## Approval of Minutes from 8th month 2023

[https://atlantaquakers.org/\\_afm\\_newsletters/AFM\\_Newsletter\\_2023-09.pdf](https://atlantaquakers.org/_afm_newsletters/AFM_Newsletter_2023-09.pdf)

The minutes were corrected to show Karen Morris stated the SAYMA Sessions were uplifting.

**Minute-09-17-23:04:** The Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the 8th month 2023 minutes with the above correction.

## Closing Worship

### QUAKER QUOTE

Punctual attendance at the hour appointed for public worship is a matter of no small importance. If we hurry away from our outward occupations to the meeting house, thinking that, by the delay of a few minutes we shall not be long behind our brethren, we are in great danger of having our thoughts employed on that in which we have been engaged, and of interrupting that holy silence which . . . would often prevail, if all the members of a meeting were assembled not only in one place, but at one time, with and same great object in view.

Source: London Yearly Meeting, *Rules of discipline*, 1834

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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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Treasurer: [afmtreasurer1@gmail.com](mailto: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 an email list. This is the worship reminder list.

To join any of these email lists above, please email the office at [atlantaquakers@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:atlantaquakers@gmail.com) or call 404-377-2474

#### Do we have your (correct) contact information so we can reach you?

Please send your name and (updated) contact information to Brent Wolff at [afmdirectory@gmail.com](mailto:afmdirectory@gmail.com).

**What does investing in your spiritual community look like for you and your family?** Atlanta Friends Meeting accepts contributions of your time, resources, talents, and money! Place a financial contribution in the slot marked "Contributions" in the greeting area of the Meetinghouse or mail to our mailing address. Or donate online at [atlantaquakers.org/contact.htm](http://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](mailto: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.*