

ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2024



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

<https://atlantaquakerspeak.com/video/peace/ers.org/announcement-sheet/> will always have the most recent announcement sheet

Meeting for Worship each First Day (Sunday) in Person & via Zoom, 10:00 am.
Details for Sunday worship and for our Wednesday small meetings for worship, in person and zoom, are in the announcement sheet (link just above).

QUERY FOR SEPTEMBER

What are we doing as individuals and as a meeting to encourage the use of members' and attenders' gifts?

GOING WITH THE FLOW, SINKING DOWN TO THE SEED

by Bill Holland

There are memories and experiences that remain vivid in the mind and heart and provide fodder for reflection. They are “sticky.” Over thirty years ago, I was on a drift dive in the gulf stream off the east coast of Florida. A drift dive involves going off from shore on a dive boat, gearing up and then sinking to depth. The current is so strong you cannot swim against it; instead you go with the flow, allowing it to carry you as you skim across the bottom. When you surface after a period, the boat comes to you. On one memorable day, I was giving myself over to the flow, floating and I looked down. Hugging the bottom was a sea turtle. As we skimmed by, I watched the sea turtle track us, its head following our drifting by. It was such a magical moment to observe and to be observed.

I have thought a lot about this experience. I love the experience of “give over thine own willing, give over thine own running, and sink down to the seed God sows in the heart.” (Pennington). One of the ways I think of spirit is water, supporting, sustaining, flowing, in turn, we give over to that flow and are somehow infused by the loving spirit. Drifting by is giving over the need to set the outcome.

There is another way to consider this experience, from the perspective of the turtle. When we sink down in meeting and are grounded, many thoughts and feelings can emerge. Looking up, the turtle saw me drifting by. Rather than being scared or absorbed or distracted, the turtle let me flow by and returned to contemplation. Like the turtle we can let the distracting thoughts (those pesky divers!) flow by and return to the deeper state. We rise up from the experience changed and renewed.

**PLEASE HOLD
IN THE LIGHT:**

Edee Heard's son Nicholas
Bayard Thornburley

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.

Atlanta Friends Committees and Other Contacts

Clerk of the Meeting: David Small, afmclerk1@gmail.com
Office Coordinator: Nina Gooch, atlantaquakers@gmail.com
Treasurer: Stacey Sharer, afmtreasurer1@gmail.com
Ministry & Worship: Clive Gordon, 404-534-1091
Finance: Paul Mangelsdorf, 770-677-4280

Social Concerns: Kevin Moran, moran.kevinmoran.kevin@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: Derek Harootune Otis, dharootuneotis@gmail.com
Nominating: Lissa Place, lissaplace@yahoo.com
Newsletter Editor: Nina Gooch, atlquakerltr@gmail.com
Webmaster: Emma Bingham, afm.web.wizard@gmail.com
Bookkeeper: Jonah McDonald, afmbookkeeper1@gmail.com

For info about these and other committees, visit or download the AFM Handbook from <https://atlantaquakers.org/handbook/> OR contact the Clerk of the committee you're interested in.

A MESSAGE FROM ATTENDER FRED KNIGHT

Fred Knight has taken a position at Howard University and has moved to Washington, D.C. He's happy about taking the position, which will be a step up for him. He very much appreciated AFM and everyone whom he met and who helped him with his book presentation. He will miss everyone here. He will use fred.knight1@gmail.com as his personal email and welcomes communication from F/friends at AFM.

LIBRARY UPDATES

The Libros en Español/Books in Spanish section has been created, and its first few books cataloged and shelved. Thank you to everyone who donated to the collection!

Please note these recent additions to the Library:

- 3 new Pendle Hill Pamphlets:
 - 485. *Wait and Watch: Spiritual Practice, Rehearsal, and Performance* by John Andrew Gallery
 - 486. *The World in a Sentence* by Sue Williams
 - 487. *Deep Hospitality: Reflections on Welcome to the Quaker Community* by Rhiannon Grant
- *Caste: The Origins of our Discontents* by Isabel Wilkerson – 305.5 Wil in the Race, Racism, and People of Color collection
- *The Upcycle: Beyond Sustainability* by William McDonough – 363.7 McD in the Environment and Sustainability Collection

Instructions for checking out items, along with our library policies, are posted on the library doors and various places in the library itself. *Happy reading!*

SAYMA INVITATION TO JOIN COHORT 3 OF THE RACIAL CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION PROGRAM (Register by Monday, September 30)

The Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association (SAYMA) Racial Conflict Transformation Team extends a heartfelt invitation to YOU to participate in Cohort 3 of the SAYMA Racial Conflict Transformation Program. Support for the creation of this program was minuted by SAYMA in 2022.

The SAYMA Racial Conflict Transformation program is a unique opportunity to engage in meaningful discussions and transformative experiences aimed at addressing racial conflict, and expanding our institutional capacity to hold space for uncomfortable conversations about race and racism in Quakerism.

“The Racial Conflict Transformation Program has awakened me to the omnipresent patterns of racism in myself and my world. I am grateful.” - Cohort 1&2 participant

“I do think the racial transformation program is brilliant and has been terrifically helpful. I DO see improvements. Many thanks for a truly wonderful program.” - Cohort 1 participant

This program is open to all adult Friends, but we particularly encourage the following categories of Friends to participate in this initiative:

- **Friends holding positions of responsibility** in their monthly Meetings (clerks, treasurers, etc.)
- **Cohort 1 & 2 participants:** We have had much feedback about the overwhelming breadth and depth of the material we cover, both in the small groups and in the modules. It is impossible to absorb it all the first time. We are continually revisiting and updating the resources and topics covered. Furthermore, we hope that some of you will feel ready to step into the role of small group facilitator. For all of these reasons and more we believe that you should register for Cohort 3.
- **Friends from other yearly meetings** are invited to join us in this work.
- **Men:** We particularly invite white-bodied men of European descent to join in this work. Because, those holding the most societal privilege have been the most resistant.
- **Young Adult Friends:** your voices are needed!

Program Outline:

Goals: To assess whether foundational Quaker social change theory and practices can be useful methods for dismantling systems of oppression which Friends have historically perpetuated and continue to benefit from.

Affinity Group Meetings: Participants will be part of a virtual racial affinity group that meets monthly for a period of one year, starting in November. These gatherings serve as brave spaces to share perspectives, explore ideas, and build connections with fellow participants.

Dedicated Affinity Group for Friends of Color: We created an affinity group for Friends of Color, facilitated by consultant Ukumbwa Sauti (See his bio at <https://tinyurl.com/42nf9zx2>).

3-Module Training Series: Understanding Racism/White Supremacy: What it IS, How it Works, and What Friends Can DO About It. In addition to the small group meetings, participants will attend a 3-module systemic racial analysis training series. This thoughtfully curated series is led by SAYMA's Racial Conflict Transformation (RCT) team. Meet the facilitators at <https://tinyurl.com/42nf9zx2>.

- Saturday, January 11, 2025, 10am-2pm ET Module 1: What IS Racism/White Supremacy? - Defining terms and concepts, historical analysis, racial power dynamics, racialization/socialization, and Internalized Oppression.

- Saturday, March 1, 2025, 10am-2pm ET Module 2: How to Do Your Own Anti-racism Audit - We will use “Becoming An Anti-Racist Church: Journeying Toward Wholeness”, by Joseph Barndt, one of the founding members of the People’s Institute and Crossroads Ministry, as a guide.

- Saturday, May 3, 2025, 10am-2pm ET Module 3: Where Quaker Social Change Theory Meets Anti-Racist Praxis - What IS Quaker Social Change Theory? Continuing revelations, Spiritual leadings, calls to ministry, Spirit led activism, speaking truth to power, grassroots organizing, passive resistance, civil disobedience, coalition building, offering sanctuary, technical and financial assistance (when asked), living your convictions, letting your life speak, standing alone with integrity (when necessary) but preferably, with the endorsement and support of one’s spiritual community.

What is anti-racist praxis? In this segment we will look at how change actually happens, strategies and processes, as developed by critical race theorists, anti-racism organizers and trainers, from The People’s Institute, Crossroads Ministry, Roots of Justice, Center for the Study of White American Culture (CSWAC); historical Quaker slavery Abolitionists, such as Benjamin Lay, Anthony Benezet, John Woolman, and contemporary Quaker social change organizers and activists such as Parker Palmer, George Lakey, Bayard Rustin and Frances Crowe.

“I don’t care how much theory you got if it don’t have any practice applied to it, then that theory happens to be irrelevant.” - Fred Hampton

We welcome you to join us on this inspiring journey towards lasting change. Should you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact us at starsmith13@gmail.com.

Registration Link: To secure your place in Cohort 3, please go to <https://tinyurl.com/3aruu82jt> to complete the registration process by the end of the day September 30, 2024. [Payment due separately - see below]

Cost of Registration: \$300 includes participation in the 3-modules and monthly affinity group meetings. There is no cost for Friends of Color. We encourage Friends to seek spiritual enrichment funds from their monthly and/or yearly meetings to participate.

Payment Options

1. **Zelle:** use saymatreasurer@gmail.com (no fee, include memo “Registration RCT Cohort 3”)
2. **Square:** <https://square.link/u/Mjgoh4Qk>(+10.55 processing fee)
3. **Check:** (include memo “Registration RCT Cohort 3”) mail to: SAYMA Administrative Assistant, Rob Collins at 5612 10th Ave. S, Birmingham, AL 35222

Warm regards,

SAYMA Racial Conflict Transformation Team

Sharon “Star” Smith – Clerk of SAYMA Uplifting Racial Justice Committee
Shannon Roberts Smith – Acting Clerk of SAYMA Ad Hoc Racial Justice Working Group
Ukumbwa Sauti – Consultant
Jennifer Dickie – Clerk of SAYMA
Margaret Farmer - Assistant Clerk of SAYMA
Lissa Place – Clerk of SAYMA Ministry & Nurture Committee
Karen Morris – Clerk of SAYMA Finance Committee

MESSAGE FROM THE SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE ABOUT ELECTIONS

As the November election approaches, the SCC encourages Friends to support with your vote, time and financial resources the candidates and organizations with values that can help lead to a more compassionate, inclusive and sustainable world. Below is a list of volunteer opportunities / sources of information as well as some voter rights hotlines.

The League of Women Voters of Georgia - encourages informed and active participation in government. <https://www.lwvga.org>

Georgia Coalition for the People's Agenda - advocates for voting rights protection for Georgians of color and underrepresented communities. <https://thepeoplesagenda.org>

Environmental Voter Project - encourages participation by low propensity climate voters. <https://www.environmentalvoter.org>

Georgia Equality - advances the LGBTQ communities and allies through the electoral process. <https://georgiaequality.org>

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People - seeks political, educational, social, and economic equality. <https://www.georgianaacp.org>.

Atlanta Friends Meeting's Social Concerns Committee - making vote banners at the Meeting house for non-partisan progressive groups that are doing voter registration in historically disenfranchised communities. For more info: yates77@bellsouth.net.

Voter Rights Hotlines:

The Election Protection Hotline (sponsors include Common Cause and NAACP): 1-866-OUR-VOTE or 1-888-VE-Y-VOTA (en Español)

U.S. Department of Justice Voting Rights Hotline: 800-253-3931 TTY line: 877-267-8971

IMPORTANT ELECTION DATES

You can request an absentee ballot for the November 5 election now thru October 25 at <https://mvp.sos.ga.gov/s/>. Absentee ballots will be mailed beginning on October 7.

October 7 is the last day to register as well as the last day to confirm your registration (please confirm your registration), also at <https://mvp.sos.ga.gov/s/>.

Advance voting begins on October 15 and ends on November 1 (including Saturdays October 19 and 26 and possibly Sundays October 20 and 27).

For more important dates for the election, see <https://sos.ga.gov/page/election-calendar-and-events>.

HOW TO HELP CASA ALTERNA WITH GROCERIES

Sign-up sheets to volunteer to purchase groceries and other needed items for Casa Alterna guests: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084FA5A72DAAFBC16-50040530-grocery#/> for July thru September. 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, and your help is greatly appreciated. Visit the Casa Alterna website at <https://casaalterna.org/> for more updates.

2024 EPISTLE FROM AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE

The 2024 Epistle from American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) describes their annual Corporation meeting, provides updates about their work and AFSC's presence in the world. and calls upon Friends to act in partnership with them to promote lasting peace and justice.

<https://afsc.org/sites/default/files/2024-07/2024-afsc-epistle.pdf>

HOW FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION SETS ITS FOCUS

Alicia McBride, Senior Director for Quaker Leadership at Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) says, "When I talk with people who are just getting involved with FCNL, a frequent question is how we decide where to focus. Amid concerns for a wide variety of issues for peace and justice, how does FCNL discern where to concentrate our efforts to impact federal policy?"

"Decisions about FCNL's legislative positions, and our priorities for each session of Congress, begin with discernment in hundreds of Friends meetings, churches, schools, and retirement homes around the country. For the upcoming 119th Congress (2025-2026) we received more than 1,300 recommendations from 274 groups and individuals. They represent 28 yearly meetings and 42 states plus Washington, D.C., FCNL is drafting legislative priorities to be presented for approval during its Annual Meeting, November 3-17, 2024. For information about FCNL: <https://www.fcnl.org/>.

TO BUY FROM LOCAL BUSINESSES OWNED BY BLACK ENTREPRENEURS

In the belief that gathering knowledge is not enough to undo centuries of systemic racism and that anti-racist work must include actions to address material inequalities resulting from systemic and institutional racism, an ad hoc group of members of Quakers for Racial Equality committee, with input from Friends of Color, has updated Meeting's list of local businesses owned by Black entrepreneurs (<https://tinyurl.com/yc6fpbrd>). We encourage members of meeting to support these businesses as well as efforts to provide reparations to all those harmed by the egregious injustices of slavery and its aftermath. If you have additional suggestions for this list, please contact Cathy Amanti (cbamanti@gmail.com).

Decide Dekalb Development Authority has also shared this Black Business Guide for Dekalb County: <https://www.decidedekalb.com/dekalb-black-business-guide/>

EXAMINING THE QUAKER PEACE TESTIMONY

transcript from the QuakerSpeaks video with Adria Guliza, December 15, 2022

<https://quakerspeak.com/video/peace/>

The peace testimony today is one of the things that binds, I think, all Friends across our very wide theological spectrum. Friends of all branches come together around the peace testimony and the recognition of the reality that God calls us to walk the path of peace. I think that's a beautiful thing that we still have unity in that even as our practice, our way of experiencing God and worshiping God, can be so different. For me, I'm still very much spoken to by that image of the lion laying down with the lamb and the peaceable kingdom of pounding our swords into plowshares and instead of focusing on ways of imposing our will on others, really living into that nurturing faithfulness.

Examining the Quaker Peace Testimony

My name is Adria Gulizia. I live in Newark, New Jersey and I attend Chatham-Summit Friends Meeting in Chatham, New Jersey.

The peace testimony was first authoritatively articulated in the 1660 Declaration to King Charles II, and what's interesting about that articulation is that it was both a theological statement and political statement. The theological statement is, you know, as followers of Christ, we believe that we have been disarmed by the gospel. We are no longer going to lift up weaponry against our fellow man. We instead will only engage in the spiritual warfare described in Ephesians six, what Friends would come to call the Lamb's War, of praying for each other, of preaching the gospel, of living in the power of the Spirit. The political side, however, is that there was a lot of tumult— basically civil war in England that time, and by making this declaration it was basically saying, look, as Quakers were harmless. We're not gonna get on any army's side. We're not going to try to overthrow the government. We're safe, please just leave us alone to pray, and by doing that Early Friends protected the fledgling Quaker movement from political persecution.

Do We Need the Peace Testimony Today?

Early Friends were fond of quoting the scripture verse that, you know, we must work out our salvation with fear and trembling. It's not enough to look at the past and say, oh well those faithful people in the past did X and therefore I today must do X. We have to encounter that spiritual reality for ourselves, and so as we consider the peace testimony it's not enough to say, oh well, George Fox said this and Barclay said that. The question as it was in Fox's time is what canst thou say. And so, you know, I think Friends today certainly, you know— I, in this moment, have to always go back to the beginning. Okay, do I believe that the Spirit that spoke through Jesus that said, you know, lay down your sword; that said, resist not the evil person; that's informed Christians and Quakers for the last 2000 years: do I believe that that Spirit has changed? Have I experienced the reality of that Spirit? Have I experienced that feeling of being disarmed?

For myself in my own life, I have been disarmed in several ways. I used to be somewhat— somewhat. I used to be extremely competitive, verbally more than anything, but with that streak that not only wanted to be right, but wanted to be better than you; that wanted to kind of rub your nose in the fact that you were wrong. That's the spirit of violence. And so what does it mean to lay down violence in interpersonal relationships as well as outward violence, as well as other types of coercion?

I've been in situations where I've had legal rights that I could have enforced in court, but I laid down those rights because that for me didn't feel like how I was called. Better to be wrong than to use coercive means and stand on my rights in certain ways. So I think each of you have to ask ourselves, how are we being called in this moment? Have we encountered that power that takes away the occasion for all war and for all violence? Have we encountered that power and that love that brings us into the reality of a peaceful way of life? Understanding that that's going to mean sacrifices. Understanding that that's gonna mean taking it on the chin. And yet we have the power to choose to either respond as the world responds and meet violence with violence (whether that's physical violence or other forms of coercion) or to respond in a higher way, in the way of the Spirit, which is with peace and love and long suffering and patience. It's not fun. It is really not fun, and yet that's how I feel that that we're called.

SPIRITUAL JOURNEYS & ADULT FIRST DAY SCHOOL – Sundays, September 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Each first Sunday of the month in Adult First Day School, we listen to how a Friend in our meeting answers questions of God's leadings as well as questions about what brings them to this meeting, what led them to become a member or not, and what they believe now. We call these stories Spiritual Journeys, stories where Friends describe their understanding of God and religion in their life. On September 1, Fred Knight will share his Spiritual Journey. (To hear Jay Roache's Spiritual Journey heard on July 7, visit <https://tinyurl.com/559mu9s6>, and to hear Lisa Magee's Spiritual Journey heard on August 4, visit <https://tinyurl.com/5n6ukkbz>. To listen to other past Spiritual Journeys, contact Mary Ann Downey at madowney@mindspring.com.)

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.

Adult First Day School meets in person at the meetinghouse, and people can also join via Zoom. (Zoom details in the announcement sheet; see link at top of page 1.) For questions, please contact Elizabeth Lamb. On second, third and fourth Sundays each month, Adult First Day School will be reading and discussing a book, in September, they will be continuing with *Quaker Quicks: Rufus Jones and the Presence of God* by Helen Holt. All are welcome whether you have read the book or not. Contact Elizabeth Lamb or Bill Holland for more details.

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

POTLUCK – Sunday, September 1

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. Green Friends will meet during potluck in classrooms A/B and Atlanta's FLGBTQC (Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender – and genderqueer, nonbinary and genderfluid – Concerns) will eat together at potluck.

YOGA WITH MEMBER ALEX ZINNES -- Tuesdays

Alex says: “For me, back to school is also back to offering my yoga class to the community. I hope you'll consider putting our beloved yoga class into your mix of self-care. Please let me know if you have an interest in participating in a yoga class I've been teaching at Friends School of Atlanta and the Atlanta Friends Meetinghouse for 15 years! One of my students once said I offer ‘amazing, unpretentious, real-people yoga.’ We have fun, challenge ourselves appropriately, and leave feeling both chill and energized. Newbies always get their first class free to see if it's right for you.” Please contact Alex at azinnes@gmail.com for more information. Please feel free to share this information with your friends, neighbors, etc. Logistical details:

- * Tuesdays, 5:30-6:30 p.m.
- * Starts 8/20/24 (you can join whenever you like)
- * Over Zoom & In-person in the back of the Community Meeting Room at the Friends School, 862 S. Columbia Drive, Decatur
- * Cost: 5 class card - \$55 (\$11/class), 10 class card - \$100 (\$10/class), Drop-in class - \$12/class

COMMITTEE ON UNDOING RACISM IN AFM – Tuesday, September 3

The Committee on Undoing Racism in Atlanta Friends Meeting (CURAFM) will have our regular first Tuesday Zoom meeting on September 3 at 7:30 pm ET. Everyone is welcome! Tentative agenda topics include followup on restorative circle training at AFM. For more information, or if you have a question or comment between meetings, please 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

FLGBTQC GAMES NIGHT – Wednesday, September 4

Atlanta's local FLGBTQC (Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender – and genderqueer, nonbinary and genderfluid – Concerns) group will be holding their monthly game night on Tuesday, September 4 at 6:30 pm at the meetinghouse. You (and all your friends) are invited for conversation, games and potluck-style food! Allies welcome. We encourage you to bring any board game or other tabletop game you'd like to share with the group. Just be willing to explain the game to new players, or (if it's your first time playing it) be willing to learn it along with the rest of us.) For more information, contact Nina Gooch or Derek Harootune Otis. To join the group email list, contact Nina in the office.

BOOKS BY AND ABOUT PEOPLE OF COLOR -- Thursday, September 5

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 September 5, they will read and discuss poetry selected by members of the group. Upcoming books include: October 3, *Four Hundred Souls: A Community History of African America 1619-2019*; November 7, *Behind You Is the Sea: A Novel* by Susan Muaddi Darraj; December 5, *Daughters of the Dust* by Julie Dash. For questions or the Zoom link, contact Susan Cole (cole2544@bellsouth.net).

MACON QUAKERS WORSHIP – in person Saturdays, September 7 & 21

The Macon Worship Group, which is under the care of Atlanta Friends Meeting, is now meeting in person for worship the first and third Saturdays at 2 pm at Centenary United Methodist Church, 1290 College Street, Macon, GA. Enter through the side door on Ash Street. (People of all ages are welcome, but there is no childcare available.)

CONCERT AT THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY: CELEBRATING CREATION: AN EARTH GUILD CONCERT FEATURING REDWINE JAM – Saturday, September 7

The Episcopal Church of the Epiphany invites us to a concert on September 7 from 4 to 6 pm. Redwine Jam is an Atlanta-based folk music trio. They accompany their vocals with guitar, fiddle, banjo, mandolin, mountain dulcimer, flute, penny-whistle, bodhran and harp. Good music, good company, light refreshments and a chance to hear from Georgia Interfaith Power & Light (GIPL) about how we can care for our little corner of God's Creation. Address: 2089 Ponce de Leon Avenue, Atlanta, Georgia 30307. 404-373-8338.

VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON DOCUMENTARY NIGHTS – September 8, 13, 22

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 attendee Adam Hicks with questions at 404-414-8917 or CommunityDocumentaryNight@gmail.com.

Virtual: Sunday, September 8 from 7 to 9 pm. *A Trek To The River's Edge*. This documentary about the Atlanta Student Movement of the 1960's outlines the strategy, planning and actions of the students and the support from the larger community striving to overcome the oppression of segregation in contemporary America.

In-Person: Friday, September 13 from 6:45 to 10 pm. Filmed over two years in 11 states, *Do Not Resist* examines the increasingly disturbing realities of the rapid militarization of police forces in the United States.

Virtual: Sunday, September 22 from 7 to 9 pm. *The Bronze Screen* honors the past, illuminates the present, and opens a window on the future of Latinos on the big screen. From silent movies to urban gang films, stereotypes of the Greaser, the Lazy Mexican, the Latin Lover and the Dark Lady are examined.

REPARATIONS, REPARATIVE JUSTICE AND RIGHT RELATIONS COMMITTEE -- Mon, Sept 9

You are invited to attend the open meetings of the new committee, Reparations, Reparative Justice and Right Relations committee, RRJRR for short! Although we usually meet the first Monday of each month, in September we will meet on Monday September 9 at 12:30 pm. Zoom only. Our committee invites interested individuals and also individuals who represent a Meeting group or committee to join us.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/5171998073?pwd=b1YUHVPczRVM0s5VmVoMmhwekE1dz09&omn=89225489718>

Meeting ID: 517 199 8073

Passcode: CronosMeet

CELEBRATING FOUR YEARS OF CASA ALTERNA'S HOSPITALITY – Sunday, September 15

Casa Alterna, a ministry of our Friend in Residence Anton Flores-Maisnet, has been a sanctuary for the past four years, welcoming asylum seekers into our meetinghouse with open arms. During this time, we've hosted nearly 600 guests from over 50 countries, creating a community that embodies love and hospitality. To honor this milestone—and to kick off Hispanic/Latinx Heritage Month—we're hosting a celebration on September 15 at the Rise of Meeting, and we'd be thrilled to have you join us! Here's what's in store:

- Cake to enjoy as we celebrate this special occasion together
- Casa Alterna T-shirts will be available for purchase. Wear your support!
- Free Casa Alterna Stickers to spread the message of love and welcome

Let's gather as a community to celebrate the profound impact we've made together and to launch Hispanic/Latinx Heritage Month with joy and gratitude. We can't wait to see you there!

MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS – Sunday, Sunday, September 15

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.

The minutes for last month's meeting are below. To find out how meeting for business works, please visit https://atlantaquakers.org/wp-content/uploads/Guidelines_for_Meeting_for_Business.pdf and <https://www.friendsjournal.org/meeting-for-business-as-spiritual-rehearsal>, which talks about the spiritual side of Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business as well as the ways the Quaker decision-making process differs from the usual understanding of consensus.

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

Meeting ID: 896 8627 6751

Passcode: 789456

WELCOME DINNER FOR NEWCOMERS – Wednesday, September 18

Newcomers to Atlanta Friends Meeting are invited to dinner at the home of of Betsy Eggers and Jack Honderd on Wednesday, September 18 at 6:15. You'll have a chance to meet other new attenders as well as long-time Quakers in a casual setting. Children welcomed! To RSVP, get the address, and share any dietary restrictions, please contact Betsy at (404)831-8856 or BetsyEggers@gmail.com.

(If you are interested in hosting a fall or winter Welcome Dinner, held on the 18th of each month, please contact Jim Tolmach at 404-294-5194 or jimtolmach@icloud.com.)

SCREENING OF *1946: THE MISTRANSLATION THAT SHIFTED A CULTURE* – Thurs, Sept 19

What if the word homosexual was never meant to be in the Bible? The 1946 Revised Standard Version was a pivotal translation in many, many ways and was the first translation to include the word "homosexual," with far-reaching consequences. Emory's Pitts Theological Library invites us to a public screening of the critically acclaimed documentary *1946: The Mistranslation that Shifted a Culture* (view the trailer at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=00QOkOE49qM>). This is part of second annual Morgan Forum, which brings together biblical scholars, translators, collectors, and the general public to consider the impact of the Bible on the church and culture and to learn from one of the world's premier collections of English Bibles. Forum begins at 1 pm and film screening is at 3:30 pm. Learn more and register at <https://candler.emory.edu/about-candler/events/the-morgan-forum/>.

SEWING CIRCLE -- Saturday, September 28

Join us for a Sewing Circle, meeting in the library, on Saturday, August 10 at 3 pm. All art/craft mediums (that are easily cleanable!!) welcome as we create deeper community around shared interests. For more information, see Lisa Magee, lisammagee@gmail.com.

Discernment

- **Nominating Committee** — Lissa Place reported for Nominating Committee.

Minute-08-18-24:01: On the recommendation of Nominating Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Folami Prescott-Adams for Religious Education teacher for the 2024-2025 school year.

Minute-08-18-24:02: On the recommendation of Nominating Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Folami Prescott-Adams as a member of Ministry and Worship for a two-year term through December of 2026.

Reports

- **Nominating Committee** — Lissa Place reported for Nominating Committee.

Nominating Committee would like to bring forward the following names as Religious Education teachers for the 2024-2025 school year.

Dean Leeper
Asa Kramer-Dickie
Lisa Kruse

- **Ministry and Worship** — Clive Gordon reported for Ministry and Worship Committee.

Application for Membership and Recommendation.

Atlanta Meeting has received an application for membership from Cheryll Cowherd. A clearness committee appointed by Ministry and Worship has met with her and found her clear for membership. Ministry and Worship Committee has united with this recommendation. We recommend Cheryll be approved as a member of the meeting. We ask the meeting to consider this recommendation over the next month. We will bring this recommendation back for discernment in 9th month. In the meantime, we encourage members of meeting to speak with Cheryll.

Upcoming Forums.

Ministry and Worship is sponsoring two forums in the coming months.

On August 25, Dot Lopez, the head of the Friends School of Atlanta will share her reflections on the Friends School of Atlanta as they begin a new school year and the school's vision for the future. This is an opportunity to learn about the contributions of Friends Education.

On September 29 at rise of meeting, Ministry and Worship will conduct our annual forum on the meaning and process of membership. The forum is intended for those interested in membership or curious about the meaning and process of membership in the meeting. For those of us who are already members, this is a great opportunity to reflect on what membership means to us.

- **Reparations, Reparative Justice and Right Relations Committee** — Karen Morris reported for the Reparations, Reparative Justice and Right Relations Committee.

Our new committee is offering this report as a way to bring you up to date on our work since we moved from being under the care of the Ministry and Worship committee to becoming a standing committee of the Meeting.

We felt that our main work this spring was to write a committee description.

My report today is to give you highlights of our proposed committee description.

Using the new template offered by the Nominating Committee, we have submitted our description to the Nominating Committee for them to discuss.

Our committee is not asking the Meeting to discern any part of the description, as that discernment is expected to be the work that the Nominating Committee will bring to you following their timeline.

The RRJRR committee thinks it important for the Meeting to be aware of our committee's stated purpose and our membership description, so those are the sections I will talk about today.

Purpose: *The Purpose of Reparations, Reparative Justice, and Right Relations Committee (RRJRR) is to serve as a catalyst and provide guidance to learn about and take action to redress the injustices and inequities caused by racism that harm Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color. The RRJRR committee will deliberate on recommendations and collaborations pertaining to reparations, reparative justice, and right relations for the Meeting to take action on. It differs from other existing committees in AFM in that the Committee on Undoing Racism focuses on racism within AFM, and Quakers for Racial Equality works on racism at the personal, institutional, and societal levels. The RRJRR committee works on the whole Meeting level, coordinating with other committees leading to outward actions of repair, redress, and building relationships with Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color.*

From Dec. 2020 through 2023 the Meeting's Minute from 2021 on Reparative Justice and Reconciliation has been a guide for us. The ad hoc committee focused primarily on sharing information with the Meeting through forums with authors and activists describing systemic racist practices in education, health care, Indigenous lands and the land-back movement, economic discrimination, redress of racist economic practices in some parts of the U.S., preserving Indigenous languages and culture, repairing economic harm to African Americans in some municipalities, and beginning to look at ways that our Meeting as a whole and we as individuals can be involved in reparative justice and right relations.

Membership: *The membership of the RRJRR committee includes representation from other committees so that topics about reparative justice brought to Meeting for Business come forward with a degree of understanding and unity from a broader base of Friends. The RRJRR committee currently consists of representatives from committees/groups including Ministry and Worship, Friends of Color, Quakers for Racial Equality, Social Concerns, and the Committee on Undoing Racism in Atlanta Friends Meeting. Representation from Religious Education, Green Friends, and Young Adult Friends would also be welcome.*

The RRJRR committee is open to both members and attenders of Atlanta Friends Meeting.

The clerk of the RRJRR committee is the only person on the committee who is approved through Meeting for Business.

All other members of the committee can volunteer as a representative from another committee/group, such as Ministry and Worship or Friends of Color, or as an individual with a particular interest in reparative justice and right relations. The RRJRR committee can make announcements and invitations to committees and to AFM in general to recruit volunteers for the committee.

The committee consists of about 7-10 members with no limit on the number allowed.

We have been holding our Meetings on the first Mondays of each month at 12:30 pm on Zoom. We encourage you to consider joining us as a member, as a representative of a committee or group in AFM or as an interested individual. You may contact me or other members of the committee who are

Herb Edwards (clerk), Althea Sumpter, Waman French, Diane Rowley, Jennifer Thompson, Susan Firestone, and Bill Hooson.

When we began meeting in late 2021, the committees we represented were Ministry and Worship, Care and Counsel, Social Concerns, Friends of Color, Quakers for Racial Equality, the Committee on Undoing Racism in AFM, Nominating, and Green Friends.

Now our committee list is representative of Ministry and Worship, Friends of Color, Care and Counsel, Finance, Social Concerns, QRE, CURAFM, Ferguson Cabin committee, and FCNL Advocacy Team.

Our next meeting will NOT be on the first Monday of September, because of the conflict with Labor Day weekend. We will meet instead on Monday September 9, at 12:30 pm ET.

We will put the date, time and Zoom link in the announcement sheet for Sept 9, so please attend if you are interested.

Thanks, as always, for your support.

- **Gathered Meeting Committee** — Lisa Magee reported for the Gathered Meeting Retreat Committee.

Gathered Meeting Retreat Committee is excited to report that registration has closed for this year's in person retreat. In total we have

48 adults staying Fri-Sun
6 children 6-18 staying Fri-Sun
2 children under 6 staying Fri-Sun
3 adults and 4 children coming for the day on Saturday

This includes our three facilitators, Christina Repoley for the adult program and Laura MacNorlin and Arianna Rodriguez facilitating the children's program.

We had requests for scholarships from 16 Friends of Color, Young Adult Friends, and others.

We look forward to welcoming everyone to Lutheranch on September 6th.

- **FLGBTQC** — Nina Gooch reported for Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Concerns.

FLGBTQC has been eating together for most potlucks as well as gathering for a game night on the fourth of each month and have been enjoying the deepening connections between us. We also want to invite everyone who can to join us in the Atlanta Parade after meeting on October 13, partly to share the joyousness of the day and partly to let people see support from religious bodies. This is a particularly scary time to be queer and/or trans, and there are always people at Pride who badly need to hear that God loves them for exactly who they are and who they love because they have heard otherwise and are really scared. Everyone is always excited to see Quakers there. More details on the Pride Parade later.

The clerk added that it's great when we march in parades. A lot of young people come and ask questions and it brings people to meeting.

Nina said she printed small cards with the contact information and meeting for worship time for Atlanta Friends Meeting. They are available for Friends to hand out at events like this parade so that people can get in touch with the meeting.

Clerk's Items

- Mike Aland and David Small met with the neighbor at Ferguson Cabins and signed legal papers regarding the dispute over the property line at the cabins, so this matter is resolved for the time being.

Approval of Minutes from 7th month 2024

[Newsletter – Atlanta Friends Meeting \(atlantaquakers.org\)](#)

Minute-08-18-24:03: The Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the 7th month 2024 meeting for business minutes.

Events in the life of the meeting

Member Margie Rece died June 13 and member Charlie Greiner died June 25.

Closing Worship

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ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING

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

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

voicemail/phone: 404-377-2474

Clerk: David Small, afmclerk1@gmail.com

Treasurer: Stacey Sharer, afmtreasurer1@gmail.com

Ways to communicate and receive information:

- You can 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 can receive announcements AND posts about a broader range of topics relating to being a Quaker via email. This is the discussion email list.
- You can receive notification that the newsletter is online. This is the newsletter email 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 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 and to the office at atlantaquakers@gmail.com.

Do you need a directory, printed or electronic?

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

What does supporting 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-donate/ with a credit card or paypal. Sign up to volunteer on Sunday morning at <http://tinyurl.com/afmvolunteers>. Contact the Nominating Committee to serve on a committee. *Thanks!*

Want to submit an announcement, letter, article, etc to the newsletter? Email atlquakerltr@gmail.com. Submissions may be edited for length and format.

THE DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS IS THE 20TH DAY OF EACH PRECEDING MONTH.

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