

ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2025



Current and back issues of the newsletter are available at <https://atlantaquakers.org/newsletter/>
<https://atlantaquakers.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
(For those who prefer a more intimate worship experience, we have resumed small meetings for worship in the library at 10 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 JANUARY

Every stage of our lives offers fresh opportunities.
Responding to divine guidance, try to discern the right time to undertake or relinquish responsibilities without undue pride or guilt.
Attend to what love requires of you, which may not be great busyness.
Do I center my life in an awareness of God's presence so that all things take their rightful place?

THE WORK OF CHRISTMAS

by Howard Thurman

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among brothers,
To make music in the heart.

RESOURCES: GEORGIA'S LATINO COMMUNITY

Important and up-to-date information on the diverse Latino community in Georgia compiled by non-profit groups who work with that community. Their analysis of census data provides a comprehensive and up-to-date look into the state's Hispanic community, whose growth is reshaping metro Atlanta and other communities across the state, in this Atlanta Journal-Constitution article by Lautaro Grinspan, from December 16, 2024.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Roul9KKfZbqVpdKa0kVWZTzBAWai3Bqt/view?usp=sharing>

RESOURCES: IMMIGRATION DEPORTATION DEFENSE FROM FCNL & AFSC & OTHERS

A list of resources from a recent webinar by Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) and American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) on knowing your rights and on deportation defense resources. It includes a "Quaker Statement on Migration" from 2020, jointly prepared by AFSC, FCNL, Britain Yearly Meeting, Quaker United Nations Office, and Quaker Council for European Affairs. https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Q8yhK4ONm7OZSfB0N_uHCCXtxp9DVhkk/edit?usp=sharing&oid=108995711048204362426&rtpof=true&sd=true

QUAKER QUOTES: THE ABILITY TO BE GOOD

Wendell Berry writes in The Gift of Good Land: The ability to be good is not the ability to do nothing. It is not negative or passive. It is the ability to do something well—to do good work for good reasons. In order to be good, you have to know how—and this knowing is vast, complex, humble and humbling; it is of the mind and of the hands, of neither alone.

from "A Doorway into Life: Voices from Guilford College's Sustainable Food Systems Program" by C. Wess Daniels, Bronwyn Corry Tucker, and Tony VanWinkl, Friends Journal, May 1, 2023 at <https://www.friendsjournal.org/a-doorway-into-life/>

RESOURCES: QUAKERS AND THE GAY RIGHTS MOVEMENT

Quakers and the Gay Rights Movement, a lecture given by Brian Blakemore at the Beacon Hill Friends House (Boston) this fall. Learn about gay rights activists in the 1960s and 1970s who were trained by Quakers in nonviolent resistance, the influential gay rights leaders who were Quakers themselves, and the gay rights organizations that operated out of Quaker-owned properties. This lecture also describes the presence of Quakers at the Stonewall riots and Quaker participation in the first gay pride parade as well of the beginning of what became Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Queer and Trans Concerns (FLGBTQC). Brian ended the lecture with three queries:

- What work still needs to be done in order to create a more welcoming and inclusive community for LGBTQIA+ people in the Religious Society of Friends?
- How do you think that Quaker silent worship, the peace testimony, the Quaker historic involvement in abolition movements might had had an influence on early Quaker witness to LGB people?
- Why don't more Friends know about this history?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PhrYibP0qLs>

QUAKER QUOTES: THE ABILITY TO BE GOOD

John Woolman writes: May we look upon our treasure, the furniture of our houses, and our garments, and try to discover whether the seeds of war have nourishment in these our possessions.
also from "A Doorway into Life: Voices from Guilford College's Sustainable Food Systems Program"
Friends Journal, May 1, 2023 at <https://www.friendsjournal.org/a-doorway-into-life/>

RESOURCES: FCNL'S PRIORITIES FOR THE 119TH CONGRESS

Last spring, Atlanta Friends along with Friends across the country met to consider suggestions for priorities for lobbying efforts to the Friends Committee for National Legislation (FCNL). On November 11, FCNL held its annual meeting and legislative priorities for the upcoming session of Congress were approved by the General Committee of FCNL, follow this link to learn more about FCNL legislative priorities and thanks to all who contributed their ideas: https://s3.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/fcnlactionkit/images/FCNL_Legislative_Priorities_119th_Congress.pdf

QUAKER FICTION AT FRIEND'S JOURNAL

November is always the *Friends Journal's* Fiction Issue. Two of the many stories include <https://www.friendsjournal.org/the-religious-society-of-pirates/> and <https://www.friendsjournal.org/bread-of-life/>. The whole issue, with additional stories, can be found at <https://www.friendsjournal.org/issue-category/2024/fiction-2024/>.

RESOURCES FROM REPARATIONS, REPARATIVE JUSTICE, & RIGHT RELATIONS FORUM

Here are resources from the November 24, 2024 forum by the RRJRR committee. We welcome your questions / suggestions about next steps for our committee and AFM. Email them to Susan Firestone, susanfires@gmail.com, or Herb Edwards, herbmedwards@gmail.com

- History of RRJ&RR Committee
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1FFzUFiq5utgyz2vDJQLOvcA4o5VoBM78/view?usp=sharing>
- RRJRR-Background_History_Minute_Forum-Handout
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_fhodSnKdcFGvOw9z_nQXFZ4ZWTT4d-l/view?usp=sharing
- RRJRR forums, 2021-2023 short list https://docs.google.com/document/d/1-9d_VdpGTY3BYZZ2bDXVlvQknSQrNOs/edit?usp=sharing&oid=108995711048204362426&rtpof=true&sd=true
- April 2023 Working Statement of building toward land acknowledgement and making amends, (Approved by several committees, not yet approved by AFM Meeting for Business)
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1FmApKDarkelqOnfEKqoF2R-T6yIJGfPH/view?usp=sharing>
- Forum Video Nov. 24 Picture is blurry, but transcription is included and sound is good.
(Passcode: =%9SE\$PW) https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/P0y2IW_J6VsnoRAM7wp-niA2NVgjm_V28whhaMrn8u_SOm3mT4DTrwHqYeK6unMR.cboNqFcimq3AX6BI

QUAKER QUOTE: WHAT MAKES YOU COME ALIVE?

from the Macon Quakers weekly e-newsletter

“To be sure, leadings and callings may involve suffering, but they may also respond to our heart’s deepest yearnings. They may be what makes us come alive. I have begun to read a quote from Howard Thurman every day:

Don’t ask yourself what the world needs; ask yourself what makes you come alive. And then go and do that, because what the world needs is people who have come alive.

What is it for you?”

PLEASE HOLD IN THE LIGHT:

Georgia Lord
Jamie Lockard
Cheryl Cowherd
Bill Hooson

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
Administration: Jack Honderd, jkhonderd@gmail.com
Social Concerns: Karen Morris, karenth.1415@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.

THANK YOU NOTE FROM ATLANTA QUAKER VOLUNTARY SERVICE ALUM

Dear Friends and Attenders of Atlanta Friends Meeting,

Just sharing a warm hug and hello from Philadelphia. I was sitting in meeting this morning here in the city and had a lovely memory of gathering with you all. Memories of sitting in the Library, experiencing being a greeter, many potlucks, and even the train passing by. AFM has truly been a pivotal place in my Quaker experience. I miss you all and hope your holidays are warm and bright.

Best, Rai Carter, QVS Philadelphia Coordinator [also previously Atlanta Coordinator]

[This handwritten card, postmarked December 11, is on the bulletin board.]

LOVING AND LETTING GO

Mary Ann Downey had an article published in December's Friends Journal, "Loving and Letting Go." <https://www.friendsjournal.org/loving-and-letting-go/>

AFM DIRECTORY UPDATE

We are beginning the process of updating the meeting directory so that we can contact each other. This year, it will be a two step process.

STEP 1: If you are not in the directory yet and would like to receive messages and be reachable by others in the meeting, please send an email saying you would like to join to afmdirectory@gmail.com. If you were in past versions of the directory with the same contact email, or you have already successfully completed Step 1, you can go to Step 2!

STEP 2: By mid-January, everyone who is in the AFM directory or asked to join through one of the ways outlined in Step 1 will receive an email with instructions and an embedded entry form for fields in the updated directory. Apologies for all those who haven't changed details since the previous version, but there are enough new fields added (including Facebook pictures!) that it is simpler to ask everyone to start from scratch.

EXCEPTIONS (there are always exceptions!): For those who do not have an email address or do not use email for any reason, we want you in the directory too. Please reach out to the AFM Office Coordinator (Nina) to work out an alternative.

FLGBTQC IN ATLANTA'S PRIDE PARADE



Members of Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender – and Nonbinary, Genderqueer and Genderfluid – and Queer Concerns (FLGBTQC) marched in Atlanta's Pride Parade October 13. Other members of FLGBTQC marched with or volunteered with other groups, including Atlanta Freedom Bands (one of the parade's Grand Marshals!) and Lambda Legal. FLGBTQC encourages everyone, regardless of how they identify, to join them for next year's parade. Allies are especially welcome.

BOOKS BY AND ABOUT PEOPLE OF COLOR -- Thursday, January 2

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. The book for January 2 is *Mina's Matchbox* by Yoko Ogawa. Upcoming books include:

February 6: *Erasure* by Percival Everett

March 6: *American Marriage* by Tayari Jones

April 3: *James* by Percival Everett

May 1: *Take My Hand* by Dolan Perkins-Valdez

June 5: *Wandering Stars* by Tommy Orange

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

FLGBTQC GAMES NIGHT – Saturday, January 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 Saturday, January 4 at 6:30 pm at the meetinghouse. We will be meeting in the library this month.

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. We will also eat together at potluck on Sunday, January 5. For more information, contact Nina Gooch or Derek Harootune Otis. To join the group email list and receive updates, contact Nina in the office.

SPIRITUAL JOURNEYS & QUAKERISM 101 & ADULT FIRST DAY SCHOOL – Sundays, January 5, 12, 19, 26

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 January 5, Tom Denham will share his Spiritual Journey. (To listen to 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.

Beginning January 5, on the second, third and fourth Sundays Adult First Day School will offer its annual Quakerism 101, for those who are new to the meeting as well as those who would like a refresher.

On fifth Sundays, Adult First Day School has 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. (Zoom details in the announcement sheet; see link at top of page 1.) For more details or questions, please contact Elizabeth Lamb.

USING MICROPHONE FOR SPOKEN MINISTRY DURING MEETING FOR WORSHIP starts January 5

Microphone Ministry. We will begin the use of the microphone for spoken ministry during meeting for worship beginning the first Sunday in January 2025. When we speak in meeting, it's because we have received something in the silence that we feel moved to share with everyone, and microphones will allow everyone to hear us.

Several friends have offered their service as microphone ministers. Please let Clive Gordon know if you are led to this service.

FIRST SUNDAY POTLUCK -- Sunday, January 5

Please join us for a potluck lunch following the rise of Meeting. Weather permitting, there are several outdoor tables for those who prefer to eat outside. Green Friends and FLGBTQC (Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Concerns) will meet during potluck this Sunday. (See details in announcement sheet.)

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

ABOUT NEW INDUCTION STOVE

We have a new energy-efficient stove with an induction stove top and a convection oven. If you plan to warm anything up on the stove top, you'll need pans that work on an induction stove. Newer pans are often induction ready and should say so on the bottom of the pan. Some older pans will also work. If a magnet will stick to the pan, then it will work. Pans used on an induction stove should also have completely flat bottoms. The meeting has pans that work.

VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON DOCUMENTARY NIGHTS – January 5, 10, 19, 26

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, January 5 from 7 to 9 pm, *Chávez Ravine: A Los Angeles Story*. Jordan Mechner's award-winning 2003 half-hour documentary tells the bittersweet story of an American community betrayed by greed, political hypocrisy, and good intentions gone astray. Don Normark's haunting black-and-white photographs reclaim and celebrate Chávez Ravine, a closely-knit Mexican-American village that once overlooked downtown Los Angeles from the hill where Dodger Stadium now stands.

In-Person: Friday, January 10 from 6:45 to 10 pm. *Resilience* is a one-hour documentary that delves into the science of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and the birth of a new movement to treat and prevent Toxic Stress.

Virtual: Sunday, January 19 from 7 to 9 pm, in late honor of Veganuary on Sunday, January 19th from 7 to 9 pm in collaboration with the Rise For Animals and Georgia Animal Rights and Protection. *The Animal People* is about the radical animal rights campaign that shook multinational corporations to their core and the persecution of six activists.

Virtual: Sunday, January 26 from 7 to 9 pm, in late honor of Veganuary in collaboration with Animal Rights Collective Portland. In *Slay.*, investigative filmmaker Rebecca Cappelli exposes the harrowing truth behind the use of fur, leather, and wool in the luxury fashion industry.

REPARATIONS, REPARATIVE JUSTICE, AND RIGHT RELATIONS COMMITTEE – Mon, Jan 6

You are invited to attend the open meetings of the Reparations, Reparative Justice and Right Relations committee. RRJRR for short. We will meet on Monday, January 6 at 12:30 pm on Zoom. 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=b1IYUHVPczRVM0s5VmVoMmhwekE1dz09&omn=84326887254>

Meeting ID: 517 199 8073

Passcode: CronosMeet

MLK DAY PROJECT WITH FRIENDS SCHOOL -- donate by Jan 10; assemble Jan 17

The Friends School of Atlanta (FSA) is excited to share an opportunity for us to support the Friends School of Atlanta through their upcoming MLK Service Project! Their goal is to assemble 100 care kits with essential hygiene products for those in need.

Here's how you can help:

- Donate Supplies: Individual sized packets of facial tissue (for example, Kleenex On-The-Go Pocket Pack Facial Tissue or similar). You can drop off donations in a designated box at the Meeting House any time between now and Friday, January 10.
- Donate monetarily: In lieu of or in addition to bringing in hygiene items, you can contribute money at <https://checkout.square.site/buy/l227R6TT7Y5KV2FOIB5VHL75>.
- Volunteer: Join them for the Friends School's next Community in Action Day: MLK Day of Service on Friday, January 17 from 2:00 to 3:00 to help assemble the care kits. If you plan to volunteer, please let David Small (dmsmall33@gmail.com) know so that they can plan for your presence.

NEWCOMER WELCOME DINNER -- Saturday, January 18

On the 18th of each month, newcomers to Atlanta Friends Meeting are invited to dinner at the home of a member or long-time attender. You'll have a chance to get to know other new attenders as well as long-time Quakers in a casual setting. See announcement sheet for more details.

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

MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS – Sunday, January 19

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.

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

Meeting ID: 896 8627 6751

Passcode: 789456

ABOUT MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS

"Friends' decision-making is rooted in the spiritual oneness of a religious community. We reject majority rule for the higher goal of reaching decisions in unity, through distinctive attitudes developed by Friends over the centuries. Our process is democratic in the sense that everyone is encouraged to participate. However, it also goes beyond democracy in that it does not rely solely on human will or ability. Participants are expected to put aside personal desires and allow themselves to be led by a Guide beyond the self." (Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice 1998)

"Whenever we remember that we are in the presence of God, transformation is possible. Every task, no matter how mundane, becomes an act of worship, a word of praise offered to God. This is the basis for Quaker business practice. We call it 'meeting for worship with attention to business' because it is grounded in an awareness of God's presence!" (Friends General Conference)

Atlanta Friends Meeting guidelines for meeting for Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business are at https://atlantaquakers.org/wp-content/uploads/Guidelines_for_Meeting_for_Business.pdf. In addition, <https://www.friendsjournal.org/meeting-for-business-as-spiritual-rehearsal> talks more about the spiritual side of Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business as well as the ways the Quaker decision-making process differs from consensus. Another resource is Pendle Hill Pamphlet #307, *Beyond Consensus: Salvaging Sense of the Meeting*. The AFM library has two copies, and there's a description of it at <https://pendlehill.org/product/beyond-consensus-salvaging-sense-meeting/>.

FILM SCREENING: *UNDIVIDE US* -- Saturday, January 25

On Saturday, January 25, 5 to 7 pm, Young Adult Friends will host a screening of the documentary *Undivide Us*, a reflection of the political divide that seems to be present in our country and how we are often more aligned than media makes it seem. Open to all, regardless of age. Please bring a dish or snack to share.

REPORT FROM PALESTINE – Sunday, January 26

On Sunday, January 26th at 11:45am, Young Adult Friends have invited a speaker who recently traveled to Palestine for solidarity action work to share their experience. They will give a report back with photos and videos of their time there with space for discussion and questions. Everyone in the meeting, regardless of age, is invited to attend.

ONLINE FRIENDS GENERAL CONFERENCE GATHERING -- February 1 to 9
register by Monday, January 27

Friends come together from across North America (and sometimes further) to deepen connection to one another and the Spirit at Friends General Conference (FGC) Gathering. As of 2024, on-site Gatherings occur in even years while online Gatherings are held in odd years. Smaller, Young Adult & Youth (YAY) events are also held during odd years to offer continuity of programming for younger friends. In 2025, the Gathering will be online February 1 to 9, with the theme ***A Spring Whose Waters Never Fail***. For more information, see <https://www.fgcquaker.org/fgcprograms/the-gathering/>. Registration now open thru Monday, January 27.

Founded in 1900, Friends General Conference is an association of mostly unprogrammed Quaker meetings primarily in the United States and Canada. In addition to the Gathering each year, it offers many other resources for Quakers. For general information about FGC: <https://www.fgcquaker.org/>.

TWO BENEFIT CONCERTS AT MEETINGHOUSE Saturday & Sunday, February 1 & 2

Save the dates of **Saturday & Sunday, February 1 & 2** to enjoy two different and unique concerts of Satire and Social Commentary with award winning folk singers **Tom Neilson** and **Lynn Waldron**! Proceeds from Saturday night's 7 pm concert will benefit Casa Alterna, and proceeds from Sunday afternoon's 1 pm concert will benefit Casa Alterna as well as Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association's (SAYMA's) Racial Conflict Transformation Program. Please see the Promotional Posters with times, full details and the link for advance tickets for Saturday at <https://atlantaquakers.org/activities/special-events>. Everyone is welcome, so please freely share the webpage link and posters with your friends, family and communities! For questions email Anton at anton@casaalterna.org.

About Casa Alterna from their website <https://casaalterna.org>: "At Casa Alterna, we embody radical hospitality by offering short- and long-term housing to asylum-seeking families, building a supportive community as they journey toward healing and new beginnings. Our mission is to provide a space where those fleeing violence find safety, support, and the resources to rebuild their lives with dignity and hope. Building on years of immigrant solidarity, since 2020, we've welcomed hundreds of asylum seekers from over 50 countries into our spaces of care and renewal."

The SAYMA (Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association) 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, moving SAYMA and its members toward understanding and dismantling systemic racism. The program includes Quaker social theory and anti-racist praxis. There are small monthly affinity groups for White identifying participants and separate group(s) for Friends of Color. Its goals include building deep connections with Friends engaged in anti-racist work and exploring ideas, sharing perspectives, and supporting each other.

AFM ART SHOW -- thru February

Artwork by AFM members and attenders on display in the greeting room through February

Membership of Ian Lawrence Wells. In the 11th month, we also brought forward our recommendation that the meeting welcome Ian Lawrence Wells as a member of our meeting.

Minute-12-15-24:02 On the recommendation of Ministry and Worship Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves and welcomes Ian Lawrence Wells as a member of our meeting by application.

A Friend asked for clarification of how big softy wanted his name in the roll. big softy said he wanted to use Ian Lawrence Wells though he is known colloquially as big softy.

■ **Nominating** – Alison Mawle reported for Nominating Committee.

Minute-12-15-24:03 On the recommendation of Nominating Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the appointment of Jack Honderd as Clerk of Administration for a 2-year term.

Minute-12-15-24:04 On the recommendation of Nominating Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the appointment of Clive Gordon as Clerk of Ministry and Worship for a 1-year term.

Minute-12-15-24:05 On the recommendation of Nominating Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the appointment of Karen Skellie as Appointed Member of Care and Counsel for a 3-year term.

Minute-12-15-24:06 On the recommendation of Nominating Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the appointment of Mark Bryan as Ferguson Cabin Steward for a 3-year term.

Minute-12-15-24:07 On the recommendation of Nominating Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the appointment of Susie Lippold as Ministry and Worship for a 3-year term.

Minute-12-15-24:08 On the recommendation of Nominating Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the appointment of Nina Gooch as Facebook Moderator for a 2-year term.

Minute-12-15-24:09 On the recommendation of Nominating Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the appointment of Nina Gooch as Newsletter Editor for a 1-year term.

■ **Naming** – Charles Hicks reported for Naming Committee.

Last month the Naming Committee brought the names of Charlotte Flores, Elizabeth Lamb, and Connor McMahon to serve on the Nominating committee.

Today we return to ask for approval.

Minute-12-15-24:10 On the recommendation of the Naming Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the appointment of Charlotte Flores to serve a three-year term on the Nominating Committee from January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2027.

Minute-12-15-24:11 On the recommendation of the Naming Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the appointment of Elizabeth Lamb to serve a three-year term on the Nominating Committee from January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2027.

Minute-12-15-24:12 On the recommendation of the Naming Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the appointment of Connor McMahon to serve a three-year term on the Nominating Committee from January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2027.

Additionally, the Naming Committee brings forward the name of Max Saltman to serve on the Nominating Committee. We will return next month to seek approval. We invite everyone to get to know Max in the meantime.

A Friend asked if Max was in the directory. Charles said no but he will ask Max for permission to circulate his information to the meeting. (Subsequently, Max granted permission to share his email address so that folks can get to know him better: maxsaltman@gmail.com.)

A Friend asked whether the nominating committee had named a Clerk of Nominating Committee. There was discussion as to whether the Clerk of Nominating Committee was selected by the Naming Committee or the Nominating Committee. Friends clarified this was Naming Committee's responsibility. Charles reported that Naming Committee would discuss and report back next business meeting.

■ **Finance** – Paul Mangelsdorf reported for Finance Committee.

Minute-12-15-24:13 Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the budget as presented for 2025.

Last month, Paul presented the budget. He said he expressed concern that we were asking for more than we had asked before. He said that there was an outpouring of support saying that there would be enough next year since people would increase contributions. Paul recommended the budget be adopted as-is.

Paul said that there were a few floating items for the budget: 1) the SAYMA contribution which we will not know until January, 2) the employee compensation increases will be determined based on the CPI increase that will be known in January, and 3) there is a placeholder for the guided Meeting retreat to be discussed once a place was identified.

Reports

■ **Ministry and Worship** – Clive Gordon reported for Ministry and Worship Committee.

With our action today, we welcomed five new members by application to Atlanta Friends Meeting in 2024. All these Friends bring valuable skills and insights to our growing community. Our new members are Shannon McNeal, Cheryl Cowherd, Charles Hicks, Derek Harootune Otis, Ian Lawrence Wells, and Leah McNeal. On December 22, we will recognize and celebrate these Friends at rise of meeting.

Two memorial services were held in the meetinghouse since 11th month business meeting. A well-attended memorial service for Lisa Sharer, sister of meeting attender Stacey Sharer was held on November 23. The memorial service for John Adam's father, John W. Adams, was held on Sunday, December 8. While these services were not formally under the care of the meeting, meeting members provided support and tender care in each case. Memorial Services provide a valuable form of support and outreach. It is a ministry of our meeting.

Jim Cain Transfer to DeLand Monthly Meeting. We have received word that DeLand Monthly Meeting has accepted care of the membership of Jim Cain. We ask the membership recorder to make this adjustment to our records.

Microphone Ministry. We will begin the use of the microphone for spoken ministry during meeting for worship beginning the first Sunday in January 2025. Several friends have offered their service as microphone ministers. Please let Clive Gordon know if you are led to this service.

■ **Nominating** – Alison Mawle reported for Nominating Committee.

We would like to bring the following names forward for consideration. We will bring these names back next month for approval.

Recording Clerk, 2 years — Charles Hicks
Clerk of CURAFM, 3 years — Lissa Place
Clerk of Finance, 1 year — Paul Mangelsdorf
Clerk of Hospitality, 3 years — Alison Mawle
Clerk of Landscape Committee, 3 years — Myrna Trapp
Facebook Moderator, 2 years — Alison Mawle

A Friend confirmed there are two Facebook moderators.

■ **Religious Education** – Amanda Gendreau reported for Religious Education Committee.

This fall, the Religious Education classes, including the nursery class, have served more than 45 different children! Our classes this fall include the Nursery, with our youngest friends (birth through 3 years), a Pre-K through 2nd grade class, a 3rd grade through 6th grade class and our teen class of middle and high school students. Class sizes vary. At their smallest, the teen and nursery classes can have from 1-3 children. When the elementary-aged classes combine and on 5th Sunday in the Nursery the classes can be as big as 10-12 children.

The work of the Religious Education Committee is to support the children, volunteer teachers and volunteer doorkeepers in the Religious Education classes. Our budget this year has been spent on books for the classroom and Celebration of Youth, and classroom supplies. This past spring and fall, our focus has been resuming training for teachers, as well as updating a variety of guidance and position descriptions. Laura McNorlan is the co-chair of this committee. Her focus is Quaker curricula. She has received a grant for additional teacher training and teacher development opportunities. Also, several new teachers have joined our team, including Charles Hicks, Waman French, and Dean Leaper. We are very excited to welcome our new teachers! If you or someone you know would like to be a doorkeeper or teacher in our Religious Education classes, please contact Amanda Gendreau at AmandaGendreau5@gmail.com.

■ **Admin/Green Friends** – David Small reported for Admin/Green Friends Committees.

Two bike racks were installed yesterday morning in front of the Meetinghouse. They are there to encourage people to use the bike racks more, and the bike racks will still be in the back too.

A Friend made it clear that multiple friends have been riding bikes and ridden transit to the meeting in November.

A Friend mentioned the north entrance of the nearby MARTA station is open again.

■ **Directory** – Brent Wolf reported for the Directory Committee.

Brent reported the directory has been delayed due to the next directory having photographs of members in the directory and the technical advisor for the directory getting married. Brent relayed the latest idea for the directory would include some differences, including 1) a different form of entering their address based on emailing an online form to everyone on the AFM directory, which we would want to do every year and 2) the contents will now include the standard information that exists as-is as well as a few additional items, such as pronouns, other social media contact information, and a tweet-link section to add a link to a favorite saying or poem that was short, picture (for instance, the size of a passport picture), and fields for children's names and ages.

Brent asked whether or not to include membership status in the directory as an optional input.

A Friend suggested including the city that they are most associated with (for instance, there are some people who participate in the meeting who are not physically located in Atlanta).

A Friend suggested including the easiest way to reach the person and suggested that email address should not be absolutely required because some people do not have email addresses. Additionally, a Friend said we should say "pronoun" and not "preferred pronoun."

A Friend suggested that we list birth year for children instead of their age so that the ages do not come out of date. A Friend said the only people who need to know membership status are Naming Committee and Ministry and Worship. Brent clarified the Directory Committee planned to include their birthdate instead of year; and Amanda Gendreau specifically asked for parents to be informed of how this birthdate would be used to best able protect their children's identity.

A Friend said designating membership recalled, "All animals are equal, but not all animals are equal." She said we should not make it a status issue but people should instead arrive at their membership on their own.

A Friend suggested that membership status would be helpful for Naming Committee, and a Friend responded that there was an internal ledger kept in the office but not in the directory. The Friend further said it could be easier to go to the administration team to get that specific information.

Brent raised that some Friends have been concerned about the directory was the root of the spam and phishing emails that people in the Meeting received. He clarified that the database was built into a directory that would be sent out but not stored online. Further, he said there may be two directories (one with names and faces, and the other with all of the other information).

A Friend raised the question about password protection to the website to provide more privacy for members in their concerns or holding in the light.

Clerk's Items

- Call for State of the Committee Reports by the January Meeting for Business
- Friends School MLK Day event January 17th, with a specific request for facial tissue donations

Approval of Minutes from 11th month 2024

[Newsletter – Atlanta Friends Meeting \(atlantaquakers.org\)](https://atlantaquakers.org)

Minute-12-15-24:14 The Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the 11th month 2024 minutes.

A Friend raised that there was an Erin on Zoom but unclear on which Erin it was. No one knew which Erin was on Zoom.

Events in the life of the meeting

- A memorial service for Lisa Sharer, sister of meeting attender Stacey Sharer, was held on November 23
- A memorial service for John W. Adams, father of member John Adams, was held on Sunday, December 8.

Closing Worship

THE PARADOX OF QUAKERISM

"A paradox is not something you ever live perfectly in the center of all the time," Doug Gwyn said in a 2019 QuakerSpeak interview, and that's particularly true of what he saw as Quakerism's central paradox: "Early and traditional Friends understood that Light to be the presence of Christ. But they, from the very beginning, also believed that that Light was in everyone's conscience beyond the realm of Christendom."

Some Quakers, Doug explained, are drawn to a Christ-centered understanding of the Light, while others favor a more universalist approach. Though this sometimes leads to tensions, Doug appreciates that the Religious Society of Friends has room for both schools of thought: "I think Quakerism works best when we're trying to come closer to the center of the paradox, listening to people on the other side of the paradox, learning from them, not being threatened or discounting them."

To hear or read the whole interview, visit <https://quakerspeak.com/video/the-paradox-of-quaker-belief/>. If you click on the transcript, you will also find discussion questions (queries).

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ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING

Regular 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

<p>Ways to communicate and receive information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. <p><i>To join any of these email lists above, please email the office at atlantaquakers@gmail.com.</i></p> <p><i>To join the meeting's Facebook group, search for Atlanta Friends Meeting & click the + Join Group button.</i></p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Do you need a directory, printed or electronic? Email atlantaquakers@gmail.com or call 404-377-2474</p> <p>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. <i>Thanks!</i></p> <p>Want to submit an announcement, letter, article, etc to the newsletter? Email atlquakerltr@gmail.com. Submissions may be edited for length and format.</p> <p><i>THE DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS IS THE 20TH DAY OF EACH PRECEDING MONTH</i></p>
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