

ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING NEWSLETTER

APRIL 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 as well as worship opportunities with the Macon Worship Group, in person and via zoom, are in the announcement sheet (link just above). The most up-to-date information about events can also be found there.

QUERY FOR APRIL

If pressure is brought upon you to lower your standard of integrity, are you prepared to resist it?

Are you honest and truthful in all you say and do?

ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING “CARE QUILTS”

Since 2000, AFM has had the tradition of passing around “Care Quilts” to persons in special need of physical and/or spiritual comfort and support, and with whom the AFM community wishes to share as a symbol of its love, presence and caring. The creation of the quilts has been a joint undertaking over time by various members and attenders.

The first Care Quilt was created in 2000 when Sue May recruited volunteers to help her create squares, providing fabric and instructions, after which Sue did the final assembly and quilting. This quilt was hung in the Meetinghouse Greeting Room between times of need so all could admire it. As the Meeting grew, it became apparent that having more than one Care Quilt would be useful. Julie Hliboki and Mary Ann Downey worked to choose fabrics and recruit volunteers, and Sue May and Mary Ann Downey volunteered to do the final assembly and quilting.



There was enough enthusiasm that two additional quilts and one afghan were eventually created, resulting in the four Care Quilts that we now have!



Many individuals in Meeting have had the benefit of having a Care Quilt at their side, on their lap, under their head while in the process of healing and have appreciated that extra symbol of caring from the Meeting.

As Mary Ann Downey has expressed, “the experience of resting and recovering under [a Care Quilt] was a daily dose of wonderful medicine” for me.

Jenny Foster stated, there are “many ways this quilt has brought comfort to me since my surgery. There are specific material ways. Its softness is palpable every way it is applied. Unfolded, it has been my blanket; folded, it has been my back support, my front support, and a pillow under my head or under my knees. It has been a shawl in heavily air-conditioned spaces. Sometimes I don’t need it for any of those functions, but I want it by my side, anyway. The love and community from Atlanta Friends are imbued in every thread of it; and there is something very healing to have it nearby.” For more about the quilts, read Mary Ann Downey's article in last July's newsletter at

https://atlantaquakers.org/wp-content/uploads/AFM_Newsletter_2024-07.pdf.

All four of the Care Quilts are on display in the Meetinghouse thru April 13 for all to see. Whether you have the chance to look at them in person or by means of the photos here, you are invited to enjoy the colors and designs and to reflect upon the care and love that went into creating them and that continues on as they are passed around.

The Care Quilts are in the custody of the Care and Counsel Committee. If you are in need of having one by your side or know someone who is, please contact one of the members of the committee. For more information, contact Becky Lough, loughrm1@mac.com.

POEM

by patricia turner

To the one who never
forgets a promise:
you formed stars
 last night
was it a dream
I floated just over
 your shoulder
close enough
 to learn
the art of blending
light into stars
from the darkest
 night.

PLEASE HOLD IN THE LIGHT:

Teri Hooson and family
Karen Skellie's brother Jim
Ellen McQueen's mother
Judy Lumb & family
Susie Lippold's sister
Jeanne Niyibizi & family
Myrna & Bob Trapp

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: Ellen McQueen (missliveoak@aol.com) and Elizabeth Lamb (gelds@comcast.net)
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.

NEW QUAKER HUB FROM FRIENDS GENERAL CONFERENCE

Friends General Conference (FGC) has created a hub for those new to Quakerism (or those who would like to learn more about Quakerism) at <https://www.fgcquaker.org/fgcresources/new-quaker-hub/>. FGC is an umbrella organization for mostly nonprogramming Yearly Meetings like our yearly meeting, Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association (SAYMA).

RESOURCES FROM THE FEBRUARY 23 FORUM ON RACE, HEALTH, AND FOOD

The following link includes information from the Feb. 23, 2025 forum about our 3 speakers: Adam Hicks, Stephanie Simmons, and Issa Prescott, a link to a video of the forum including all 3 speakers and an extensive Q & A period, a link to resources sent out prior to the forum and a link to resources sent after the forum. Each of the resource lists contains numerous videos.
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1TyOU0qLavbltwA64rwt7d98eEnlp6xgU/view?usp=sharing>

FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION'S WASHINGTON NEWSLETTER

A paper copy of Friends Committee on National Legislation's (FCNL's) January/February Washington Newsletter is with the other brochures near the front door at the meetinghouse. While the whole newsletter doesn't seem to be on their website at fcnl.org, two key parts are: priorities for the current 119th session of Congress (this year and next) at fcnl.org/119priorities as well as a summary of 2024 at fcnl.org/2024transitions.

FLGBTQC WORKSHOPS: LGBTQIA+ QUAKERS, RESISTANCE, RESILIENCE & ADVOCACY
Friday & Saturday, April 18 & 19

On April 18 and 19, Atlanta's Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender & Queer Concerns (FLGBTQC) presents workshops exploring and charting the rich history of LGBTQIA+ Quakers and their resistance, resilience, and advocacy, under the leadership of Jim Fussell. Open to both adults and youth. (Descriptions of these workshops are below.)

Jim Fussell is a Scholar in Residence at Earlham School of Religion in Richmond, Indiana, USA and a visiting lecturer at Friends Theological College in Kaimosi, Kenya. Since 2017, Jim has facilitated or co-facilitated multiple workshops at the Friends General Conference (FGC) and at Baltimore Yearly Meeting, ranging from discussions of Kingian Nonviolence to Black resistance in Quaker enslaver households. Fussell's presentations on Queer Quaker Resistance at the FGC Gathering in 2024 were widely attended and sparked vibrant discussions on the topic throughout the remainder of the conference. FLGBTQC is pleased to have the opportunity to learn from him and is grateful to the Social Concerns Committee for their financial support and to the Friends School of Atlanta for the use of their space.

RSVP's are very helpful for planning purposes, but are not required.
Email atlantaquakers@gmail.com to RSVP or for more information.

Human Dignity and Trans and Non-Binary Quakers since 1970

On Friday, April 18th from 7:30 to 9:00 PM at the Friends School of Atlanta, 862 Columbia Dr, Decatur, GA 30030

This 90-minute workshop examines trans and nonbinary Quakers' experiences since 1970, highlighting challenges and affirmations within Quaker communities. Through history, discussion, and reflection, participants will explore the Equality Testimony's role in trans and nonbinary inclusion and its insights for justice, especially during times of targeted panics.

A Century of Queer Quaker Resistance (1924-2024)

On Saturday, April 19th from 10am-6pm at the Friends School of Atlanta, 862 Columbia Dr, Decatur, GA 30030 with coffee & time to socialize beginning at 9:30 am

This all day workshop will explore LGBTQ and Nonbinary Quaker resistance throughout the past century. Participants will gain appreciation for Queer Quaker predecessors, insights into the evolution of their activism over the past century, and an understanding of how recurring anti-queer panics fueled the growth of resilient queer communities.

The workshop will be multimodal, using a variety of materials and educational modes: writings from Queer Quaker religious writers and theologians, recordings from voices of past and present Queer Quakers, worship sharing from participants, as well as presentations from our facilitator. Friends are encouraged to bring pen and paper to reflect on the materials and share their insights.

Through presentations and discussion, Friends will explore the activism of individual LGBTQ Quakers across four key historical periods from the past century. Friends will place this history into our current context, examining how this current targeted panic follows long term repeating patterns, and how Quakers might situate their response into an ongoing movement of historical Quaker resistance.

LOST SIM CARD?

Lost SIM card found in classroom A/B. If this might be yours, please contact Nina in the office.

In a September 28 post on the AFM discussion list, Tim Yates remembered that:

“One of my memories from when I began going to Atlanta Friends Meeting about 40 years ago was getting to know long-time attenders Nan and Britt Pendergrast. I remember going over to their home where they were putting together a newsletter that aggregated news opinion articles from various progressive sources. Layout work was done by hand, including some literal cutting and pasting! Barry Weinstock printed it and the Pendergrasts, as well as other Quaker volunteers, mailed the newsletter out. That newsletter was called *News/Views*. Nan and Britt are no longer physically with us, but Barry has continued an electronic version of the newsletter” at <https://progressivenewsviews.wordpress.com/posts-2/>.

In a reply, Betsy Eggers remembered receiving and reading the *Los Angeles Times* and cutting out articles for *News/Views*, and Karen Morris remembered reading the *St. Petersburg Times*. Susan Firestone remembered that when she helped get the *News/Views* ready to mail out to subscribers that there “were always interesting personal stories shared as well as comments about the news.” According to the meeting history, *As Way Opened* [pages 148-9], *News/Views* began in 1977, when Nan Pendergrast and Dwight Ferguson, both long-time members of the meeting, began sending articles to Hal Gulliver, editor of the *Atlanta Constitution* about issues they felt weren't being covered locally. In 1980, they “created a homemade publication called *News/Views*, pasted up the clippings [from newspapers across the country and even England], had the the printing office of Clergy and Laity Concerned print a front-page Table of Contents, and took it to Barry Weinstock [who is now doing the online version] to be printed. It was sent 21 times a year to a list of subscribers that grew to about 500.” Nina Gooch's in-laws received it in Connecticut and were startled to learn that they knew someone who knew the editors.

As Way Opened has more details and can be found on our website (under *About Us*) at https://atlantaquakers.org/wp-content/uploads/As_Way_Opened-History_of_AFM.pdf. You can also purchase a physical copy for \$20 + postage, by contacting Nina at atlantaquakers@gmail.com or 404-377-2474.

WAYS TO STAY INFORMED ABOUT WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING & WAYS TO SHARE INFORMATION

- Join the announcement list, an email list which includes only the weekly announcement sheet and a very few other emails, all directly related to the life of the meeting. You can also find the latest announcement sheet at <https://atlantaquakers.org/announcement-sheet/> or at the meetinghouse. *To add something to the announcement sheet, email atlantaquakers@gmail.com.*
- Join the discussion list, which includes the announcement sheet and a variety of other emails from members and attenders about a broader range of topics related to being a Quaker, often including social justice issues and opportunities. *You may share info here.*
- Join the newsletter list, which lets you know when the monthly newsletter is online on the meeting's website at <https://atlantaquakers.org/newsletter/>. Newsletters are also available at the meetinghouse. *To add something to the newsletter, email atlquakerltr@gmail.com.*
- Join the Atlanta FLGBTQC (Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender – and Nonbinary, Genderqueer and Genderfluid – and Queer Concerns) email list for those who are lgbtq+ or are interested in lgbtq+ issues.

To join any of these email lists, contact the office at atlantaquakers@gmail.com.

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS: DINNER WITH GUESTS FROM THE COLLEGE OF MUSCOGEE NATION

Atlanta Friends Meeting is located in the homelands of the Muscogee Nation, and as part of the goals of the AFM Reparations, Reparative Justice, and Right Relations (RRJRR) committee, we seek to build relationships of respect, justice, and shared humanity with Muscogee Creek people.

Previously, Atlanta Friends Meeting has offered educational forums, such as one with Muscogee Creek guest speaker Craig Womack about reparative justice for Muscogee Creek people, and one with Muscogee Seminole spiritual leader Chebon Kernell, who urged Friends to study harms caused by Quaker involvement in boarding schools for Indigenous children. Through Quakers for Racial Equality, Atlanta Friends Meeting has also contributed to the Mvskoke Language Program of the College of the Muscogee Nation. The Reparations, Reparative Justice, and Right Relations committee distributed a “working statement building toward land acknowledgement,” (<https://tinyurl.com/kwnr9v65>) which acknowledges that AFM Friends need to learn more at the heart and head levels, collaborate with Muscogee Creek People, and take steps to make amends in order to make a meaningful land acknowledgement and build relationships.

The February 20, 2025 “getting to know you” dinner with guests from the College of Muscogee Nation was a wonderful way to extend friendship and hospitality at a first meeting with students and teachers and lay foundations for future relationship building. The College of the Muscogee Nation (CMN) in Okmulgee, Oklahoma is the institution of higher education for the Muscogee Creek Nation emphasizing native culture, values, language and self-determination. Their homelands return trip helps students connect more to their history and culture from the Southeast. Waman French, a member of the RRJRR committee, contacted one of the organizers of the Muscogee homelands trip at an Emory University Muscogee teach-in and discovered that sharing a meal was a traditional way of starting a relationship. So RRJRR became the lead sponsor for a dinner at Atlanta Friends Meeting with 8 students and 2 instructors from the College of the Muscogee Nation. As part of our focus on listening to our guests, we asked what the students like to eat. The answer was “barbecue!”

That led to offering a bountiful delicious meal with 3 kinds of barbecue from Wyatt’s Bar-B-Q, numerous vegetarian sides like mac & cheese, baked beans, potato salad, and collards, and scrumptious chocolate chip cookies all prepared by Waman, plus more vegetarian sides brought by AFM Friends. Each of the 10 guests from CMN was welcomed with a gift bag, name tag, and cards made by children from AFM and the Friends School of Atlanta. Copies of the “working statement building toward land acknowledgement” were available along with the welcome items.

Clive Gordon welcomed everyone with a beautiful introduction to shared values and Quaker testimonies as well as leading us in worshipful silence before the meal. About 39 people were at the dinner, with participants from the College of the Muscogee Nation, Atlanta Friends Meeting, the Friends School of Atlanta, Macon Friends Worship Group, and Emory University. We sat in mixed groups at tables for 6 set up in the AFM meeting room.

During the meal, there were excellent opportunities for Friends and CMN students and teachers to interact with each other. The students talked about being moved by visiting places of importance to the Muscogee people, such as Horseshoe Bend Military Park in Alabama and Etowah Mounds in Georgia. They were looking forward to visiting the Ocmulgee Mounds National Historical Park near Macon the next day and glad to meet some people from the Macon Worship Group. They also talked about their research projects. For example, one woman spoke about studying native plants that Muscogee Creek people would have eaten in Georgia but were not available after the removal to Oklahoma. She also spoke about the trauma her grandparents experienced because of being forced

to go to boarding schools and losing their Muscogee first names as a result. It was very touching to hear how close that intergenerational trauma is to the present day.

After the meal, Waman French gave a brief history of Quakers / Friends, from early Friends through the founding of Atlanta Friends Meeting, work in civil rights, and the founding of the Friends School of Atlanta. Then Susan Firestone introduced the goals of the RRJRR committee and AFM work to address racism both on the societal level and within ourselves and Quaker institutions. Susan read parts of the working statement toward land acknowledgement in which AFM acknowledges the harms to Indigenous peoples by Friends of European descent and that Quakers had harmed Indigenous children, families, and cultures through Quaker boarding schools for Indigenous children. These statements were accompanied by commitments to learn more from Muscogee Creek People, deepen our understanding of trauma from boarding schools, and use resources in solidarity to preserve Muscogee homelands and cultural traditions.

College of the Muscogee Nation instructors Mathew Yates and Colton Wood explained more about the homelands project and thanked AFM for the warm welcome. Mathew Yates spoke about the value of the students doing research projects that combined science, agriculture, and cultural heritage in connection with an equity in agriculture grant the college had received. He also said that while the intention of these trips is to provide students opportunities to learn more about their homeland and their roots, he had discovered that people in the homeland desire to learn more about Muscogee people and culture. It's an opportunity to dispel stereotypes and build relationships. Colton Wood expressed his gratitude for AFM's work toward right relations and land acknowledgement, saying that the Muscogee "don't hear those things often enough."

Sharing the meal was a wonderful step toward building relationships with students and teachers from the College of the Muscogee Nation. The Reparations, Reparative Justice, and Right Relations committee has asked the trip organizer to find out what kind of support or action would be most helpful from us for sustaining the homelands project in the future or other needs of the Muscogee Nation, in light of reduced grant funding. We look forward to future chances for meaningful friendship and solidarity.

BOOKS BY AND ABOUT PEOPLE OF COLOR -- Thursday, April 3

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 April 3 is *James* by Percival Everett. Upcoming books include: 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 OPPORTUNITIES FOR WORSHIP & COMMUNITY – Saturday & Sunday, April 5 & 6

There will be a hybrid meeting for worship on Saturday, April 5, from 5 to 6 PM which will include Friends in person at our Meetinghouse (in the meeting room) and FLGBTQC Friends joining us online from all over the U.S. and Canada, with time for introductions and conversation from 6 to 6:30 PM. If Atlanta Friends cannot get to the Meetinghouse in person for this worship and want to attend online, please contact Jeremiah Gold-Hopton at jeremiah313134 at mac dot com for the international FLGBTQC Zoom link.

Following this, at 6:30 pm in the meetingroom, Atlanta's local FLGBTQC (Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender – and genderqueer, nonbinary and genderfluid – Concerns) group will hold their monthly game night, now on the first Saturday evening of the month. We gather for

conversation, games and potluck-style food. Allies welcome! We encourage you to bring a 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.

On Sunday, April 6, we will also eat together at potluck (look for the queer flag). For more information about these events or about FLGBTQ, contact Nina Gooch or Derek Harootune Otis. To join the group email list and receive updates, contact Nina in the office.

SPIRITUAL JOURNEYS & ADULT FIRST DAY SCHOOL – Sundays, April 6, 13, 20, 27

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 lives. On April 6, Steve Leeper will share his Spiritual Journey. (To hear Bill Kempffer's Spiritual Journey shared March 2, visit <https://tinyurl.com/mvm84ht7>. For other past Spiritual Journeys, see previous newsletters or 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.

On the second, third and fourth Sundays of the month in April, Adult First Day School will be discussing the book *The Depth of Our Belonging: Mysticism, Physics, and Healing* by Mary Conrow Coelho and then beginning April 20, *How We Learn to be Brave* by Mariann Edgar Budde. You are welcome to join the discussion even if you have not read the books.

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.

FIRST SUNDAY POTLUCK -- Sunday, April 6

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 for Green Friends in the announcement sheet. FLGBTQC details above.)

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

SOCIAL CONCERNS FORUM & WORSHIP SHARING -- Sunday, April 6

On April 6, after potluck from 12:45 until 1:45 pm, there will be worship sharing centered around the query, *"As a step toward changing society, how can we love those in power who do harm to ourselves and others?"* Everyone is invited to speak from the silence if led to do so, allowing for thoughtful pauses between each message. Sponsored by the Social Concerns Committee.

QUAKER RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COLLABORATIVE Friday to Sunday, April 11 to 13

Atlanta Friends Meeting is hosting the annual conference of the Quaker Religious Education Collaborative (QREC) April 11 to 13. QREC's Annual Conference is about connection, renewal, and learning from and with one another. This is a unique opportunity to attend a Quaker gathering focused on spiritual formation for all ages and on religious education. Laura MacNorlin has long been a part of the Quaker Religious Education Collaborative (<https://quakerrecollaborative.org/>), and AFM has supported her to attend the organization's annual conferences. She now serves on their steering circle board and is excited that QREC is bringing their annual conference southeast for the first time ever! Questions? Contact Laura MacNorlin, laura.norlin@gmail.com, or see information at the registration link below.

Register for the in person and virtual conference at <https://quakerrecollaborative.org/qrec-annual-conference-april-2025>. There is a registration fee, but it is pay as led, so don't let money keep you away. To volunteer to help with food, hospitality and childcare here in Atlanta, sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/bh523sra>. RE Teachers and Doorkeepers and those interested in these roles, sign up with Laura MacNorlin for a free in-person Faith & Play (<https://quakerfaithandplay.org/>) workshop Sunday afternoon from 12:30 pm to 5:30 pm. (There will be additional 3 sessions online, dates TBD according to your schedule)

FERGUSON CABIN SPRING WORK WEEKEND – Saturday & Sunday, April 12 & 13

Do you want to breathe fresh air, let cares fall away, spend time with Friends **and** be productive? Join the Ferguson Cabin Committee at AFM's Ferguson Cabins in North Georgia to clean, repair and prepare the Cabins for use in Spring, Summer and Fall seasons. For information, directions and what to bring, call Mike Aland 706-410-5523, Caroline Morris 404-247-0346 or Sallie Carpentier 404-641-0698.

2000 YEARS AGO IN JERUSALEM -- Sunday, April 13

After the rise of meeting on April 13, Richard Allen will be playing his piano composition, 2000 Years Ago in Jerusalem

AFM CARE QUILTS ON DISPLAY IN GREETING ROOM -- thru Sunday, April 13

See article on page 1 above for more information about the quilts.

FLGBTQC WORKSHOPS: LGBTQIA+ QUAKERS, RESISTANCE, RESILIENCE & ADVOCACY Friday & Saturday, April 18 & 19

See article on page 4 above for more details.

SEWING CIRCLE – Saturday, April 19

Join us for a Sewing Circle, meeting in the library on Saturday, April 19 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.

ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT -- Sunday, April 20 (donations by April 13 if possible)

On Easter, April 20, Atlanta Friends Religious Education classes will be held as usual beginning at 10:15. **And, guess what!** We have heard from the Easter Bunny who plans to visit our meeting and share Easter joy with us all. Students will hold the annual AFM Community Egg Hunt outside (indoors if rainy) from 11:00-11:30. (If your student is planning on attending, please bring a bag or basket for collecting treats.) Young adult students help the Easter Bunny and AFM adults can help by donating reusable plastic eggs.

Friends are encouraged to bring goodies for the Annual Easter Egg Hunt! Drop off contents for plastic eggs the week before Easter if possible, so plastic eggs can be prepared for distribution. Please consider:

- + non-sugary edible items, stickers, erasers, small toys, etc.
- + **toddler-friendly** contents (non-choking, so no jelly beans, eg) and label your container as "Toddler-Friendly"
- + plastic eggs only if you have them on hand.

All donations can be left in the donation box marked Easter Bunny Eggs in the Greeting Room near the patio door.

MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS – Sunday, April 20

Stay after meeting for worship, whether in person or via Zoom. Meeting for Business will be held in a combined format about 11:45, using the Zoom coordinates for Meeting for Worship.

The minutes for last month's meeting are below.

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

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/>.

NEWCOMER WELCOME DINNER -- Friday, April 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. For April, the hosts will be Dean Leeper and Christina Repoley. See later announcement sheets for more details.

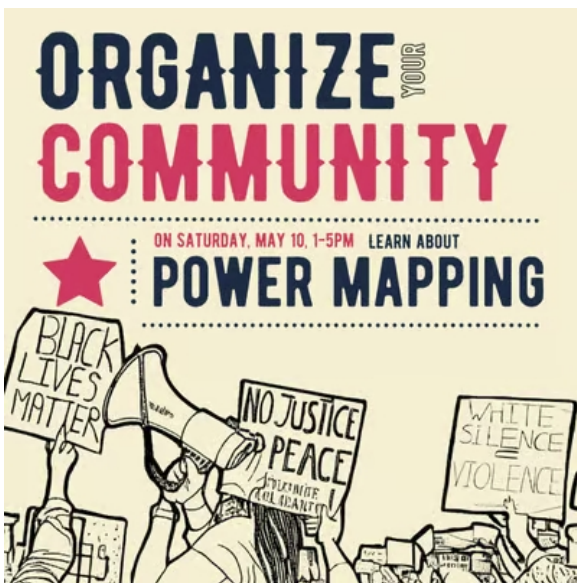
If you are interested in hosting a late spring or summer Welcome Dinner, held on the 18th of each month, please contact Jim Tolmach at 404-294-5194 or jimtolmach@icloud.com.

GREEN FRIENDS FORUM – Sunday, April 27

To celebrate Earth Day, Green Friends is hosting a forum after meeting for worship on "Climate Change: What Can We Do?" See announcement sheet for more details.

UPCOMING

QCUR WORKSHOP ON POWER MAPPING – Saturday, May 10



The Quaker Coalition for Uprooting Racism (QCUR) invites you to participate in a half-day of community organizing to resist the current rise of fascism in the US on Saturday, May 10th, 1 to 5 pm ET via Zoom. They encourage Quaker organizations, schools, committees, and meetings to make themselves hubs so people can gather in person to Zoom together. Please share this invitation widely with your community.

This workshop will have time for worship, connecting with each other, and learning how to use power mapping as a tool for resistance and anti-racist change-making. Power-mapping is an interactive, strategic tool for identifying and analyzing where and how power is being held and used around a specific issue. It allows groups to develop effective strategies for leveraging power to make constructive, anti-racist change.

After learning how to use power mapping, there will be time for groups to work together in community, with coaching and support available from QCUR. They will also have Zoom break-out rooms available for those attending solo who want to work with others or for geographically spread out groups. To grow their web and form mutual support, QCUR can connect with groups of Friends working on similar issues after the workshop.

Registration: <https://lu.ma/QCURPower>

In person location: Atlanta Friends Meetinghouse, 1:00 - 5:00 in the Meetingroom

FCNL'S CONTINUING REVOLUTION 2025: QUEER LIBERATION AND SPRIT-ROOTED JUSTICE Thursday to Saturday, June 12 to 14

Friends Committee on National Legislation announces Continuing Revolution 2025: Queer Liberation and Spirit-Rooted Justice, a three-day overnight retreat from June 12 to 14, 2025.

It will be held in person at Friends Place on Capitol Hill, and online through their partner, Pendle Hill. Continuing Revolution is an annual gathering of young adults (ages 18-35) seeking to connect their spiritual, political, and interpersonal lives. This year's retreat, coinciding with the World Pride celebration in Washington, DC, focuses on queer liberation. Participants will explore where their spiritual practice intersects with the collective pursuit for queer liberation. They will leave with connections to individuals and organizations that can support their role in creating peace and justice in their communities and the world. Learn more and register at <https://act.fcni.org/go/155288>. Full scholarships are available for Young Adult Friends, ages 18 to 35, for wider Quaker events like this by contacting Clive Gordon, Clerk of Ministry & Worship.

FCG YOUNG ADULT AND YOUTH GATHERING – Wednesday to Saturday, July 2 to 6

The Young Adult & Youth (YAY) Gathering is a five-day, in-person intergenerational event in Clarkston, Michigan, hosted by Friends General Conference (FGC) for children, youth and their families as well as young adult adults (ages 0 to 35). Those attending come together for play, connection, laughter, spiritual practice, learning, and rest with one another and event volunteers of all ages. The focus of the YAY Gathering is on play, connection, creativity, and rest. While the schedule is full of opportunities to worship, connect and learn about a topic of interest in a workshop, share a talent in the talent show, learn a new activity, or meet with others in a small group, it is also designed to be spacious. We hope you will have plenty of time to sit in the grass and talk with a new friend, explore the trails and woods of the conference center, or take an afternoon nap! Registration opens Monday, April 7. Read more about the YAY Gathering and register at <https://www.fgcquaker.org/fgcprograms/the-gathering/yay/>. Full scholarships are available for Young Adult Friends, ages 18 to 35, for wider Quaker events like this by contacting Clive Gordon, Clerk of Ministry & Worship.

AFM'S GATHERED MEETING RETREAT – Friday to Saturday, September 5 to 7

Mark your calendar now and plan to gather the weekend of September 5-7 with Friends to explore individual and group discernment. At Calvin Center with facilitators Christina Repoley and Folami Adams.

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MINUTES FOR SECOND MONTH MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS
March 16, 2025, held in person and via Zoom in a blended meeting
Minutes Recorded Pending Approval

Attendance: Cathy Amanti, Sat Balachander, Steve Collins, Jennifer Crumpley, Erin Donohue-Koehler, Mary Ann Downey, Susan Firestone, Anton Flores-Maisonet, Caroline Morris, Jeremiah Gold-Hopton, Clive Gordon, Bill Holland, Jack Honderd, Bill Hooson, Teri Key-Hooson, Martha Halima Hutchins, Bonnie Jackson, Elizabeth Lamb, Jamie Lockard, Georgia Lord, Becky Lough, Judy Lumb, Amara Lynch, Susan May, Flo Mims, Ellen McQueen, John Michael, Mary Place, Christina Repoley, Jay Roache, Andrew Rock, Stacey Sharer, Bert Skellie, Karen Skellie, Myrna Trapp, David Small (Clerk), Charles Hicks (Recording Clerk)

Worship

Query for the Third Month: Do I hold in the Light the responsibility to share my views even though I perceive I may be a minority of one? How do I discern when to stand in the way or when to stand aside?

Discernment & Reports

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

1. Recommendation to take the Marriage of Charles Hicks and Sathya Balachander under our care. Charles Hicks and Sathya Balachander have asked to be married under the care of the meeting. A clearness committee has met with them and Ministry and Worship Committee has united with the recommendation we take the marriage under our care. As part of the clearness process, we ask the couple to develop and share their vows with the meeting, so we know the commitment we also are undertaking as a meeting.

The proposed vows are the following:

"In the presence of our family and these our Friends, I take you to be my partner, committing with assistance to be faithful and true and to complement you in all that we do. As long as we both shall live, I will support and cherish you, embracing the far reaches of who we are and who we may become together."

Next month, we will bring back this recommendation to the Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business for discernment. At that time, we will also ask meeting to appoint a marriage committee. The proposed marriage committee to support the planning for their joining ceremony includes Sara Patenaude, Becky Lough, Bill Holland, Mary Ann Downey, Christina Repoley, Stacey Sharer, Joe Harris, Anton Flores-Maisonet, and Charlotte Flores.

2. This is a time of growth in the meeting. Ministry and Worship continues to work with those interested in membership and marriages under the care of the meeting. As clearness committees and applicants reach unity, we will bring those recommendations to the body.

- **Nominating** — Ellen McQueen reported for Nominating Committee.
 - The Nominating Committee would like to bring forward Connor McMahon for consideration as a teacher for First Day School. Next month we will bring his name back for discernment.
 - Last month, Nominating Committee brought forward for discernment Greg Johnson to serve as Administration Committee Member at large. This month, we bring his name back to the Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business.

Minute-03-16-25:01: On the recommendation of the Nominating Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Greg Johnson as Administration Member at Large for a term of 3 years from March of 2025 through December of 2028.

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

1. Ministry Under Care of the Meeting

Atlanta Meeting has several ministries under our care. Last month, we brought to you the recommendation to take the ministry of Christina Repoley under our care. Today we ask for the meeting's discernment to unite with the following minute of religious service:

MINUTE OF RELIGIOUS SERVICE FOR CHRISTINA REPOLEY

For over a quarter century, Christina Repoley has opened herself to the promptings of spirit, attentive to leadings and deepening her connection to Spirit and the Society of Friends. As a young Friend, Christina regularly attended the Charlotte Friends Meeting (NC-FUM). In 1998, she participated in the Quaker Youth Pilgrimage in England where she experienced an opening, "I am ready God, I want to understand." She attended Guilford College where she deepened her Quaker studies and formation through academic study and participation in the Quaker Leadership Scholars Program. In August 2005 she gathered with over 200 young Friends in the World Gathering of Young Friends at Lancaster University in England. Christina came to Atlanta and coordinated the Peacebuilding program of AFSC. She became a member of Atlanta Friends Meeting in 2008. She continued her spiritual formation at Candler School of Theology completing a Master of Divinity in 2011. Christina saw the need for a program of service and spiritual formation for young adult Friends. As she shared this spark, it resonated with others and led to the formation of Quaker Voluntary Service, where she served as founding director, and the opening in 2012 of the first QVS house in Atlanta. She married under the care of the meeting in 2012. Today she continues her faithfulness with the Forum for Theological Exploration, equipping and enabling a new generation of religious leaders.

Christina Repoley has been faithful in following her leading to be a channel of God's love among Friends and beyond us. Currently, Christina's ministry takes several forms:

We recognize Christina's ministry as a public friend who is ministering and sharing the practices and approaches of our meeting and the Society of Friends in a variety of interdenominational and ecumenical settings.

We recognize that Christina carries a particular appreciation for the vitality and importance of Quaker practices of discernment and clearness and silence. These are special gifts Quakers can share with the world. She has the gift of translating and making these practices accessible in ecumenical spaces.

We recognize that Christina has a special leading to create and facilitate opportunities and experiences for young adults and those working with young adults to learn and practice discernment, clearness practices and Quaker methods of decision making. She has long been faithful to carry out the vision, inspired by Howard Thurman, to assist individuals and communities to come alive to how spirit calls them in this time. We recognize that Christina brings her gifts of presence and deep listening to create opportunities for individuals and communities to encounter the sacred, to listen deeply to the promptings of God for themselves, in their communities and in a hurting world.

Atlanta Friends Meeting records Christina Repoley's gifts and takes her ministry under our care.

2. Appointment of Anchoring Committee.

When we take a ministry under our care, we appoint an anchoring committee to assist in the ongoing faithfulness of the friend to their ministry. We expect this committee to meet with the minister regularly and report to the meeting annually. Ministry and Worship recommends the following Friends to serve on Christina's anchoring committee.

Minute-03-16-25:02: On the recommendation of the Ministry and Worship Committee, Atlanta Meeting approves David Small, Mary Ann Downey, Bill Holland, and Dean Leeper to serve as the anchoring committee for Christina Repoley's Ministry.

3. Alberta Guise Request to transfer Membership. We have received a request from Alberta Guise to transfer her membership to Cambridge Friends Meeting. Alberta began attending Atlanta Meeting in 2015 and we approved her membership by application in 2021. Here is an excerpt from her letter:

Dear Friends,

This is a bittersweet communication. I will always treasure AFM as my first Quaker home.

Yet, I am now led to become a member here, among Friends in my new geographical setting.

Please send a letter of transfer for membership in Cambridge Friends Meeting.

In continuing love and friendship,

Alberta Guise

Minute-03-16-25:03: On the recommendation of the Ministry and Worship Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the request of Alberta Guise to transfer her membership to Cambridge Monthly Meeting (New England Yearly Meeting). Atlanta Meeting asks Cambridge Meeting to assume ongoing care for her membership. Alberta has been a vital and useful member of our meeting. We miss her presence and celebrate that she has found a home among you.

Clive said when he received the letter from Alberta that he communicated to her that she would always be welcome in our Meeting and in our hearts. He commented that she had been a very active member of our Meeting.

- Ad Hoc Committee on Meeting Safety — Anton Flores-Maisonet reported for the Ad Hoc Committee on Temporary Resident Safety.

This committee exists to keep all of us safe in the meeting. The committee has met twice and is close to setting a protocol for both first days and during the week in the event that an ICE Agent shows up at the Meetinghouse and what our responses would be. We will have a training later this month on knowing your rights. Our meeting will reach out to greeters and spiritual nurture groups to share what our rights are and what our Meeting's protocol is.

A Friend asked who is on the ad hoc committee. Anton said Bill Hoosen, Teri Key-Hoosen, John Adams, Hannah McNorland, David Small, and Anton Flores-Maisonet are on the committee.

A Friend asked if there was anyone else who would be interested in serving on the ad hoc committee. Martha Halima Hutchins said she wanted to be on the ad hoc committee.

A Friend thanked the committee for their work.

- Administration — Jack Honderd reported for the Administration Committee.

The Administrative team will be rewriting certain descriptions of the roles on the Administrative team and requested assistance spreading the work of the Administrative Meeting around.

Friends for LGBTQ Concerns requested a banner or flag regarding LGBTQ rights and support of the Meeting, and the Administrative team is coordinating this discussion with FLGBTQC.

Repainting the ceiling, First Day rooms, and greeting room which will take place at the end of March which may result in some odor in the Meeting.

A Friend asked what to do about reducing the noise in the greeting room. Jack said Administration would take this under consideration.

Clerk’s Items

- Inquiry from Monteverde Meeting in Costa Rica

The Monteverde Meeting wants to have an ongoing discussion with Atlanta Friends Meeting about the members of Monteverde Meeting who have been deported from the US and wondered if we would like to hear their stories. The Meeting is working on furthering this conversation.

- College of the Muscogee Nation

Dinner with faculty and students from the College of the Muscogee Nation on February 20th was an incredible success. We hope this will be an annual event.

Events in the Life of the Meeting

- There was a celebration of life for Mary Siceloff on Saturday, February 22, 2025, at the Sacramento (CA) Friends Meeting and via Zoom.

Approval of Minutes from 2nd month 2025

Minute-03-16-25:04: The Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the 2nd month 2025 minutes.

Closing Worship

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ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING

Office Coordinator's Usual 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 atquakerltr@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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*This newsletter is a publication of the Atlanta Friends Meeting.
 Views expressed are those of the authors and not necessarily that of the Meeting*