

ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2026



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

<https://atlantaquakers.org/announcement-sheet/> has the most recent announcement sheet with up-to-date event information

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, in-person-only 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 are in the announcement sheet (link just above). The most up-to-date information about events can also be found there.

QUERY FOR JUNE

How can we make the meeting a community in which each person is accepted and nurtured and strangers are welcome?

Do I/we seek to know one another in the things that are eternal, bear the burden of each other's failings and pray for one another?

source: adapted from Britain Yearly Meeting

QUAKER WORSHIP: SILENCE AS REFINER'S FIRE

from a February 2026 Friends Journal article: <https://www.friendsjournal.org/silence-as-refiners-fire/>

"What many now imagine as an ethereal Light that resides placidly within, for early Friends was a wild, often terrifying Light that revealed not only God but that which was contrary to God in each person. Finding the Light within was more a naked leap of faith into the unknown than it was a quiet, sanitized exploration of spirituality. It involved realizing and subverting any societal conditioning that was contrary to God's Truth. This transformed a person at the core, until a kind of spiritual death and rebirth was experienced. These Friends referred to this wild Light of transformation as a 'refiner's fire,' borrowing the image from the Old Testament Book of Malachi. Sitting in silent worship was one of the many ways to journey to the refiner's fire and encounter the Light."

The editor adds: Malachi was sent as a prophet by God especially to the priests of Israel, with whom God was deeply displeased. Chapter 3, verses 1 to 3 of Malachi says:

"See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. . . . But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fuller's soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver."

Fulling woolen cloth is a similar, if less exalted, image. Fulling cleaned oil and lanolin from the wool and strengthened the cloth, using heavy pounding to tighten the weave and harsh soap to clean it.

**PLEASE HOLD
IN THE LIGHT:**

Kathy Johnson and family
Jay Roache and family
Amara Lynch and family
Julia Ewen's sister Anne
Carmelita Jones 's husband
Myron
Diane Green and brother
Rebecca Thornburley
Suzanne Folger's daughter
& aunt

*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: Brent Wolff, afmclerk1@gmail.com
Office Coordinator: Nina Gooch, atlantaquakers@gmail.com
Treasurer: Stacey Sharer, afmtreasurer1@gmail.com
Ministry & Worship: Folami Adams, drfolami@me.com,
Finance: Bill Hooson, 770-786-8096
Administration: Jack Honderd, jkhonderd@gmail.com
Social Concerns: Karen Morris, karenh.1415@gmail.com
Care & Counsel: Georgia Lord, 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
Reparations, Reparative Justice and Right Relations:
Herb Edwards, herbmedwards@gmail.com
Religious Education: Amanda Gendreau, AmandaGendreau5@gmail.com
Young Friends Program Coordinator:
Rebecca Thornburley, afm.young.friends@gmail.com
Library: Derek Harootune Otis, dharootuneotis@gmail.com
Nominating: 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.

THE LEGACY OF STONEWALL

Atlanta now celebrates Pride in October, October 10 & 11 this year with the Parade on October 11. Atlanta Pride originally moved from June to October because of a drought and restrictions on large groups in Piedmont Park and remains in October because of better weather. It continues to commemorate the uprising at the Stonewall Inn that began June 28, 1969. This was not the first resistance to police corruption and brutality, but it became a pivotal moment in lgbtq history, partly because of the marches that sprang up in late June beginning in 1970, including Atlanta, where 100 people marched up the sidewalk in Midtown to a slightly larger rally in Piedmont Park.

In *Making History: The Struggle for Gay and Lesbian Rights, 1945 – 1990, An Oral History*, Eric Marcus sums up Stonewall's impact this way:

By 1968, there were nearly fifty gay organizations across the country. As “gay men, women, and organizations became more vocal, police harassment and repression kept pace,” usually with little resistance. “Consequently, New York City police were completely unprepared for the two days of violent confrontations that followed their raid” on the Stonewall Inn. The “police never expected homosexuals to do anything but submit passively to their skull-cracking authority.” Since New York was a center of communication, word of the uprising at Stonewall quickly spread, and the “startling word of people fighting back inspired the formation of new, and newly radical, 'gay liberation' organizations in cities large and small and on university campuses . . .”

Pride parades now often look like parties, but they retain their roots in protest. Joy as resistance is very much a queer cultural thing, and Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Concerns invite you to march in the Pride parade this year to experience that joy and to show your support for lgbtq people in and out of Atlanta Friends Meeting. Details to follow.

For info about Atlanta Pride, visit atlantapride.org. For more info about the history of Pride in Atlanta (with links to more about Stonewall itself), see <https://tinyurl.com/historypride>.

FRIENDS GENERAL CONFERENCE GATHERING – Monday to Saturday, July 7 to 12
(registration deadline for children and youth is June 1)

Friends General Conference (FGC) is a nation-wide umbrella organization for yearly meetings (like SAYMA) and monthly meetings (like AFM), mostly unprogrammed. The theme of FGC's 2026 Gathering, held July 7 to 12 at the University of Vermont in Burlington, will be **A Window and a Door: A Prayer**. The theme comes from the poem of the same title by LM Sheldon, from the October 2014 Friends Journal (<https://www.friendsjournal.org/window-door-prayer/>):
Join Friends from across North America for a family-friendly week of Spiritual refreshment. Daily worship, workshops, youth programs, and plenaries – and plenty of time to connect with Friends. Financial aid and work grants available, plus reduced fees for children, teens, and young adults. Registration now open. Info: www.fgcquaker.org/fgcprograms/the-gathering.
There are also AFM scholarships available, with full scholarships set aside at AFM for Young Adult Friends (ages 18 to 35). Contact Ministry and Worship Committee for AFM scholarship info.

(PENDLE HILL LECTURE) NON-CREEDAL GENDERS: QUAKER SPIRITUALITY AND A LOVE LETTER TO TRANS KIDS – Monday, June 1

Pendle Hill's First Monday Lecture, Monday, June 1, 7:30 pm EDT, Hybrid. Drawing from their experience of Quaker spirituality, youth worker and transgender advocate, Kody Gabriel will share a love letter to trans young people and the inner child in gender-nonconforming adults. Their talk will explore the spiritual gifts of trans identity, put Quaker theology and gender liberation in dialogue, and offer practices of resilience for keeping ourselves whole in the face of political and social oppression. Kody's talk will center and speak to the experiences of trans and gender-nonconforming people. People of all gender identities and experiences are welcome to attend. Free and open to the public. Registration required at <https://pendlehill.org/calendar/non-creedal-genders/>, which also has more details.

FILM SCREENING: *FROM GRIEF TO ACTION: JUSTICE FOR CORNELIUS TAYLOR* -- June 1

Join the Justice for Cornelius Taylor Coalition for the screening of a new film, *From Grief to Action: Justice for Cornelius Taylor*, a preview of the documentary exploring how the killing of Old Wheat Street resident Cornelius Taylor shook the community and what his death means for the City of Atlanta. This screening is free and open to the public, but you must reserve your seat by registering at <https://www.mobilize.us/atlantaconomicjustice/event/954766/>. Location: Plaza Theatre, 1049 Ponce De Leon Ave NE, Atlanta, GA 30306. Red Carpet at 6:15 PM. Doors Open at 6:30 PM. Screening Begins at 7:00 PM. Co-sponsored by the Housing Justice League, American Friends Service Committee, and The People's Campaign to Stop Cop City.

BOOKS BY AND ABOUT PEOPLE OF COLOR -- Thursday, June 4

The book group reading works by and about people of color meets at 1:30 pm on the first Thursday of the month in person in combination with Zoom. On June 4, the group will be discussing **The Wilderness: a Novel by Angela Flournoy**. All are welcome, and the group encourages anyone interested in a particular book to drop in. Future books include:

- July 2: *The 12 Tribes of Hattie* by Ayana Mathis
- August 6: *Song of Solomon* by Toni Morrison

September 3: poetry selected by members of the group

October 1: *Whiskey Tender* by Deborah Taffa

November 5: *Kin* by Tayari Jones

December 3: *Bad Bad Girl* by Gish Jen

January 7, 2027: *New People* by Danzy Senna

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

SAYMA ANNUAL SESSIONS -- Thursday to Sunday, June 18 to 21

(in person registration closes June 5 and online registration closes June 17)

Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association (SAYMA) is our yearly meeting, a regional umbrella for Quaker meetings in Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee and Kentucky. SAYMA also holds an annual gathering each year, this year June 18 to 21 at Berea College in Berea, Kentucky. The theme will be **Seeking Spirit Together**. In person registration closes on June 5 and online registration on June 17. Info and registration link at www.sayma.org. There are AFM scholarships available, for everyone with full scholarships set aside at AFM for Young Adult Friends (ages 18 to 35). Contact Ministry and Worship Committee for scholarship info.

JANET MINSHALL MEMORIAL SERVICE – Saturday, June 6

A memorial service for long-time AFM member Janet Minshall will be held at the meetinghouse on Saturday, June 6 at 2 pm. Janet had been in hospice and died the evening of April 28. She was Clerk of the meeting from 1988 to 1990 and was also Jay Roache's mother. Please let Mary Ann Downey know if you are willing to bring finger food for the reception. 678-938-8030 or madowney.com@mindspring.com.

SPIRITUAL JOURNEYS AND ADULT FIRST DAY SCHOOL – Sundays, June 7, 14, 21, 28

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 June 7, **Michael Kramer will share his Spiritual Journey**. If you'd like to listen to Amara Lynch's Spiritual Journey, shared May 3, go to <https://tinyurl.com/3yxyscx8>. If you'd like to listen to other past Spiritual Journeys, contact Mary Ann Downey at madowney.com@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.

On the second, third and fourth Sundays of the month, Adult First Day School will be discussing the book *Falling Upward* by Richard Rohr. You are welcome to join the discussion even if you have not read the book.

Adult First Day School meets at 9 am 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 or go to www.atlantaquakers.org.) For more details or questions, please contact Elizabeth Lamb.

FIRST SUNDAY POTLUCK -- Sunday, June 7

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 as well as the FCNL Action Team and FLGBTQC (Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Concerns) usually meet during potluck.

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

STOP BY QVS POTLUCK TABLE FOR EXCITING NEWS – Sunday, June 7

Quaker Voluntary Service (QVS) has news to share! Come by the QVS table at potluck on June 7 for some sweet treats and a very brief presentation updating interested Friends on recent "wins" for the organization that was started right here in Atlanta by AFM's own Christina Repoley. Bring a friend!

FLGBTQC OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMUNITY – Sunday, June 7

There is no Game Night in June, but Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Concerns (FLGBTQC) invite you to join them for potluck on the first Sunday (look for the queer flag). For more information about these events or about FLGBTQC in general or about lgbtq+ issues or concerns, contact Nina Gooch or Jeremiah Gold-Hopton. To join the group email list and receive updates, contact Nina in the office. For information about other future events, see the FLGBTQC report in the minutes from Meeting for Worship with Attention for Business below.

NEWCOMER WELCOME DINNER -- Thursday, June 18

On the 18th of each month, Atlanta Friends Meeting hosts a home-based meal for newcomers! This is an opportunity for those new to Meeting to ask questions and get to know a few Meeting folk. The May Newcomers' dinner will be held on Monday, June 18. More details will be in the weekly announcement sheet.

NO MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS IN JUNE

We encourage you to attend SAYMA's Annual Sessions and Retreat instead. See details above.

LOVE AS ACTION: PUBLIC WORSHIP -- Saturday, June 13

Join the American Friends Service Committee and Atlanta area Friends to bear witness and show resistance to the authoritarian actions in our country. On Saturday, June 13 at 2 pm we will gather at the entrance of Freedom Park (Moreland Ave and Freedom Pkwy) for one hour of silent public worship. We'll have some signs to share and you're welcome to make your own. Register and find resources here: afsc.org/love-action. Spread the word!

PENDLE HILL WORKSHOP FOR YOUNG ADULTS: CONTINUING REVOLUTION – June 26 to 28

Hybrid (on site at Friends Center in Philadelphia and Online): June 26 to 28. A weekend workshop for young adults (18 to 35) to connect, learn skills for community resistance, and deepen their personal spiritual practices. Pendle Hill offers this workshop in collaboration with Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, American Friends Service Committee, and Friends Committee on National Legislation. Registration and info: <https://pendlehill.org/calendar/continuing-revolution/>. AFM offers full scholarships to Young Adult Friends to workshops and events like this in the wider Quaker world. For scholarship info, please contact Folami Adams, Clerk of Ministry & Worship, at drfolami@me.com; 404.593.6548.

MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO FRIENDS OF COLOR -- Saturday, June 27

Friends of Color will offer a Meeting for Worship with attention to Friends of Color once a month thru at least June. We will borrow some of the practices of the Ujima Friends Meeting in Philadelphia and invite you to bring your ideas and musical instruments. We will worship from 3 to 4 pm and fellowship from 4 to 5 pm. Bring a snack or finger food to share. Most gatherings, including June 27, will be in the library. All are welcome. Contact Folami Adams for more information. drfolami@me.com; 404.593.6548.

QUAKERS FOR RACIAL EQUALITY FORUM ON VOTING RIGHTS -- Sunday, June 28

For more info about this hybrid forum, held after worship, see future announcement sheets.

AUSTIN WATTLES MEMORIAL -- Saturday, July 25

The memorial for member Austin Wattles will be Saturday, July 25 at 2 pm. Austin died May 15.

SAVE THE DATE: ANNUAL AFM MEN'S RETREAT – Friday to Sunday, August 7 to 9

The annual Men's Retreat will be held this year at the Ferguson Cabins on August 7 to 9, 2026. Please save the date. More details to follow. For questions, see Bert Skellie.

GATHERED MEETING RETREAT – Friday, Sept 4 thru Sunday, Sept 6 (register by August 1)

Friends are invited to join us for the 2026 Gathered Meeting Retreat, taking place over Labor Day weekend, September 4 to 6, at the Atlanta Friends Meeting meetinghouse. This year's retreat will gather Friends of all ages for a weekend of worship, community, and shared exploration around the theme of slowing down. Programming will include intergenerational interest groups, worship sharing, and a Saturday evening talent show. Childcare will be provided for children under 7.

We ask that Friends who plan to attend register by August 1, but registering before then will be enormous help to the planning and preparations process!) The suggested cost is \$25 per person, on a "Pay as Led" basis — we want everyone who wishes to attend to be able to do so.

Questions may be directed to Charles Hicks at mrcharleshicks@gmail.com. To register, please visit: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe5ZZjLLlu8CVul0zYFu6ZuZq4xCdxUoPp8pdt04p0n9iWb5g/viewform>.

MINUTES FOR FIFTH MONTH MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS

May 17, 2026 held in person and via zoom in a blended meeting

Minutes Recorded Pending Approval

Attendance: Guthrie Armstrong, Daryl Bergquist, Jennifer Crumpley, Mary Anne Downey, Gray Folger, Suzanne Gaventa Folger, Jeremiah Gold-Hopton, Nina Gooch, Clive Gordon, Bill Holland, Martha Hutchins, Elizabeth Lamb, Georgia Lord, Judy Lumb, Karen terHorst Morris, Lissa Place, Mary Place, Jay Roache, Aaron Ruscetta, Stacey Sharer, Bert Skellie, Karen Skellie, David Small, Brenda Smith, big softy, Myrna Trapp, Kirk Wattles, Brent Wolff (Clerk), and Charles Hicks (Recording Clerk)

Worship

Query for the Fifth Month: How are we going to use our Light to encourage and protect people who are being oppressed?

Discernment

- **Nominating** — Elizabeth Lamb reported for Nominating Committee.

Minute-05-17-26:01: On the recommendation of the Nominating Committee Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Waman French as Clerk of the Religious Education Committee for a three-year term from June 2026 through May 2029.

Minute-05-17-26:02: On the recommendation of the Nominating Committee Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Margaret Miller as a teacher of religious education for a one-year term from July 2026 through June 2027.

Minute-05-17-26:03: On the recommendation of the Nominating Committee Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Stacey Sharer as a teacher of religious education for a one-year term from July 2026 through June 2027.

Minute-05-17-26:04: On the recommendation of the Nominating Committee Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Elizabeth Tolmach as a teacher of religious education for a one-year term from July 2026 through June 2027.

Minute-05-17-26:05: On the recommendation of the Nominating Committee Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Victoria Holland as a teacher of religious education for a one-year term from July 2026 through June 2027.

Minute-05-17-26:06: On the recommendation of the Nominating Committee Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Ryll Matthews as a teacher of religious education for a one-year term from July 2026 through June 2027.

Minute-05-17-26:07: On the recommendation of the Nominating Committee Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Katherine Ostrom as a teacher of religious education for a one-year term from July 2026 through June 2027.

Minute-05-17-26:08: On the recommendation of the Nominating Committee Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Amanda Gendreau as a teacher of religious education for a one-year term from July 2026 through June 2027.

Minute-05-17-26:09: On the recommendation of the Nominating Committee Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Jillian Minarich as a teacher of religious education for a one-year term from July 2026 through June 2027.

Minute-05-17-26:10: On the recommendation of the Nominating Committee Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Laura MacNorlin as a substitute teacher of religious education for a one-year term from July 2026 through June 2027.

Minute-05-17-26:11: On the recommendation of the Nominating Committee Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Betsy Eggers as a substitute teacher of religious education for a one-year term from July 2026 through June 2027.

Minute-05-17-26:12: On the recommendation of the Nominating Committee Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Folami Adams as a substitute teacher of religious education for a one-year term from July 2026 through June 2027.

■ **Annual Corporation Meeting** — Brent Wolff reported on AFM's annual corporation meeting.

The Annual Corporation Meeting for Atlanta Friends Meeting was held by a small group of legally required participants (clerk, assistant clerk, treasurer, and recording clerk) after meeting for worship on May 3rd, 2026. The Annual Corporation Meeting Meeting was delayed from its normal scheduled time in January to allow a new assistant clerk to be identified, proposed and approved by the April 2026 meeting for business. The next such meeting will resume its normal schedule to be conducted prior to the first business meeting on the third week of January 2027.

Attendance: Stacey Sharer, Maia Hallward, Charles Hicks, Brent Wolff

1. Officers of the Corporation. The current officers of the corporation were present. The following minute was approved by the corporation.

Minute 05-03-2026-01: The Atlanta Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, Inc will have the following officers to serve in 2026 and until successors are approved: Brent Wolff (Clerk), Maia Hallward (Assistant Clerk), Stacey Sharer (Treasurer), Charles Hicks (Recording Clerk).

2. Persons authorized to sign checks and engage in financial transactions on behalf of the Corporation. The following minute was approved:

Minute 05-03-2026-02: The Atlanta Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, Inc. authorizes Stacey Sharer (Treasurer), Don Bender (Assistant Treasurer), and Bill Hooson (Clerk, Finance Committee) to sign checks and make electronic disbursements from the accounts of the Atlanta Friends Meeting.

3. Other Business. Persons authorized to authorize transactions for the Corporation's securities and investments. The following minute was approved:

Minute 05-03-2026-03: The Atlanta Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, Inc. authorizes Bill Hooson (Clerk, Finance Committee), Stacey Sharer (Treasurer), and Brent Wolff (Clerk) to authorize transactions for the Atlanta Monthly Meeting's securities and investments.

4. Next Meeting.

Minute 05-03-2026-04: The next corporation meeting of the Atlanta Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, Inc. will, if it is in accord with divine will, be held at the rise of the Meeting for Business, First Month, January 2027.

There was some conversation about the procedure here. One Friend was concerned that this meeting had already occurred. Brent asked whether Friends would agree to having the minutes for the corporate minutes approved in this way. The Friend said it was important to have a corporation meeting that members were present for and that this was uncomfortable for people because they weren't there. Another Friend said it might make sense to have a minute to say that the corporation meeting occurred. Another Friend said we do not even need a new minute -- we just need to say that this corporation meeting happened. There was a sense that the next meeting would be more publicized to allow all (particularly Bill Holland, who "will be there with bells on") to attend.

Reports

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

Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Concerns (FLGBTQC) would like to share some upcoming dates, all of which are on the meeting's master calendar. FLGBTQC encourages those in the meeting to join them for these events and to consider these dates when planning other events. FLGBTQC will continue to share information about all these events as they get closer.

Atlanta's Pride parade, Sunday afternoon after meeting, October 11, 2026. The Pride parade and the whole weekend is a blend of serious / protest and fun, joy as resistance, which is very much a queer cultural thing. Most religious groups in the parade are mostly allies, unlike the meeting, which is mostly lgbtq+ people, and FLGBTQC would love to see the meeting's presence in the parade move towards this.

Trans Day of Remembrance, which is now often called Trans Day of Remembrance & Resilience, is Friday, November 20, 2026. Transgender Day of Remembrance began with the 1998 murder of Rita Hester, a 34-year-old Black trans woman who was a passionate artist, world traveler, lover of animals and the outdoors, and highly visible member of the transgender community in Boston, Massachusetts, where she worked on education around transgender issues. Police showed little to no interest in investigating Rita's murder, talked disparagingly about her as a man wearing a dress, and still have not found Rita's murderer (or murderers). In 1999, one year after Rita's murder, the first Transgender Day of Remembrance vigils commemorated Rita and included a reading of the names of all of the transgender people known to have been murdered. FLGBTQC will be hosting an event for those in the meeting and for the wider queer / trans community, using the basic format of a Quaker memorial meeting, beginning with asking everyone who attends to participate in the traditional reading of names of those who have died. The idea is that this would speak to both religious and non-religious people.

Trans Day of Visibility forum again on Sunday, March 28, 2027, after the Easter egg hunt. (Actual date is officially March 31, and this seemed like the best Sunday.)

Regional FLGBTQC gathering, October 1 to 3, 2027. Atlanta's FLGBTQC is part of a larger FLGBTQC group across the US and Canada. Until the pandemic, this group met in person at Friends General Conference Gathering each year and again in February. The wider group wants to have regional gatherings across the continent in 2027, and Atlanta's FLGBTQC has agreed to host one for the southeast (and anyone else who wants to fly to Atlanta). There will be a planning committee from Atlanta and the wider region, beginning this fall.

A Friend said they went to the Pride parade last year, and he said he would encourage others to go.

- **SAYMA** — Karen Morris, who is a member of SAYMA's finance committee, presented on behalf of Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting & Association (SAYMA).

SAYMA has asked for feedback regarding its budget for Fiscal Year 2027 (October 1, 2026 through September 30, 2027). This was offered as a report, with opportunity for clarifying questions. No decisions were requested at this time.

SAYMA asks all affiliated monthly meetings to review the draft budget each May before it is presented for consideration at SAYMA's annual sessions in June. Friends wishing to offer questions, comments, or concerns may send them to our SAYMA representative, Alison Mawle, who will convey them to the SAYMA Finance Committee. The deadline for feedback is May 29, 2026.

The proposed budget anticipates approximately \$84,553 in income and \$93,770 in expenses, reflecting a projected deficit of roughly \$9,200. The largest category of general fund expenditure is Southern Appalachian Young Friends (SAYF), the ministry for and by Friends ages 12 through 18, at 31.8% of the total. General support costs, covering administration, staffing, insurance, and similar operational expenses, account for 29.5%. Junior Yearly Meeting (JYM), serving Friends ages 0 through 12, represents 7.5%, and Annual Sessions & Retreat accounts for 7%. The remaining expenses support a range of Quaker organizations and ministries, including Friends General Conference, the American Friends Service Committee, the Friends Committee on National Legislation, Uplifting Racial Justice, and several others.

A new feature of this year's budget presentation is a pie chart prepared by SAYMA Treasurer Daryl Bergquist and SAYMA Assistant Clerk Jeremiah Gold-Hopton, which organizes expenses and income by ministry and program category to make the budget more accessible to Friends.

The full budget document is available on the SAYMA website at https://www.sayma.org/YM2026/FY27_budget_docs.pdf.

Stacey Sharer reported from AFM's Finance Committee on SAYMA's budget.

"The Finance Committee has reviewed the SAYMA FY2027 draft budget materials and wants to share a few observations with the meeting.

Many of us have fond memories of SAYMA gatherings, deep relationships formed through the yearly meeting, and genuine appreciation for what SAYMA offers. Southern Appalachian Young Friends continues to serve our young people well, and the recent clerking workshop hosted here at Atlanta Meeting was a meaningful expression of what SAYMA can be at its best. We are grateful for these gifts, and for the Friends across the region who have given so much of themselves to this organization over many years.

At the same time, the budget raises real questions we think deserve sustained attention. Atlanta Meeting currently provides the largest single share of SAYMA's assessment income -- a proportion that has grown significantly in recent years, even as other meetings have reduced or ended their participation. The proposed budget projects another significant deficit, continuing a multi-year pattern. We are also aware that the environment at SAYMA gatherings has, for some years, made participation difficult for a number of our members, and we believe this deserves honest attention.

This uncertainty creates a practical difficulty for us as a Finance Committee. We are responsible for stewarding Atlanta Meeting's resources carefully, and we cannot plan responsibly when we do not have unity from our own meeting about how we wish to relate to SAYMA going forward -- including what level of financial support reflects our actual relationship with our yearly meeting. Atlanta Meeting's contribution to SAYMA is significant, and we do not think it is right to simply carry it forward year after year without the meeting having an opportunity to reflect on whether it reflects our current sense of that relationship.

We therefore ask this meeting to request that the Nominating Committee constitute a standing committee charged with facilitating discernment within AFM about how we wish to relate to SAYMA -- our yearly meeting. This would include our financial support, the participation of our members, our leadership roles within SAYMA, and what we hope SAYMA can be for our community. We invite Friends who feel called to serve in this way to make themselves known to the Nominating Committee.

We intend to submit written comments to SAYMA before the May 29th deadline. Those comments will affirm our support for this year's budget, while being honest with SAYMA that

the nature of our future support is a matter our meeting is actively discerning, and that they should not assume our current level of contribution in future budget cycles until that discernment has reached clarity.

We will continue to keep the meeting informed."

Daryl Bergquist, SAYMA's treasurer, commented that the deficit budget was intentional to pay down the excess funds that SAYMA had in its coffers.

A Friend said they were concerned about the assessment being determined without feedback from the Meeting and wanted to be a better part of that going forward.

Jeremiah Gold-Hopton, the assistant clerk of SAYMA, said the current assessment structure was approved by SAYMA's Finance Committee, which included Paul Mangelsdorf, who was then AFM's finance committee clerk. The assessment structure has adapted over time but the current structure for Atlanta was to look at the total number of Atlanta contributions and pay a portion of that.

Stacey Sharer made the comment that this is why the Finance Committee is asking for nominating to put together a committee to allow us as the Finance Committee to better respond to SAYMA's budget.

A Friend said that when people give money to AFM, there's an understanding that a certain percentage of the contribution would go to SAYMA. They said if someone wanted to make a restricted contribution, then they could make a restricted contribution that was not included in the annual assessment.

A Friend raised that we were getting very in the weeds and suggested that the Clerk form an ad hoc committee to help facilitate this conversation and discernment. He made the point that this was the most conversation we had had about SAYMA's budget and that the Clerk was empowered to form an ad hoc committee, and that was a better role for the Clerk than the nominating committee.

A Friend said he was sad in the pit of his stomach about how this process has worked. Another Friend said she was concerned the discernment process could destroy a part of the work of SAYMA is doing and this is a part of the ongoing outreach to the country. She said, we, as Atlanta, have so much to give.

A Friend suggested removing any of the non-financial references from the minute since this arose from consideration of SAYMA's financial report. Stacey Sharer made the point that how we spend our money affects our relationships, and she believed that point should stay in.

Brent Wolff confirmed that the ad hoc committee appointed by the AFM Clerk would decide on a discernment process that engages all concerned from the broader meeting community and report back to Meeting for Business.

Minute-05-17-26:13: On the recommendation of AFM's Finance Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the Clerk creating an ad hoc committee to discuss Atlanta Friends Meeting's relationship with Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting & Association (including, but not limited to, the degree of the relationship and the financial support) and soliciting and appointing the committee's members.

- **Nominating** — Elizabeth Lamb reported for Nominating Committee.

The Nominating Committee is bringing forward Joe Manganelli as Clerk of the Meetinghouse and Grounds Committee for a one-year term from now through the end of 2026. We will bring his name forward next month for approval.

The Nominating Committee is bringing forward Julia Ewen, El Sayed Elbaz, and Karen Gold to serve on the Ministry and Worship Committee for a three-year term from now through December 2028. We will bring their names forward next month for approval.

Clerk's Items

- None.

Announcements

- We are suspending the Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business in the Sixth Month to encourage people to attend the SAYMA yearly meeting. We will reconvene in the Seventh Month.

Approval of Minutes from 4th month 2026

Minute-05-17-26:14: The Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the 4th month 2026 minutes.

Events in the Life of the Meeting

- Former AFM member Sheri Fradenburgh died on April 22 in Tucson.
- AFM member Janet Minshall passed away on April 28. She was clerk from 1988 to 1990, former secretary of AFM, former secretary of SAYMA and was also Jay Roache's mother.
- AFM member Austin Wattles passed away on May 15.

Closing Worship

~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*

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: Brent Wolff, 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 afmdirectory@gmail.com and 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>THE DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS IS THE 20TH DAY OF EACH PRECEDING MONTH</p>
---	---

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