

Atlanta Friends Meeting Newsletter

Atlanta Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers). All are welcome.

Meeting for Worship
Each First Day (Sunday)
10:00 -11:00 a.m.
701 W. Howard Ave.
Decatur, GA 30030
404-377-2474
afmquakers@hotmail.com

Clerk of the Meeting
Steve Collins

Assistant Clerk of the
Meeting
Georgia Lord

Recording Clerk
Bill Holland

Treasurer
Pete McCaughan

Administration
Karen Morris

Care & Counsel
Dwight Harriman

Ministry & Worship
Suzan Kenworthy

Religious Education
Mary Jahntz

Social Concerns
Julia Parker Ewen

Newsletter Editor
Stoph Hallward

Young Friends Coordinator
Laura Norlin

Office Coordinator
Jonah McDonald

October 2008

Query:

Participation in Meetings:

Do your resident members attend meetings regularly and punctually?

To what extent are your meetings for worship attended by persons not in membership and are they welcomed and encouraged to continue attendance?

Are your meetings for business held in a spirit of love, understanding and forbearance, and do you seek the right course of action in humble submission to the authority of truth and patient search for unity?

Faith and Practice, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (1955)

Submitted by Suzan Kenworthy Member of Ministry and Worship Committee

First Day School – Nurturing the Spiritual Life of Young Friends

This year, First Day School will focus on Quaker values and testimonies as a way to nurture the spiritual life of Atlanta young Friends. Specifically, young Friends will explore the following:

Simplicity Peace Integrity Community Equality Stewardship

Lessons in the New Testament, Old Testament, Quaker history and values, current and historic world events, and topics brought forward by young Friends will be used to explore these testimonies throughout the year.

We are blessed to have the following teachers this year:

- Pre-School: Elizabeth Valera
- Lower Elementary: Gina Bailey-Herring and Betsy Eggers
- Upper Elementary: Terri O'Neil
- Middle School: Jennifer Kramer-Dickie
- High School: Maggie Hasbrouck
- Substitutes: Folami Adams and Pat Williams

In addition, other AFM adults, known as nurturers, will be a presence in one or more classes during the school year. If you can help with this work, please contact Mary Jahntz at maryjahntz@comcast.net or (404) 627-7699.

Our first month of school was spirit led and filled with joy. Some activities included looking at creation stories, sitting with the Quaker testimonies, and considering peace in our world. On the International Day of Peace, young Friends created peace prayer ribbons that they attached to the peace pole outside the meetinghouse. Our entire community gathered together around the peace pole after worship to offer silent prayers for peace to the world.

We thank the AFM community for supporting the spiritual lives of our younger Friends and look forward to other opportunities to join together in our faith this year.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Jahntz, Religious Education Committee

Dieudonne Ntibayaz's Story

I was born in September 9th 1967 in Burundi. Both my parents were members of NGOBEKE in CENE Friends Monthly meeting. In my first 15 years of existence I was interested in Sunday school, Vacation Bible School, and gospel music. Every day my dreams were the following: to be an English speaker, to visit the church where our first 3 missionaries (Arthur Chilson, Edna Chilson and Rachel Chilson) came from before arriving in central Africa, and to put my own feet on a place called Golgotha where Jesus Christ was hung on the cross. In 1984, on the day that my church recommended me to attend Theological Institute, I started to accept that my dreams would have a positive effect. After 4 years at the school mentioned above, I was glad to work in my church's legal representative office for 3 years. However, by January 1997, most Burundi provinces were engulfed in the war between government army and CNDD (comite national de la defence de la democratie) movement. The population started to spend nights in the bush because they were afraid of being killed or forced to join military activities. Burundi also decided to use several churches as military positions. Therefore, I decided to leave the country and see if I could find a refuge.

February 15th 1997, was my first day in NDUTA refugee camp in Tanzania. Burundis in the refugee camp had heavy hearts because they were traumatized by the painful experiences they had suffered such as seeing their families killed, burned, raped, or injured by different army groups in their native country or in Congo, Rwanda, and Tanzania, countries they had gone to in order to escape fighting only to experience it again. Those refugees were traumatized every time they remembered these terrible experiences. As a result, my friends and I decided to request permission from the Tanzania authority to begin Friends Church activities because we believe that God is the answer for everything. It was not easy work because we had no material or moral support from our mother church while other religious institutions had regular visits and support from their respective churches. I appreciate how Susan Marie Seitzm, one of the members of Friends Church in the U.S., stayed with us in all church's activities even though Tanzania didn't allow her to work with us closely. (She was among the IRC staff in Tanzania) I thank God for his permanent protection of me and my family in spite of our weakness before him. Through God's help, I was able to conduct church activities. I would not have been able to do it if others had not kept on praying for me. In all my prayers I beg God to forgive me and I like to request the same as Agur requested in Proverbs 30:7-9: to keep vanity and lies from me and to give me neither poverty nor riches.

Now I would like to help my church in Burundi. Before we left Africa, my wife and I promised to help my local church in Burundi to find music instruments and other things in order to improve how to spread good news to people after several periods of war. According to current information, they are planning to build a big construction because the old one is too small for the church growth. As we do in Africa, the church members use their own hands to build a church building and try to put together their contribution until they buy every thing needed. They request material support to their members who are everywhere in the world. Only the legal representative church office can provide iron sheecontact our former missionary and our pastor to supervise the use of the funds. So I call upon everyone who can help to join us in that good project. May our heavenly Father bless you. I have been in Atlanta Friends Meeting since October 2007, andc all my family members (two daughters, two sisters and my lovely wife) are happy to be in AFM. I like so much to participate regularly in Bible study. I also believe that my dream above mentioned finally will become reality.

By Dieudonne Ntibayaz (with grammatical assistance from Susan Firestone)

For Families of Young Friends in First Day School Program

Starting in October, we plan to communicate details about First Day School activities to families on a weekly basis. This information can give parents and guardians an opportunity to extend the learning at home and can help families plan for upcoming activities. If your family uses e-mail and is interested in receiving this information, please send an e-mail with your child's name(s) and ages to maryjahntz@comcast.net.

As a reminder:

- All young Friends preschool-age and older attend Meeting for Worship until 10:15 a.m. This gives our teachers time to worship or prepare for class and gives young Friends an opportunity to worship.
- First Day School concludes at the same time as Meeting for Worship. At that time, young Friends are again in your loving care. If they return to the classroom and make use of materials, please help them clean up before leaving.
- If you have not yet met the teachers in your child's classroom(s), please do so. They look forward to meeting you and addressing any concerns.

You can also contact Mary Jahntz at (404) 627-7699 with any questions.

Income Energy

At the forum on Quakers and Money I mentioned a new income opportunity. A few people have asked about more details and encouraged me to write something up. The opportunity is a start-up energy company. They have been in business in Texas for 3 years and launched in Georgia in April of this year. In Texas they sell electricity in Georgia its natural gas. They are growing state by state wherever there is deregulation, and adding competition to the local rates. If you want to know more, check out my website <http://stoph.igniteinc.biz> great income and consumer opportunities. Or call 703-946-0229

Thanks, Stoph Hallward

Web sites and books from forum on Quakers and Money

www.donorschoose.org, www.modestneeds.org www.kiva.org, www.prosper.com
www.morningstar.com, www.simpleliving.net, www.charitynavigator.org, www.give.org

Books: *Making a Life...Making a Living* by Mark Albion and *The Heart Aroused* by David Whyte
Your Money or Your Life: Transforming Your Relationship with Money and Achieving Financial Independence (Paperback) by Joe Dominguez (Author), Vicki Robin (Author)

Atlanta Friends Meeting



Announcements

Adult First Day Class,

Daphne Clement will present her spiritual journey on October 5. The following two weeks we will finish our introduction to Quakers by discussing the diversity of Friends (Oct 12) and the nature of membership in the Society (Oct 19). Beginning October 26, we will start reading Henri Nouwen's *Reaching Out: The Three Movements of the Spiritual Life*. Nouwen describes these movements as process of reaching out to our innermost self, to our fellow human beings and to God. Books are available from Bill Holland or Mary Ann Downey. We meet at 9:00 a.m. each First Day in the library.

Atlanta Regional Conference Peace & the Political Process: the Church & Change

Saturday, October 4, 2008, Morehouse College's Leadership Center, 830 Westview Drive, SW, Atlanta, GA 30314. The political prospects of prophetic faith and ministry – Dr. Vincent Harding (Keynote address) – Righteous Resistance: the historical dynamics of disenfranchisement – Patriotism, peace and politics: the cross and culture at the crossroads – Peace, prophecy and prosperity: the hip hop connection. Questions? Contact Dr. Matthew Johnson at anothvoice@aol.com or 678-598-8776

Contractors

The Administration Committee is trying to update its list of available contractors to use when the building needs work. We wish to have a list which is diverse with respect to race, gender, socioeconomic status, etc., as well as in attention to environmental concerns and good labor practices.

We would welcome your suggestions of worthy contractors you know of – carpenters, plumbers, painters, landscapers, appliance repair folks, whatever... Please send your suggestions to Dan May (sdmay@mindspring.com or 404.377.6326).

Nonviolence in Iraq

The Atlanta chapter of the Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR) invites you to a showing of the documentary, "Mesalla: Activists in Iraq," that profiles the nonviolent actions of a network of Iraqi peace activists, on Monday, October 20, 7-9 p.m., in the screening room of the Oakhurst Baptist Church, 222 East Lake Dr. in Decatur. The church is located one-half block south of the East Lake MARTA station. If driving, park in the parking lot across from the church, cross the street, descend into the garden area to the screening room on the right. Contact information:

<AtlantaFOR@gmail.com>. Submitted by Harry Lefever

Friends' Book Club Selections for 2008-09

We meet at 7 p.m. on the fourth Sunday of each month. October 26 [Pillars of the Earth](#) by Ken Follett. Host - Eleanor Buckholdt 404-875-3890 (eleanorb@mindspring.com) Co-Host - Joyce Myers-Brown (jmyersbrown@aol.com)

Julie Dalia and Dwight Harriman are hosting the monthly **Welcome Dinner** for newcomers at Julie's home in Cabbagetown. It will be at 7:00 pm on Saturday, October 18. Please bring a side dish, and let them know you'll be coming (Julie at assissi3@gmail.com, or Dwight at 404-226-1232).



Atlanta Friends Meeting
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
Ninth Month 21, 2008
As Recorded Pending Approval

Steve McLaughlin presented the query: "Try to live simply. A simple lifestyle freely chosen is a source of strength. Do not be persuaded into buying what you do not need or cannot afford. Do you keep yourself informed about the effects of your style of living is having on the global economy and environments?" *Britain Yearly Meeting, Quaker Faith and Practice, 3rd edition, Advices and Queries, 1.02.41.*

Out of the silence, a friend shared that the query was timely in these difficult economic times with many families being pressured to buy what they cannot afford.

In attendance were: Michael Allison, Laura Bowman, Betsy Eggers, Julia Parker Ewen, Judith Greenberg, Roland Heath, Tom Kenworthy, Suzan Kenworthy, Harry Lefever, Pete McCaughan, Renda McCaughan, Sally MacEwen, Steve McLaughlin, Karen terHorst Morris, Laura Norlin, Lissa Place, Ellie Soler, Althea Sumpter, Jim Tolmach, Elizabeth Tolmach, Perry Treadwell, Denny Webster, Ceal Wutka, Steve Collins (Clerk), Bill Holland (Recording Clerk). (25 friends.)

1. Approval of Minutes of Eighth Month Meeting for Worship with an Attention to Business.

Minute 08-09-01: Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the minutes of Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business of Eighth Month 2008

2. Administration. Karen Morris reported that Jonah McDonald has placed the meeting master calendar on line. There is a system for requesting reservations and checking availability. Jonah will out of the office mid-October for his wedding and honeymoon, Ceal Wutka will be serving as office coordinator during his absence. Administration Committee supports Jonah McDonald's proposal to establish a daily worship period from 8:30 to 9:00 a.m. each day as part of his job duties and will consult with the Ministry and Worship Committee. In response to the Refugee Support proposal, the committee is working to develop a list of members with talents that may be matched with members with needs. Jonah has established a system to call transportation volunteers and will be contacting the Refugee families to encourage them to assume meeting volunteer roles as a way to encourage participation in meeting.

3. Social Concerns Committee. Julia Ewen reported the committee is requesting \$10,500 from the 2009 budget. The committee has offered support to a friend concerned about the arrests of protesters and journalists at the Republican National Convention. The committee has designated \$400 from the Social Concerns budget to support the purchase of English as a Second Language (ESL) materials being used in the Burundi project. The East Lake voter registration is progressing well. The committee is working on several projects including the Meeting's participation in the Every Church a Peace Church, a minute on single-payer insurance and a planned forum on women's human rights. Julia shared information on Hurricane Ike relief efforts and opportunities to support these initiatives.

Julia reported that Steve Woodall is currently conducting a fast and public witness out of a concern over the scheduled execution of Troy Anthony Davis. She encouraged the meeting to support his witness.

Minute 08-08-02: In keeping with our historic testimony recognizing the sacredness of all life and opposition to the death penalty, Atlanta Friends Meeting expresses our loving support for the witness of fasting and presence that Steve Woodall is undertaking to demonstrate a visible concern over the scheduled execution of Troy Anthony Davis. Our thoughts and prayers are with him.

4. Ministry and Worship. Suzan Kenworthy reported that Ministry and Worship supports the plan for the establishment of a regular meeting for worship to be held from 8:30 to 9:00 each weekend morning at the meetinghouse.

5. Nominating. Sally MacEwen asked for the meeting's discernment on nominations announced in eighth month.

Minute 08-08-03: On the recommendation of the Nominating Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Judith Greenberg as Assistant Treasurer.

Minute 08-08-04: On the recommendation of the Nominating Committee, we approve Elizabeth Valera to serve as the Pre-K Lead Teacher.

Minute 08-08-05: On the recommendation of the Nominating Committee, we approve Betsy Eggers to serve as Lower Elementary Co-Lead Teacher.

6. Friend in Residence (FiR) Search Committee. Steve Collins reported the search for the new FiR continues. Several candidates have been interviewed.

7. Young Friends Support Committee (YFSC). Ceal Wutka reported that 50 young teens from across the yearly meeting participated in a weekend retreat at the meetinghouse. Epistles of the teens are available online (www.awesomesayfers.org). More adults are needed to assist with transportation to upcoming retreats in Asheville in October and West Knoxville in November.

8. Archivist. Renda McCaughan reported that the old Quaker books in the library have been cleaned and catalogued. Due to their fragile state, the six boxes containing 93 books are being stored at the home of Mark and Ceal Wutka.

9. Quaker Leadership Conference. Althea Sumpter reported that a report is available from a conference she attended on Quaker leadership across the Society of Friends

10. Office Coordinator Job Duties. A friend expressed concern over the extension of job duties entailed by the weekday worship proposal and the time that will be taken from other meeting responsibilities. A general discussion followed. Some friends expressed support for the role of the office coordinator in fostering the meeting community and creating a more open, welcoming environment in the meetinghouse. Others expressed concerns over paying an employee to conduct worship and the balance of individual leading with meeting-assigned responsibilities. Karen Morris was asked to share the concerns and comments with the Administration Committee.

11. Clerk's Items. Steve reminded clerks of an upcoming meeting to go over meeting procedures for business items, use of the meetinghouse by groups, use of the new online calendar and building security. He encouraged committees to begin considering their contributions to the 2008 State of the Meeting Report.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Collins (Clerk)
Bill Holland (Recording Clerk)

The Enneagram as a tool for Peacemaking a conference for those seeking peace with self, with others, and in our world
Saturday, October 11, 9 am-5:30 pm - Sunday, October 12, 9 am-4:30 pm at Paideia School, S. Ponce de Leon Ave.

Internationally known author and speaker Helen Palmer will be the lead speaker at a ground breaking conference pairing the Enneagram Personality System and Peacemaking. The Enneagram is a powerful map naming the personality filters that oppose a receptive state of mind where spiritual awakening occurs.

The conference will weave guided meditations on staying Present during conflict, body awareness techniques for maintaining "grounding," and inquiry exercises exploring our resistance to Presence.

Cost is \$225 if received before September 30. After September 30th, cost is \$250. (includes materials and lunches on Saturday and Sunday). For more information or to register, call Sandra Smith, 828-684-2339 or email sandracsmith@charter.net.

Helen Palmer has authored five well regarded books in the field of human consciousness. Two works on the Enneagram topic are international bestsellers now in 27 languages. This work is the subject of a recent PBS documentary "Breaking out of the Box – Discovering the Enneagram." Co-founder of Enneagram Studies in the Narrative Tradition together with David Daniels M.D. and Founding member of the IEA, Helen's international teaching schedule on key topics of psychological and spiritual integration is posted at www.EnneagramWorldwide.com

Calendar for Tenth Month, 2008

Area Meetings for Worship

Every First Day, 10:00 a.m.— In the Meeting Room and a small meeting in the Library.

Every 2nd and 4th First Day, 10:00 a.m. — Canton Friends Worship Group, 360 E. Marietta St, Canton, 770-720-4669 or wrlpeas@mindspring.com.

Every Fifth Day, 12:10 p.m.— First Thursdays at AFSC office, 92 Piedmont Ave., Atlanta 30303, other Thursdays at East Lake Commons, 404-378-5883 or bertskellie@gmail.com.

Every Sixth Day, 8:45 a.m.— Friends School of Atlanta, 121 Sams Street, Decatur, 404-373-8746.

Weekly Events

Every First Day (Sunday)

9:00 Adult Religious Education

9:15 Singing, Classroom

10:00 Meetings for Worship

Every Second-Fifth Day (Monday-Thursday)

8:30-12:30 Smart Toddlers, Nursery/playground

Every Third Day (Tuesday)

7:30 Silent Meditation, Meeting Room

7:00 Bible Study, Library

Every Sixth Day (Friday)

12:00 Vigil at Colony Square

Other Events

10/1, Fourth Day (Wednesday)

7:30-10:00 Administration Committee, Library

10/2, Fifth Day (Thursday)

7:30-9:00 Meeting for Peace, Library

10/3, Sixth Day (Friday)

6:00-9:00 Photography Friendly 8s, open reception:
Atlanta Celebrates Photography Exhibit, Atrium

10/5, First Day (Sunday)

11:15- Potluck

Forum, AFSC Interfaith Peace builder delegation
Report, Library

11:15-1:30 Green Friends, AB

10/8, Fourth Day (Wednesday)

7:30-9:00 ORAIARH, Library & Nursery

10/9, Fifth Day (Thursday)

7:30-9:30 Social Concerns Cmte, Library

10/11, Seventh Day (Saturday)

10:00-2:00 AFGE, Library

10/12, First Day (Sunday)

11:15 Listening Ear, Atrium

11:30-2:00 Care and Counsel, Jr. Teen Room

11:30-1:30 Ministry and Worship, AB

11:45-1:30 Finance Committee, Library

6:15-8:45 Spiritual Nurture Group #2

10/13, Second Day (Monday)

7:00-10:00 Spiritual Nurture Group, Mtg. Room

7:30-9:00 Meeting for Healing, Teen Jr. High Room

7:00-9:30 Present Moment Awareness Center, AB

10/15, Fourth Day (Wednesday)

7:30 Administration Cmte, Called Mtg: Considering
Welcoming Queries, Library

10/16, Fifth Day (Thursday)

7:00-10:00 Friendly 8s: Spiritual Journeys, Teen Jr D

10/17, Sixth Day (Friday)

Newsletter Deadline

10/18, Seventh Day (Saturday)

6:00 Newcomer's Welcome dinner

10/19, First Day (Sunday)

11:45-2:00 Meeting for Worship with Attention to
Business, Meeting Room (*childcare available*)

10/25, Seventh Day (Saturday)

10:30-2:00 Democratic Socialist of America, Library,
Kitchen & Greeting

10/26 First Day (Sunday)

11:15 Listening Ear, Atrium

11:15-12:30 Care & Counsel Forum: Singing, Mtg Rm

11:45-1:00 ORAIARH, Teen Jr D

6:30-8:30 Spiritual Nurture Group #2, Library

7:00- Friends Book Club, see announcement

10/27, Second Day (Monday)

7:00-10:00 Spiritual Nurture Group

Please confirm unique events by checking the
announcements sheets and or contacting the Meeting.

Atlanta Friends Meeting
701 West Howard Avenue
Decatur, GA 30030-2902
Phone: 404-377-2474

ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING

701 West Howard Avenue, Decatur, GA 30030

Clerk: Steve Collins, 404-687-8715; shcollins75@hotmail.com

Treasurer: Pete McCaughan, 770-730-0872; afmtreasurer@yahoo.com

Newsletter Editor: Stoph Hallward, 703-946-0229; grasstoe@gmail.com

Office: Hours M-W-F 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; E-mail address: afmquakers@hotmail.com

NAMETAGS: If you would like to have a permanent nametag made, leave a request in one of the baskets on the front table. Indicate whether you prefer one that hangs around the neck or that pins. When Carol Gray has made one for you, it will be placed in the black file box on the greeting table.

If you would like to be included in the AFM database and receive the Newsletter by mail and/or appear in future AFM Directories, please send your name, address, phone, e-mail address, etc to Nina Gooch by e-mail at nina-gooch@mindspring.com or by phone 404-371-9873. Please indicate if you want to be in the directory, receive the newsletter by mail, or both. This also applies to any change in existing database information, e.g. change of address.

To receive the AFM newsletter via e-mail, simply send a blank e-mail to afmnewsletter-subscribe@yahoo.com from the address where you want to receive the newsletter. You will receive a note back from Yahoo asking you to confirm your subscription; simply hit reply and you will be added to the list. There is no subscription fee for the newsletter.

To receive general announcements and participate in discussion, follow the same instructions only address the note to afmdiscussion-subscribe@yahoo.com. To receive announcements relating directly to the life of the meeting, send the same note to afmannoncements-subscribe@yahoo.com.

Contributions to the Atlanta Friends Meeting can be placed in the slot marked "Contributions" in the greeting area of the Meetinghouse, or mailed to the Treasurer at the above address. Thank you!

DEADLINE FOR 11TH MONTH NEWSLETTER: 10TH MONTH 17

Readers are encouraged to submit letters, articles, poetry, calendar notices and anything else of interest to Friends.

Items should be sent directly to:

Stoph Hallward
grasstoe@gmail.com
703-946-0229

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