

ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING NEWSLETTER

April 2016



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

An Intersection of Personal Leadings Into One *Submitted by Chris Kohler*

Social conflict leads to stresses on natural resources. Such stresses lead to more social conflict. So as environmental stresses deepen, state violence rises. Clearly, humanity won't solve problems of the environment without solving the problem of war. The peace and environmental movements must meld, if either movement is to succeed.

During the 60s and the 70s the Vietnam War, and my City of Atlanta, boomed. At 5pm, the family TV glowed with the blood-red of medevacked soldiers and bright yellow-orange flashes of Napalm. It sounded the chop-chop of helicopter blades and automatic weapon fire. Meanwhile, above my house there was the same chopping sound of Army helicopters moving up their flight path along South Peachtree Creek to the VA hospital. My next door neighbor and I would run through the woods to see the helicopters land. We'd watch the wounded rolled on stretchers into the hospital.

My generation experienced the first Earth Day, too; and we were trained to duck under school desks during Cold War drills. Then, during my teen years, I discovered Christianity. By college, I sought understanding of the mechanics of social change through Black Christianity and Liberation Theology. The Christian notion of a "Kingdom of God" compelled me to wonder about the path of human history during my generation, and all others. My thesis became, and remains, that the crux of the problem in this human time is our use of violence -- and the threat of violence -- to advance, or defend, social agendas. At same time, the environmental movement pointed to a future when ecosystems increasingly failed to serve the needs of people and other creatures. Any so-called "Kingdom of God" would have to be one in which humans sought to serve Creation, rather than look to Creation to serve humans. Such a "Kingdom of God" would not use violence, or the threat of violence, to guide its social agendas, either. What saving part could my generation play in preventing a spiritually misguided human future of environmental stresses leading to state violence to control those same stresses?

Meeting for Worship
Each First Day (Sunday)
10:00 – 11:00 a.m.
701 W. Howard Ave.
Decatur, GA 30030

QUERY

How does our Meeting recognize, develop, and nurture the gifts of our members and attenders of all ages? How do we teach about Quaker practices in business and worship and their importance to the functioning of our Meeting community?

– *Philadelphia Yearly Meeting*

In the 21st century, my generation's legalistic mastery of remote control killing (drone warfare) in non-combat zones has marked a major change in war tactics and strategies. Now, today's weaponized drones are technologically obsolete. What today's killer drones have done, however, is set the stage for cultural acceptance of autonomous weapons.

Unlike today's drones, autonomous weapons require little to no human control. It is said that autonomous weapons are as technologically significant to human conflict as were the introductions of gunpowder and the splitting of the atom. In 2013, I asked a Capitol Hill legislative director if anyone in Congress was working on domestic legislation concerning autonomous weapons; he said no and encouraged me to write legislation for his boss to consider. I returned a year later with a proposed "Human Control of Weapons Act." Then came opportunities to contribute to meetings within the Center for a New American Security. This led to other meetings and acquaintances. Hold me in the Light as I move my leading into the sphere of public opinion from what is a more closed sphere among national policy makers -- the people of the US State department, DoD, Capitol Hill, the top salespeople of the nation's largest defense contractors, some NGOs, and a few religious leaders.

In the fall of 2015, the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) added "Automated Weapons" to its short list of emerging issues. But FCNL still awaits the issue's rise among the concerns of the nation's Meetings before staff will take this leading up in a more active way.

FCNL's emerging concerns are "Automated Weapons, Human Trafficking, and Institutional Racism".

Membership Request Letters

Dear Friends,

I would like to become a member of your meeting. This is the spiritual home for which I have been searching. I have found vital work here, and I believe I can contribute to the community. My children are anchored here, and this is also an important part of their lives-- attending the Atlanta Friends Meeting is the highlight of their weeks. You married me to my wife, supported my participation in the life of the meeting by providing childcare after meeting, welcomed me despite my occasional disruptiveness, and so this is an expression of gratitude and acknowledgment of indebtedness as much as anything else. Thank you for your consideration.

Kelly Callaway-Singer

I have been attending at the Atlanta Friends Meeting for over ten years. The meeting has served as a spiritual catalyst in my life and I have found a deeper connection with serving others my community and abroad. Silence has always been one of my best friends and expanding my worship with silence has made my connection to the most high stronger. As a person of color it has been a blessing to witness the work of friends attempting to replace racism with justice. The power of acknowledgement works miracles against those who are not yet willing to accept their roles in the mistreatment of people of color. I am a result of many traditions and hope that adding the membership to the Atlanta Friends Meeting will reflect the light of God within me.

With Love,
John Andres Adams

In Memory of Frank Cummings
Submitted by Mary Ann Downey

Frank Edson Cummings died quietly on his 76th birthday, from acute myeloid leukemia in Eugene, OR surrounded by family. He was born February 19, 1940 to Beryl Snell and Roger Cummings in Berkeley, CA and lived as a child in Ottawa, Kansas where his father taught at Ottawa University. His parents and grandparents were members of the American Baptist Church and served as missionaries in Burma. When Frank was 12, he moved with his family to live in Indonesia, then to San Salvador for his father's work with USAID. The dedication of his parents and grandparents to service in other parts of the world convinced him to follow their example.

He earned a BS in Chemistry in 1962 from Harvey Mudd College in CA and a PhD in Physical Chemistry from Harvard in 1972. In Cambridge he attended the Old Cambridge Baptist Church and met Carol Riemer there. They married August 26, 1967 and moved to Atlanta GA because of his desire to study the problems of segregation in the south and to serve a historically black graduate institution. He taught in the Department of Chemistry of Atlanta University from 1967 to 1988, seven as head of the chemistry department and from 1989- 1999 managed a technical assistance contract for the university. His resume summarizes the contracted work with USAID Child Survival Project in Egypt: "During 20 visits to Egypt, coordinated global programs for polio eradication and control of acute respiratory infections working as a liaison with WHO/Geneva, USAID/Washington, CDC in Atlanta, the Carter Center, UNICEF/New York, the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and schools of public health in the United States. This project is credited with almost eradicating polio in Egypt, developing the first method to measure maternal mortality and starting 22 neonatal wards for low birth weight babies at hospitals across the US."

In addition to his work at AU, Frank and Carol became parents to two sons, Mark and Andrew and were active in the Atlanta community, including the Atlanta Friends Meeting. There they found others concerned about the Vietnam War and Frank served as a draft counselor to young men considering conscientious objector status. Frank and Carol were instrumental in getting the Meeting to approve being a place of asylum and sanctuary for Central American refugees, and joined others in meeting offering help for these refugees. For over a decade their home became a temporary home helping people from El Salvador, Guatemala and Nicaragua. This included arranging for legal advice, medical care, help with substance abuse and other assistance and serving as a communication link with family members in Central America. Frank shared with Carol an annual award of Group 75 of Amnesty International in 1995 for their work with refugees. Between 1985 and 2001 they visited Central America with a focus on El Salvador and Guatemala. From 2000 through January 2001, Frank served as Interim Regional Director for the Southeastern Regional Office of the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC).

Frank and Carol moved to El Salvador in 2001, settling in the town of Suchitoto where they focused on creating opportunities for youth in education, the arts and small business development. This included meeting many different educational needs in Suchitoto and surrounding high schools, tutoring students in English and math, working with educators, the local Padre, federal minister of education for school improvement, and re-learning quantum mechanics so Frank could teach it to instructors at the University in San Salvador. It was also clear that scholarships were needed and, with the help of other groups including the Atlanta Friends Meeting, he managed five scholarship programs. Frank estimated that over 12 years he helped about 160 students graduate from universities in El Salvador. His will allows for these scholarships to continue, and will create a new fund to provide recognition and continuing support for youth development initiatives in Suchitoto.

When Frank spoke about his life's spiritual journey to the Atlanta Friends Meeting, he said, "I had an early awareness of being touched by God and I've always seen my life as not entirely my own." He is survived by sons Mark (Amo) and Andrew (Aracely), grandchildren Bryson, Laura and Ricardo, as well as his brother Roger (Barbara) Cummings.

Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) Upcoming Workshops

The AVP model is a two-day workshop where participants learn via interactive exercises, games and role-plays new ways to find alternatives to violence. Lunch is provided. Workshops are open to all; the suggested donation is \$20 but no one is excluded for lack of funds. Upcoming workshops are April 16-17 in Kennesaw (basic/advanced, open to all) and May 14-15 in Atlanta (facilitator level, for those who have already completed an AVP workshop). To learn more, visit "AVP Atlanta" on Facebook, www.avpusa.org, or contact Heather at 315-263-1502, Heather@georgiaavp@gmail.com.

Camp Celo Availability for 7-10 Year Old Campers

Camp Celo still has space for 7-10 year old campers. Give your child the chance to live on a family farm in the mountains of North Carolina! Harvest vegetables, care for animals, hike in the woods and play in the streams. A camp experience will help your child develop confidence and independence. Children are carefully supervised in small groups where competition is minimized and teamwork and cooperation are encouraged. Camp Celo is a family operated business that has been enriching children's lives for over 60 years. 1, 2, & 3 week sessions are available. For more information visit: www.campcelo.com.

2016 Global Peace Event May 21st

Please Mark Your Calendar! The 2016 Global Peace Event is scheduled for May 21st 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm in the AFM Hall. This event commemorates Buddha's birth, death and enlightenment. Our speakers are from different spiritual traditions as well as secular background. There will be peace prayers, chanting and intentions for peace. Each participant will get a drink of water charged with the prayers and intentions, at the end of the ceremony. Please contact Shahina Lakhani at [678 994 1843](tel:6789941843) for details and to volunteer your talent for the event.

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business – March 20, 2016

Recorded pending approval

Attendance: Mike Aland, Don Bender, Steve Collins, Jennifer Dickie, Julia Ewen, Susan Firestone, David Foster, Waman French, Clive Gordon, Gabrielle Hammons, Roland Heath, Martha Hutchins, Kathy Johnson, Chris Kohler, Rick Martinson, Susan May, Kelly Singer, Bert Skellie, Karen Skellie, John Stabler, Sarah Walton, Pat Williams, Betsy Eggers (Clerk), Elizabeth Lamb (Recording Clerk) (24 Friends).

Query: David Foster presented the query: "Do I faithfully attend meeting with heart and mind prepared for worship, clear of any predetermination to speak or not to speak, and expecting that worship will be a source of strength and guidance? Does worship deepen my relationship with God, increase my faithfulness, and refresh and renew my daily life, both inwardly and in my relationship with others?"

Administration Committee: On behalf of the Administration Committee Steve Collins reported that Sue May, with Administration Committee's approval, has been reorganizing the greeting room bulletin boards. She has drafted a "vision" statement about what role we want the greeting room space to serve for the

Meeting. Administration discussed and, with minor changes, approved it. During their discussion, they were reminded that the architecture of the building follows the testimony of simplicity, but the things we put in it don't always do that. Having a guiding principle statement helps keep us living within our testimonies. Next month Administration will ask for the Meeting's approval of this vision statement: "The purpose of the greeting room is to be a gathering space that is welcoming and conveys what we believe, who we are as a Meeting community, and how that is practiced in the world."

Nominating Committee: On behalf of the Nominating Committee Waman French brought forth the following proposed change to the handbook description for the Naming Committee. The words in italics would be added to the current statement of purpose.

"Purpose: To Present the Meeting with recommendations for persons to serve on the Nominating Committee, *including the Clerk of the Nominating Committee.*"

This addition to the purpose is to clarify how the Clerk of Nominating is appointed thus minimizing any future confusion. Caroline Morris, the Clerk of the most recent Naming Committee, is in agreement with this change. This change will be brought for approval next month.

Ministry and Worship Committee: On behalf of Ministry and Worship Steve Collins reported that they have received membership requests from John Adams and Kelly Callaway-Singer. He read an excerpt from a 1986 Friends Journal article on membership. *"To be a member of the Society of Friends means, I believe, to subscribe in sincerity to the concept ...that there is that of God in each human being; that we are called to seek this element of God in all, even our enemies; that this belief leads us to renounce war and violence as an acceptable means of attaining ends, however good; and that it leads us to work for the material and spiritual welfare of all humankind."* - Lloyd B. Swift, "On the meaning of Membership in the Religious Society of Friends", Friends Journal, 1986.

He then read their letters to the Meeting. These names will be brought forward next month for final approval.

Reports

Administration Committee: On behalf of the Administration Committee Steve Collins reported that Administration has approved the formation of an ad hoc Bulletin Board/Greeting Room subcommittee. Sue May feels led to continue serving on this group, and Administration asks others who are interested in helping Sue to contact her. She also asks for Meeting feedback about what others would like to see posted on bulletin boards and walls in the Greeting Room. Some suggestions already presented are that Aaron Ruschetta, the webmaster, create a "bulletin board" page on the AFM website that mirrors and/or complements things that are posted on the physical bulletin boards and that a longer range "bulletin board manager" be appointed to post and remove flyers and generally keep things in order.

Steve Collins then reported that the Meeting has been refunded \$300 for the broken chairs in the library and that these funds will be go toward the purchase of vertical blinds for the window. With renovations almost complete in the library and the cleaner, simpler aesthetic in the room, there is growing consensus to not reinstall the paper artwork that previously hung above the fireplace. Administration is asking for feedback on 1) what, if anything, should be placed on that wall and 2) what should be done with the old artwork. Contact Steve Collins with your suggestions on either or both.

Administration has reviewed the plan and budget estimates, prepared by Jack Honderd, for the play yard. The plan includes a fire pit, surrounded by benches and picnic tables, a tire swing for young Friends, and a natural/organic play area. Phase one includes installation of the fire pit, benches and picnic tables. Volunteers can likely do the work. Administration asks someone in the Meeting to volunteer to lead this project. Several committee members are willing to assist.

Finally Steve Collins reported that Jim Williams, Meetinghouse clerk, is seeking a reliable handyman who can come monthly to take care of small tasks. Contact Jim or Steve with recommendations. Administration has long encouraged hiring of minority contractors.

In response to a question, Steve reported that the exterior painting and new sign projects are still on the agenda.

Ministry and Worship Committee: On behalf of the Ministry and Worship Committee Steve Collins reported: (1) A First Day Forum on Membership is planned for May 22. (2) Ministry and Worship will take another month or so of trying the introductions-joys-announcements order of ending Meeting for Worship. Feedback welcomed. (3) There will be some adjustments of Meeting for Worship seating to accommodate friends' suggestions. (4) Pastor Rusty Savage from Evangelical Friends Church, Eastern Region, visited Atlanta Saturday, 3/18, and spent time with the Burundi community Friends. The Burundi Friends are still seeking space near Stone Mountain or Clarkston for their own worship services. Contact Steve Collins if you know of possible locations. (5) Scholarships for members and attenders who plan to go to the SAYMA yearly meeting or FGC Gathering are available from SAYMA, FGC, and AFM. Contact Cindy Berg or Bob Lough for more information.

QVS: On behalf of QVS Steve Collins reported that National QVS has received 70 applications for 2016-2017. QVS Fellows recently met with Representative John Lewis for a discussion which they found quite meaningful.

Announcements

Sue May announced that there will be a Worship Sharing after potluck (at 12:15) on April 3 to discern concerns to present to FCNL for consideration for next session's lobbying efforts. FCNL has asked AFM for our top 7 lobbying priorities. If you have suggestions, but cannot attend the worship sharing, please see Sue May.

Minutes of February 2016:

- **Minute 1-20-2016-01:** *The Minutes of the February 2016 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business were approved with one spelling correction.*

Meeting closed with Silent Worship.

Respectfully submitted by:
Elizabeth Lamb, Recording Clerk
Betsy Eggers, Clerk



Please Hold in The Light:

Joan Stabler
John Stabler
The family of Virginia Slack,
sister of Henry Slack.

*Those wishing to have requests for
Holding included in this monthly
newsletter may give the names to a
member of Care & Counsel.*



Atlanta Friends Meeting Contacts

Clerk of the Meeting: Betsy Eggers, afmclerk1@gmail.com
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Treasurer: Lynn Leuszler, afmtreasurer1@gmail.com
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Calendar for Fourth Month (April) 2016

Area Meetings for Worship

Every First Day (Sunday)	10:00 a.m. – Meetinghouse, with a smaller group in the Library.
Every Third First Day	12:30 p.m. – Carrollton Friends Worship Group. St. Andrew's UMC Youth Center, 1106 Maple St.; contact Jean Hudson, judson30116@yahoo.com or 678-378-3368; carrolltonfriends.org .
Every Second First Day	10:30 a.m. – Macon Friends Worship Group. Contact Diana Day, 478-227-8892; maconquakers.org
Every Fifth Day (Thursday)	12:10 p.m. – East Lake Commons, Decatur. Contact Bert Skellie at bertskellie@gmail.com or 404-680-4799.
Sixth Day (Friday)	(Mid-August through May), 9:00 a.m. – Friends School of Atlanta. Community Meeting Room, 862 Columbia Dr., Decatur, 404-373-8746.
<i>Currently on hiatus</i>	Canton Friends Worship Group. Contact Roy Taylor at 770-720-4669 or wrlldpeas@mindspring.com .

Weekly Events at the Meetinghouse

Every First Day (Sunday)	9:00 a.m. Adult Religious Education, Library 9:30 a.m. Singing, Classroom A/B 10:00 a.m. Meeting for Worship
Every Second-Fifth Day (Monday-Thursday)	8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Smart Toddlers, Nursery, Classroom A/B and playground
Every Fourth Day (Wednesday)	8:30 a.m. Morning Worship, Library First and third Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m. Mid-Week Worship at David & Freer Jarvis' home
Every Fifth Day (Thursday)	7:00 p.m. Bible Study, Library

ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING
701 W. Howard Ave.
Decatur, GA 30030-2902

ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING

Office: MWF 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.; 404-377-2474

Web: atlanta.quaker.org atlantaquakers@gmail.com

Clerk: Betsy Eggers, afmclerk1@gmail.com

Treasurer: Lynn Leuszler, afmtreasurer1@gmail.com

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 and contact information to Emily Lawson at elawson7@gmail.com or 404-200-8479. Please indicate if you want to be in the directory, receive the newsletter by mail, or both. Emily Lawson is also the contact to request mailing list removal.

Contributions to the Atlanta Friends Meeting may 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!

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

Readers are encouraged to submit letters, articles, notices and anything else of interest to Friends. Items should be sent directly to atlquakerltr@gmail.com in plain text (Word, not PDF). Pictures should be in .jpg format. Submissions may be edited for length and format.

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

To receive the Newsletter via e-mail, send a blank e-mail to afmnewsletter-subscribe@yahoogroups.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; hit reply and you will be added to the list at no charge. To receive general announcements and to participate in discussion, follow the same instructions, but address the note to afmdiscussion-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. To receive announcements relating directly to the life of the meeting, send the same note to afmannouncements-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.