

# ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING NEWSLETTER

## June 2017

### Meeting With Attention to Youth

#### *Remarks of the RE Clerk, 2017*

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Here we are again. A Meeting with Attention to Youth. The end of another school year. Some of us are wondering how the time flew so fast? Others are wondering at how very long this year has felt. For some of us without children daily in our lives this season may be marked by a memory or emotion about what summer vacation felt like as a child.

I invite you to pay attention to **what you feel about a year passing.**

As we sit together today you may notice the changes in the young friends you see stand before you. You may see the new heights of those who stand before us (or perhaps you are still measuring in length!). You may notice more or fewer children from years before. You may notice new faces in our midst. You may notice missing faces from last year.

I invite you to pay attention **to what you notice about a year passing.**

Last week a woman I know turned to me and another friend and said, "happy mother's day to two of my favorite mothers." We both laughed and said something about how pleased or maybe honored we were to be her friend and she reminded us that we had been her middle school and high school FDS teachers over 20 years ago. . . As I looked up into the face of Elizabeth Tolmach, it took a moment to remember how I had first known her in her shorter younger body. She is truly one of the adults I admire in the world as a professional and as a Friend.

I invite you to pay attention **to the relationships that are formed as a year passes.**

I want to thank the teachers and doorkeepers who are here today and those also who can't be with us today for showing up on First Days prepared to share themselves with the young



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.

### QUERY

Do you respect that of God in everyone though it may be expressed in unfamiliar ways or be difficult to discern? Each of us has a particular experience of God and each must find the way to be true to it?

- **Advices and Queries #17, Quaker Faith & Practice**
- Guilford College: Quaker Testimonies  
<http://www.guilford.edu/about/quaker-heritage/quaker-testimonies/index.aspx>

Friends of our Meeting. I want to thank the parents who bring their children to Meeting, even when it is hard! I want to thank the Teens who often get themselves here, and sometimes get their parents here, even when it is hard! I want to thank the members and attenders of this Meeting who support the First Day program each week through your willing financial contributions, your tolerance of the sometimes late arrivals of young families, your acceptance of the sounds of young ones in our midst, and your embrace of parents and teachers.

I invite you to pay attention to **your role, whatever it is, in our First Day School Program.**

I don't claim to have turned Elizabeth Tolmach into the person she is today, and there isn't a teacher or doorkeeper among us who would lay claim to the transformations we see in young friends over a year of First Days. But I do claim that when we as a Meeting pay attention to the passage of time and the value of our members--even the smallest--it makes a difference in the measure of their lives and ours.

I invite you to pay attention to **what it means when a community lays a firm foundation for those to whom we will turn in admiration and for support in the coming years.**

**I invite you to pay attention to all of it--it is the heart of our Meeting today.**

#### **Lives and Callings: the Spiritual Journey – June 4<sup>th</sup>**

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Building on NPR's Story Corps and This I Believe, the Atlanta Meeting began our own version of these programs in 2007. On the first Sunday of each month, we listen to how one 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 why not, and what they believe now.

If you are new to our meeting, considering membership or a long time attender or member who enjoys hearing a story, you are invited to come to the meeting library at 9 am, on the first Sunday in each month to hear these stories. On June 4, our Friend Katie Smiley will share her spiritual journey. You are also invited to tell your story and can call Mary Ann Downey at 678-938-8030 to volunteer or to get more information.

#### **George Lakey Book Talk and Workshop – June 9-10<sup>th</sup>**

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George Lakey will hold a book talk and signing of his latest book *Viking Economics: How the Scandinavians Got It Right – And How We Can, Too*, Friday, June 9, 7:30 pm at the Atlanta Friends Meeting. Discussion will extend beyond the book based on audience questions. Light refreshments and childcare will be available. For more information, contact Susan Firestone, [susanfires@gmail.com](mailto:susanfires@gmail.com).

A Nation Divided – Where do we go from here? Strategic Planning Workshop with George Lakey. Saturday, June 10, 9 am – noon, at Oakhurst Baptist Church, 222 East Lake Drive, Decatur 30030. For information and to register, contact Leslie Withers: [leslie@ML1945.com](mailto:leslie@ML1945.com).

Both events are free and open to all.

## **Get Involved in Atlanta Friends Meeting – First Day School Teachers**

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First Day School Teachers wanted! Are you interested in what happens on the other side of the Meetinghouse on First Days? Are you excited by the possibility of an adventure in Spirit that only our youngest members can inspire? Would you like to help our Meeting's children find inspiration and navigate the world of Friends and the stories of God's people? Then join us as a First Day School teacher next year. Teachers work together in teams to plan lessons and teach once or twice a month. Training is provided and support is ongoing. Contact Jennifer Dickie for more information at [michaeljen@bellsouth.net](mailto:michaeljen@bellsouth.net) or [404-313-8770](tel:404-313-8770).

## **Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business – May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017**

### **Recorded pending approval**

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#### **Attendance:**

Rebecca Sullivan, Nicolina Hansen-Neff, Myrna Trapp, Georgia Lord, Sally Ferguson, Bert Skellie, Becky Lough, Karen Skellie, Bill Hooson, Susan Firestone, Julia Ewen, Mark Watson, Sarah Walton, Pat Williams, Tina Bovermann, Folami Adams, Waman French, Lissa Place, Gabrielle Hammons, Clive Gordon, Steve Collins, Betsy Eggers (Clerk), Elizabeth Tolmach (Recording) (23 Friends).

#### **Query:**

Sally Ferguson presented the query for Fifth Month: Do you use and perfect your gifts for the benefit of others? Do we regard our time, talents and wealth as gifts to be shared? Do we respect the balance of nature? Do we act to preserve the natural world rather than to seek domination over it?

#### **Clerk's Announcements:**

The gifts to the Stone Mountain Evangelical Friends Church were delivered on Saturday May 13.

Archiving can happen once we review and make recommendations to update archivist position in AFM handbook. Clerk nominates Rebecca Thornburley (clerk), Bill Holland, Karen Skellie and Steve Morrison to the ad hoc committee to make these updates.

Progress report in July. Recommendations by August.

Ad hoc committee approved.

#### **Discernments**

##### **Ministry & Worship:**

On behalf of Ministry & Worship, Sally Ferguson brought forward the following name for membership:

- **Minute 05-21-2017-01:** On the recommendation of the Ministry and Worship Committee, we approve Penny Summers as a member of the Atlanta Friends Meeting.

#### **Reports:**

##### **Ministry & Worship:**

On behalf of Ministry and Worship, Sally Ferguson read a letter from Farmington Friends Meeting introducing sojourning member Diana White.

Bill Herrington's membership has been laid down per his request.

Ministry and Worship has 7 Anchoring Committees who support the ministries of individuals. These individuals are:

- Ashley Wilcox- ministering
- David Foster- art
- Richard Allen- piano compositions
- Mary Ann Downey- traveling friend/minister
- Julie Hliboki- chaplaincy
- Sarah Walton- alternatives to violence

### **Nominating:**

On behalf of Nominating Committee, Waman French brought forward Rebecca Thornburley's name for Clerk of Library committee 2018.

### **SAYMA Friends of Color's Ad Hoc Committee:**

On behalf of the SAYMA Friends of Color's Ad Hoc Committee, Folami Adams reported that the ad hoc committee has come up with a committee name (SAYMA Uplifting Racial Justice "SAYMA/URJ"), members, vision, mission and goals.

### **SAYMA Representative Report:**

On behalf of the SAYMA Representative Report, Rebecca Sullivan reported for Mary Jahntz, that:

- 1) Peace and Social Concerns committee is in the process of discerning how to support FGC's efforts to address the issues experienced by Friends of Color and the work to eradicate institutional racism within FGC and the Religious Society of Friends.
- 2) AFM does not have a representative to SAYMA Ministry and Nurture.
- 3) SAYF doesn't have enough Friendly Adult Presences.
- 4) Two thirds of SAYMA monthly meetings use a per-head assessment to calculate their yearly meeting dues.
- 5) SAYMA's yearly meeting will be held at Warren Wilson College.

### **Care & Counsel:**

On behalf of Care & Counsel, Bill Hooson reported that the committee is moving forward on the forum in June addressing "Our Ministry to visitors and newcomers." It will be interactive with skits and role-playing.

He reported that Care and Counsel is preparing to share the work of the committee with children during First Day School over the summer.

**Green Friends:** On behalf of the Green Friends Committee, Mark Watson, read a minute of appreciation to the meeting for hosting the Quaker Earthcare Witness annual meeting of the steering committee.

### **Minutes of April 2017:**

- **Minute 5-21-2017-02:** The Minutes of the Fourth Month 2017 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business were approved with no corrections.

Meeting closed with Silent Worship.

Respectfully submitted,  
Elizabeth Tolmach, Substitute Recording Clerk  
Betsy Eggers, Clerk



**Please Hold in The Light:**

Bob Trapp , Myrna's husband,  
Bob Repoley, Christina's father.

Congratulations to Terri O'neil for  
passing the Georgia Bar exams

*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**

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**Calendar for Sixth Month (June) 2017**

**Area Meetings for Worship**

Every First Day (Sunday)	10:00 a.m. – Meetinghouse (AFM), with a smaller group in the Library. 1:30 p.m. - Stone Mountain Friends Church (Evangelical), at Rock of Ages Lutheran Church, 5135 Memorial Dr, Stone Mountain, GA 30083
Every Third First Day	12:30 p.m. – Carrollton Friends Worship Group. St. Andrew's UMC Youth Center, 1106 Maple St.; contact Jean Hudson, <a href="mailto:judson30116@yahoo.com">judson30116@yahoo.com</a> or 678-378-3368; <a href="http://carrolltonfriends.org">carrolltonfriends.org</a> .
Every Second First Day	10:30 a.m. – Macon Friends Worship Group. Contact Diana Hensley, 478-227-8892; <a href="http://maconquakers.org">maconquakers.org</a>
Sixth Day (Friday)	11:00 a.m. – East Lake Commons, Decatur. Contact Bert Skellie at <a href="mailto:bertskellie@gmail.com">bertskellie@gmail.com</a> or 404-680-4799. (Mid-August through May), 9:00 a.m. – Friends School of Atlanta. Community Meeting Room, 862 Columbia Dr., Decatur, 404-373-8746.

**Regular Events at the Meetinghouse**

Every First Day (Sunday)	9:00 - Adult Religious Ed, Library 9:30 - Singing, Classroom A/B 10:00 - Meeting for Worship 5:00 - Atlanta Mennonite Fellowship, Meeting Room
Second Day (Monday)	Every other Monday at 6:30 - Spiritual Nurture Group, Library (contact Lewis Fuller for info on how to join)
Third Day (Tuesday)	6:00 - Alex Zinnes Yoga, Nursery Second and fourth Tuesdays at 7:00 - Deep Waters Center for Prayer & Exploration, Meeting Room
Fourth Day (Wednesday)	8:30 a.m. Morning Worship, Library First and third Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m. Worship at David & Freer Jarvis' home 7:00 - 8:30 pm: Semi-programmed worship at AFM. Contact Ashley Wilcox: <a href="mailto:ashleymwilcox@gmail.com">ashleymwilcox@gmail.com</a> , 206-300-5836.
Fifth Day (Thursday)	7:00 p.m. Bible Discussion, Library
Sixth Day (Friday)	Every third Friday, Meeting for Business, Meeting Room
18 <sup>th</sup> of Each Month	Newcomers Welcome Dinner, rotating location

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](mailto:atlantaquakers@gmail.com)

Clerk: Betsy Eggers, [afmclerk1@gmail.com](mailto:afmclerk1@gmail.com)

Treasurer: Lynn Leuszler, [afmtreasurer1@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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 20<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF EACH PRECEDING MONTH.**

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