

# ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING NEWSLETTER



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

## February 2018

### Reflections: Friends Committee on National Legislations

Over the past year, members and attenders of the Atlanta Friends Meeting along with others in our local community have joined together to form the Atlanta Advocacy Team of the Friends Committee on National Legislation. With the help of the FCNL national organization, Atlanta Advocacy Team members met with our members of congress to advocate for limited Pentagon spending and a federal budget that reflects our values and priorities. As a result of our team's lobbying, Congressman John Lewis signed on as a co-sponsor to the Audit the Pentagon bill. Together with a growing national network of over 70 local FCNL advocacy teams, we were able to meet our goal to limit Pentagon spending increases and pressure the Department of Defense to agree to the first agency-wide Audit in its history.

Looking back on our work over the past year, team members offer these reflections:

- The team has given me the skills and space to put my faith into action. It has helped me learn to truly "love my neighbor without exceptions" as I work to find common ground during a very divided time. *-Briana Bauer*
- I have appreciated the opportunity to put my faith into practice by working with the team to advocate for a more peaceful society. *-Cate Hilenski*
- Our Advocacy team has helped me see my strengths as an individual and has shown me how much no one person has to have all the skills required to get the work done. In the actual meetings with our Representatives, I let the people more skilled at meetings take the lead, while I was more of a support. It became clear to me that none of us has to be an expert, but the energy of the team keeps us going, and helps us be successful! *-Lissa Place*
- The Advocacy Team has given me the chance to speak directly, personally, and constructively to our lawmakers and their staff, which I never could have obtained on my own. Working with Friends on a real-world purpose, has brought me positive strength and certainty in my knowledge that we are making a difference together for a better world. *-Lisa Kruse*
- Being on this Team really filled a pressing need for me. Like many, I wanted to speak out after the election, but I didn't want my voice to be lost. With the Team, I saw I could amplify my voice and have a better chance at making a difference. Even after having lobbied for years, I learned how haphazard that really had been. I had so much more to learn about just how build those relationships with Members of Congress. I learned where my strengths were and where I needed to improve. I saw the gifts of Team members and felt joy in their company. FCNL gave me focus and training, the Team gave

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

### QUERY

How are we engaged in the issue of racial justice and recognizing the contributions of people of color during Black History Month?

*--John Adams, AFM*

me courage and inspiration, and by the end of the year I could see that we could indeed move forward with our agenda, more organized and knowing each other better.

Being on this Team has made me very happy! I always feel better Doing something, and doing it with others feels wonderful and lifts my spirits. And learning how to build relationships over time with someone who disagrees with me is challenging me in my personal life, too. Can I move beyond love for my cousin to have more meaningful conversations about gun legislation, for example? -Susan May

- Participating in the Atlanta Advocacy Team's work this year has helped me re-find my voice in this harrowing political time, and feel both hope and connection. I have appreciated FCNL's emphasis on relationship building across differences through our own story telling, both within our team, and with our congressional representatives and their staff. -Sadie Forsythe

As the new year dawns, FCNL Advocacy Teams are preparing to undertake a new campaign: preventing nuclear war with North Korea. Team members come together monthly for training calls and are provided all of the background information necessary to lobby our Senators and Representatives, and we go together to visit with our Senators and Representatives to build relationships with our members of Congress and their staff.

We would love to have you join us this year! Please contact Sue May, [susanmay1@icloud.com](mailto:susanmay1@icloud.com), (404) 775-5958 to learn more.

### **Passing the Baton**

*From the Editor, Kate Shropshire Swett*

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These past several years of editing the newsletter have been a joy and blessing for me. At a time when my young family and fledgling business often kept me from Meeting, the newsletter helped me stay connected with the range and richness of the Meeting's people and activities. Thank you all for your thoughtful submissions, profound inquiries and inspiring stories over the years.

I am pleased to introduce the next newsletter editor, Claire Hannapel. Claire grew up in Durham, NC where she attended Durham Friends Meeting. She moved to Atlanta in the fall of 2016 to participate in Quaker Voluntary Service (QVS), a year-long fellowship program for young adults, where she lived in community with seven other young adults and worshipped with Atlanta Friends. As part of QVS, she worked at the Georgia Law Center for the Homeless where she assisted individuals facing homelessness with obtaining birth certificates. Claire found that her work with the Law Center strengthened her advocacy skills and reaffirmed her Quaker values. Yet, the work of witnessing the systemic violence inflicted upon the lives of people of color and those in poverty complicated her understanding of social policy and legal protection. The experience compelled Claire to continue work with Quaker Voluntary Service to ensure young adults are empowered to work for social change.

In addition to her new role as newsletter editor, Claire supports the Meeting as one of the 3-4 year old First Day School teachers. Claire likes ice cream and learning about Quaker history and discussing the future of Friends. Please welcome Claire; I know the newsletter is in great hands moving forward.

### **Junior Yearly Committee News**

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Greetings Friends, the Junior Yearly Committee of SAYMA is happy to announce that we will continue to maintain an extended child care program at SAYMA in 2018. Our Playcare program will continue in its second year with coordinator Laura MacNorlin. Our **JYM coordinator position is currently open**.

Please share the following in any other forum you have for connecting members and attenders to such opportunities. Thank you,  
Jennifer Dickie

**SAYMA is hiring for the 2018 and 2019 yearly meeting sessions: Junior Yearly Meeting (JYM) Coordinator**

**Qualifications**

- Membership or regular attendance at a SAYMA monthly meeting or worship group for a minimum of 6 months
- Compliance with the SAYMA child safety policy
- References from a Monthly Meeting
- Two year commitment preferred

**Job description** with compensation information is available on the SAYMA website or at this links:

<http://tinyurl.com/JYM-Job-Description>

**Apply** complete the *online application* at: <http://tinyurl.com/SAYMA-JYM> or submit a *letter of interest* to Jennifer Dickie, JYM committee clerk at: [1367 Ormewood Ave., SE, Atlanta, GA 30316](http://1367%20Ormewood%20Ave.,%20SE,%20Atlanta,%20GA%2030316) or via email to: [michaeljen@bellsouth.net](mailto:michaeljen@bellsouth.net)

**Questions** may be directed to Jennifer Dickie at [michaeljen@bellsouth.net](mailto:michaeljen@bellsouth.net) or [404-313-8770](tel:404-313-8770)

*Applications will be considered on a rolling basis*

**The Friends School of Atlanta Open House – February 3<sup>rd</sup>**

The Friends School of Atlanta (FSA) will be holding Open Houses on Saturday February 3<sup>rd</sup> and April 14<sup>th</sup>, always from 10:00 am to noon. All families of children who will be age three through eighth grade next school year are invited to drop in and meet with other FSA families, chat with teachers in their classrooms and tour the campus. No reservation necessary. To attend a two-hour parent-only tour for a more in-depth introduction to FSA during the school day, please go to FSA's website at [friendsschoolatlanta.org](http://friendsschoolatlanta.org) for available tour dates. For more information, contact Nancy Bent, Director of Advancement and Admissions, at [nancy.bent@friendsschoolatlanta.org](mailto:nancy.bent@friendsschoolatlanta.org) or [404-373-8746 x8135](tel:404-373-8746).

**Book Group for February**

The book group organized to read writings by and about people of color has chosen its next book: *Americanah* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. A date in February to discuss the first half of the book is yet to be decided; more information will be forthcoming in announcements. All are welcome.

**Embodying Spirit: Healing Arts Sampler – February 17<sup>th</sup>**

What is a healing sampler? An afternoon of short demonstrations of the complementary spiritual practices that sustain several AFM members and attenders. Come learn more on February 17<sup>th</sup> from noon-4 pm at the meeting house. Shamanic Journeying, Reiki, Yoga and Meditation, photography, raw food diets, aromatherapy—these



are among some of the embodied ways that your fellow meeting members approach a relationship with the divine through their current human lives. Those modalities are then interwoven with each participant's Quaker

values to create a whole-life practice. Dwight Harriman, Mary Jahntz, Ann Ritter, David Foster, Richard Allen and Marilyn Johnson are among those AFM participants who will be on hand that day to share their passions and professional expertise.

This free community event offers mini-sessions in the healing practices offered by some members of Atlanta Friends Meeting, including:

- Kundalini Yoga by Ann Ritter
- Shamanic Journey by Dwight Harriman
- Reiki/Healing Energy Work by Mary Jahntz
- Sat Nam Rasayan by Ann Ritter

Presentations of other embodied practices

- David Foster—fine art photography
- Marilyn Johnson--aromatherapy
- Richard Allen—raw food diet

Allow your body to lead you into worship

### **Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business – January 21<sup>st</sup> 2018**

#### **Recorded pending approval**

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**Attendance:** John Adams, Mike Aland, Richard Allen, Michael Allison, Carolyn Coburn-Allen, Steve Collins, Jennifer Dickie, Mary Ann Downey, Betsy Eggers, Danae Evans, Julia Ewen, Sally Ferguson, Susan Firestone, Waman French, Nina Gooch, Clive Gordon, Josh Gough, Alberta Guise, Claire Hannapel, Bill Hooson, Teri Key-Hooson, Kathy Johnson, Elizabeth Lamb, Lynn Leuszler, Georgia Lord, Paul Mangelsdorf, Alison Mawle, Sue May, Caroline Morris, Karen terHorst Morris, Liz Nicholson, Ronald Nuse, Sara Patenaude, Lissa Place, Bert Skellie, Karen Skellie, Elizabeth Tolmach, Jim Tolmach, Myrna Trapp, Mark Watson, Austin Wattles, Jackie Yates, Bill Holland (Clerk), Bethany Morrison (Recording Clerk) (44 Friends).

**Query:** Elizabeth Lamb shared the query for First Month: “How do we balance time devoted to our community’s organizational needs and to our spirit-led work? How are we nurturing members’ gifts and imagining committee service? How/when do we lay down a past leading with care? Where is simplicity and Spirit in our structure?”

#### **Discernments**

**State of the Meeting Report:** At December Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, former Clerk of Meeting Betsy Eggers read the first draft of the State of the Meeting Report. She received feedback from Friends at that point, and shared the revised version with this month’s meeting.

- **Minute 01-21-2018-01:** *Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the 2017 State of the Meeting Report.*

**Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Concerns:** On behalf of FLGBTQC and in consultation with Religious Education and the Administration Committee, Nina Gooch brought forward a minute for consideration, having reported in December about the group’s desire to make AFM more clearly welcoming to trans people.

- **Minute 01-21-2018-02:** *Atlanta Friends Meeting seeks to be a welcoming community. We approve adding the following statement to restroom doors: "Atlanta Friends Meeting welcomes everyone to use the restroom that most closely reflects their gender identity." We ask the Administration Committee to design and install appropriate signage.*

**Nominating Committee:** On behalf of Nominating Committee, Myrna Trapp brought forward the following name for approval:

- **Minute 01-21-2018-03:** *Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Elizabeth Lamb for the position of Clerk of Ministry & Worship Committee, which is a 3-year term beginning January 2018.*

**Ministry and Worship Committee:** Elizabeth Lamb discussed a pending deadline from SAYMA to comment on SAYMA’s proposed revisions to its Faith and Practice Queries. To ensure a timely response to the request, Ministry and Worship requested and received approval for the following minute:

- **Minute 01-21-2018-04:** *Atlanta Friends Meeting authorizes the AFM Ministry and Worship Committee to make recommendations to the SAYMA Faith and Practice Revision Committee on behalf of the entire Meeting regarding proposed revisions to the SAYMA Guide to our Faith & Practice Queries.*

Friends were invited to share their comments on the proposed queries with Ministry and Worship. Ministry and Worship will report on the results of this meeting and their recommendations to SAYMA at February Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business.

### Reports

**Ministry and Worship Committee:** Elizabeth Lamb reminded the meeting that Ministry and Worship was asked in April 2017 (Minute 4-16-2017-02) to maintain contact with Stone Mountain Evangelical Friends Church. She reported the committee has a new member who is in close connection with the SMEFC and the committee members plan to visit. Members of meeting were invited to join M&W members on these welcoming visits.

She also reported that 20 adults and 25 children regularly attend the SMEFC. The M&W committee will send a card on behalf of the meeting to congratulate the church on their first year.

**Nominating Committee:** Myrna Trapp brought forward Claire Hannapel for the position of AFM Newsletter Editor, which is a 1-year term. Her name will be brought forth next month for discernment and approval.

**Religious Education Committee:** Jennifer Dickie reported on changes to the Atlanta Friends Meeting Guidelines for Child Safety. The committee has reviewed and updated its child safety policy regarding restroom use and amended it to better reflect the current First Day School structure and practices. Jennifer shared the revisions.

In addition, Jennifer reported that the RE committee will:

- Encourage small children and those requiring assistance to use the nursery restroom as a first choice.
- Alert parents and teachers that the nursery restroom is available for all young children.
- Have a designated adult, doorkeeper, support children using restroom safely during transition to class, if no parent is with the child.

**Finance Committee:** On behalf of finance committee, Paul Mangelsdorf reported on AFM’s finances at the close of 2017, including the final values for total contributions, rental income, and total expenses. The meeting had a surplus of \$50,458. Paul reported that half the surplus would go into the permanent improvements fund and the remaining half would go into general fund.

In addition, he reviewed a spreadsheet of financial activity in the permanent improvement fund over the last five years, including a list of the major projects completed using the fund.

Friends voiced appreciation for the work of the finance committee and for Jonah McDonald for their work maintaining the rental income stream and the upkeep of the meetinghouse through the management of the permanent improvement fund.

**Care and Counsel Committee:** Bill Hoosen reported that the Care and Counsel Committee held an annual retreat in early January and welcomed new member Rich Klima.

For the last year, the Care and Counsel Committee has been charged by the meeting to receive and handle complaints of sexual harassment. Given the number of complaints that have been received, the Care and Counsel committee recommends that the meeting explore other ways to address these concerns. Care and Counsel is working with Jonah McDonald to conduct a forum on issues of inappropriate behavior. At this point, two simultaneous workshops are envisioned, one for men, one for women to explore perceptions and experiences of inappropriate behavior.

The committee plans a End of Life forum later this year. In addition, Care and Counsel is updating the list of persons willing to provide meals, transportation or other assistance to meeting members.

The Clerk of meeting will convene an ad hoc group to reflect on our experience handling sexual harassment complaints and explore policies and practices that might better meet our needs.

**Administration Committee:** On behalf of this committee, Steve Collins provided updates on the committee's work. Beginning December 1, 2017 Administration Committee is undertaking a six month test of the feasibility of establishing a Property Coordinator staff position for the meeting. Jonah McDonald is the person piloting this and gathering data to fine tune the job description and the salary for the position. Administration has approved a 12-month extension beginning February 2018 for Kelsey McNicholas as Friend in Residence,. Kelsey has already begun a new ministry this year, "...grounding the heart and hands in soil." She is working at a garden that supports East Atlanta Education Garden, Emory University gardens, Holy Trinity Preschool, The New School, and community gardeners at Lake Claire Land Trust. In the future, the garden may support Atlanta Friends School and Montessori Intown. Kelsey will be happy to share more about this with members of meeting. The Black Lives Matter banner and Peace Pole have been installed.

**Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Concerns:** Nina Gooch shared that the group has reserved space in the Atlanta Pride Parade. In addition, she discussed the group's desire to prepare educational material for the meeting on trans identity. She also reiterated the group's continuing goal to make AFM a more welcoming environment for trans people,

#### **Minutes of December 2018:**

- **Minute 01-21-2018-04:** *The Minutes of the Twelfth Month 2017 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business were approved.*

#### **Announcements**

The Clerk of Meeting announced that the SAYMA Yearly Meeting in 2018 will be held on June 14-17 at Warren Wilson College. This year's theme is "Community and Communication: How we Connect."

The Clerk announced that the Annual Meeting of the Atlanta Friends Meeting Corporation would be held at the rise of meeting. All are welcome to attend.

Meeting closed with Silent Worship.

Respectfully submitted,

Bethany Morrison, Recording Clerk

Bill Holland, Clerk



**Please Hold in the Light:**

Carol Gray

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 First Month (January) 2018**

**Area Meetings for Worship**

Every First Day (Sunday)	10:00 a.m. – Meetinghouse (AFM), with a smaller group in the Library. 10:30 a.m. – Peachtree Friends Meeting (Christian-friendly, affirming, open to all), 3980 Florida Ave, Norcross GA, <a href="http://peachtree.quaker.org">peachtree.quaker.org</a> 1:00 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 a.m. - Adult Religious Ed, Library Every second Sunday, 9:30 a. m. - Singing, Classroom A/B 10:00 a.m. - Meeting for Worship 5:00 p.m. - Atlanta Mennonite Fellowship, Meeting Room
Second Day (Monday)	Every other Monday at 6:30 p.m. - 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: atlantaquakers.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.**

To receive the Newsletter via e-mail, send a blank e-mail to [afmnewsletter-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto: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](mailto:afmdiscussion-subscribe@yahoogroups.com). To receive announcements relating directly to the life of the meeting, send the same note to [afmannouncements-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:afmannouncements-subscribe@yahoogroups.com).