

ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING NEWSLETTER



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

October 2018

Lives and Callings: Spiritual Journey Sharing – Oct 7th

On the first Sunday of each month, 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 of spiritual journeys, stories where Friends describe their understanding of God and religion in their life. On Sun Oct 7, Teri Hoosen will offer her spiritual journey. Come hear more: 9-9:55 on 1st Sundays in the library.

Book Group Meeting – Oct 9th

The group reading books by and about people of color will meet again on Tuesday, October 9th at 7:15 PM in the junior high room at the Meetinghouse. The book for discussion this month is Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe. Please join us. All are welcome.

Atlanta Pride Parade – Oct 14th

Atlanta Friends Meeting along with the Friends School of Atlanta will be marching in the Atlanta Pride Parade October 9 with the meeting banner. This is a very joyous, fun event as well as a very important witness for those who struggle with what their religious organizations have said about being LGBTQ+.

The parade steps off from Peachtree and Ralph McGill (Civic Center MARTA station) at noon. We don't have our exact placement yet, but we will probably be in the second half of the parade. This means people should be able to leave at the rise of meeting and still make it to the start of the parade route in plenty of time. More details will be in the announcement sheet closer to the date or contact Nina Gooch. Pride's website: <http://atlantapride.org/>.

Anchoring Committee Report for 2018: Julie Hliboki – September 14, 2018

One of my earliest childhood memories is donning a superman cape and running throughout the neighborhood rescuing my friends, animals, or anything else I came across. I do not remember what I was rescuing them from, probably some unseen comic book demon, but that really didn't matter. I felt powerful, free, and purposeful, energy I rarely experienced while raised in a household with rowdy brothers. This superhero energy became part of my fabric and has, for

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

QUERY

*“Am I comfortable
making my own needs
known to my Meeting?”*

- Baltimore Yearly Meeting

the most part, served me, my intention to help make the world a better place, and my resulting accomplishments well.

I now work as a part-time chaplain in two senior independent-living, affordable retirement communities. For the 450 residents, I provide one-on-one accompaniment, particularly in times of suffering. I also offer various programs on spiritual well-being, lead breath meditation classes and Vespers services, and have developed three successful food programs to address food insecurity. In the past six months we have disbursed over 41,000 lbs of food (20.5 tons) to the residents. All of this work comprises a portion of my ministry held under the care of the Meeting, and it is good work, but it is also too much, even for a superhero, and I am taking steps to restructure some of the tasks.

This recognition of “too much” has helped me examine the shadow side of superhero energy. Although I do respect how deeply it is ingrained in me, I’d like to lay down any impulse to rescue. Thankfully, when I am in the heart of chaplaincy - being present to the residents - any hint of superhero energy dissolves. It is just me, the resident, and Spirit swimming in a sea of human messiness, suffering, and joy. For me, being fully present is deeply humbling. It strips away ego, any sense that I am in control or have the answers. It levels any hierarchy, accompaniment often transforming into journeying together in the quest for self-compassion, gentleness, and holding the mystery. It places me squarely in the face of ache and awe, of what it means to be human, grow old, and die. There is no rescuing - only love, compassion, and accompaniment.

My superhero energy is transforming through self-reflection seeking self-honesty: how to live my life with integrity, where can I best contribute my talents, what is required for self-thriving, how might I be a superhero for myself.... I am generously supported in this process by my daily contemplative practice, the Spiritual Nurture Group I’ve been with for five years, conversations with wonderfully Spirit-filled friends, and my Anchoring Committee. In May, I received the designation of Board Certified Chaplain, a culmination of eight years of focused education, training, and exams. The related Spiritual Care Association and Healthcare Chaplaincy communities are a new source of support, too.

I find the journey of self-discovery challenging, often very painful, but always, eventually, joyous. My role as a chaplain aids in this self-discovery, and I am a better person because of this work. Thank you for holding this ministry under the care of the Meeting.

Macon Friends Updated Contact Info

Macon Friends are meeting every Second First Day at 2:30 inside the High Street Unitarian Universalist Church. The address is 1085 High Street, Macon, GA 31201. Contact is Kellie Divis. Email is MaconQuakers@gmail.com and website is www.MaconQuakers.org.

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business: August 19, 2018

Record Pending Approval

Attendance: Michael Allison, Muireann Brennan, Carolyn Coburn-Allen, Steve Collins, Kellie Divis, Mary Ann Downey, Julia Ewan, Sally Ferguson, Bill Hooson, Teri Key-Hooson, Shahina Lakhani, Elizabeth Lamb, Alison Mawle, Liz Nicholson, Ronald Nuse, Lissa Place, Bert Skellie, Karen Skellie, Jim Tolmach, Myrna Trapp, Sarah Walton, Pat Williams, Steve Woodall, Bill Holland (Clerk), Sara Patenaude (Substitute Recording Clerk) (25 Friends).

Query: Elizabeth Lamb shared the query for Ninth Month: “Am I reflective about the ways I gain my wealth and income and sensitive to their impacts on others? ”

Discernments

Ministry and Worship Committee: In January, AFM received a request from SAYMA for feedback on revisions to the Faith and Practice Queries. Ministry & Worship formed an Ad Hoc group to consider and suggest revisions to the queries. The Ad Hoc committee asked Friends to review their work over the last month. The Clerk of the SAYMA Faith and Practice Revision Committee asked the committee to annotate their work to show the suggested changes to the original SAYMA version received in January. This annotated version can be viewed at the following link: <https://goo.gl/HbC9FW>

- **Minute 09-16-2018-01:** *Atlanta Friends Meeting approves submitting the proposed queries as set out at <https://goo.gl/ZjTNjw> to the SAYMA Committee to Revise the Guide to Our Faith and Practice for consideration in their work. These proposed queries represent AFM’s collective understanding of the Quaker beliefs and values toward which we all strive. Atlanta Friends Meeting approves including annotations made by Ministry and Worship to assist the SAYMA Committee. These annotations include underlining significant changes made; references to the applicable queries on the new revision from SAYMA; dated August 18, 2018; and explaining our reasoning behind the major revisions.*

Monthly meetings will have another opportunity to review the proposed revision to the SAYMA Faith and Practice Queries before its adoption.

Reports

Ministry and Worship Committee: Ministry and Worship Committee recommends Kellie Divis for membership to the Atlanta Friends Meeting. Kellie currently serves as the clerk of the Macon Worship Group and we hold the memberships for that group under our care. A clearness committee has met with Kellie and found her clear for membership. Her name will be brought forward next month for approval.

Quaker Voluntary Service: Liz Nicholson shared a report about the start of the new QVS fellowship year. The eight new Fellows have been settled in Atlanta for over two weeks and have been getting trained and oriented at their site placements. They expressed their gratitude towards AFM Friends for all the ways Friends have helped to welcome the new cohort. Liz encouraged Friends to attend the September and October welcome dinner to get to know the new Fellows. The October dinner will take place on October 18th at the QVS house. The national QVS organization held interviews for the four final candidates for the Executive Director position. In addition, the organization successfully welcomed the first cohort of Fellows to Minneapolis/St. Paul, the fifth city to start a QVS Fellowship program.

Administration Committee: Steve Collins updated the meeting about the Property Coordinator position. The committee approved the Property Coordinator job description and will bring it forward to the Finance Committee to approve the salary. If Finance approves it, Administration will

bring it back to the Meeting for review and approval -- hopefully, in 10th month. Administration recommends that the Meeting form an exploratory/search committee for a new Friend in Residence to possibly replace Kelsey McNicholas after she completes the 3rd year of her term in Feb. 2019. Please contact Steve Collins if interested in serving on this Ad Hoc committee.

Minutes of Eighth Month (August) 19, 2018

- **Minute 09-16-2018-02:** The Minutes of the Eighth Month 2018 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business were approved.

Clerk's Items

The American Friends Service Committee gave a forum at AFM on August 26 after rise of Meeting.

Events in Life of the Meeting

Bob Repoley, father of Christina Repoley, passed away on September 16th, 2018.

Meeting closed with Silent Worship.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Patenaude, Acting Recording Clerk
Bill Holland, Clerk

Submitted Poetry

BreathTaking

The sacred language of the breath
has no words:
a speechless entry
into the body, a tidal connection
with all that is,
the language we were born into,
the last silent word at our death.

It is the poetry of call and response:
inhaling news of the world,
exhaling delight and despair,
inhaling stories of life and death,
exhaling our own narratives
in sound no more than a whisper.

With each breath we take
life is poured into every cell,
announcing our presence
without ever saying a word.

*Janice Falls
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada*

PLEASE HOLD IN THE LIGHT:

*Christina Repoley & Family
Judith Greenberg
Maggie Hasbrouck
Teri Key-Hooson
Deirdre and Nia McCalla*

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: Bill Holland, afmclerk1@gmail.com
Office Coordinator: Jonah McDonald, atlantaquakers@gmail.com
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Calendar for Tenth Month (Oct) 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, peachtree.quaker.org 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, judson30116@yahoo.com or 678-378-3368; carrolltonfriends.org .
Every Second First Day	10:30 a.m. - Macon Friends Worship Group. Contact Diana Hensley, 478-227-8892; maconquakers.org
Sixth Day (Friday)	11:00 a.m. - East Lake Commons, Decatur. Contact Bert Skellie at bertskellie@gmail.com 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) 7:00 p.m. Bible Discussion, High School Classroom
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 Jarvi's home 7:00 - 8:30 pm: Semi-programmed worship at AFM. Contact Ashley Wilcox: ashleymwilcox@gmail.com , 206-300-5836.
Sixth Day (Friday)	Every third Friday, Meeting for Business, Meeting Room
18 th of Each Month	Newcomers Welcome Dinner, rotating location

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

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

Web: atlantaquakers.org, atlantaquakers@gmail.com

Clerk: Bill Holland, afmclerk1@gmail.com

Treasurer: Lynn Leuszler, afmtreasurer1@gmail.com

Are you a newcomer to the Atlanta Friends community? We would be happy to make you a permanent nametag. You can 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 Brent Wolff at rbkwolff@gmail.com. Please indicate if you want to be in the directory, receive the newsletter by mail, or both.

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 our Meetinghouse 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. 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.