

ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING NEWSLETTER



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

April 2019

LIVES AND CALLINGS: Spiritual Journey Sharing – April 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 Sunday **April 7th**, **Glenn Plyler** will tell us about his experience growing up in a small coal mining town, joining the military after college, recovering from PTSD, and coming to Friends through the Alternatives to Violence workshops.

Last month, on Sunday **March 3rd**, **Hannah MacNorlin** shared her spiritual journey. She said, "I was raised a Friend and attended Friends high schools and college. I will talk about how having been raised in a loving Quaker community has impacted my life and spiritual journey." Here is a link to audio recordings of her spiritual journey presentation:
<https://tinyurl.com/yycbpxc>

Come hear more: 9-9:55 on 1st Sundays in the library.

BOOK REVIEW: *An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States* by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz (2014) - Maggie Scott Nesbit

The Committee on Undoing Racism in Atlanta Friends Meeting (CURAFM) has recently bought this book to donate to the AFM library, and I have a personal copy or two to lend.

I recommend this book to historical scholars and non-specialists alike, as Dunbar-Ortiz offers the reader a new way to engage with knowledge and assumptions about our nation's history by offering a vigorous, interconnected, "periodization" framework to contextualize traditional brittle, linear, progress-and-"civilization" hero stories of US nation building from roots in genocide through peacetime and present-day colonialism.

An Indigenous Peoples' History is

"...a national historical narrative that provoked anger and frustration not toward an implicitly colonial and uncritical history, but toward the processes and brutalities of the colonization of the lands and peoples now claimed by the United States. Indeed, it

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

QUERY

Are you aware of the spirit of God at work in the ordinary activities and experience of your daily life? Are you open to new light, from whatever source it may come?

- Britain Yearly Meeting.

is refreshing and energizing to read a comprehensive history of America that refuses to conform to the tired national tropes of American exceptionalism, manifest destiny, or frontier conquest and instead rests firmly on the vitality, presence, and persistence of Indigenous peoples and the multiple conflicts, entanglements, and stories that constitute the overarching process by which the United States has come to be: settler colonization.“

-Emma Battell Low-man

Thank you for your invitation to submit this review. I'm eager for further discussion if anyone else fancies a cup of tea and conversation. Maggie Scott Nesbit – magsco@gmail.com

BOOK GROUP Meeting – Thursday April 4th

The group reading books by and about people of color will meet again on Thursday, April 4th, 2019 at 1:30 p.m. in the library at the Meetinghouse with a discussion of *What We Lose*, by Zinzi Clemmons led by Ann Ritter. She will lead a second discussion of the book at her house (550 Ansley Street, Decatur, near the AFM house) on Sunday April 28, 3-5 pm. Call for more information and directions, if needed, 404-569-1434.

The book for May is *Dawn* by Octavia Butler. We will meet in the library at the Meetinghouse at 1:30 pm on May 2 to discuss that book.

All are welcome to be part of these discussions. For questions, contact Karen Morris (karenth.1415@gmail.com) or Susan Cole (cole2544@bellsouth.net).

April NEWCOMERS WELCOME DINNER – April 18th, 6:30PM

Brent Wolff and Margaret Nagawa invite all new to the Meeting and all who would like to meet newcomers to come to our house at 6:30 PM on Thursday, April 18th. Newcomers are invited to be our guests, and others encouraged to bring a potluck dish.

Contact us at rbkwolff@gmail.com or margaret.nagawa@gmail.com, or call 404-797-2781 for directions. (Erie Avenue, Decatur, 30030)

FILMS ON ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE - 11:45 am, Sunday, April 28th

Submitted by Dan May

Quakers for Racial Equality and Green Friends are jointly sponsoring a film-and-discussion forum on Environmental Justice. The four films to be shown, running about 30 minutes total, deal with the greening of South Bronx, water purity issues in minority communities, pesticide exposure in farm workers, and artists of color at the heart of the environmental movement.

We will have discussions after each film. Snacks will be provided. Sunday, April 28, 11:45 in the Meeting Room.

Transformative 2-day CONFLICT RESOLUTION WORKSHOP, Saturday & Sunday April 27th & 28th, 9:00 am to 6:00 pm, submitted by Karen Morris

Friends, please consider registering for this transformative 2-day workshop sponsored by Georgia Alternatives to Violence Project.

Basic/First Level Workshop

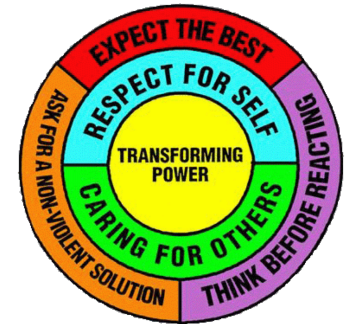
Emory Faculty Office Building, adjacent to Grady Hospital, Atlanta, GA 30303

Open to all (18 years and older)!

Lunch provided both days. Register by Wednesday, April 24th.

Workshop fee is \$30 (\$20 for students)—However, no one will be excluded due to lack of funds.

All AVP workshop facilitators are volunteers.



Register today! <https://avp-basicworkshop-april2019.eventbrite.com>

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR FRIENDS GENERAL CONFERENCE (FGC) and SOUTHERN APPALACHIA YEARLY MEETING (SAYMA)

This year the SAYMA Yearly Meeting is June 13th-16th at Warren Wilson college, Knoxville Tennessee, see SAYMA.org. Friends General Conference (FGC) is June 30th-July 6th, Grinnel Iowa. Early registration for FGC is April 1st. Standard registration is April 22nd and after June 1st a 60\$ late fee will be charged. See FGCQuaker.org/gathering/registration. Scholarship assistance for those wishing to attend either or both of these is available from SAMYA, FGC and Atlanta Friends Meeting. Both SAYMA and FGC ask that you seek financial assistance from the meeting before you request it from them. Forms to request scholarships from AFM are available on our website http://atlantaquakers.org/site_pdf_docs/AFM_Scholarship_Application-2018.pdf and in the Ministry and Worship mailbox in the office. You can also contact Muireann Brennan muireannbrennan@gmail.com or [Bob Loughloughr@gmail.com](mailto:Bob.Loughloughr@gmail.com). Deadline for application is May 6th.

Memorial minute for NAN SCHWAB PENDERGAST (1920 - 2018)

PENDERGRAST, Nan Schwab Pendergrast died peacefully on December 17, 2018, at her home at the age of 98. She was born in Atlanta on June 17, 1920, the youngest of three children of Robert W. and Helen Kaiser Schwab. Nan grew up in Druid Hills and attended Atlanta's Washington Seminary before continuing her education at Vassar College. Nan worked in partnership with Britt, her husband of 76 years, raising seven children and striving to make the world a better place. Courageous and always an optimist, Nan lived a joyful life, enriched by her lifelong belief that concerned citizens working together could affect the course of history. She was particularly devoted to advancing the causes of civil rights, peace, justice, education, and the environment, served on the boards of the Jeannette Rankin Foundation, the American Friends Service Committee, the Fellowship of Reconciliation, the Vassar College Alumnae Association, the League of Women Voters, and other non-profit organizations.

Nan and Britt were members of the Wider Quaker Fellowship and active with the Atlanta Meeting before becoming members in 1983. Nan was known for her candor, story-telling and sense of humor. She said that she and Britt didn't feel they were good enough to be meeting mem-

bers but since they weren't getting much better might just as well join. She continued bringing flowers from her garden for the meeting's center table until a week before her death. She helped found the Friends School of Atlanta and served as a board member. Nan was an active member of the Southern Regional Council, an influential promoter of integration in the South, and a leader of HOPE (Help Our Public Education), which was instrumental in the peaceful integration of the Atlanta Public Schools in 1961. She was a local leader of the Vietnam anti-war movement and opened her home to national leaders when they campaigned for peace in Atlanta. She and Britt tutored students at Margaret Mitchell School and volunteered at Emmaus House in south Atlanta.

Nan had a great appreciation for, and knowledge of, wildflowers. She loved exploring, leading her young children and their friends on hikes along the Chattahoochee River and climbs up Kennesaw and Stone Mountain. She shared her love of wildflowers through talks to Atlanta area garden clubs. She chose to surround herself with beautiful flowers by working at Sears Garden Center, helping others to create and enhance their gardens. For many years, the family gathered for reunions where Nan's love for singing was a treasured part of the family tradition. A skilled writer, Nan wrote a series of articles titled "The Way It Is" for the Atlanta Constitution, describing in humorous fashion the joys, challenges, and adventures of raising children. Later in life, she wrote and published two books, *Neighborhood Naturalist* and *For Love of the British Isles*. She and Britt also edited and published *News/Views*, a compilation of progressive news stories distributed throughout the country.

Nan is survived by her seven children: Jill MacGlaflin, John B. Pendergrast, III (Fiona), Nan Marshall (Gene), Mark Pendergrast (Betty), Blair Vickery, Scott Pendergrast (Bailey), and Craig Pendergrast (Terri), twenty grandchildren, twenty-seven (and counting) great-grandchildren, brother-in-law Dr. William ("Bill") Pendergrast, sisters-in-law Helen Pendergrast and Elizabeth ("Libba") Pendergrast, and many nieces and nephews. Friends celebrated Nan's life in a memorial meeting at the Friends School of Atlanta on January 19, 2019.

Third Month Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business - March 17, 2019 ***Record Pending Approval***

Attendance: Carolyn Coburn-Allen, Georgia Lord, Lynn Leuszler, Kellie Divis, Judith Greenberg, Alison Mawle, Steve Collins, Teri Key-Hoosen, Bill Hoosen, Kathy Johnson, Sally Ferguson, Alberta Guise, Carolyn Manley, Lissa, Place, Muireann Brennan, Susan Firestone, Karen terHorst Morris, Julia Ewen, Richard Allen, Myrna Trapp, Mary Ann Downey, Susan Cole, Cathy Amanti, Jim Tolmach, Katie Smillie, Claire Hannapel, Clive Gordon, Don Bender, Judy Bender, Henry Slack, Dalia Kijakazi, Ronald Nuse, Michael Allison, Pat Williams, Bill Holland (Clerk), Rebecca Sullivan (Recording Clerk)

Friends gathered near the appointed hour with opening worship. A member of Ministry and Worship shared the Second Month Query into the worship: "Do we each take an active part in the life of our Meeting? How do we recognize the varied skills and spiritual gifts of our members and attenders? How do we nurture their use and growth?" Friends responded out of the Silence.

Discernment Items:

Nominating Committee: Myrna Trapp, member of Nominating, brought forward Karen Skellie for a term on Care and Counsel.

Minute 3-17-2019-01: On the recommendation of the Nominating Committee, we approve Karen Skellie to serve a three-year term (March 2019 - December 2021) as an appointed member of Care and Counsel Committee.

Ministry and Worship Committee: Elizabeth Lamb, clerk of Ministry and Worship, brought forward Aaron (A.J.) Martens name for membership with Atlanta Friends Meeting.

Minute 3-17-2019-02: On the recommendation of the Ministry and Worship Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting joyfully accepts the membership of Aaron (A.J.) Martens. He is an active member of the Macon Worship Group and we look forward to following their mutual growth and fellowship.

Memorial Committee: Mary Ann Downey read the memorial minute of Nan Pendergrast.

Minute 3-17-2019-03: Atlanta Friends Meeting approve the Memorial Minute of Nan Pendergrast.

Reports:

Ministry and Worship Committee: Elizabeth Lamb reported on behalf of the Ministry and Worship. The committee has received an application for membership from Katie Smiley, and has met with her and find her clear for membership. Her name will be brought back for decision in 4th Month.

There will be memorial service for Bill Jenkins on March 23, 2019 at 2 PM. Bill passed on February 17. His loving presence will be sorely missed.

Ministry and Worship is co-sponsoring a forum/workshop, on March 31 with the Committee on Undoing Racism in AFM (CURAFM) and the Racial Justice Group. The forum is focused on Becoming a Welcoming Anti-Racist Meeting, Friends are encouraged to attend.

Macon Worship Group is under the care of Atlanta Friends Meeting. They have a newsletter which you can join by emailing: maconquakers@gmail.com. Macon Worship Group has been full of firsts this last year, most recently they had their first potluck followed by a threshing session where they envisioned their purpose: Why are we here? What are we doing? and Where are we going? They are working towards creating some queries to help guide the community in their processes.

Administration Committee and Search Committees: Steve Collins, clerk of Administration Committee and the Search Committees, reported on the Friend in Residence, Office Coordinator and Property Coordinator positions as well as other Meetinghouse projects.

Friend in Residence (FiR): After receiving approval from the Administration committee, the search committee offered the FiR position to Anton Flores, a Mennonite from LaGrange, Georgia. He accepted, and he and his wife, Charlotte, are excited about moving to the Atlanta area and into the FiR apartment in late July. The Administration committee is exploring various options for providing FiR coverage between the end of Kelsey McNicholas' term and the beginning of Anton's.

Office Coordinator: The search committee has interviewed two candidates; additional candidates will be interviewed shortly. Application deadline in Friends Journal ad is April 15, although interested local candidates are asked to apply by April 1.

Property Coordinator: No interviews have taken place for the Property Coordinator. It has the same deadlines as the Office Coordinator search.

Building Upkeep: The meeting has installed an Automated external defibrillator (AED) installation on wall by Friend in Residence door across from office.

Paul Mangelsdorf and Aaron Ruscetta are planning to find a group of volunteers to strip the floors (atrium and "potluck area") of old wax, clean and re-wax in April when Harmony School is out. The goal is to extend the life of the atrium tile floor at least 3-5 years.

The Harmony School has been voicing concerns about the fence area next to the highest point of the playground (near the tree). They feel it is too easily accessible to passersby from the sidewalk. Administration volunteers will come up with a solution in next few weeks and implement it.

Myrna Trapp has found a spot at west end of parking lot for a memorial garden for Nan Pendergrast. Several flowers and other plants will be moved from Nan Pendergrast's yard.

Jim Tolmach, interim Property Coordinator, is investigating new LED lighting options to replace the big lights in the Meeting room.

Woody Woodall cleaned out the overflowing gutters on the patio side of the Meetinghouse.

Janelle will ask the Mennonite Fellowship to better organize the storage closet they use so that we can move some items there from other closets to reduce clutter.

Care and Counsel: Bill Hooson, Clerk of Care and Counsel reported on behalf of the committee. Care and Counsel would like assistance from the Meeting to identify regular attenders who are absent for an extended period of time. This information can be mentioned to any member of Care and Counsel or emailed to afm.carecounsel@gmail.com. The committee could provide a stronger ministry and more nurturing assistance if they are aware of these absences.

Suchitoto Report: Don Bender gave the quarterly report on the Suchitoto Fund. "The Association of Current and Graduated Scholarship Students from Suchitoto" (ABESUCHI) has determined their budget for 2019 and is beginning its first full year of operation. They plan to spend around \$28,000 on staff and program this year. In February, the Suchitoto Fund Committee approved sending \$30,000 to our contractor, IDEAS, inc. The check has been written and IDEAS will disburse most of the funds to ABESUCHI. The Suchitoto fund has about \$44,000 as of March 12, 2019. There was over \$8,000 recently added from Frank Cummings' retirement account.

Minutes of Second Month

Minute 3-17-2019-04: Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the minutes of February 17, 2019.

Clerks' Items:

The clerk sent the State of the Meeting Report to the Yearly Meeting.

The clerk has received the Yearly Meeting Census which he will fill out and send back to the Yearly Meeting.

Events in Life of Meeting

Suzanne Cole and Rebecca Sullivan will be married under the care of Atlanta Friends Meeting on Saturday March 23, 2019 at 7pm in Jackson, Mississippi.

Closing Worship: We closed with a time of open worship.

Submitted by
Bill Holland (Clerk)
Rebecca Sullivan (Recording Clerk)

PLEASE HOLD IN THE LIGHT:

*Peter Sederberg
Freer and David Jarvis
Diane Rowley and family
Sophia DeVera Schmitz and family
Katie Smillie, Dan Hungerford and family*

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
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Finance: Paul Mangelsdorf, 770-677-4280
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Calendar for Fourth Month (April) 2019

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 Second & Fourth First Day	2:30 p.m. - Macon Friends Worship Group. Contact Kellie Divis at MaconQuakers@gmail.com ; maconquakers.org
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 .
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 11:15 a.m. - Listening Ear 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 Jarvis' 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

ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING

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.

Would you like to be included in the AFM database and receive the Newsletter by mail and/or appear in future AFM Directories?

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.

Would you like to receive announcements relating directly to the life of the meeting?

Send a note to afmannouncements-subscribe@yahogroups.com.

What does investing in your spiritual community look like for you and your family?

Atlanta Friends Meeting accepts contributions of your time, resources, and money! You can place a financial contribution in the slot marked "Contributions" in the greeting area of the Meetinghouse or mail to the Treasurer at our Meetinghouse address. Thank you!

To donate online with a credit card, visit <http://atlantaquakers.org/contact.htm>.

Want to submit a letter, article, notice and anything else of interest to Friends?

Send items 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.**

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