

ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2022



Current and back issues of the newsletter are available at <http://atlantaquakers.org/archive.htm>

The most recent announcement sheet is always at http://atlantaquakers.org/announcements/Announcement_Sheet.pdf

Meeting for Worship each First Day (Sunday) in Person & via Zoom, 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.
Details on page 2

QUERY FOR OCTOBER

How has continuing revelation informed my spiritual journey?

Source: SAYMA's *A Guide to Our Faith and Practice*, 4th edition, 2021 Queries B. 3
https://www.sayma.org/online_documents/faith_and_practice/F&P2021final.pdf

FROM THOMAS KELLY'S *A TESTAMENT OF DEVOTION*

The Society of Friends arose as a rediscovery of the ever-open inward springs of immediacy and revelation. George Fox and the Quakers found a Principle within [all people], a Shekinah of the soul, a Light Within that lights every [one] coming into the world. Dedicating themselves utterly and completely to attendance upon this Inward Living Christ, they were quickened into a new and bold tenderness toward the blindness of the leaders of Christian living. Aflame with the Light of the inner sanctuary, they went out into world, into its turmoil and fitfulness, and called [everyone] to listen above all to that of God speaking within them, to order all life by the Light of the Sanctuary. "Dear Friends," writes Fox to his groups, "keep close to that which is pure within you, which leads you up to God." John Woolman, the Quaker tailor of Mt. Holly, New Jersey, resolved so to order his outward affairs, so to adjust his business burdens, that nothing, absolutely nothing would crowd out his prime attendance upon the Inward Principle. And in this sensitizing before the inward altar of his soul, he was quickened to see and attack effectively the evils of slave-holding, of money-lending, of wars upon the Indians.

But the value of Woolman and Fox and the Quakers of today for the world does not lie merely in their outward deeds of service to suffering [people], it lies in that call to all [people] to the practice of orienting their entire being in inward adoration about the springs of immediacy and ever fresh divine power within the secret silences of the soul.

[Editor's Note: Thomas Kelly's A Testament of Devotion, published in 1941, contains essays on The Light Within; Holy Obedience; The Blessed Community; The Eternal Now and Social Concerns; and The Simplification of Life. Words in square brackets, like the ones around this note, are more gender neutral substitutions for man and men.]

PLEASE JOIN US ON SUNDAYS FOR WORSHIP AND FIRST DAY SCHOOL



We will continue to worship on Sunday at 10:00 am in person at the meetinghouse in combination with worship via Zoom for the indefinite future. Please choose the option that is best for you. For the most up to date Zoom information and COVID guidelines for in-person worship, see the current announcement sheet at www.atlantaquakers.org/_announcements/Announcement_Sheet.pdf.

MEETING FOR WORSHIP

10 am Sundays, combined in person and Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89686276751?pwd=M29EYlIFWEhSQUtZRVPaIFFYmVDQT09>

Meeting ID: 896 8627 6751

Passcode: 789456

ADULT FIRST DAY SCHOOL

(see more details for each Sunday below)

9:00 to 9:50 am Sundays, combined in person and Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86063665797?pwd=Nms0Vm5MSW91UXdWRGJSOXA5NWRjZz09>

Meeting ID: 860 6366 5797

Passcode: 013191

FIRST DAY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN AND TEENS

10:15 am Sundays, in-person,

Children can continue to join Meeting for Worship for the first 15 minutes or can go directly to Religious Education, as they and their parents / guardians prefer.

**PLEASE HOLD
IN THE LIGHT:**

Elizabeth Valera
Jeremiah Gold-Hopton

If you wish to have requests for holding in the light included in this monthly newsletter, please give the names to a member of Care & Counsel.

Atlanta Friends Committees and Other Contacts

Clerk of the Meeting: Jennifer Dickie, afmclerk1@gmail.com

Office Coordinator: Nina Gooch, atlantaquakers@gmail.com

Treasurer: Lynn Leuszler, afmtreasurer1@gmail.com

Ministry & Worship: Bill Hooson, bhooson@aol.com

Finance: Paul Mangelsdorf, 770-677-4280

Social Concerns: Glenn Plyler, 207-522-5295

Administration: Steve Collins, shcollins75@gmail.com

Care & Counsel: Karen Skellie, kskellie@gmail.com

Quakers for Racial Equality: Susan Firestone, susanfires@gmail.com

Committee on Undoing Racism in AFM: Lissa Place, lissaplace@yahoo.com

Religious Education: Laura MacNorlin, laura.norlin@gmail.com

Library: Cal Gough, calgough@bellsouth.net

Nominating: Lissa Place, lissaplace@yahoo.com

Newsletter Editor: Nina Gooch, atlquakerltr@gmail.com

Webmaster: Aaron Ruscetta, arxaaron@gmail.com

Bookkeeper: Jonah McDonald, afmbookkeeper1@gmail.com

For information about these committees, download the AFM Handbook from <http://atlantaquakers.org/members.htm> (scroll down to the bottom to AFM Documents to Download) OR contact the Clerk of the committee.

HELP PROVIDE GROCERIES FOR CASA ALTERNA

The new sign-up to volunteer to purchase groceries and other needed items for Casa Alterna guests from October through December, *including October 7*, can be found here -- <https://bit.ly/3DhCVmE>. Please note that this time, there are spaces for two volunteers the first week of each month. The list will be longer than usual those weeks and will include staples and bulk items. The list will be split between the two volunteers. Casa Alterna has just opened a second house of hospitality in Atlanta. Your support of this work is making a huge impact on the lives of asylum seekers as they find their way in a new country. Your help is greatly appreciated. Visit <https://casaalterna.org/> for more updates. If you have questions, please contact Cathy Amanti at cbamanti@gmail.com.

HISPANIC / LATINX HERITAGE MONTH COMMUNITY EVENT – Saturday, October 1

Friends School of Atlanta (FSA) welcomes Atlanta Friends Meeting to attend the first Hispanic / Latinx Heritage Month Community Event on Saturday, October 1, from 12 to 2 pm ET, at the FSA campus, 862 Columbia Drive, Decatur, 30030, in the parking lot and playground. The event will help support Casa Alterna. For more info, please see <https://friendsschoolatlanta.org/events/>, or contact Kristen Clayton, FSA's Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, kclayton@friendsschoolatlanta.org

SPIRITUAL JOURNEYS AND ADULT FIRST DAY SCHOOL – Sundays, October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Adult First Day School meets in person at the meetinghouse, and people can also join via Zoom. (See the second page of this newsletter for Zoom details.)

Each first Sunday of the month in Adult First Day School, 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 Spiritual Journeys, stories where Friends describe their understanding of God and religion in their life. In 2011, Judy Lumb first offered the story of her spiritual journey which included plans to attend the Friends World Committee Triennial in Kenya in 2012. On October 2, 2022 she will share her Spiritual Journey again and will tell us about her time at the Triennial and with Friends in several African countries, as well as later trips to Peru. You can hear the recording from 2011 at <https://tinyurl.com/3xr9ddce>. (To hear Deidre McCalla's Spiritual Journey, shared September 4, 2022, visit <https://tinyurl.com/bddj8hjr>. To hear other past Spiritual Journeys, contact Mary Ann Downey.)

On second Sundays, Adult First Day School will have worship sharing, usually on that month's query. On third, fourth and fifth Sundays, they will be discussing *The Book of Joy*, a conversation between the Dalai Lama and Desmond Tutu as reported by Douglas Abrams. All are welcome, whether you have read the book or not.

GREEN FRIENDS -- Sunday, October 2

Green Friends will meet Sunday, October 2, at approximately 11:45 AM (during potluck) in classrooms A/B at the meeting house as well as over Zoom. Newcomers welcome.
<https://citizensclimate.zoom.us/j/93713127848?pwd=UjRxZUJNWVdhNk9lck9TUGRwZStuQT09>
Meeting ID: 937 1312 7848
Passcode: 123

RETURN OF FIRST SUNDAY POTLUCK -- Sunday, October 2

Starting in October, please join us for a potluck lunch following the rise of Meeting. October's potluck will be hosted by the Religious Education Committee and the Young Friends Support Committee. We would especially like to invite families to bring their young Friends to Meeting on this Sunday. We will introduce our new Young Friends Program Coordinator, Asa Kramer-Dickie. We will have First Day school class and then have fellowship with each other over lunch.

Additional things to know:

- Please bring items that do not need heating in the oven (it isn't working). The microwave is available for smaller dishes.
- There are several outdoor tables for those who prefer to eat outside.
- If you would like to bring a blanket to enjoy a picnic style lunch on the lawn this is also welcomed.

VIRTUAL DOCUMENTARY NIGHTS -- Sundays, October 2, 16, 30

Watch each documentary online for free, then RSVP for an online discussion, 7 to 9 pm, each Sunday. See the announcement sheet for links for each film and for RSVP links.

- October 2: *Flint's Deadly Water*, a Frontline documentary, drawing from a two-year investigation, uncovers the extent of a deadly Legionnaires' disease outbreak during the Flint water crisis — and how officials failed to stop it. Abby Ellis (Journalist, Director) and Kayla Ruble (Journalist, Producer) will join the group for a Q&A at the end of the night.
- October 16: *Ecuador Se Levanta*. As a 7.8-magnitude earthquake shook Ecuador on April 16, 2016, within seconds, entire towns collapsed and were left in ruins. This documentary follows a disaster relief mission that began just days after this catastrophe.
- October 30: *The Ghosts In Our Machine*, which follows activist and photojournalist Jo-Ann McArthur as she uses her camera to illuminate the lives of individual animals living within the machine of our modern world.

For more details and general info: <https://documentarynight.wordpress.com/> or attender Adam Hicks at CommunityDocumentaryNight@gmail.com or 404-414-8917.

SPIRITUAL NURTURE GROUPS IN FORMATION --- Interested?? Please sign up by October 2

Spiritual Nurture Groups are small groups of individuals who commit to meet regularly (once or twice a month) to deepen their spiritual life and accompany one another on their journey. The meeting has three existing groups and we are creating new ones. Each meeting involves worship, sharing, writing and personal discernment. This is a great way to know other members of meeting at a new level. Three questions: 1) Do you want to join a new group or an existing group?; 2) Do you want a group meeting in person, is hybrid or virtual? 3) What days and times are available for you? Please contact Mary Ann Downey by email (madowney@mindspring.com) or phone (678-938-8030) to sign up or for more information.

WEDNESDAY AM MEETING FOR WORSHIP – Wednesdays, October 5, 12, 19, 26

8:30 am. This ongoing meeting for worship is again both in person and Zoom.
Contact Bert Skellie at 404-680-4799 for general info.

<https://zoom.us/j/92038862952>

Meeting ID: 92038862952

Password: 726229

WEDNESDAY EVENING WORSHIP WITH MACON WORSHIP GROUP – Wed, Oct 5, 12, 19, 26

The Macon Worship Group, which is under the care of Atlanta Friends Meeting, worships via Zoom every Wednesday at 7:00 pm.. They invite us to join them for this ongoing meeting for worship! For more information, contact Bill Holland and Mary Ann Downey.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85017745787?pwd=RUQ3OGJPenMrYktXemlxl1d2R3Q2Zz09>

Meeting ID: 850 1774 5787

Passcode: 22Light

BOOKS BY AND ABOUT PEOPLE OF COLOR – Thursday, October 6 and ongoing

The book group reading works by and about people of color meets at 1:30 p.m. on the first Thursday of the month. They are currently meeting in person and via Zoom. On October 6, they'll read and discuss *Harlem Shuffle* by Colson Whitehead. Future books include:

November 3, *The Sentence* by Louise Erdrich

December 1, *The Buddha in the Attic* by Julie Otsuka

For questions or the Zoom link, contact Susan Cole (cole2544@bellsouth.net).

MONTHLY EASY HIKE / WALK -- Saturday, October 8

Saturday, October 8, On Saturday, October 8, we will meet at the Meetinghouse parking lot at **9 am** to take a hike! Please bring a mask, in case anyone is more comfortable sharing a ride in the car if all are masked. (We should not need masks outside.) We will walk about 3 miles at the Constitution Lakes *Doll's Head Trail." Here's the location: 1305 S River Industrial Blvd SE, Atlanta, GA 30315. (Meet us there at 9:25 if that works for you.) Here's information about the trail:

[https://www.atlantatrails.com/hiking-trails/dolls-head-trail-constitution-lakes-park/.](https://www.atlantatrails.com/hiking-trails/dolls-head-trail-constitution-lakes-park/)

Call Bert Skellie at 404-680-4799 if you have questions, if you have an emergency and need the group to wait for you at the meetinghouse or trailhead longer than 5 minutes, or if you would like information about future hikes, held the second Saturday of each month.

SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE MEETING -- Sunday, October 9

The Social Concerns Committee, which encourages and supports individual members and attenders in their social concern leadings, will hold its every other month meeting at 1:00 pm on October 9 via Zoom. Newcomers are welcome. For questions, contact Glenn Plyler.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4922576045?pwd=WDBiTHlhVDgzMjVNZDA3RHVleTIsUT09>

Meeting ID: 492 257 6045

Passcode: Friends

YOUNG ADULT FRIENDS / CASA ALTERNA POTLUCK AND GAME NIGHT -- Sunday, October 9

The Young Adult Friends and the residents of the new Casa Alterna house will be hosting a joint potluck and game night on Sunday, October 9 at 6 pm at the house (which is the former QVS house) in Grant Park (683 Grant St SE). If you are a young adult (approximately 18-35), we'd love for you to join us and bring a dish for the potluck if you are able. Please email afm-yaf@googlegroups.com with questions.

SILENCE AND LIGHT FOR QUAKER NEWCOMERS eRETREAT – Saturdays, Oct 15 to Nov 12

The Silence & Light eRetreat from Friends General Conference invites you to explore and practice the experience of Quaker worship and silent waiting, for an inward encounter with Inner Teacher who leads, guides, and transforms us every day. This session is offered for people who are curious about Quakers or new to Quakerism and will explore the basics of Quaker theology and practice.

Course consists of weekly readings, queries, resources, and activities available online, with weekly zoom calls Saturdays, October 15 to November 12, 1:00 to 2:30pm Eastern. \$45 pay-as-led participation fee. <https://www.fgcquaker.org/event/silence-light-for-quaker-newcomers-eretreat-2/>

MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS -- Sunday, October 17

Stay after meeting for worship, whether in person or via Zoom. Meeting for Business will be held in a combined format about 11:45. Minutes from our last Meeting for Business are below.

http://atlantaquakers.org/_site_pdf_docs/Guidelines_for_Meeting_for_Business.pdf has more information about how meeting for worship with attention to business works.

This Friends Journal article talks about the spiritual side of Meeting for Business, the ways in which it is a step between meeting for worship and our lives outside the meeting house:

<https://www.friendsjournal.org/meeting-for-business-as-spiritual-rehearsal/>.

FLGBTQC GATHERING -- Sunday, October 23

Atlanta's Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender – and genderqueer, nonbinary, genderfluid -- and Queer Concerns will gather for conversation at coffee hour after meeting for worship on October 23. For more information or to join the FLGBTQC email list, contact Nina Gooch at the office or at her personal phone or email.

QRE FORUM: MAKING AMENDS TO INDIGENOUS PEOPLES – Sunday, October 23

Please join Quakers for Racial Equality and Atlanta Friends Meeting in welcoming Rev. Chebon Kernell as the guest speaker at an online forum on October 23 at 1:00 p.m. Eastern Time. Rev. Chebon Kernell is Executive Director of the Native American Comprehensive Plan for the United Methodist Church and works with faith communities on repentance and reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. Rev. Kernell speaks movingly about the necessity of churches actively making ongoing amends for the physical and cultural genocide of Indigenous peoples. An enrolled member of the Seminole Nation and of Muscogee Creek heritage, Mekko Chebon Kernell is a cultural practitioner and member of the Helvpe Ceremonial grounds of the Muscogee Creek Nation in Oklahoma. He is working to bring Muscogee people and traditions back to their homelands and

preserve the Weelaunee Forest south of Atlanta. His speaking topics include the trauma caused by boarding schools for Indigenous children, ways to support efforts to preserve Muscogee Creek traditions and their homelands, and working in solidarity for Indigenous sovereignty and land back at the local level. For more information, contact Susan Firestone, susanfires@gmail.com, or Karen Morris, karenth.1415@gmail.com

Everyone is welcome. This is a free event, but registration *in advance* is required at <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0kdu-sqz4vG91oGAf9J6wrjytPGzak49uh>.

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. The confirmation will come from Zoom at [<no-reply@zoom.us>](mailto:no-reply@zoom.us) with the subject line, "Chebon Kernell: Making Amends to Indigenous Peoples Confirmation"

The confirmation email will include the Meeting ID, a "join meeting" button and a link specific to you. Please save the confirmation email and don't share it with others.

LET'S TALK ABOUT RACE -- Wednesday, October 27

Our monthly online, drop-in forum about race meets at 7:30 pm on the fourth Wednesday of the month (in November and December on the third Wednesday of the month). Each meeting starts with a quote from anti racist literature or other media to be the springboard for the evening's conversation. All are welcome whether you have attended before or not. No special knowledge or background needed. We contribute from our personal experiences and backgrounds. We learn from the stories and questions we are willing to share. For more information, contact Lissa Place, 678-793-9260. See announcement sheet for Zoom details.

FORUM ON MEMBERSHIP – Sunday, October 30

On October 30 at the rise of meeting (11:45), Ministry and Worship Committee will hold a hybrid forum on the Meaning and Process of Membership at Atlanta Friends Meeting. The newsletter for December 2021 (http://atlantaquakers.org/_afm_newsletters/AFM_Newsletter_2021-12.pdf) has information about the process. The meeting's guide to membership can be found at http://atlantaquakers.org/_site_pdf_docs/AFM_Membership_guidelines-201703.pdf. See the announcement sheet for more details, including Zoom coordinates.

NEW QUILT IN THE GREETING ROOM

There's a new quilt by Denny Webster now hanging in the Greeting Room. This one is based on John Calvi's healing work and, like others in this series of quilts, rose out of a leading she felt to do something related to Quakers and healing from trauma. After a time of research and learning about the visual symbology of color and image, she completed the creation of nine "Healing Quilts," based on the traditional pattern of a healing mandala. These quilts she has generously given to our Meeting. You can visit her website to see more of Denny's amazing work at www.dennywebster.com.

The quote from John Calvi reads: "I think of my work as a Quaker healer as someone who comes to clean and wash the damage following violence, and this is an aspect of nonviolence, that we're doing compassionate work following the violence."

MINUTES FOR NINTH MONTH MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS
September 18, 2022, held in person and via Zoom in a blended meeting
Minutes Recorded Pending Approval

Attendance: Alberta Guise, Alison Mawle, Aaron Ruscetta, Austin Watters, Brent Wolff, Bert Skellie, Karen Skellie, Bill Hooson, Teri Key-Hooson, Bill Holland, Mary Ann Downey, Cathy Amanti, Don Bender, David Small, Eric Glenn, Elizabeth Lamb, Glenn Plyler, Jay Roache, Jennifer Crumpley, Judy Lumb, Julia Ewen, Kathy Johnson, Karen terHorst Morris, Kevin Moran, Lissa Place, Lynda Kerr, Mark Yates, Micheal Allison, Myrna Trapp, Nina Gooch, Richard Allen, Steve Collins, Susan Firestone, Susan May, Jennifer Dickie (Clerk), Coryn Murphy (Recording Clerk)

Worship

Query for Ninth Month

How do we make space to experience and share gratitude in our lives for joys, blessings, and wonder? How do we lift up our own joy and gratitude, and that of those around us, even in the face of distress, pain or trauma in our lives?

Discernment:

CUR-AFM - Lissa Place, from the Ad Hoc Anti-racist Policy & Proecedure Group, brought the *AFM Interpersonal Racist Incident Policy for discernment*. See the whole policy following the minutes.

Minute 09-18-2022:01: The Atlanta Friends meeting approves the AFM Interpersonal Racist Incident Policy

Atlanta Friends Meeting Interpersonal Racist Incident Policy

Introduction

Atlanta Friends Meeting (AFM) is committed to being a multicultural anti-racist spiritual home for all, where we strive for everyone to feel valued, safe, and respected. Racism cuts us off from fully honoring that of God in all people and limits our spiritual community. To build an equitable Quaker community in a society shaped by racism, we need both ongoing anti-racist education and up-to-date policies that address harm caused by racism within our Meeting.

This racist incident policy is specifically related to interpersonal incidents among members and attenders of AFM in which one Black, Indigenous, or other Person of Color participant experiences interpersonal racial harm due to another participant's words or actions. AFM policies or institutional practices that cause harm based on the race of one person or group will be addressed separately.

The intent of this policy is to help AFM build and restore beloved community, to recognize the harm caused by racist incidents, to lovingly care for both the person who experienced the harm and the person who caused injury, and to lead to transformation and strengthened connection within our Meeting.

Both words and silences, actions and inactions may cause harm. Comments or actions, even those that are unintentional, may send negative messages which, cumulatively, contribute greatly to the daily racial stress and wounding for Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color (sometimes called "microaggressions"). The impact on People of Color can be very damaging even when the person who caused the harm did not intend to do so. We acknowledge that it is difficult to know the right things to do or say in this work and the best intentions can still have harmful impact. This policy is not intended to accuse anyone of

wrongdoing but to help all of us to grow in our understanding of how to care for one another in our community. We trust that way will open as we do this work of anti-racism in our Meeting.

This policy sets out how interpersonal racist incidents, including microaggressions, among AFM participants will be addressed within our Meeting with attention to the Spirit and restoring beloved community. The process is intended to create a community of love and caring, keeping our community whole and addressing harms with an openness towards learning and coming together.

The purpose of this policy is to:

- 1) define an interpersonal racist incident occurring at AFM
- 2) address interpersonal racist incidents anywhere within the life of our Meeting
- 3) resolve, as far as is possible, any interpersonal racist incident that occurs
- 4) further the goal of AFM to become an anti-racist meeting connected spiritually to each other.

Racist Incident Procedure Outline

1. For the purposes of this procedure, an interpersonal racist incident is defined as one in which one Black, Indigenous, or other Person of Color AFM participant experiences interpersonal racial harm due to another AFM participant's words or actions.

The person who experienced the harm defines the incident as racist.

This process presumes participation by the person who experienced the harm.

However, the person who experienced the harm can choose not to participate in the full process. In such an event, the process will be modified accordingly.

2. The Standing Racist Incident Response Group is responsible for dealing with racist incidents. The Standing Response Group will be under the care of the Committee on Undoing Racism in Atlanta Friends Meeting (CURAFM). The Standing Response Group will stand ready for immediate response to any reported racist incidents that arise.

- a. Composition of the Standing Racist Incident Response Group [referred to as the Standing Response Group]

The Standing Response Group will consist of 4 people.

- Standing Response Group membership will be confirmed through the Nominating process and Meeting for Business.
- CURAFM will work with Nominating in consultation with Friends of Color to identify potential Standing Response Group members.
- The Standing Response Group membership will include two members who will take turns serving as the facilitator in responding to incidents. Standing Response Group facilitators shall be trained in conflict resolution models, e.g. restorative justice practices.
- Standing Response Group membership is a two-year term. The initial Standing Response Group will have two members serve a one-year term to establish staggered rotation of membership.

- It is possible for the Standing Response Group to ask additional people to serve in response to a particular incident if that is appropriate and will not hold up the process of responding to the incident. CURAFM will keep a list of additional potential members who have agreed to serve in response to an incident if needed.
 - The group responding to a particular racist incident will be selected from the Standing Racist Incident Response Group and any additional potential members in consultation with the person who experienced harm.
- b. Contact people include the CURAFM clerk and the two Standing Response Group facilitators. Names of designated contact people will be well-publicized through AFM sources such as announcements, newsletter, signage, and directory.
 - c. Contact people will be responsible for regularly checking the designated voicemail and email accounts set up for the purpose of reporting racist incidents.
3. Reporting a racist incident.
- Identities of all the people involved in racist incidents will be kept confidential.
- a. Any of the following can report a racist incident:
 - Person who experienced harm
 - Witness (with agreement from the person who experienced harm)
 - Someone who was confided in (with agreement from the person who experienced harm)
 - b. How to report an incident:

Racist incidents are reported to designated contact people.

Contact people can be contacted:

 - in person
 - by phone
 - by email
4. Upon notification of a racist incident, the Contact person will immediately report the incident to the Standing Response Group and to the AFM Clerk.
5. The Standing Response Group begins the process of resolution within a week of being notified. The Response Group will:
- a. invite the person who experienced harm to choose a person for accompaniment through the process, preferably someone from Atlanta Friends Meeting
 - b. meet with the person who has been harmed
 - c. confer with the person who caused the harm in a spirit of love and caring. The person who experienced the harm may choose not to participate in this part of the process
 - d. determine a process to repair the harm with the person who experienced harm
6. The Response Group, with the person who experienced the harm, discerns a path forward to repair the harm. The person who experienced the harm may choose to end the process at any time.

Repairing the harm may include:

- being heard and held in worship by the Response Group
- in a worshipful setting, the person who caused the harm listens to the experience of the person who was harmed
- apology to the person who experienced the harm
- education for the person who caused the harm
- a description of how the community was harmed by the incident
- examination of structural causes and appropriate changes to AFM policy & procedures
- ongoing anti-racist education for the AFM community as a whole

The Response Group should be conscious that the process itself may cause painful reminders of other unresolved hurts for the person who was harmed.

7. We acknowledge that there may be instances where the person harmed chooses not to participate in the process or does not complete the process. We also acknowledge that there may be instances where reparation of the harm is not possible. That should not preclude Atlanta Friends Meeting from responding as a caring community, continuing anti-racist education, and examining structural racism within our meeting.
8. The Clerk of CURAFM will keep a generic record of all interpersonal racist incidents for the accountability and transparency of the organization. This generic record will include: when the incident was reported, type of incident, if/when/how it was addressed, and when and for how long the committee met. No names will be included in this generic record.
9. CURAFM will annually review the policy and any incidents that have been handled through this process to determine potential changes to the process, identify structural issues and appropriate supports within Atlanta Friends Meeting, and work to build a proactive anti-racist community.

Ministry and Worship – Bill Hooson brought a minute of thanks for the ad hoc committee on reparations and reconciliation and he shared the history of the committee. The minute was approved.

In November of 2020, the Ministry and Worship Committee, responding to a leading brought by Herb Edwards agreed to initiate the formation of an ad hoc group to coordinate meeting wide education and action on the issues of reparations and reconciliation. Waman French and Herb served as the first co-clerks of the group. From the beginning, we recognized that others in meeting shared this concern, and we invited these groups to unite with us to bring this forward. We noted in our Minutes of 12 13 2020 *The first meeting of the ad hoc committee was held Saturday, December 12. The group included participants from Ministry and Worship (Herb Edwards and Waman French), Quaker for Racial Equality (Susan Firestone and Jennifer Thompson), Committee on Undoing Racism in Atlanta Friends Meeting (Karen Morris), and Friends of Color (Diane Rowley, Althea Sumpter).* The committee has facilitated several educational forums. The Ministry and Worship committee agreed that this continues to be valuable work, and the committee still has work to do. We agree it is useful to ask the Meeting to recognize this work and support its continuation.

Minute 09-18-2022:02: The Atlanta Friends Meeting appreciates the work of the Ad Hoc Committee on Reparations and Reconciliation to educate the meeting through forums. The work has brought together many committees and others, including the Friends School of Atlanta. We support the continued work of the committee and look forward to learning of additional proposals for the meeting's action to build right relationships.

Care & Counsel - Karen Skellie read the Memorial Minute for Cindy Berg. The memorial minute was approved it as written.

Minute 09-18-2022:03 On the recommendation of the Care and Counsel Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the following Memorial Minute for Cynthia Berg.

Dr. Cynthia Jean Berg M.D., M.P.H was born July 7th 1948 in Chicago, Illinois to Walter Henry Martin Berg and M. Garnette (Palmer) Berg. The family of four made their home in the suburbs of Chicago, Brookfield and Western Springs, Illinois. Cindy battled polio as a child but persevered through her school work and family support.

Dr. Berg graduated with a B.A. from St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota in 1970 where she was a National Merit Scholar. She later received her M.D. from the Medical College of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia in 1974. It was in urban Philadelphia hospitals where she interned in maternity wards that she found her true professional calling; making the world a better place for expecting mothers. From 1976 to 1980 she was a resident in Obstetrics & Gynecology at Stanford University Hospitals of California where she served as chief OB/GYN Resident in her final year. She then was in private practice in Minnesota from 1981-1982 and was adjunct instructor at the Medical College of the University of Minnesota, Duluth. Dr. Berg then attended Graduate School at the University of Washington's School of Public Health where she studied epidemiology and was a Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholar earning her Master's in Public Health. Dr. Berg began her career at the Center for Disease Control and Prevention in 1985 as an Epidemic Intelligence Service officer and continued as a medical epidemiologist in the division of reproductive health until her retirement in August 2013.

The "Godmother of Maternal Mortality Research" dedicated herself to women of all walks of life far and wide. Dr. Berg was an internationally recognized expert in pregnancy health. She delighted in working collaboratively with her colleagues and her research with them resulted in over 90 publications and technical reports. Additionally, she took great pleasure in training physicians, nurses, and other health professionals in the EIS training program, always bestowing on them as much time as they needed to advance their work. Her service to maternal health through the World Health Organization took her all over the world including Africa, South and Central America and Southeast Asia where she worked diligently defining prenatal care standards for the world. Cindy's spiritual life revolved around the Atlanta Friends Meeting for many years. She assisted in publishing The Friendly Woman magazine back in the mid-1980s as well as contributing through committee work.

Dr. Berg was a founding Mother of The Friends School of Atlanta where she served as a founding committee member. The first mission statement was written at her home over Earl Grey tea. It was of the utmost importance to her that her son William and all children would know that they are always honored. Those words rang true as an early slogan at FSA became "where every child is always honored." Her fierce commitment to diversity and inclusion in the education of Atlanta's children allowed the school to thrive and remain committed to Quaker pedagogy from its' opening in 1991 to today and beyond. Her vision and pioneering work with

FSA and steadfast commitment to women's health are her enduring legacies for moving this world toward beloved community.

Cindy was tenacious and intrepid, always thoughtful and kind to her friends, and ready for a great book recommendation. She was a lover of life and all it brings, including being a voracious reader (especially mystery novels), she loved traveling, her many pets, fine art, music, flowers and gardening, bird watching, her family, and Jeopardy... which was her life's addiction. Cindy and her family spent many summers in Northern Minnesota where her parents retired on Fish Hook Lake near Park Rapids. Dr. Berg passed away peacefully at Emory University Hospital Hospice Center on March 6th, 2022 after a brief battle with cancer.

Nominating Lissa Place brought the following minute of committee approval forward. The minute was approved.

Minute 09-18-2022:04 On behalf of Nominating Committee, the Atlanta Friends Meeting approves Kevin Moran as a member of SAYMA Ministry and Nurture Committee for a term of two years from September 2022 to December 2024.

Reports:

Nominating:

Lissa Place brought forth several names for committees for next month.

Nominating Committee would like to bring forward the names Teri O'Neil and David Small for the position of Young Friends Support Committee. We will bring their names back next month for approval

Nominating Committee would like to bring forward Nina Gooch for the role of Facebook Coordinator. She has been performing this job for quite some time, but we would like to make it official. Her term would run until December of 2023.

Nominating Committee would like to bring forward the name Mark Bryans to continue as Ferguson Cabin Stewards Committee Clerk for a term of three years.

Ministry and Worship –

Bill Hooson reported for the Ministry and Worship committee on the membership Request Letter from Joshua Whittle. Ministry and Worship committee has met with Joshua Whittle in clearness and is recommending him for membership. We encourage Friends to get to know Joshua this month. We will bring his name for membership in 10th month meeting for business.

Social Concerns -

Glenn Plyler introduced Mark Yates who read a proposed minute on Medicaid and Hospital Closures which will be brought back for approval at 10th month meeting.

Atlanta Friends Meeting (Quakers) asks that all members of Georgia's State Government find in their hearts and consciences the will to fully expand Medicaid to provide hospital medical care for every Georgia citizen.

Recent closure of Atlanta's Wellstar Level 1 trauma hospital brings sharp focus to the need to strengthen Georgia's health care systems. Additionally, eight rural hospitals have already closed over the past decade, making Georgia one of the top three states having closed hospitals in America. There appears to be a strong correlation between a state's failure to expand Medicaid eligibility and closures of hospitals. Eight of the states with the most hospital closures have not expanded Medicaid coverage.

Failure to expand Medicaid coverage in Georgia places one in five of fellow Georgians without health care insurance. At least 600,000 Georgians would gain health care access if Medicaid were expanded. Not expanding Medicaid causes enormous financial strain on hospitals that leads to harm for the least able citizens of Georgia.

Expansion of Medicaid would also be beneficial in maintaining the best medical service providers within our communities. Loss of hospitals and medical care for all reduces Georgia's economic health and social attractiveness in our present ever changing world.

Atlanta Friends meeting (Quakers) asks that Georgia state legislators fully expand Medicaid so that Georgia may be a healthier, safer home for all. Extending lifesaving care is the moral and loving thing for us to seek for our neighbors.

Hospitality

Alison Mawle as clerk of the hospitality committee proposed that each committee host Potluck once a year. The second item is the kitchen will be upgraded due to the Kentworthy estate. The clerk approves a meeting wide ad hoc committee to upgrade the kitchen such as the drawers and adding the induction stove.

Administration

Steve Collins as clerk of the administration committee reported about several hirings for the meeting.

The Committee has approved the hiring of Asa Kramer-Dickie as the Meeting's next *Young Friends Program Coordinator* (YFPC). Asa has already begun serving in this position. We're working on an article about Asa for the next newsletter.

The committee approved hiring Michael Price as the new *Property Coordinator*. Michael is a semi-retired handyman/contractor from Stone Mountain with extensive relevant experience in building maintenance and construction. He previously held a similar property management position for another congregation. His anticipated start date is October 1. An article about him is also being drafted for the newsletter.

Steve Collins brought the following minutes from the Administration committee for approval. They were both approved by the Meeting.

Minute 09-18-2022:05: The Meeting lays down the ad hoc search for the Young Friends Program Coordinator and thanks the committee -- Carolyn Coburn-Allen, Laura MacNorlin, Jonah McDonald, Gwen Davies, Sage Hallward, and Steve Collins --- for its work.

Minute 09-18-2022:06: The Meeting lays down the ad hoc search committee for the Property Coordinator and thanks the committee -- Jack Honderd, Carolyn Coburn-Allen, Beth Ruddiman, and Steve Collins – for its work.

The composting project has been laid down. The person who set up the project, Lisa Pellegrino, moved away and no one else has taken it on. The current set up makes it hard for the Landscaping committee to access the finished compost for use on the grounds. The project can be restarted if someone wants to take it on and work out something that's helpful for Landscaping.; if interested, contact Administration.

Two new long-term renters started in August: Aikido of Georgia and Atlanta Children's Choir.

Announcements

Vaccination Update- Brent Wolff reported that there is the bivalent vaccine available if friends are interested but no pressure.

New Spiritual Nurture groups forming. Contact Mary Ann Downey before October 2nd to express interest.

SAYF Retreat next weekend - The clerk announced that SAYF was seeking the support of night shepherds for Saturday Morning 4-7 am and Sunday morning 1-4 am

Events in the life of the meeting

- Beth-Ann Buitekant died August 22, 2022, and her memorial service was held at the Friends School of Atlanta on September 10, 2022

Approval of Minutes from 8th month 2022

Minute 09-18-2022:05: The Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the Minutes from the 8th month meeting.

Closing Worship

QUAKER RESOURCES

What is the difference between consensus and the sense of the meeting?

<http://www.worldquakerday.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/WQD-Spiritual-Message.pdf>

(from Friends World Committee for Consultation, Section of the Americas, part of a series of Spiritual Reflections for World Quaker Day, October 2 this year
<https://www.fwccamericas.org/>)

Do Friends still need the Peace Testimony?

<https://www.friendsjournal.org/do-friends-still-need-the-peace-testimony/>

(from *Friends Journal*, <https://www.friendsjournal.org/>, with archives of issues going back to 1959 at <https://www.friendsjournal.org/issue-archive/>)

Looking for books for children and adolescents with messages that resonate with Quaker faith and practice?

<https://www.friendsjournal.org/ten-picture-books/>

(book list / reviews from *Friends Journal*)

<https://www.charisbooksandmore.com/childrens-teens-booklists>

(booklists from Decatur's Charis Books and More, on a variety of topics, including anti-racism and family diversity)

Atlanta Friends Meeting
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ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING

Office Hours: Monday thru Thursday, 10 am to 1 pm and Friday, by appointment

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Ways to communicate and receive information:

- You may receive the announcement sheets and other announcements relating directly to the life of the meeting. This is the announcement email list. (The announcement sheet is also posted online.)
- You may receive announcements AND posts about a broader range of topics relating to being a Quaker via email. This is the discussion email list.
- You may receive notification that the newsletter is online. This is the newsletter email list.
- **You may receive weekly reminders about in person and Zoom worship and First Day School via a new email list.** This is the worship reminder list.

To join any of these email lists above, please email the office at atlantaquakers@gmail.com

To join the meeting's Facebook group, search for Atlanta Friends Meeting & click the + **Join Group** button.

Do you need a directory, printed or electronic?

Email atlantaquakers@gmail.com or call 404-377-2474

Would you like to appear in future AFM Directories?

Do you need to correct your directory information?

Send your name and contact information to Brent Wolff at afmdirectory@gmail.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! Place a financial contribution in the slot marked "Contributions" in the greeting area of the Meetinghouse or mail to our mailing address. Donate online at atlantaquakers.org/contact.htm with a credit card or paypal. Sign up to volunteer on Sunday morning, at <http://tinyurl.com/afmvolunteers>. Contact the Nominating Committee to serve on a committee. Thanks!

Want to submit an announcement, letter, article, etc to the newsletter? Email atlquakerltr@gmail.com. Submissions may be edited for length and format. THE DEADLINE FOR 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 that of the Meeting.*