

ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING NEWSLETTER



MAY 2021

LIFE AT ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING
DURING COVID-19

We are currently holding Sunday meeting for worship via Zoom at <https://zoom.us/j/908004190> at 10 a.m. Sundays (**Meeting ID: 908 004 190 & Passcode: 842962**). See below for more details on this and other online worship and First Day School opportunities as well as other resources, including ways to connect to the meeting if you need help or if you can help others.

For those who prefer to worship in person, we are holding small, in-person worship groups at the meeting house on Mondays at 7 pm, Wednesday at 9 am and Thursdays at 2 pm. The Wednesday morning meeting for worship, which used to meet in the library and has met via Zoom for 13 months is now meeting in the meetinghouse again, in the meeting room. You can also join via Zoom. See announcement sheet for more details of all three opportunities for midweek worship. Zoom information for Wednesday is also below.

Other small groups from the meeting are also returning to the meetinghouse. If you are interested in this, please email the Office Coordinator at atlantaquakers@gmail.com.

You can still mail a check (see address on last page) or pay securely with Paypal or credit / debit card on our website at <http://www.atlantaquakers.org/contact.htm> and scroll down to the DONATE button. You can set up monthly / recurring contributions when you use Paypal or your debit/credit card on the website. You can also set up payments through your bank's ACH bill payment system. (Please contact your bank for more details on their ACH bill payment system.)

The Office Coordinator continues to work from home and checks email / voicemail regularly.

“WORSHIP THAT LEADS TO ACTION”

Stephanie Preston-Hughes from the August 9, 2018 Quakerspeak video (and transcript), “How Quakers Respond to Tragedy” (<https://quakerspeak.com/video/how-quakers-respond-to-tragedy/>):

“I think when there is violence in the world—a distressing event in our own lives or the community—the call to go into worship is not the only thing that Quakers do, but it ought to be the first thing that we do. What we’re really doing when we hold someone, or something, or a situation in the Light is that we’re opening ourselves up. We’re clearing away mental chatter. We’re getting out of our thoughts and we’re allowing voice of Spirit to show us what is the answer here.”

Virtual Meeting for Worship
Each First Day (Sunday)
10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

QUERY FOR MAY

“How does your meeting reach out to the broader community to invite people to worship with you?”

— Atlanta Friends Meeting

ENVISIONING EQUITY: HOW LISTENING 4 JUSTICE CAME TO BE

A description of the L4J experience from HTI Catalysts: The L4J experience is designed to educate, inspire, and guide you to take action in the way that you choose. The complete gathering experience consists of a 3-part series. The series is Listening, Learning, & Leading 4 Justice. The Listening portion involves community building, deep listening, discovery, and contemplative practices with the idea to uncover what is yours to do to move the needle towards cultural justice. The Learning portion involves honing in on the area of justice you'd like to impact with a community of interested persons to formulate a plan to take action. The Leading portion involves continuing forward with a facilitated community where support is offered through collaborative problem solving, idea generation, and the celebration of small wins.

The next session of Listening 4 Justice begins June 9 and registration opens soon:

<https://listening4justice.com/events/>

Dr. Folami Prescott-Adams, member of Atlanta Friends Meeting and Chief Catalyst of HTI Catalysts describes how she developed L4J:

"Sometimes, when you listen to your inner voice, you know what's yours to do. That morning, Memorial Day weekend 2020, I woke up and realized that I had a skill that could help people listen to each other. At this critical moment in time where we're talking about human rights, what we really need to do is listen to each other in the context of understanding the insidious system we call racism. We need to do this, but not alone. We need each other [those like us as well as those different from us]."

"Now that I am sharing what was [then] only 8 months ago an idea that came to me in a moment of deep reflection, anger and resolve to DO SOMETHING, I want to tell you how I got here. It took me back to a series of moments at Brown University when I was reading Francis Cress-Welsing for the first time, listening to Kwame Toure speak on campus, and deciding to join the All-African People's Revolutionary Party. These encounters inspired me and led me to a vision. I had a vision that we could teach people to understand racism as it unfolded in America using courses, speeches and lived experiences that make it plain - and that it could be done from a sense of pride and commitment to Sankofa (the African tradition of going back to our history, culture, roots and core values to move forward). Over the last 30 years, I have tried to offer a way... to teachers, families and youth development professionals. Whether it was an independent school, the song ABC's of Unity for young learners (Thank you, Dr. Asantewaa Sunni-Ali), SETCLAE for teachers (Thank you, Dr. Jawanza Kunjufu), a framework for a liberatory pedagogy for educators (Thank you, Rosalynne Duff) or an Equity Facilitation Fellowship within a teacher residency (Thank you, CREATE).

"The series of racist events in May of 2020 drew so many of us to search for new solutions, to the removal of all fears, to *say the damn thing* no matter who was in the room - in fact, to make sure the people who need to hear it most *are in the room* - to write new books and post powerful truths. For me, that was Listening 4 Justice. I had no idea when I asked people to join me for the pilot of this eight-week experience two hours a week that 50 of us would come to look forward to Tuesday night. Where the learning was sometimes painful and the opportunity to deeply listening was healing. A small mighty 20 of us would continue to connect weekly and learn together and we are crafting ways to smash the damn thing and co-construct something new, something life-affirming, something that offers a way to heal. Across cultures and continents, we are rising to the challenge. Whether you have found your way or all still searching for a way to contribute to the dismantling of racism and the building of communities of action and criticality. We invite you to experience deep listening with us. The outcomes are unforgettable and its impact long-lasting."

*Mary Ann Downey shared this letter from Jay Marshall, Dean Emeritus of the Earlham School of Religion, about his recent book from QuakerPress, **When the Spirit Calls: Engaging the Challenges of Ministry**. His letter has been edited slightly for length.*

No matter what part of the Quaker world in which you and I have chosen to live, God calls each of us to something. The problem—for both you and I and the meetings and churches we serve – is recognizing the call, discerning what it is we are called to do, and understanding how that call may often evolve over time into a lifelong work.

. . . When the Spirit Calls: Engaging the Challenges of Ministry . . . is intended to help every Quaker on the bench – First Day school teacher, social worker, farm worker, activist, community volunteer, meeting book group leader, college professor or retired line worker – to recognize the inner stirring and restlessness which marks a summons from God to carefully listen, and perhaps receive an invitation to undertake something new. . . .

Each chapter in *When the Spirit Calls* concludes with study questions to facilitate a deeper relationship with the Spirit, and I am available to discuss these questions and participate in a Zoom “meeting for reading” with any book discussion group of 6 or more. . . . I can be reached at quakerleader@gmail.com or through my blog at jaymarshallonline.com.

A final thought from my book:

When considered and responded to with appropriate discernment, the call settles into the depths of our being and begins to shape how we order our lives and devote our energy. It invigorates us because faithfulness to calls and leadings creates some of the most authentic moments we will ever know. They induce the kind of rejuvenation that is inevitable when our values, heart, and faith, are in alignment, attuned with the purposes of the Divine.

RESOURCES FROM APRIL 4 FORUM: SEEING GOD IN THOSE WE DISAGREE WITH

Karen Skellie says: “If you missed the forum on April 4, we had a lively discussion about values that all people have and how to speak with others in a way to find some common agreement. I just received a message with follow-up information from our presenter Karen Tibbals with resources and a link to a similar presentation that you can watch when it suits you....as I forgot to record ours”:

1. If anyone missed the event, they could see a pre-recorded version on the Facebook page for Earlham School of Religion. It’s not perfect, but most of it is there. The link to the recording is here: <https://www.facebook.com/EarlhamSchoolofReligion> [click on See All]
2. If there is a group that wants to dig deeper and study my book, I can offer a free copy (via email) of the discussion questions I have been developing. In return, I only ask for feedback so I can improve it. Also, if you have a group and would like to buy copies of the book, I can offer them to you at a reduced price of \$9.00 per book when you buy 10 or more copies.
3. If you don’t want to organize a group of your own for discussion, or if anyone wants to practice these principles in a safe space online, I have started a small community on Facebook. Link to that is here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1036836943177655>
4. Finally, I have been taking this work in a slightly different direction, with a newsletter, Mending Fractured Relationships. In this weekly newsletter, I take one topic and summarize what experts have to say about how to mend those relationships. The link to subscribe is here: <https://fracturedrelationships.substack.com/>

A LETTER FROM ATLANTA MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

Dear Atlanta Friends Meeting,

I am writing on behalf of Atlanta Mennonite Fellowship to express our deep appreciation for the hospitality you have shown us while we have rented the meetinghouse for worship over these past 8.5 years. Yours is a beautiful space, where the light that enters the meeting room makes it easy to sense God's Light within us as we gather there.

During the pandemic, our congregation has been worshipping via zoom with Berea Mennonite Church. This shared worship has furthered conversations about the possibility of our congregations merging to become a new congregation, and we have decided that we will continue to worship together at 1088 Bouldercrest Drive, Berea's church property, when we resume in person worship.

It has felt right and good to worship at AFM, sharing a space with another historic peace church. We have resonated with the sense of your ministries, as we read notices on bulletin boards each week. We have appreciated the beauty of the rotating art displays. We have enjoyed our occasional fellowship with you when Friends have joined our worship services or Schmeckfest, or when individuals from our congregation have worshiped with you on First Day, or when our youth have joined your SAYF gatherings. We have been blessed when persons have shared for a time more deeply in both congregations: I think in particular of Christina Repoley, Chris Kohler, Don and Judy Bender, and Anton and Charlotte Flores. At every point in our years with you, your Office Coordinators and Friends in Residence have been helpful whenever we had questions.

We have been blessed to share the meetinghouse with you over these years. Please know that we continue to hold you in the Light as we leave this place, and that we hope there will be many opportunities for us to continue to walk together in the coming years. God's blessings be upon your Meeting, and may we all share God's Love and Light with all people.

Best wishes,
James Rissler, Pastor
Atlanta Mennonite Fellowship

A LETTER FROM BETH MARTINSON

Dear Friends,

On behalf of our family, I wish to express gratitude for the many ways that you have supported and cared for us. Thanks for holding us in the Light, for your lovely cards and heartfelt messages, for your emails and phone calls, and for your presence at the memorial service for Rick. Atlanta Friends Meeting was a spiritual home for Rick and me for many years. We learned so much from you, and we loved your good company. It is wonderful to know that even though we are miles apart, the connection in Spirit is still strong.

*Love and thanks,
Beth Martinson*

VIDEO OF RICK MARTINSON'S MEMORIAL SERVICE??

If you would like to see Rick Martinson's memorial service, please contact Steve Collins at shcollins75@gmail.com for the link. A memorial minute with more about Rick's life can be found below in the minutes for meeting for worship with attention to business.

REPORT FROM THE WORKING GROUP ON THE USE OF THE MEETINGHOUSE

The Working Group on the Use of the Meetinghouse has been investigating what technology would be necessary for a meeting for worship that combined in-person worship with zoom technology. No decision has been made on when Sunday morning meeting for worship might return to the meetinghouse or what this worship might look like. That decision would be for Ministry & Worship or meeting for business. The Working Group is merely exploring the possibilities so that those making the decisions will have options. The purpose of the Working Group is to determine what is possible, what is safe, what is technologically and logistically feasible, so that committees can choose when to return to the meetinghouse within appropriate safety protocols. For example, besides the two added in-person midweek meetings for worship, the Wednesday morning meeting for worship has recently returned to the meetinghouse, several committees have held in-person meetings, and a few renters are returning to the meetinghouse.

The Working Group on the Use of the Meetinghouse will present a more detailed report at May's meeting for business with time for questions. In the meantime, you can contact any member of the working group: Alison Mawle (convener/Clerk of working group), Jennifer Dickie (Religious Education representative), Lissa Place (Clerk of meeting), Karen Skellie (Care & Counsel), Steve Collins (Admin), Bill Hooson (Ministry & Worship), Georgia Lord (Assistant Clerk of meeting), Anton Flores (Friend in Residence), Elizabeth Lamb (Ministry & Worship), Brent Wolff. If you need contact info for any of these people, please email the office at atlantaquakers@gmail.com and ask for a directory.

HELPING WELCOME LGBTQ+ NEWCOMERS (AND NOT SO NEWCOMERS)

If you added pronouns to your name tag at the meetinghouse, Atlanta's Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Queer Concerns (FLGBTQC) encourages you to add them to your name when you join Zoom meeting for worship. We know that most of the ways we found to make it clear to first-time attenders that we are, indeed, a welcoming community for those who are lgbtq+ have not translated well to Zoom, and this will help. There's also a local FLGBTQC email list. If you're interested in joining that, email atlantaquakers@gmail.com. If you have other questions or concerns about flgbtq+ issues, please contact Nina Gooch, either at the office or at her personal email or phone. She's one of the contact people for Atlanta's FLGBTQC.

WAYS TO SHARE INFORMATION WITH US

- Weekly announcement sheet. Email atlantaquakers@gmail.com by Thursday noon.
- Monthly newsletter. Email atlquakerltr@gmail.com by the 20th of the month before.
- Discussion email list. To join, email atlantaquakers@gmail.com.
- Facebook group. To join, find the group on facebook and click on the **Join Group** button. Please answer the question about why you want to join!

ANTI-RACISM RESOURCES

Anti-racism resources (including resources for children) shared via the discussion list, announcement sheets and newsletters are collected at <https://tinyurl.com/afm-arr>. Let Nina know if there are problems with any of the links or suggest additional links at atlantaquakers@gmail.com.

GREEN FRIENDS AND SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE MEETINGS – Sunday, May 2

Both Green Friends and Social Concerns will meet via Zoom on May 2.

Green Friends, 12 noon

Link: <https://citizensclimate.zoom.us/j/96278420823?pwd=aWdpaWZiWmRZSm5hTURiVknWRDZYUT09>

Meeting ID: 962 7842 0823

Passcode: 123

Contact: Henry Slack for more information

Social Concerns, 1 pm (this is a change of week for Social Concerns)

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82726499121?pwd=dW55TitGaVo0eWxxR1U4MVhmRDFBQT09>

Meeting ID: 827 2649 9121

Passcode: 902482

Contact: Glenn Plyler for more information

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

The book group reading works by and about people of color meets via Zoom at 1:30 p.m. on the first Thursday of the month. On May 6, the group is discussing *Giovanni's Room* by James Baldwin. For questions or the Zoom link, contact Susan Cole (cole2544@bellsouth.net).

Upcoming books include: June 3 *Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett

(no meeting in July)

Aug 5 *Kindred* by Octavia Butler

SPIRITUAL JOURNEYS AND ADULT FIRST DAY SCHOOL – Sunday, May 9 and ongoing

This month, Adult First Day School will listen to Maia Hallward's Spiritual Journey on the second Sunday of the month, May 9, instead of the first Sunday as usual. Stories in which Friends describe their understanding of God and religion in their life we call Spiritual Journeys. 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.

To hear Karen Gold's Spiritual Journey from February 7, visit <https://tinyurl.com/6ykwzvkm>. To hear Leeland McPhail's from March 7, visit: <https://tinyurl.com/yccw28tl>. To hear Martha McGill's from April 4, visit: <https://tinyurl.com/s9vz9skx>. If you'd like to hear other past Spiritual Journeys, please contact Mary Ann Downey.

On third Sundays, Adult First Day School will have worship sharing, usually on that month's query. On other Sundays, including the first Sunday in May, we will be discussing *A Living Faith, An Historical Study of Quaker Beliefs* by Wilmer A. Cooper, as part of our annual Quakerism 101.

See below for Zoom details, which are new as of March 21.

MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS – Sunday, May 16

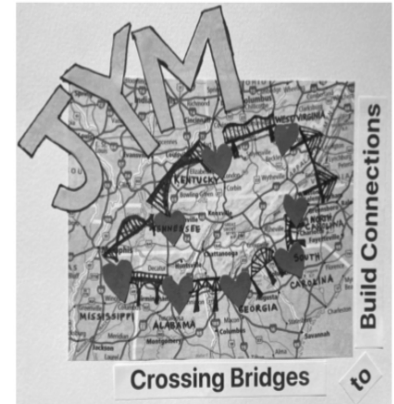
Meeting for business will be online again this month. Simply stay in the Zoom Meeting for Worship after worship ends. Zoom details and minutes from March are below. A report from the Working Group on the Use of the Meetinghouse will be on the agenda for May. In 1996, meeting approved these guidelines for how we conduct meeting for worship with attention to business:

http://atlantaquakers.org/_site_pdf_docs/Guidelines_for_Meeting_for_Business.pdf

SAYMA'S JUNIOR YEARLY MEETING: CROSSING BRIDGES TO BUILD CONNECTIONS Sunday, May 16

Please join SAYMA's Junior Yearly Meeting in May for one more virtual workshop! We are excited to help the young people of Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting build connections.

There will be programming from 4:00 to 5:00 pm, with space for informal conversation and visiting from 5:00 to 5:30 pm. Programming will be appropriate for ages two to 7th grade, with breakout sessions available for different ages if needed. This free workshop is made possible by a grant from Friends World Council on Consultation (FWCC). To register, visit <https://forms.gle/qcLv3vf77QkjHQ1H7>.



ARE YOU COOKING WITH SPICES? OUR VALUES & OUR FOOD CHOICES -- Thurs, May 20

Are you cooking with SPICES? How may our values / Testimonies influence our food choices? Join Macon Quakers and special guest Shaun Chavis for an exploration of the interplay between spiritual and physical health. Friend Shaun holds a master's degree in gastronomy and has an extensive background in publishing. Currently, she is founder and CEO of LVNGbook.com, a company assisting those who need to make dietary changes due to medical conditions. All are welcome! Thursday, May 20, at 7:00 P.M. via Zoom.

Meeting ID: 840 9589 9009

Passcode: 542278

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE FOR NEXT MONTH – Thursday, May 20

Please send articles, announcements, information about upcoming events, and other submissions to atlquakerltr@gmail.com by May 20. Please send as an email or in Word or other text format.

SECOND FORUM ON REPARATIONS AND RIGHT RELATIONS – Sunday, May 23

The May 23rd Forum on Reparations and Right Relations, at 1 pm, will offer further historical foundation on this subject. In addition, it will expose participants to policy development on reparations by using examples from both inside and outside of the United States. Check later announcement sheets for Zoom information. Herb Edwards, a member of the Atlanta Friends Meeting will provide an opening statement for the Forum. The Moderator and three Panelists will be:

- **Melchor Hall – Moderator:** During February of 2019, 2020, and 2021, Melchor offered a virtual workshop through Pendle Hill entitled [Aiming for Justice: Race Reparations and Right Paths](#). She participated as a Panelist in the first Forum on Reparations and Right Relations that was held on February 28, and brings added continuity as Moderator of the second Forum on May 23.
- **Yvette Modestin – Panelist:** [Afro-Panamanian activist Yvette Modestin](#), who is the founder of the Encuentro Diaspora Afro. She has participated in conversations about reparations at [Carr Center for Human Rights](#) Policy and participated in [international reparations discussions](#). Yvette is also a Commissioner on the National African American Reparations Commission.

- **Grace Shimizu – Panelist:** Grace Shimizu is Director of the Campaign For Justice: Redress NOW For Japanese Latin Americans!, and works to secure US government accountability and reparations for human rights violations perpetrated under the US Latin American extraordinary rendition program during World War II. For a brief historical overview and the latest redress update, please click on the following link: [REDRESS NOW FOR JAPANESE LATIN AMERICANS!](#)
- **Woullard Lett – Panelist:** Woullard Lett is the [N'COBRA](#) Education Commission Male Co-chair and the [Unitarian Universalist Association New England Regional Lead](#). He has worked with faith communities around issues of racial justice.

LET'S TALK ABOUT RACE – Wednesday, May 26

Monthly online, drop-in forum meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7:30 pm. 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. We start at 7:30 p.m. and usually end around 9:00. Drop in and stay as long as you can. Questions and suggestions for future topics are always welcome:

contact alberta.guise@gmail.com

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84678045805?pwd=cFdhcEd4UmdLWWNldDFpMm1mOEVTQT09>

Meeting ID: 846 7804 5805

Passcode: LTAR

SAYMA YEARLY MEETING ONLINE – June 5 to 13

Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association's (SAYMA's) Yearly Meeting will be online this year, with worship, workshops, meeting for business and opportunities to get to know Quakers from across the southeast. Watch the announcement sheet for registration details. www.sayma.org.

FRIENDS GENERAL CONFERENCE GATHERING – June 27 to July 3

To register and to read the advance program for the 2021 Friends General Conference (FGC) Gathering, which will be virtual, please visit www.FGCgathering.org. You can also find additional information there. (If you need a printed copy of the advance program, contact the office.)

The theme for 2021 is *Way Will Open*. The Gathering is a week of Quaker worship, workshops, and community for all ages. Friends come together from across the US and Canada (and sometimes further) to deepen our connection to one another and the Spirit.

MACON WORSHIP GROUP INVITES US TO JOIN THEM FOR WORSHIP

The Macon Worship Group, which is under the care of Atlanta Friends Meeting, invites us to join them for meeting for worship via Zoom every Thursday at 7:00 pm (except for fifth Thursdays). The third Thursday each month will be an educational program instead of worship. See above for details of the third Thursday educational program for May.

For more information, you can email: maconquakers@gmail.com.

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84095899009?pwd=SFhhOGNnWHZFbDdKRUhVnFqdFk0dz09>

Meeting ID: 840 9589 9009

Passcode: 542278

MEETING VIRTUALLY: WORSHIP AND FIRST DAY SCHOOL AT ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING

For the most up to date information and for more detailed instructions for Zoom, see the most recent announcements at www.atlantaquakers.org/_announcements/Announcement_Sheet.pdf or in your email inbox. To call in using your phone, dial 1-253-215-8782 or 1-301-715-8592 and enter the meeting ID and password, if needed, when prompted. This may be a toll call from your landline.

Sundays:

ADULT FIRST DAY SCHOOL will meet at 9:00 am to 9:50 am (new Zoom info as of March 21)

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

Meeting ID: 860 6366 5797

Passcode: 013191

Usually on the first Sunday of each month, we will listen to the Spiritual Journey of one of our members or attenders. (In May, it will be the second Sunday.) On the third Sunday, we will have worship sharing, usually on that month's query, and on other Sundays, we will discuss *A Living Faith, An Historical Study of Quaker Beliefs*. We will end in time to be in meeting for worship.

FIRST DAY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN will meet at 9:30 am to 9:55 am

First Day Class for Families and Friends

Theme: *God is Everywhere*

Link: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/7279961727>

Meeting ID: 727 996 1727

Passcode: 679898

Families are invited / will have time to join meeting for worship after this ends.

Fourth Sunday is intergenerational/family worship and all members and attenders are invited to join.

FIRST DAY MEETING FOR WORSHIP will begin at 10:00 am

Link: <https://zoom.us/j/908004190>

Meeting ID: 908 004 190

Passcode: 842962.

The meeting link will remain open until about 11:45 for those who would like to chat. On the third Sunday of each month we will have meeting for business via Zoom after worship and a short break.

Calling All Families:

We would like to issue a special invitation to all families with children to attend the first 15 minutes of worship together, as has been our custom when meeting in person. We really miss seeing you! If your mike is muted, your children will not be distracting to others, even if we see them wiggle. And of course, you and your children are welcome to join us for the entire hour.

Suggestions for Meeting for Worship on Zoom:

"Worship is our response to an awareness of God. We can worship alone, but when we join with others in expectant waiting we may discover a deeper sense of God's presence. We seek a gathered stillness in our meetings for worship so that all may feel the power of God's love drawing us together and leading us." (From Advices and Queries, Britain Yearly Meeting.)

Some things to keep in mind as we adjust to "the new normal" of worshipping via Zoom:
Even though it may feel strange, remember that this is a worship service. To help create the kind of shared space that allows all of us to listen for the Divine within us, please keep your mic muted unless speaking to us. If you're eating or having a lengthy conversation with another member of your household, please also turn off your video temporarily or step away from the camera to avoid distracting others. However, if your children are joining us for meeting for worship, please do not feel the need to turn off your video. We welcome their presence in meeting for worship.

YOUNG FRIENDS/HIGH SCHOOL GROUP usually meets at noon
For current high schoolers and students in upper middle school as well as recent grads.
Contact Emily Weyrauch at emily.weyrauch@gmail.com for more information and Zoom details.

Wednesdays:

WEDNESDAY MORNING MIDWEEK MEETING FOR WORSHIP at 9:00 am

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

Meeting ID: 920 3886 2952

Passcode 726229

Contact Bert Skellie at 404-680-4799 for more info.

Now also in person at the meetinghouse. Details in the announcement sheet.

FINANCIAL HELP THROUGH THE AFM ASSISTANCE FUND

This is a time to reach out and care for each other. Care & Counsel Committee maintains an Assistance Fund for Members and Attenders for providing temporary assistance with financial emergencies. Information about the process and an application form can be found at www.atlantaquakers.org/members.htm). Look for the Assistance Fund Description & Request Process and the Assistance Fund Application Form. Or contact Clerk of Care & Counsel, Karen Skellie at 404-680-4524.

Would you like to help others through the AFM Assistance Fund?

By check: mail to the meetinghouse address to the attention of the treasurer or if you're at the meetinghouse, leave in the Contribution slot. Make out the check to Atlanta Friends Meeting, and on the "for" line of the check, write "Assistance Fund."

By PayPal or Credit / Debit Card: www.atlantaquakers.org/contact.htm on our website.

To designate an online donation for the Assistance Fund, please also send an email addressed to both the treasurer and the bookkeeper: afmtreasurer1@gmail.com and afmbookkeeper1@gmail.com

CARING CONNECTIONS AT ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING

If you need practical help (meal delivery, errands run, transportation, etc) or contact with others during this time OR if you can help, Care & Counsel Committee has set up an online way to connect people. Visit our website under Members and Attenders at <http://www.atlantaquakers.org/members.htm#CARINGCONNECT> to request help or to volunteer or contact Karen Skellie at 404-680-4524 or kskellie@gmail.com.

QUAKER QUOTE

"Friends are seekers but we are also the holders of a precious heritage of discoveries. We, like every generation, must find the Light and Life again for ourselves. Only what we have valued and truly made our own, not by assertion but by lives of faithful commitment, can we hand on to the future. Even then, we must humbly acknowledge that our vision of the truth will, again and again, be amended."

– *Quaker faith & practice*, Britain Yearly Meeting, introduction

FOURTH MONTH MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS

April 18, 2021, held via Zoom

Minutes Recorded Pending Approval

Attendance: Steve Collins, Bill Hooson, Teri Key-Hooson, Alberta Guise, Alison Mawle, Anton Flores, Bert Skellie, Karen Skellie, Clive Gordon, Diane Rowley, Don Bender, Elizabeth Lamb, Georgia Lord, Glenn Plyler, Greg Johnson, Henry Slack, Jay Roache, Jim Tolmach, Judy Lumb, Karen Morris, Myrna Trapp, Mary Ann Downey, Michael Allison, Bill Holland, Richard Allen, Ronald Nuse, Susan Firestone, Paul Mangelsdorf, Lissa Place (Clerk), Coryn Murphy (Recording Clerk)

Friends gathered near the appointed hour with opening worship. A member of Ministry and Worship shared the Fourth Month Query out of the worship: “ How have your unspoken assumptions about individuals or groups of people made it difficult for you to engage in honest conversation? What concrete steps are you taking to eliminate your biases such as ones related to race, ethnicity, gender, class, or sexual orientation?”

Discernment Items:

Memorial Minutes for Rick Martinson and Priscilla Padron

Minute 04-18-2021-01: The Atlanta Friends Meeting approved the memorial minute for Rick Martinson.

The Atlanta Friends Meeting remembers Rick Martinson. Edwin Richard Martinson, Jr. was born on October 3, 1944 in San Diego, CA, son of Edwin R. Martinson and Loretta Walter Martinson. Rick’s dad was in the Navy and the family moved frequently. In fact, the only times Rick attended a school for more than one year were his two Junior High School years in the Dominican Republic and the last two years of High School in Ukiah, CA. Rick had special memories of the year he lived with his maternal grandparents in Minnesota while his parents were still in the Dominican Republic. The family then moved to Philadelphia where Rick graduated from Drexel University. After college, he “joined the family business” as an officer in the U.S. Navy. His favorite assignment was working on the bridge of an aircraft carrier in the Mediterranean. He told many stories about his time at sea. Rick had a dedicated career in the sales of scientific instruments. He often related his knowledge about sales to musings about life. In the late 1970’s he took a job in Atlanta, GA, where he began attending Atlanta Friends Meeting. He married and moved to Rochester, NY, where his son Jacob was born, and then to Knoxville, TN. After the divorce, Jacob and his mother moved to Atlanta while Rick worked in Saint Petersburg, FL. He drove many miles between St. Pete and Atlanta to spend time with Jacob. When Rick got a job with Siemens, he moved back to Atlanta. In August 2000, Rick married Elizabeth Clemens Miller under the care of Atlanta Friends Meeting. In the following years, Rick served in many capacities in the Atlanta Meeting’s life and work, including clerking the Administration Committee. Upon retirement, the Martinsons were inspired by Louise and Terry Lehman to purchase a travel trailer. This was a great source of joy for Rick, especially for visits with family and friends around the country. The big trip, of course, was the cross-country move from Georgia to California. Rick liked California and he was happy to live in the same state as Beth’s daughters and their families, Lois and Steve and Gretta, Michael and Katie. After locating in San Jose, Rick transferred his membership to the San Jose Friends Meeting. He quickly became a mainstay of the Meeting and derived much joy from his contributions to the community. He was able to arrange Zoom Meetings for Worship for San Jose Meeting during COVID-19. Rick was appreciated by all for his wisdom, steadfastness, and care.

Rick was known for his good humor. He was generous and kind. He was fond of hats and pens and watches, he loved to eat, and he was proud of his cooking. He enjoyed playing with computers. He was happy that he had learned to speak Spanish in the Dominican Republic and he continued to study and speak Spanish. One of the crowning glories of his life was hiking on the Camino de Santiago in Spain. After Rick saw a movie about the Camino, he promptly announced that he planned to go there. He walked many miles to prepare for his Camino and he went to Spain, not once but twice, hiking more than 200 kilometers on the historic trail. It was a life-changing pilgrimage for Rick. Rick was an avid reader, a writer of poetry, a music lover. He gathered the courage to sing to Beth at their wedding reception and over the years he continued to sing happily. In the last months of his life, he was learning to play the banjo. Rick loved his travel trailer so much that he would hang out at the trailer even when he wasn't traveling. Rick was looking forward to travels after Covid.

Rick was a serious and dedicated Quaker. His beliefs and his understanding of Quaker philosophy guided him in his life and in his work. He was a lobbyist with the San Jose Advocacy Team of the Friends Committee on National Legislation during which time he communicated with members of Congress on issues of peace and war.

Rick died on February 8, 2021. Rick is survived by Elizabeth Clemens Martinson of San Jose, CA, Jacob and Mandi Martinson of Warwick, RI, Gretta and Michael Sweeney and granddaughter Katie Sweeney of Long Beach, CA, Lois Miller and Steve Van Huystee of San Jose, CA, Louise and Terry Lehman of Fishers, IN, Stan and Jo Clemens of Bluffton, OH, and his dear cousins from the Walter and Martinson families of Minnesota.

A virtual memorial service was held for Rick via Zoom on March 27, 2021, jointly hosted by the San Jose and Atlanta Meetings.

Rick's Partner Beth Martinson shared this:

Dear Friends,

On behalf of our family, I wish to express gratitude for the many ways that you have supported and cared for us. Thanks for holding us in the Light, for your lovely cards and heartfelt messages, for your emails and phone calls, and for your presence at the memorial service for Rick. Atlanta Friends Meeting was a spiritual home for Rick and me for many years. We learned so much from you, and we loved your good company. It is wonderful to know that even though we are miles apart, the connection in Spirit is still strong.

Love and thanks,

Beth Martinson

Minute 04-18-2021-02: The Atlanta Friends Meeting remembers Priscilla Padron.

Priscilla was born April 27, 1940, and raised in upstate New York. She obtained her English degree from Syracuse University and demanded perfect grammar from her three children: Daniel, Alonso, and Cristina. Priscilla spent several happy years in Venezuela with her then-husband, where she quickly became a fluent Spanish speaker, an expert hallaca maker, and other traditional dishes of Venezuela. A resident of Atlanta since 1971, Priscilla earned a certificate in Spanish translation from Georgia State. She was a passionate advocate for immigration reform, and active in the Georgia Latino Alliance for Human Rights and Georgia Detention Watch. She attended the Atlanta Friends Meeting and kept us engaged and informed about immigration issues. An outdoor enthusiast, Priscilla spent most weekends hiking trails in north Georgia and most mornings talking to birds from her kitchen window. Friends remember her energy, keen intelligence, and the lively, optimistic, open-minded, and open-hearted life she lived. Priscilla died September 26, 2020 and will be missed by many.

Reports:

Ministry and Worship:

Concern was brought that the effort to opening the Meeting House is feeling “like a runaway train.” We agreed this needs to be a deliberate process that is well-communicated. Ministry & Worship will devote much of our May meeting to discussing the future of Meeting for Worship and what form we would ideally want that to take (understanding that technology may constrain that ideal.) We expressed concern for people who cannot/do not use Zoom options and/or do not feel like their spiritual needs are met with virtual worship, those who live too far away to attend in-person meetings regularly, and the physical health and safety of those attending in-person. We also recognized that the small in-person Meetings for Worship are not at convenient times for all who might like to attend. The key question at hand is how to maintain physical safety for people worshipping in-person alongside the spiritual need to be in concentrated worship together.

Finance:

As of March 31, 2021, AFM is running a \$11,024 deficit YTD. A deficit through this part of the year is usual, as contribution income is largely received in the 4th quarter. Income YTD is \$8,050 lower than the same period in the prior year primarily driven by the absence of rental income as compared to the 1st quarter of last year. In addition, contributions were \$1,134 lower than 2020 (5% less).

Expenses are running \$11,141 less than the prior year driven by employee expense due to two employees still on furlough resulting in a \$5,200 variance to the prior year.

Compared to year-end, our balance sheet is \$10,612 smaller. This is primarily the result of the YTD deficit of \$11,024 offset by minor changes in the balances of the other funds. On the asset side of the balance sheet Checking balances are \$6,298 lower and receivables (Undeposited funds and Due from Pay Pal) decreased by \$4,329

[Editors's Note: copies of the financial reports and notes can be found at

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1uVMY509YKnh1tzxjHMChYhwMOmBIUMV_?usp=sharing]

Nominating:

Greg Johnson brought forth the name of Susan Lipold to be considered for Ministry and Worship committee. Next month this name will be brought back for approval.

Administration Committee:

Steve Collins, Clerk of Administration Committee, reported on behalf of the committee.

Georgia Interfaith Power & Light (<https://gipl.org>), located at the Columbia Theological Seminary here in Decatur defines its mission as “Engaging communities of faith in stewardship of Creation as a direct expression of our faithfulness and as a religious response to global climate change, resource depletion, environmental injustice, pollution, and other disruptions in Creation”. Founded in 2003, GIPL has partnered with 500 congregations in reducing their energy consumption and costs. Beyond assisting with guidance and expertise, GIPL can make available to us a microloan for \$10-20k at 0% interest for 10 years to assist with funding the solar project.

Over the past year, AFM has worked with GIPL to develop a plan to install solar panels on our Meetinghouse roof. Through this process, Creative Solar from Kennesaw, GA (<https://creativesolarusa.com>) has provided the most economical and productive system proposal. One of the preferred installers for Solarize Decatur-DeKalb, Creative has installed solar systems on many homes here in our area, including the home of one of our Members. Additionally, our Sales Representative is highly active in the Sierra Club and has worked closely with QVS members, and is familiar with our Meeting.

Prior to any solar installation, it is best practice to ensure that the shingles are in good condition, as the cost of removing the panels in order to replace the roofing below at a later time is expensive. In evaluating our Meetinghouse for the solar project, it became apparent that the condition of the roof was of concern. Church Mutual Insurance sent an adjuster to inspect the roof and found that while it is in need of an entire replacement, the problems are due to age and wear, rather than any type of insurable damage. Four different roofing contractors each had the same findings; the roofing material is ready for replacement and there are multiple areas with water penetration. Only one of these installers, Atlanta Roofing Specialists (<https://www.atlantarooftingspecialists.com>) is able to procure red shingles through a direct relationship with the manufacturer. ARS is GAF certified and has been in business for over 25 years. The owner of the company is happy to provide documentation regarding his employees receiving a living wage, as found in the minute below.

Atlanta Monthly Meeting will pay an hourly living wage to its employees and contractors. We believe that everyone should be able to earn at a rate that meets his or her basic needs. We will pay an hourly living wage to our employees and will require our contractors to pay an hourly living wage for projects for the Meeting. We will prefer that an hourly living wage will be paid to subcontractors as well. Following research used by the Georgia Living Wage Coalition, the Meeting will pay per hour and require payment of at least the "Self-Sufficiency Standard" per hour for a single individual living in DeKalb County. In 2006 this amount was \$12.47 per hour. Each year, the Meeting will adjust the amount based on the annual change in the Social Security Administration Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA). For 2007, this COLA is 3.3 percent so the 2007 living wage per hour will be \$12.88. When the Meeting asks for a bid on a proposed contract, we will require bidders to include enough funds in the bid to pay at least the Self-Sufficiency Standard per hour for all direct employees who will work on the job. We will prefer contractors whose subcontractors will pay the Self-Sufficiency Standard per hour. As part of their agreement with the Meeting, contractors will agree in writing to pay at least the the Self-Sufficiency Standard per hour for a single individual living in DeKalb County.

Project Summaries – Please see full proposals for detailed information

Solar Project

Installer: Creative Solar, Kennesaw GA

Cost: \$46,818

System Size: 17.34kW DC

Yearly Production: 73% of Power

30 Year Savings Estimate: \$162,058

Payback Period: 11 Years

Roof Project

Installer: Atlanta Roofing Specialists, Marietta GA

Cost: \$35,869

Committee Corner:

Subcommittees of Social Concerns Committee continue their work using face to face technical media.

OVERVIEW: Restorative Justice, Quakers for Racial Equality, Alternatives to Violence Program (AVP), and Let's Talk about Race have held zoom meetings and coordinated for guest speakers as well as viewings of educational presentations.

Social Concerns Committee members continue to circulate AFM-approved Minute on Racial and Domestic Violence. AVP Atlanta is supporting the development of training objectives for the LaGrange, Ga. community.

Friends of Color and Green Friends because those groups are also under the umbrella of SCC. Alberta Guise is the contact for Friends of Color and either Kathy Johnson or Henry Slack are contacts for Green Friends.

Social Concerns Committee sub-committees are continuing the use of available communication platforms in their community efforts and are seeking ways to re-engage the community once it is safe to meet in groups.

The Minute on Violence at the Capital was sent to the Southern for Poverty Law Center.

Approval of Minutes for March 2021

Minute 04-18-2021-03: Friends approved the Third Month Minutes.

The Meeting Closed with a Moment of Silence

HOLDING IN THE LIGHT:

Cindy Berg
Freer Jarvis
Eugene Jennings
Peter Lang
Renda McCaughan

Those wishing to have requests for holding in the light included in this monthly newsletter may give the names to a member of Care & Counsel.

Atlanta Friends Meeting Contacts

Clerk of the Meeting: Lissa Place, afmclerk1@gmail.com
Office Coordinator: Nina Gooch, atlantaquakers@gmail.com
Treasurer: Judith Greenberg, 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, afm.care.counsel@gmail.com
Quakers for Racial Equality: Susan Firestone, susanfires@gmail.com
Religious Education: Laura MacNorlin, laura.norlin@gmail.com
Library Clerk: Cal Gough, calgough@bellsouth.net
Nominating: Eugene Jennings, afm.nominating@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor: Nina Gooch, atlquakerltr@gmail.com
Webmaster: Aaron Ruscetta, arxaaron@gmail.com
Bookkeeper: Jonah McDonald, afmbookkeeper1@gmail.com

QUAKER RESOURCES ON OUR WEBSITE

The most recent announcement sheet can always be found at http://atlantaquakers.org/_announcements/Announcement_Sheet.pdf.

On the Members and Attenders page [<http://www.atlantaquakers.org/members.htm>], along with many other useful resources, about two-thirds of the way down the page, there's a link to information about the Ferguson Cabin on Lake Burton in north Georgia, available for rental by members and attenders.

The About Us page [<http://atlantaquakers.org/about.htm>] has links about Quaker worship, information about the history of this meeting, links to other Quaker sites and more information about this meeting. This includes minutes in which we recorded our responses to the world around us based on our Testimonies and Concerns. Testimonies are not our creed, they are expressions of spirituality in action. These testimonies are rooted in the traditional Quaker belief that there is that of God in all people and are often described as [Simplicity](#), [Peace](#), [Integrity](#), [Community](#) and [Equality](#). Minutes about [Human Rights](#) and [Earthcare](#) are also included.

Atlanta Friends Meeting
701 W. Howard Avenue
Decatur, GA 30030-2902

ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING

Office Coordinator working from home while meeting house closed

web and email: atlantaquakers.org, atlantaquakers@gmail.com voicemail/phone: 404-377-2474
Clerk: Lissa Place, afmclerk1@gmail.com Treasurer: Judith Greenberg, afmtreasurer1@gmail.com

Atlanta Friends Meeting email lists & facebook group:

- You may receive the announcement sheets and other announcements relating directly to the life of the meeting. This is the announcement 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. This is the discussion list. (You do not need to belong to both the announcement list and the discussion list.)
- You may receive notification that the newsletter is online. This is the newsletter list.
- To join any of these email lists above, please email the office at atlantaquakers@gmail.com
- To receive weekly emails about Zoom and in-person meetings for worship, email atlantaquakers@gmail.com
- To join the meeting's Facebook page, search for Atlanta Friends Meeting & click the + **Join Group** button.

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! 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 mailing address. To donate online with a credit card or paypal, visit atlantaquakers.org/contact.htm. Thank you!

Want to submit an announcement, letter, article, and anything else of interest to Friends for the newsletter? Send items to 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.*